

Stubbs, Lilian

From: Neil Pearson [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 August 2017 06:42
To: Planning
Subject: FAO Katy Claw - ref Y17/0491/SH

Y17/0491/SH
Building Protection Notice Application

Dear Katy Claw

Please would you apply for a Building Protection Notice for the New Beach Clubhouse building.

The building is of national importance as it is now the last Pre-war purpose built Holiday Camp building remaining in the country. It is being looked at by a number of heritage bodies and should be considered a heritage asset by Shepway District Council, in the same way as the Martello Towers are.

Built in 1936 at the same time as Billy Butlin was building his first camp at Skegness, the structure has remained largely unchanged in 80 years of continuous use – including being used as an army training camp during the war – and originally was the dining room, kitchens and ballroom and still features its original canadian sprung maple dance floor – much loved by ballroom dancers.

Most camp buildings were updated and replaced in the 50's and 60's to keep up with customer expectations or subsequently lost to closures and redevelopment in the 80's and 90's so the originality of this building is exceptional. Put simply there are no other survivors of this type of building from this period.

In a time when appreciation of thirties buildings is growing, with the restoration of Morecambe's Midland Hotel and the Ocean Hotel and Lido at Saltdean this is a critical opportunity to save for the future this last fragment from a period when many millions of working class Britons first experienced annual paid holiday.

The building at one time also had the longest single span bar in England with 100 beer pumps and was the site also had the first 'Motel' in England - pre-dating the one at Newingreen by 17 years.

Although showing signs of deliberate neglect in order for the fabric of the building to deteriorate and create a more compelling case for demolition, it was once one of the finest independent holiday camps in the country. The restoration of the similarly constructed Westgate Hall in Canterbury by Tim Ellis demonstrates that such buildings can be brought up to 21st century standards, and I would not seek to create a museum piece either - the building has to meet modern expectations and earn its keep - as it is being in continued use that has kept the building.

I propose that the main gabled section be retained while the later additions to the front and sides can be replaced to suit today's customers needs.

Strangely one part of the site is already listed - the K8 telephone box on the forecourt currently screened by advertising boards, yet was only installed in 1987.

So while the massive enterprise of Butlin's has a single chalet to show from it's early days here is an exceptionally rare example of a complete holiday camp Pavillion that has survived well into the 21st Century.

Shepway has lost too many of it's heritage buildings in recent years, notably the Folkestone's Rotunda and Ark Cafe. This building is of national importance and worthy of saving.

Regards, Neil Pearson





The Dining Room. The Beach Holiday Camp Dymchurch.



Main Buildings and Gardens

THE BEACH HOLIDAY CAMP, DYMCHURCH



GREETINGS
FROM
The
**BEACH
HOLIDAY
CAMP**
DYMCHURCH





Original structure revealed above modern suspended ceiling