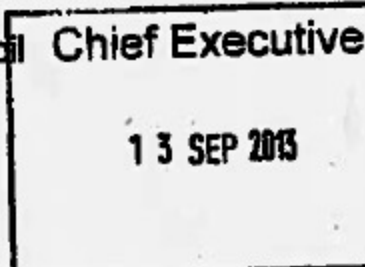




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✓ H 13/9/13
Will Godfrey
Chief Executive
Newport City Council
Civic Centre
Newport
South Wales
NP20 4UR



Eich cyfeirnod
Your reference

WG/tr

Ein cyfeirnod
Our reference

Dyddiad
Date

12 September 2013

Llinell
unlongyrchol
Direct line

01443 336032

E-bost
Email:

marilyn.lewis@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Mr Godfrey

Newport Chartist Mural

Thank you for your letter of 6th September enclosing copies of the specialist reports investigating the feasibility of relocating the Chartist Mural.

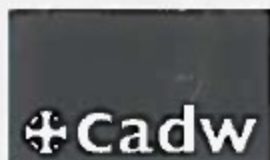
I am grateful to you for commissioning the reports so that the options could be so thoroughly considered. I also appreciate how you have arrived at the decision to demolish the mural based on the significant costs, economics and practicalities. It is a real pity that it cannot be retained or relocated as it provides an important connection to Newport's heritage. That said, I very much welcome the Council's commitment to finding alternative means of commemorating the Chartist movement within the redevelopment of the city centre. Newport has a fine legacy of public art which forms an important part of the city's twentieth century heritage, and Cadw would like to work with you to ensure that it is both protected and celebrated. We would therefore be interested to see your cultural strategy, and to discuss with you how best to sustain and promote other significant twentieth century public art in the city. Judith Alfrey, Head of Conservation and Policy will be happy to meet your officers to discuss this further and she can be contacted by email on judith.alfrey@wales.gsi.gov.uk.

Finally, please find enclosed a copy of Cadw's response to the Twentieth Century Society following its request to list the Mural.

Yours sincerely

Marilyn Lewis
Director, Cadw





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[Redacted]

Casework Committee Secretary
The Twentieth Century Society
70 Cowcross Street
London
EC1M 6EJ

Eich cyfeirnod
Your reference 13 05 07

Ein cyfeirnod
Our reference

Dyddiad
Date 12 September 2013

Llinell
uniongyrchol
Direct line

E-bost
Email: [Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Chartist Mural, Newport City Centre

Thank you for your letter of 29 July requesting that the Chartist Mural at the underpass between Austin Friars and John Frost Square, Newport be listed as a building of special architectural or historic interest.

To qualify for listing, candidate buildings must be of nationally significant architectural or historic interest and must satisfy published listing criteria. Where these are met, the Welsh Ministers are under a duty to list but cannot do so otherwise.

Cadw has carefully considered the detailed information contained within your listing request. We fully recognise the significance of the mural as a major piece of public art providing an important connection to the city's heritage, but in considering the issue of listing, we have to take into account not only the aesthetic qualities of the mural, and the historical associations of its content, but also its relationship to its context. In this regard we considered the quality of buildings to which the mosaic is attached and the adjacent urban environment, the relationship of subject matter to its location where there is no special significance attached to this precise location within the City Centre, and the integration of the mosaic and its setting. We have concluded that this relationship is not strong enough to warrant listing at the national level.

I appreciate that this outcome will be disappointing but, in recognition of the mural itself being a striking piece of art commemorating events of historical significance to Newport, we have taken the opportunity to explore with Newport City Council whether it could be relocated to an alternative location.

The Council subsequently commissioned Mann Williams Consulting Civil and Structural Engineers to investigate options, feasibility and potential costs for relocating the mural and sought additional specialist advice from Cliveden Conservation. The reports produced by



these organisations established that relocation may be technically feasible but at a cost of a minimum of £600,000.

I understand that there are also very real risks that the mural may not survive any relocation in fact even if all reasonable efforts are made to protect it from damage. The expanded aluminium sheets onto which the mural was set are attached to a backing wall which comprises concrete cased steel columns with cavity brick infill. It appears that the level of adhesion varies between the brick and concrete sections, and that removal from the brick sections places considerable tension on the individual mosaic pieces. Removing the mural from the brick panels would therefore be a difficult and costly process, with significant risk of damage. The option of relocating the mural still attached to the brick panels has also been considered but that too comes with a real risk of damage. The Council also considered that it would be virtually impossible to find an alternative location that could take the weight of the panels and offer the necessary degree of weather protection.

The Council has concluded, I understand, that relocation is not a viable option given the high costs, the significant risk that the mural may not survive the move and the absence of a suitable alternative site within the boundaries of the City Centre. The additional time that would be required to be added to the demolition process would also jeopardise the delivery of the redevelopment scheme.

The Council has also advised that retention in situ would prevent the redevelopment of the City Centre which is valued at over £100 million of investment.

The Council has therefore concluded that regrettably it is not economically or practically possible to salvage the mural and it is therefore proposing to proceed with its demolition. The Council has emphasised that it is committed to the promotion of public art and has resolved to commission an alternative work to commemorate the Chartist movement.

If you would like more information about the issues that the Council has considered around the retention and relocation of the mural you can contact the Chief Executive, Will Godfrey, Civic Centre, Newport NP20 4UR

Yours sincerely,


Senior Heritage Planning and Designations Manager