

President: Sir Nicholas Underhill



Founder: Miss June A Stubbs
MBE MCSD FRSA

Friends of St. James's Park and The Green Park
10 Old Pye Street London SW1P 2DG
info@thethorneyislandsociety.org.uk

David Clegg
Development Planning
Westminster City Hall
64 Victoria Street
London SW1E 6QP

By e-mail also SouthPlanningteam@westminster.gov.uk

17th September 2014

Dear Mr Clegg

14/08203/FULL

Westminster Abbey Dean's Yard London SW1P 3PP

Temporary siting of two Portacabins enclosed by a timber hoarding on the south side of St Margaret's Church for the storage of audio guides.

Thank you sending the notification of this planning application dated 9th September 2014.

Although we understand the need for relocating the audioguide store, and we can also see that considerable thought has been given to choosing a new temporary site, we would like to question the decision that Option D is the best choice.

On the basis of the applicants' analysis it seems to us that Option B is preferable. If the existing stoneyard was extended enough to accommodate the Portacabins and also included access from the exterior there would be no need to move the audioguides through the interior of the Abbey and the H&S issues of sharing space with the stoneyard would be minimized.

An alternative to placing the Portacabins inside the stoneyard would be to place them against the railings. This would be more unsightly than enclosing them within a new permanent screen but, for the view from Broad Sanctuary, it would be an improvement on Option D. The views illustrated in Figures 6 and 7 demonstrate the deleterious effect on St Margaret's of Option D.

The additional benefit of a new stoneyard screen would be to conceal the miscellaneous contents of the yard, which are highly visible to the many people who enter the Abbey grounds past St Margaret's, after viewing the Houses of Parliament.

We trust our observations and comments are of assistance, and ask that our comments be made known to the Committee and Council.

Yours Sincerely
for and on behalf of the Thorney Island Society

Lucy Peck

