Outlook

Silverton Mill: proposed demolition of historic former chapel.

From Delwyn Matthews <delwyn.matthews@talktalk.net>
Date Fri 13/11/2026 17:55
To Sheila Woodland <clerk@silvertonparishcouncil.org.uk>

Dear Parish Clerk/ Sheila,

I am writing to you urgently as a resident of Ellerhayes regarding a live Prior Approval demolition application submitted by the National Trust to East Devon District Council under reference 26/2230/DEM (validated 3 November 2026) for the former Silverton Mill site at Hele.
Because Prior Approval applications run on a strict 28-day statutory clock (with public comments closing around 24 November 2026), urgent cross-border intervention is needed for two reasons:
1. Zero Consultation with Ellerhayes or Silverton Parish

Although the mill buildings sit just across the parish/district boundary in East Devon (Broadclyst Ward), Ellerhayes (in Silverton Parish / Mid Devon) is the immediate neighbouring residential settlement—and was originally built by the mill owners to house the Silverton Mill workforce. Despite the direct impact of demolition works and the permanent loss of our community's shared industrial heritage, neither Ellerhayes residents, Silverton Parish Council, nor Mid Devon District Council appear to have been consulted.I myself was only made aware following a post yesterday on the Ellerhayes Community website by another Ellerhayes resident.

2. Unacknowledged Demolition of the 1893 Wesleyan Methodist Chapel
Among the five buildings earmarked for demolition—which the application papers describe merely as altered offices and cottages—is a rare 1893 Wesleyan Methodist Chapel converted by mill owner W. H. Reed for his workers. It is officially logged on both the Historic England Heritage Gateway and the National Trust's own Historic Environment Record (Record ID: MNA100723). Because it served as a mill laboratory after closing as a chapel in 1964, its heritage value has been missed in the demolition documents, and the plans propose crushing stone and cement from demolished buildings for car park hardcore.

How You Can Help Before 24 November 2026:

- Please contact East Devon District Council's Development Management team immediately to request formal neighbouring parish/authority consultation on 26/2230/DEM, and to allow time for a fuller consideration and possible submission of a formal parish objection requesting that the 1893 Chapel (MNA100723) be spared from demolition and assessed for Local Listing as a Non-Designated Local Heritage Asset ,as allowed for under August 2026 NPPF Policy HE7(3).

I have already submitted a detailed objection to East Devon District Council and would be very happy to share this and other historical and archival references with you.

Yours sincerely,
Delwyn Matthews

(Little Mead,Ellerhayes,Hele EX5 4PU)