

Dear All,

Following last week's New Works meeting Philip Harrison carried out a site visit in relation to the wall behind Rufus Court. Please find his conclusions below with a really useful set of photos.

I have converted Philip's main conclusions into a comment for the LPA, to be circulated shortly.

John Herson

Dear John,

Following the New Works meeting last Thursday I went to look at the bit of brick wall that Rod Cox wants to demolish near Rufus Court. I am attaching some pictures of it that may help.

The brickwork is obviously quite old, (C18 ?) - but nothing special, and it was erected subsequent to the building of the houses/properties around Rufus Court, This is apparent from the vertical gap (see pic) which shows the bit of wall was never bonded into the wall of the adjacent house.

The bit of wall (approx.12ft. length) has been built up against the Roman City Wall and forms a parapet to the inside edge. It is now falling away into the green area behind 'Tea-on-the-Wall' café - (that very scruffy, collapsing bit of trellis roofing).

On the inside of the wall (Abbey Green side) a very substantial scaffolding has now been erected to prevent complete collapse (see pic). There are two arched openings in the brick wall through which it is just possible to see the masonry of the Roman Wall - which suggest that the brick wall was built for decorative purposes rather than as a support for defective Roman stone work.

I do not think the brick wall is of any aesthetic value - quite the reverse in fact, and the whole area could benefit from its demolition.

The only comments I would make - if you write a letter of non-objection - are:-

- 1) that when demolition occurs the Archaeologist Dept. and structural engineers should be present to investigate the state of the Roman masonry.
- 2) The parapet section MUST be replaced by galvanized steel railings and oak post that match the existing railings running around the rest of the inside edge of the City Walls.

I hope this helps.

Regards ... Philip Harrison

[Click on photographs to enlarge.](#)



Rod Cox's Brick wall, near Rufus Court.
The crack between the brick wall and the gabled building.



Rod Cox's Brick wall, near Rufus Court. On the Roman wall
looking North.



Rod Cox's Brick wall, near Rufus Court. Picture taken from Abbey
Green.
The scaffolding supporting the collapsing brick wall.



Rod Cox's Brick wall, near Rufus Court.
On the Roman wall looking South.