

## ***Quaker Meeting House, Bognor Regis***

*6 Victoria Drive, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, PO21 2RJ*

*National Grid Reference: SZ 92862 98835*



### ***Statement of Significance***

***The meeting house is a post-war house which was converted in 1993. It has low heritage value.***

#### ***Evidential value***

***The meeting house has low evidential value.***

#### ***Historical value***

***The building is a post-war house and has low historical value.***

#### ***Aesthetic value***

***The meeting house is a typical suburban house of the period. It has low aesthetic value.***

#### ***Communal value***

***As a Quaker meeting house which is also used by community groups the building has high communal value.***

### **Part 1: Core data**

- 1.1 Area Meeting: *Sussex West*
- 1.2 Property Registration Number: *0033360*
- 1.3 Owner: *Area Meeting*
- 1.4 Local Planning Authority: *Arun District Council*
- 1.5 Historic England locality: *South East*
- 1.6 Civil parish: *Bognor Regis*
- 1.7 Listed status: *Locally listed*
- 1.8 NHLE: *N/a*
- 1.9 Conservation Area: *No*
- 1.10 Scheduled Ancient Monument: *No*

1.11 Heritage at Risk: *No*

1.12 Date(s): *1960s-70s*

1.13 Architect (s): *Not established*

1.14 Date of visit: *18 August 2015*

1.15 Name of report author: *Johanna Roethe*

1.16 Name of contact(s) made on site: *Barbara Branscombe, Caroline Bennett, Geoff Brear*

1.17 Associated buildings and sites: *None*

1.18 Attached burial ground: *No*

1.19 Information sources:

Butler, D.M., *The Quaker Meeting Houses of Britain*, 1999, vol. 2, p. 599  
Local Meeting survey by Barbara Branscombe, June 2015

## **Part 2: The Meeting House & Burial Ground: history, contents, use, setting and designation**

### 2.1. Historical background

The meeting at Bognor Regis was established by 1952. The current building was acquired in 1993 for £105,000 and opened the same year as a meeting house with a first-floor warden's flat. Later alterations included the conversion of an integral garage into a small meeting room (c.1998).

### 2.2. The building and its principal fittings and fixtures

The meeting house is aligned roughly north-south with the street elevation facing west.

The meeting house was built in the 1960s or 1970s as a two-storey private dwelling. The plan is oblong with slightly recessed wings under the main pitched roof. The walls are faced in brown bricks in stretcher bond. The roof has modern interlocking tiles. Windows, doors and rainwater goods are of UPVC. The street elevation of the centre block has a central recess with a first-floor balcony. The entrance to the ground-floor rooms including the meeting room is in the centre, the entrance to the warden's flat is via a side door to the north. There are two chimneystacks at the points where the wings meet the central block. The meeting room is located in the south of the building. The former chimneybreast survives although the opening has been blocked. Other ground-floor rooms include a smaller meeting room (the former garage), a kitchen and toilets. The warden's flat is on the first floor (not inspected).

### 2.3 Loose furnishings

None of particular note

### 2.4. Attached burial ground (if any)

N/a

### 2.5. The meeting house in its wider setting

The house is located in a residential suburban area near the centre of Bognor Regis.

### 2.6. Listed status

The building is not listed and is not considered to be a candidate for listing.

## 2.7. Archaeological potential of the site

The site of the meeting house was fields until Victoria Drive was laid out in the late nineteenth century. The meeting house was built in the garden of a Victorian building in Aldwick Road which has been replaced by a block of flats. The site has low archaeological potential.

## **Part 3: Current use and management**

*See completed volunteer survey*

### 3.1. Condition

- i) Meeting House: Good
- ii) Attached burial ground (if any): N/a

### 3.2. Maintenance

The most recent quinquennial inspection was undertaken in 2012. It found only minor and maintenance issues most of which have been attended to. The meeting has enough money to maintain the building. The QI report is used as a five-year maintenance and repair plan.

### 3.3. Sustainability

The meeting does not use the Sustainability Toolkit. It has implemented measures to reduce its environmental impact. These include:

- Climate change & energy efficiency: double-glazed windows; low energy light bulbs, computer-controlled central heating
- Resource use, recycling & waste management: recycling as much as possible
- Wildlife, ecology and nature conservation: garden and trees
- Transport: walking and cycling to meeting house as well as car share where possible

The meeting does not have an Energy Performance Certificate.

### 3.4. Amenities

The meeting has all the amenities it needs. These are all in the meeting house. There is a resident Warden, whose self-contained flat is on the first floor.

The meeting is accessible by public transport. There is parking on site but no secure parking for bicycles.

### 3.5. Access

The meeting house is accessible to people with disabilities. There is level access, an accessible toilet, a hearing loop and facilities for partially-sighted people. There has been no Disability Access Audit but advice was acted on at the time of the conversion of the building.

### 3.6 Community Use

Friends use the meeting house for 6 hours per week. The building is available for community lettings for a maximum number of 108 hours per week. It is used for average of 40 hours per week. The meeting has a lettings policy. Groups and activities whose aims do not infringe Quaker values are acceptable. Quaker groups and Quaker-run charities may use the meeting house for free. Users value the meeting house for its tranquil comfortable rooms, the competitive pricing, convenient parking and the fairly central location.

### 3.7. Vulnerability to crime

There is no sign of general crime or anti-social behaviour at the site. There has been no heritage crime. There have been no reported or unreported crimes. The wider area is generally well-cared for, has reasonably low crime levels, has a mix of low and high deprivation and medium community confidence. There is no liaison with the Local Neighbourhood Policing Team as there is currently no need.

### 3.8. Plans for change

There are no plans for alterations to the meeting house.

## **Part 4: Impact of Change**

### 4.1. To what extent is the building amenable or vulnerable to change?

*i) As a Meeting House used only by the local Meeting:* The meeting house is a modern building which could be altered if required.

*ii) For wider community use, in addition to local Meeting use:* The current facilities are sufficient for the building's users. The building could be altered, should this change.

*iii) Being laid down as a Meeting:* Should the meeting be laid down, the house could easily be returned to full residential use. Alternatively, the site could be redeveloped.

## **Part 5: Category: 4**