Plans to honour Kidderminster surgeon with blue plaque

4th October Heritage Planning and development

27 Church Street in Kidderminster *(Image: GSV)*

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PERMISSION is being sought to install a blue plaque on the former Kidderminster home and workplace of a pioneer of medicine.

The application, which was submitted to Wyre Forest District Council by the Kidderminster Civic Society, seeks Listed Building Consent for the installation of a blue plaque to commemorate the historical importance of the Grade II listed building at 27 Church Street.

According to the application, the proposed blue plaque would highlight 27 Church Street's status as the former home and practice for three generations of doctors, including John Lionel Stretton, who pioneered the medical use of Tincture of Iodine and lived and worked at the property between 1882 and 1938.

A supporting document submitted as part of the application provides more details about John Lionel, who was the second of three generations of surgeons in Kidderminster who, between them, provided almost a century of service to the community.

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Mr Stretton's father, Samuel, bought 27 Church Street in 1856.

According to the Kidderminster Civic Society, in his 56-year career, Mr Stretton carried out around 40,000 operations, in addition to managing health services in Kidderminster.

The Kidderminster Civic Society also say that Mr Stretton has an 'important' place in medical history, having pioneered the use of Tincture of Iodine in surgery, and in a national newspaper a week after his importance was likened to that of Sir Joseph Lister, who was the pioneer of antiseptic surgery.

As part of their application for Listed Building Consent, Kidderminster Civic Society has provided their suggestion for words that would feature on the commemorative blue plaque.

They said: "In suggesting an appropriate form of words for the Blue Plaque to be affixed to the 27 Church Street building, reference was made to Joseph Lister's Blue Plaque.

"John Lionel Stretton, 1860 - 1943. Pioneer of the medical use of Tincture of Iodine. Lived and worked here from 1882 - 1938."

The application was received by Wyre Forest District Council on Tuesday, August 11 and validated on Wednesday, September 30.

To view the full application, search 26/0626/LBC in the Wyre Forest District Council planning portal.

Heritage Planning and development

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