



FAO: Planning Department,
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

Ref: 6/2022/1610/HOUSE
Date: 20/09/2022

HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION ADVICE

Dear Sir / Madam,

RE: 53 High Road, Essendon, Hatfield, AL9 6HS

The application is for extension of dropped kerb.

The application follows the refusal of 6/2021/2816/HOUSE which was for a 5 metre dropped kerb and included the removal of the hedge and dwarf wall. An objection was raised as the loss of the hedge and boundary wall resulted in some 'less than substantial' harm to the significance of the Conservation Area.

As noted previously, the traditional boundary treatment, particularly the hedge, contributes to the character of this part of the Conservation Area and the verdant appearance of the streetscene on entering the historic core of the village from the south.

It was suggested previously that if a greater extent of the hedge were to be retained and meaningful replacement planting proposed within the front garden space then the concerns may be addressed. However, the proposed site plan is annotated stating that either the hedge will be reduced to accommodate the 5 metre dropped kerb or it will be replaced with a picket fence. Neither option address the concern regarding the loss of greenery.

Some 'less than substantial harm' remains and paragraph 202 of the NPPF should be applied. The proposal is not considered to preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the Conservation Area, as per Section 72 (1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

Yours sincerely

Maria Kitts BA (Hons) MA PGCert
Principal Built Heritage Consultant
Place Services

Note: This letter is advisory and should only be considered as the opinion formed by specialist staff in relation to this particular matter

