

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 July 2013 23:09
To: Planning
Subject: Erection of single storey front, side and rear extension and alterations to roof at 7 Densley Close, Welwyn Garden City

Following the principles and aims of the Council's Estate Management Scheme, particularly in relation to the WGC Conservation Area, of which Densley Close is a part, i.e. to avoid change which damages the look of a property or streetscape in order to protect the town's unique character, I would like to object to the change to the front entrance of No. 7 Densley Close by the proposed erection of a single storey front extension.

I think the proposed extension is not sympathetic to the original property in scale or design and detracts from its overall appearance. At present, the approach is open with a stone canopy over the front door and minimum side support. The proposed extension is higher than this canopy (by a quarter/a third) and it extends forward significantly, plus having a small canopy of its own. It is an enclosed structure making the extension look protrusive and heavy and out of proportion when viewed in relation to the original house.

The proposed extension is also damaging to the streetscape of this small close, which has architectural balance. None of the other eight properties in Densley Close has a protruding porch. If this planning application is passed, it will set a precedent, which may damage further the close's architectural integrity.

Of note, and maybe of planning significance, the first owner and co-designer of No. 7 Densley Close was a locally well-known sculptor and stonemason, Cyril Cordon, who incorporated several original engraved stone tablets into the walls of this house. There is one in the front wall of the side extension where a new window is proposed and there may be others at the side and rear of the property. There is also an engraved block depicting the house number in the present canopy support. Perhaps some or all of these could be retained/repositioned as of local artistic value in any plans that are approved which would otherwise lead to their loss?

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