

Dear Andrew,

In respect to the planning permission that we have submitted case ref: DM/24/3060. I wanted to provide some photographic evidence of the work that we have sympathetically made to Home Cottage during the time that we have owned the property and the rationale for why we are seeking retrospective permission for the work already carried out as well as your consideration for a parking space.

The below picture is of the back of Home Cottage after we had bought it. We sought Planning Permission which was granted back in July/August of 2019 to build a single storey extension. The reason why I am highlighting this picture is because you will see that only ground floor had double glazed windows and all the others were single pain and all mismatched. You can also see once the cladding started to be removed, that there was no insulation at all in the property due to its age and therefore contributing to its energy official rating of E. Obviously we saw this as an opportunity to rectify as we had already started work at the back and it would make sense to do it all in one hit.



The picture below is having had the work complete. As you can see, all of the windows have the traditional bars across them to emulate the style of property that it is as well as ensuring that the UPVC windows were wood grain effect to ensure that the character was kept however making the property more energy efficient. We also went with the white cement board with wood grain effect as they are better able to keep moisture out of buildings, can last between 50-60 years and is known for its durability. It can sustain changes to extreme weather without the worry about it cracking. We have been made aware that it is enviromentally friendly as well as resistant to pests. (Timber can become damaged by infestation of woodworm or nesting of birds, which we had the front of the cottage!)

You can also see that we found the same tiles as the roof of the cottage to ensure that it blended in with its surroundings.



The below picture was taken by my partner who wanted to bring the original sign at the front of the cottage, back to life. You can see how weathered it had become.





The above photo was taken in October 2024. As you can see, the timber panelling was cracked and split, therefore leading to concerns of water and damp coming into the property. (especially given the extreme weather that we have been having we needed to ensure it was watertight) We also suspected that there was little, to no installation at the front having prior knowledge of the back therefore this was also a priority.

We also had, a new family member join us in November 2023 and one of the front bedrooms was going to be his room. We needed to ensure that the room was warm and sound proofed being that we are on the main high street and that the original windows were single pain glass. We therefore made the decision to carry out work to the middle floor which involved instillation, new sash double glazed window to match the existing as well as replacing all 4 of the decorative irons across all four windows. (You can see in the above picture that only 2 of the iron bars remained – Top and bottom right)



The above picture is having had the work completed. All sympathetically carried out and in keeping with the original character of the cottage. (Below is a close up of the panelling and window of the front elevation)



We were naive to not seek permission from the council as we thought because it wasn't Grade 2 listed and that we had the windows and cladding at the back, we could just make the necessary changes, bringing the cottage back to life from the front. We have had so many wonderful comments from local residents saying how much nicer it looks. Not only this, but it is now more energy efficient as a 4 bedroom family home.

In regards to our application for a parking space, when we bought the property, we were made aware that planning permission had been granted to build a purpose built garage in the garden of Home Cottage. At the time, this wasn't a requirement as we wanted to use what monies we had to do the extension however, circumstances have now changed having had a baby and parking in Hurstpierpoint getting progressively worse. There just isn't enough parking for the number of people that live in this village. Field House (which is next door to us as an example contains 5 flats, none of which has parking) People are parking on either double yellow lines or single yellow lines outside of the allotted time frames so that they can park anywhere near there house. Hurstpierpoint is a village/community that encourages young families to live here, but the two things don't go together I am afraid.

When we found out we were expecting a baby, we wrote to all the residents of Churchfields to have a discussion around parking options as we wanted to see what options we had. Only one neighbour spoke to us and told us we were unlikely to get approval. However we are a young, growing family and we want this to be our forever home.

Our ask is for your consideration and to review our proposal to erect a timber framed car port at the bottom corner of our garden. We have access up until the back part of the wall.

I understand that the Conservation Officer has objected due the heritage of the wall however as you can see from the below picture, this section of the wall isn't in keeping with the rest that is in place and actually has already been repaired once by its previous owner due to it partially falling down therefore contradicting the statement that is within the conservation officer report.





Above is a picture of the wall that runs along the side of our house. The far left is where the wall would be removed should the car port be approved therefore retaining the ornate part of the wall.



Above is a picture of the other wide of the wall, down Churchfields.



Exterior View of Home Cottage down at Churchfields.



The Conservation Officer also states that a car port in one's garden, within the edge of a conservation area is unlikely to be favourable- however the private road into Churchfields cannot be seen from the High Street and isn't overpopulated with cars. So much so, they often don't use their garages therefore I cannot see why the community would want to object?

I hope the images and the rationale behind the reasons for our application have been useful and goes some way in aiding your decision. We have been nothing but respect for the character and the heritage of Home Cottage and hence why we have invested in adding the charm back in and keeping it from disrepair.

We'll look forward to hearing from you in due course.

With Kind Regards,

Home Cottage.