

Heritage statement re proposal at Hillbury Cottage, Handcross

1 Description

Hillbury Cottage is a Grade II listed semi-detached building, on Horsham Road in the village of Handcross, West Sussex. We have owned this property for 20 years. We know nothing of its history, although I understand it was built in the late 16th century.

It is attached on one side to a newer retail/residential unit, and it is overlooked at the rear by a light industrial unit which is considerably larger than the cottage.

The cottage fronts directly on to Horsham Road, which is very busy, and there is a tarmac footpath about a metre wide that runs along the front of the building, its driveway and its garden, and there is a normal kerb all along that footpath except a small area of dropped kerb.

The cottage was extended in the 1960s, when its then-existing driveway was moved further to the right and a small garage installed. As a result, the drop kerb (marked in blue on Plan 1) is only partly in front of the driveway, so the kerb is raised to a large part of the driveway. We would like to extend the drop kerb by 3 metres, away from the building.

2 Reason for request

Due to sat-nav, Horsham Road has become a cut-through road, and the volume of traffic has increased dramatically over the last 20 years. Cars are frequently damaged by passing traffic when they are parked along the road.

The volume of cars parked along the road has also increased dramatically over this period, due to people parking along it to visit Aaron Russel hairdressers, the nearby Butchers, JoCo coffee shop and Nymans Gardens (the latter particularly in spring/summer when their car park is often full). As a result, people frequently park across my driveway, preventing me from either parking on it or from getting off it. I must either send messages or walk around the village to find out whose car it is and ask them to move it.

I have elderly and disabled parents who I bring to visit often (my father is blind and my mother is unable to walk well), and I sometimes have to park a distance from my house if the driveway is blocked. I have two rescue dogs that I need to load and unload from the car when it is on the drive, as one of them gets nervous. One of our cars is electric and needs to be on the drive in order to be plugged in.

3 Nature of proposed work

I would like to widen the drop kerb by approximately 3 metres, away from the building, and to have a white line painted across it to prevent people from parking there. I currently have a notice up asking people not to park there, but this is frequently ignored. No other work is required.

4 Impact on heritage

The proposal is simply to extend the existing drop kerb by approximately 3 metres. The alteration would be nearest the 1960s extension part of the building, but is not in front of the building. It would extend the drop kerb away from the building rather than towards it. It would make no difference to the building. It would have negligible visual or aesthetic impact upon the building or the road in general. We therefore believe that it would have no impact on the heritage of the building.