

Sarah Valentine

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 May 2025 16:32
To: planninginfo
Subject: DM/25/1103 and DM/25/1104 Comments regarding Marlow House

[REDACTED]

109 High Street,
Lindfield,
West Sussex,
RH16 2HR
13th May 2025

Dear Sirs,

I have lived at “Everyndens” 109 High Street, Lindfield, - and next to “Marlow House” - since 1986. During the time I have lived here - and particularly over the last 25 years, I have observed and experienced, a progressive and significant degradation in the overall outward appearance and maintenance of this Grade 2 Listed Building.

The general progressive decline of Marlow House, - its obvious lack of external decoration and maintenance, incomplete and unfinished rendering, the forlorn, unkempt and overgrown gardens, with numerous sheds and incomplete brick garage walls, have long been a source of dismay and disappointment both to me, my family, and other Lindfield residents.

Since the acquisition of Marlow House [REDACTED] in 2022, this property has been *transformed*, - and we are absolutely delighted with the outcome, and particularly pleased to live next to this property - which, I can assure you, has certainly not always been the case !

We have witnessed the enormous amount of care - and doubtless the considerable sums of money, - that have been invested in the restoration of Marlow House. We have also noted that continuous close scrutiny has been given by [REDACTED], their builders and their Advisers to ensure the restoration of Marlow House reflects its Grade 2 Listed status, its position and place on the High Street, and that the construction materials, standards of workmanship and building processes utilised in this property are appropriate and suitable.

We feel strongly that the outcome is an absolute triumph, and that the restoration is quite exceptional.

Outwardly this once run-down, shabby and ill maintained building, now takes its rightful place in the High Street. Good Planning, coupled with the strong desire of the current owners to fully maintain the historic appearance of Marlow House, has ensured that its external restoration uses wholly appropriate materials, - such as lime mortar and rendering, lead guttering and detailing, and that where replacements, including windows and doors, have been necessary, – these have been undertaken to a very high standard, and without any obvious external impact that would affect the character of the building or Street View

The transformation to this property inside is also remarkable, and clearly reflect that [REDACTED] intend to live here for as long as they can, enjoy the house, they have so painstakingly restored, become full participants in Lindfield life, and that they have not just acquired this High Street property to quickly renovate and sell. They have therefore created a modern and comfortable home which reflects and provides the comforts and amenity of a 21st Century House but is also one that still maintains and demonstrates all the character and characteristics of an early English Period property. Their skill in melding these characteristics together so skilfully needs to be applauded.

Their restoration of the gardens is simply magnificent. The exceptional “Hard” and “Soft” landscaping – using expert advice to provide appropriate plants and layout, the use of the highest quality materials, provision of a “wild” garden on the garage roof, low maintenance features, and the use of running water, are all exemplary. Quite frankly this is one of the best garden designs I have ever seen, and totally complements the overall restoration. The use of subtle lighting throughout the garden is in no way disruptive to neighbours, and provides an evening garden which is relaxing, imaginative and very practical. This is a garden that enhances and adds value - not in a monetary sense - to this Period property.

We are particularly pleased that the new owners have chosen to reduce the height and impact of the log store, to the side of the garage. As their immediate neighbours we were concerned that a full height log store adversely impacted our garden outlook, and was originally sized inappropriately, given the extensive use of underfloor heating in the property. We support and applaud [REDACTED] sensitivity towards us.

In summary:-

As the immediate neighbour of Marlow House, my wife and I are **fully** supportive of the changes that [REDACTED] have made.

They have demonstrated great sensitivity and consideration towards us during a prolonged, difficult and sometimes disruptive restoration.

We have observed the quality of work and materials used throughout this project, the attention to detail, the rediscovery and inspired restoration of the original Well, and their reuse of materials wherever possible and sensible, and the creation of an inspired garden layout

We absolutely love the building contrast created between “old” and “new” and the way the modern annex enhances the older features that are still maintained in the original building.

Marlow House has been transformed - and, in our opinion, totally for the better.

Yours faithfully

A solid black rectangular box used to redact a signature.