

Heritage Statement – 9 Wheatcroft, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1LA

The proposed plans are to remove a small section of wall from the front of the property to allow access for a driveway, where we will apply for a dropped kerb to also allow access.

Our plans are to rebuild the wall with the current bricks to maintain the character of the property and surrounding area. The area of wall which we propose to remove is currently in a deteriorating state that poses a risk to passers by, especially to the young children that live and play in the area.

We are extremely conscious of the fact that the property is in a conservation area. By using the same bricks this allows us to keep the original features of the outside wall whilst also making it a much safer, sturdier wall which will survive much longer than the current wall whilst also allowing access for vehicles.

We purchased the property in July 2023 and the property hadn't been lived in for almost 2 years, in which time the front garden and wall hadn't been maintained properly and also meant the property had no vehicles parking outside, which benefitted surrounding neighbours. Since moving in not only have we now had to find space to park our 2 vehicles but we have found the larger portion of front garden harder to maintain due to the build up of weeds and grass that had been neglected. Our plans propose that the weeds and suspected wild garlic will be removed and replaced with a tidy, neat material that is non invasive to wild life, whilst also maintaining the character with surrounding fresh, healthy plants, giving the front of the property a much friendlier and loved look. By doing this, this allows us to spend more time on the smaller area of grass in front of the property, that will have fresh turf and flowers and plants, again giving the property a nicer look and also benefiting and maintaining an area for local wildlife.

As a couple, we own 2 vehicles that are parked outside the property daily. Parking in the area is a premium and we feel we would be benefitting, not only the property, but neighbours and any future owners of the property by allowing access for a drive. A dropped kerb would remove one space of on road parking, which is beneficial for people driving past, as this will allow space for cars driving though and passing each other, as currently the road is extremely narrow with cars parking on both sides of the road. It will also allow an extra on road parking space for neighbours, as the front grass area has more than enough space for our 2 vehicles to park on.

We feel the heritage will be completely maintained and our proposed work will do nothing but benefit the area and neighbours, making great use of the space that was once neglected that neighbours will also greatly benefit from. The character will be maintained along side the impact on the wildlife and greenery that the property also has to offer. We feel this is a great practical use of the space whilst also conserving the character of the property, which is an extremely rare opportunity for a property in the Windmill Hill area which would be an extreme shame to miss out on. Not only does this benefit us, the owners, but the neighbours and any future owners of this property and surrounding properties.