

Description of proposed work

The proposed works are to create an aesthetically appealing, secure and sustainable driveway that maintains the front features of the property whilst also improving the exterior of our home and therefore contributing to the character of our street.

General character and amenity of property

This includes removal of the front wall, which was cracked and weathered, the overgrown front hedge which was hard to maintain and took up a large proportion of the pavement space for pedestrians, especially when we or our neighbour were parked outside. The large hedge was also expensive to maintain as we had to pay gardeners to maintain and treat it. As evidenced in pictures provided in the supporting documents the hedge was large and often left little to no room for pedestrians to walk on. Very often I would witness individuals with strollers try to get past parked cars on the pavement and have been unsuccessful and therefore have resorted to taking their strollers into the road which is extremely conducive to public safety.

We also wanted to remove and replace the path leading up to our home. The pathway contained cracked tiles and concrete and the stairs were too steep which posed a major safety concern for us and visitors. On occasion my young son who is now 2.5 years of age would trip on the broken tiles and it would cause him minor injuries such as a scraps or grazes. My partner and I would also trip on tiles which had become dislodged whilst carrying items into the property. It became exceptionally hard for elderly visiting relatives such as our grandparents and great grandparents to walk up the pathway and therefore this dissuaded them from visiting us. The pathway looked unpleasant and detracted from the general amenity of the property.

The front walkway to the left-hand side of our property was cracked, and after speaking with our immediate neighbour at number twenty-two we realised that there was an existing leak which the previous homeowners did not disclose to us prior to the sale. I am informed by the neighbours that the previous owners of the property were aware of the leak however they did not have sufficient funds to complete the building work necessary to rectify the issue and as such the leak has continued. Following our discussions, my neighbour and I believe the leak could have been present in excess of five to ten years. Due to this work being incomplete my neighbour has had to install a new boundary wall to prevent the current wall from collapsing and a water way which is situated on their drive as the drive frequently gathered water which caused flooding. In

turn they noticed that the structural integrity of their property was deteriorating as a result of the inaction of previous owners of our property to provide a solution.

Highway safety measures

In order to increase the safety and visibility of our property as a whole we have also installed pathway lights. This will increase visibility for pedestrians and drivers passing at night and improve the general safety and security of our property. The lighting also acts as a deterrent to criminals keeping the front aspect illuminated throughout the night.

In order to increase the safety of pedestrians and vehicle drivers alike we will be installing a driveway mirror. Research indicates that convex mirrors optimise road safety and improves visibility for both pedestrians and vehicles drivers. Driveway mirrors ensure clear visibility for traffic approaching the driveway and helps to prevent accidents whilst merging onto the road. Given that the road is a classified road we understand the importance of increased road safety measures. The wide-angle mirrors offer a broad perspective of the road enabling quick responses from drivers and pedestrians.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity is a very important factor we considered for the proposed work. We understand and appreciate the importance of sustaining greenery on our planet. It is important for us to maintain our plant and biodiversity system and so, we have designed three dedicated spaces to plant new, smaller shrubs and greenery (see scale plan). The greenery we will be planting will also soften the frontage of the property and increase the overall visual amenity by the creation of three dedicated areas. It will also be in keeping with the general amenity of the area as a whole.

Sustainability

To decrease our carbon footprint, we have installed an outdoor electric vehicle charge point with the view to purchasing an electric car in the near future. We did have an electric car for a short period of time in 2023, but it was impossible to charge the car overnight owing to the fact that we could not plug the car in to charge as we did not have a car port on any roads we pay a yearly permit for and it was impractical to take the car to an electric charge point for substantial periods of the day. This new charge point will adhere to the government's overall strategy for all new cars to be zero emission by 2035.

Materials

The car port space will have a permeable surface; including an underlying sub-base that flows to a dedicated drain at the front. Laid on top is a type one concrete foundation with laid block paving. Six drainage pipes have been installed on each installed boundary wall, which will assist with the flow of water.

The entire design is clean, moves to maintain the greenery of the area and is easy to maintain.

The work is being carried out by experienced and proficient trade contractors who are well versed in the construction industry and have completed work on many drives in the Gravesham area.

Dated: 16 April 2024

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