

By email only

Dear Councillor,

**Land to the rear of 1 – 6 The Street, Kersey – Ref B/15/01196**

I am writing to you as the Applicant and a long-standing resident of the local community. I have lived here most of my adult life. We also represent a wide section of the local community who support this application.

In July 2015 we (The Applicant) approached Babergh's expert Heritage Officer for Pre-Application Advice. Your Officer then was Patrick Taylor and he was a senior officer responsible for the Conservation Appraisals for all of Mid Suffolk and Babergh and had, in fact completed the Conservation Appraisal for Kersey specifically.

Please see his Pre-Application advice to us attached (see attachment 1).

Patrick was enthusiastic about, and supportive of our proposals and advised us to expect some resistance from a few local residents and probably from English Heritage but told us he was firmly in support and could see no harm to the Street Scene whatsoever. The importance in the Street Scene was the reason that 1-6 The Street were graded (see attachment 2).

He said that 'harm' to the setting was probably the wrong word, but the 'change' to the setting at the rear of the cottages would, in his view give greater public exposure to the rear of the cottages which could result in an improvement.

In fact, the setting of the listed cottages will be improved. The important street scene would be enhanced because the proposals provide parking for 1-6 The Street to the rear of the cottages, so the residents of 1-6 The Street will be able to park at the rear, rather than on the pavement where they currently park, thus opening the vista and improving the visual impact of the street scene.

Patrick Taylor retired from Babergh in 2015, but in October 2018 wrote to Babergh's Head of Development Management, Mr Phil Isbell to give his specific views on the proposed development (see attachment 3).

You will be aware that the Planning Committee have already voted in favour of approving this Application and following receipt of the PAP letter from the solicitor for the few disgruntled objectors, Patrick offered to come and speak on our behalf if the matter was to be re-presented to Committee. Patrick tragically passed away in October 2019. If he was still here, he would be present at Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> July to explain that he, as your expert and adviser, supported this Application in spite of English Heritage's objection.

Having read these three attachments, I hope you will see that the perceived 'harm' to the setting of the listed cottages is, at worst "Less than substantial" – which is agreed by even the current Heritage Officer. The perception of 'harm' is entirely subjective.

Our view is that although there will be 'change' and therefore impossible to argue that there is no 'harm', there will actually be a net Heritage Gain from the removal of cars from outside the cottages and therefore improving the important 'Street Scene'. This gain is in addition to allowing Kersey to play it's own small part in the overall growth of the District, most importantly by allowing younger people to move in to a village from which they would normally be excluded because of the high cost of property and hopefully to breathe new life and joy into the village scene and the helping to boost numbers to keep the village school alive.

Please support this Application.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Harding,  
Rural Community Housing

Attachments :

1. Pre-App Patrick Taylor 2015pdf
2. Listing Grade II\* Extract 1-6 The St.pdf
3. Patrick Taylor – Letter to Phil Isbell