

**Mark & Emma Williams
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Sarah Leete-Groves
Specialist Advisor (Conservation)
Eastbourne Borough Council

By email only to sarah.leete-groves@eastbourne.gov.uk

22 October 2014

Dear Ms Leete-Groves,

We have previously spoken on the telephone and I write regarding the proposed article for Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 affecting properties in Park Close, Eastbourne.

I wish to make the following representations regarding the proposed Direction:-

1. Having spoken with a neighbour (5 Park Close) I understand that the proposed Direction was instigated by your predecessor Claire Dales. I have seen an email exchange between Ms Dales and Trefor Williams in August 2013 when the original Direction was circulated to residents. Trefor Williams raised various questions in respect of the notification of the proposal to recommend Article 4 Directions for Park Close, which queried a number of the assumptions and comments made by Ms Dales in her 'Park Close Appraisal' document. These queries and questions challenged the statements made by Claire Dales as some of them appear to be quite incorrect. Unfortunately, Trefor Williams did not receive a detailed response to his questions instead Ms Dales simply stated that "*The report is the result of extensive research and I thank you for your comments*".

I would therefore respectfully ask that if the current Direction is based upon an appraisal carried out by Claire Dales that this is carefully looked at as it appears that a lot of what she has stated is simply incorrect. If the premise for the proposed Direction is fundamentally flawed, then you have to question the proposed Direction itself.

2. Whilst I am of the view that certain things in the proposed Direction have some merit eg whilst no resident that I know would want to replace their windows with white uPVC windows) if under the current position a resident **could** do this as long as it did not change the character of the Close, then I can see the benefit of the Direction. However, I think a lot of what you are trying to guard against by imposing an obligation to apply for planning permission would already be prevented by the fact that Park Close is within a Conservation Area as it **would** change the character of the Close. In the example I give, I cannot imagine that

any window company would fit white uPVC windows or any resident seek to do so, without first seeking guidance from the Conservation Officer.

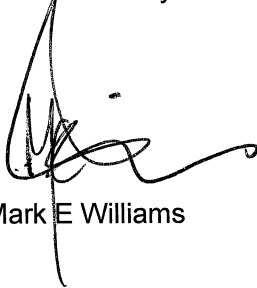
3. My main concern however is that composing a requirement to seek planning permission for everything listed in the proposed Direction creates an unreasonable and unnecessary burden for residents both in terms of time and cost. My particular area of concern is that it would appear that consent would be needed for:-
 - (a) Normal maintenance activity, eg repairing broken items, touching up paintwork etc. For example, we lost a chimney flue last year and replaced this. It is ridiculous to think we would now need to obtain planning permission for this.
 - (b) There appears to be no allowance for making 'like for like' changes, repairs or maintenance, for example if we wanted to restain the beams on the front of the house the same colours they are currently, is it reasonable to expect us to have to go to the time and expense of applying for planning permission for this?
 - (c) No allowance appears to be made for making emergency repairs, eg replacing tiles on a roof which have blown off in a storm and are letting in water.

Can you please confirm in writing that planning permission would **not** be required for matters (a) to (c) as this is what Claire Dales stated in an email I have seen from her to Trefor Williams on 6 August 2013?

I would also ask you and the Council to carefully consider my representations as if this current proposed Direction is based on incorrect appraisals and assertions then this should be looked at closely.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark E Williams', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark E Williams