

Dear Sarah

I am writing with regard to the Article 4 Direction relating to The Park Close Conservation Area.

Thank you very much for the information given.

Although I appreciate some of the benefits that such a direction would bring (eg it would stop people putting windows in that were out of character with the close) I am concerned that such a direction will be very restrictive and cause not insignificant expense. For example, I think it is rather 'over the top' for residents of the Close to have to get planning permission to repaint their houses and doors using the same colours as they already have or to put wood preserver on their fences. I don't know about others but it takes us long enough to get around to some of these jobs anyway that the thought of having to get planning permission to do, so and to pay out extra for that, would inevitably mean the jobs would get put off more. As I understand it, such draconian legislation would also mean that people would not be able to do jobs on the spur of the moment (eg repainting a window frame), when the weather is fine, simply because of the need to get planning permission.

I am also concerned that the timescale involved in getting planning permission to deal with certain issues could cause problems. For example, should a chimney pot be blown down in a storm I am not sure that I would wish to have to wait to get planning permission before getting it replaced as such a delay may result in further damage to my property.

I fear, therefore, that the Close may end up looking less cared for and so the confirmation of the Direction would actually have a detrimental effect on the appearance of the Close.

Consequently, although I can see some benefits to the Direction, I do feel it is far too restrictive and will cause considerable inconvenience and expense to the residents of the Close. I would therefore request that the Article 4 Direction is not confirmed.

Yours sincerely

Christine Boatwright (Mrs)