Subject: Balustrades Chester Terrace

From: Richard Loftus

Date: 01/10/2020, 15:15

To: Nicholas Packard

CC: Loretta Balfour

Michael Chung

allan murray-jones

Dear Nick

1. Following our meeting, I had a look at the balustrade immediately opposite our house at 16 Chester Terrace. I was surprised to find that a section of the coping and the Di block vertical support - not just the bottles - were loose and wobbly. I could very easily have pushed the coping and Di block into the garden!

I am therefore concerned that the essential scaffolding reinforcements identified by Michael (based on the HPM report of 26 June 2020) may not be accurate.

May I suggest that we meet on site with Michael and walk the entire length of the balustrades to look only at the safety considerations. Our test should simply be whether one person could actually dislodge a coping stone if they push against it with all their strength. If it cannot be moved, then we don't have to worry about kids inadvertently dislodging copings.

At the same time, we can also identify those sections of the balustrade that would appear to require minimum intervention for whatever long-term repair strategy we adopt.

2. Regarding the proposed deconstruction of a section of the balustrade to establish its condition, I think that we need to carry out this exercise in three locations - one where the balustrade is dangerous, one where it is in average condition, and one where it appears to be in the best condition. We may find that the detailed construction of the balustrade is not uniform, just as the foundation and retaining wall construction appears to vary along the terrace as described in the HPM report.

Warm regards

Richard

Richard Loftus

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