

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2023/3201/L	Stephen Hayward	15/10/2023 13:12:58	INT	<p>The proposal for a new entrance and north wall to the Keats Grove is intriguing, but as a resident, who walks past this building every day, I feel obliged to offer a few, largely positive comments and one major concern. Firstly, the idea of generating an ornamental language from the textual pattern of a well-known Keats poem seems to meet the brief, i.e it is literary and specific to Keats' work, without being over-literal. It marks out the location as an internationally significant cultural venue, while using the transparency of the gates and the views of the tree and the garden to preserve the sense of picturesque tranquility. I.e. There is a balance between poetry and nature. A rather different approach is represented by the adjoining Keats Memorial library, a Neo-Georgian building which in language of its day, followed the principle of architectural 'good manners', i.e. It adapted a familiar and proven set of classical forms and principles to a new application. I appreciate that something similar is attempted in the front wall of the new scheme; the wall in hand made bricks topped with a railing, which links the new entrance and the library. The proposal is supported by several references to local examples. However, I have a major concern about the appropriateness or 'good manners' of the copper brick inserts. These are presented as a continuation of the ornamental language of the entrance, a morse code-like rendering of an Ode to a Nightingale on the eye level of small children, and hence something that not only complements the aesthetic integrity of the scheme, but is educational. However I wonder whether these inserts do not overload this relatively low section of walling with too much information? And, of course, we must assume that the visitor -of all ages- will be conversant with the code. How many visitors automatically remember Keats' poetry in terms of the pattern of words on a page? By comparison, the Neo-Georgian language of the memorial library, and nearby Keats Close, is far more intuitive. No explanation, or prompting are necessary. Indeed, the casual passer-by might be forgiven in thinking that the Keats House and the interwar additions are of the same date. In summary, it is my feeling that while the treatment of the new entrance gate is conceptually sound and well judged, the north wall, with its combination of vernacular materials and copper inserts is dissonant. Is it not preferable to separate these two 'parts', with the immediate entrance area focusing on the creation of a unique sense of place, while the north wall is more in keeping with local precedent. In this event is it not logical to omit the copper bricks?</p>
2023/3201/L	Edward & Jill Bace	14/10/2023 20:15:12	COMMNT	<p>We have seen the proposals for the proposed new boundary wall at 10 Keats Grove. If we are looking at the right ones, the low brick wall and railings seem appropriate, but what is the point of the copper bricks in the wall bearing verses from Keats? They seem quite incongruous and at odds with the rest of the surroundings. The arrangement we feel would be much more suitable without them.</p>