

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2023/3130/P	Francoise Findlay (BCAAC member)	25/11/2023 16:52:16	OBJ	<p>This house is outside the Elsworthy Conservation Area but is one of several at the East end of King Henry's Road that retains its original porch and thus is an asset with an impressive facade to the street. It became the vicarage to St Mary's Church in 1982 following the sale of 7 Elsworthy Road, the original vicarage.</p> <p>The introduction of the proposed wheelchair accessible platform lift will have a seriously deleterious effect on the front facade. The excuse for the lift is to provide access for parishioners to the vicar's study, their kitchen and dining room; it is not for a potential vicar or their family since they would have no access to their bedrooms or bathroom on the first floor.</p> <p>In addition the proposed ground floor WC facing the front door, with its own door shown opening inwards does not appear suitable for the disabled.</p> <p>The clumsy, ugly, staircase proposed to access the rear garden which "will allow the vicarage to perform its parochial functions for summer gatherings and events" will not give the disabled any possibility to join in. This would demonstrate that the applicant is not clear which parishioners might be welcomed to the vicarage in future.</p> <p>Since 1982 St Mary's Church has made substantial internal changes to provide a variety of areas for both private and group meetings. The vicar has therefore less need to make his home available.</p> <p>If access to the front door is essential then a simple stairlift alongside the steps, such as the one installed at 10 King Henry's Road or 7 Elsworthy Road, and a lowering of the front door threshold, would be amply sufficient and would not ruin the front facade.</p>
