

Frontage renewal for no.1 Holly Village

What is sought is a return to the architect's original design for the main entrance and elevation to the Village.

Over the years, incremental changes, including those of ownership, have lost the clarity of image that was Andrew Darbyshire's for Baroness Angela Coutts, often involving crude repairs to the common parts.

The application for Listed Building Consent for the renewal of the front garden boundary is made with this same intent- to show to all the splendor that is the main elevation of one building, that forms two houses- nos.1 and 2 Holly Village.

This building, with its gap in the middle at ground level, faces up the hill to where Holly Lodge once stood. It could have faced Archway or the Heath but it looked uphill to its owner, Baroness Coutts.

As part of the overall design, Darbyshire wrapped the land on which the Village stands in a post-determined, bay-by-bay composite of brick and stone dwarf wall, surmounted by a light tracery of diamond latticed woodwork, behind which a modest hedge could be grown.

The building is the only one in the group of eight that is joined to the surrounding main fence. That is a very deliberate choice that facilitates the post-and-chain boundary definition used at the front, a minimalist provision that seeks not to draw attention to itself but leaves that to the main, very three-dimensional, front elevation.

That is the basis of this application, nothing less, nor more. No further half-baked changes at the front.