
From: Sofie Fieldsend
Sent: 05 August 2021 16:08
To: Planning Planning
Subject: FW: 2021/3153/P
Attachments: Suggested pointing 1.JPG; Suggested pointing 2.JPG; Griselinia tree Hampstead Hill Gdns.JPG; P1780676.JPG

Hello,

Can you please upload their objection please?

Thanks,

Sofie

From: Vicki Harding [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 August 2021 11:31
To: Sofie Fieldsend <Sofie.Fieldsend@camden.gov.uk>
Cc: David Castle [REDACTED]
Subject: 2021/3153/P

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Beware – This email originated outside Camden Council and may be malicious Please take extra care with any links, attachments, requests to take action or for you to verify your password etc. Please note there have been reports of emails purporting to be about Covid 19 being used as cover for scams so extra vigilance is required.

Dear Sofie Fieldsend,

I am writing to object to the approval of Condition 4 of planning permission 2017/6907/P dated 17/12/2018 (as amended by 2019/5904/P dated 19/2/20) for 'Erection of 3-storey dwelling, plus basement including alterations to retained extension (to east of existing cottage) and refurbishment of existing roof terrace, with associated landscape, following demolition of existing 2-storey cottage'.

While the bricks and Flemish bond are appropriate, the very thick, grey cementitious and impermeable mortar and the pointing are absolutely not. The result is very ugly.

Bricks are permeable and allow moisture to be evaporated from their surface. Both the mortar and the pointing should not be water impermeable or they encourage moisture traps so that the superficial surfaces of the bricks eventually suffer frost damage and spalling. A significant proportion of lime and sand should be used to both colour the bricks, fit in with other local buildings and provide a permeable layer that does not become a moisture trap. While the angled pointing favoured by modern bricklayers is supposed to throw off rain from the bricks, this is unnecessary, requires a greater cement proportion to maintain the edge at the bottom, looks machine made, and is very very ugly.

I don't have an ideal example to hand, but enclose a photograph I've just taken of a local re-built garden wall using old bricks with good pointing. This shows how it can be finished by rubbing a flat wooden board along it when it is semi dry - no angle, no sharp edge. A wooden dowel can be used for a slightly concave finish, encouraging moisture evaporation. A hard brush finish does the same thing and cleans mortar off the bricks too.

Old bricks are frequently damaged where cement has been used in the recent past, so in patches the mortar looks thicker, but the overall effect is much much better, the bricks are preserved, and the wall will last considerably longer. In my photographs a sharp coarse sand has been used, but normal washed sharp sand does a good job too and will help produce the required colour.

A photograph of the 13A Pond Street cottage rear wall (taken to show the griselinia tree from the garden behind) shows what it is to match - particularly the older pointing to the right of the tree. As well as the Flemish bond, some timeless detailing can be seen, though this wall elsewhere also has some interesting Victorian detailing - see P1780676.

Please could a sample with appropriate mortar and pointing be resubmitted, and as before kept until the work has been completed and approved.

With all good wishes

Vicki Harding

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Dr Vicki Harding
Society Tree Officer
Heath & Hampstead Society

