

CHECAA

Craigweil House and its Environs Conservation Area Association

'Preserving our Regal, Historic and Architectural Heritage for Future Generations'

OBJECTION - AW-44-19-DOC – Synthetic Plastic cladding – 13-3-2019

Head of Planning Services
Arun District Council
Maltravers Road
Littlehampton
BN17 5LF

13 March 2019

Dear Sir,

OBJECTION – AW-44-19-DOC - 'Wood Plastic Composite' Cladding to front of 54 Kingsway within the Craigweil House Conservation Area.

Successive Planning Inspectors appointed by the Secretary of State to determine appeals against Refusals of applications for development within or abutting the historic Craigweil House Conservation Area have set out their task at Hearing or in Written Appeals by saying: *'I see this appeal as being one which requires me to determine whether or not this proposed development will preserve or enhance the Craigweil House Conservation Area'*. Others have concluded with statements such as: *'Taking into account all matters raised, I find that the proposal would not preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the Conservation Area and the appeal is, therefore, Dismissed'*.

CHECAA's Planning Applications Scrutiny Committee has obtained and studied samples of the plastic cladding strips and find them to be a crude imitation of timber and still, as one would expect, retaining the plastic/Bakelite shiny appearance which accompanies plastics made from phenol formaldehyde combinations and which we think unattractive.

CHECAA considers that an unattractive and undesirable repetitive imitation timber pattern and overall appearance will emerge and, quite simply, wonders WHY? Craigweil's first two houses, built by Sir Arthur Du Cros – 31 The Drive as a wedding present for his daughter and 1 The Drive also built for his family are each on the Local List and of Mock Tudor design with magnificent aged Oak timbers. The Aldwick Bay Estate, nearby, enjoys a mass of luxurious timber clad house, also on the Local List, and the use of appropriate timber is the prime reason for all these Listings. Why use a cheap or synthetic material when the real thing is available – **this is not development preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of the Conservation Area!**

Original timber cladding is of the Craigweil and Aldwick Bay development eras and new development within those CA's should reflect that style and show respect to it. Modern materials are fine on modern sites.

There is no timber shortage and, given that the Conservation Area Statement has already been ignored totally in this application by allowing the over- development to destroy the space between it and 52, CHECAA holds to the faint hope that some reason may yet prevail in the mind/s of the Decision Maker/s and that cladding in this development, if allowed, will be in natural timber enhancing the long established character and appearance of the Craigweil House Conservation Area to which this house is adjacent – from the front wall onwards.

To allow this plastic cladding will create another undesirable precedent – and we have too many already – which will serve to destroy all that has been preserved in recent years after decades of being ignored by developers and planners.

We ask that this application be REFUSED.

Yours faithfully

Richard D. Ostler
Chairman

Established 20 January 2001

Chairman: Richard D. Ostler: [REDACTED]