

CHECAA

Craigweil House and its Environs Conservation Area Association

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

OBJECTION – AW-44-19-DOC – Cladding to front of 54 Kingsway – 19-3-2019.

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

19 March 2019

Dear Sir,

OBJECTION to AW/44/19/DOC – Cladding to front of 54 Kingsway with plastic imitation timber – prominently located within the Craigweil House Conservation Area

Further to our specific objection to the proposed use of 'Wood Plastic Composite' for cladding the front of the house, directly facing the Craigweil House Conservation Area, we have now carried tests on a 75mm wide sample supplied by the manufacturer and these have exacerbated the concerns we already had. **A photograph of the sample is attached.**

To assess its visual amenity value within the existing street scene that is a significant part of the character and appearance of the CA, we wished to see the appearance when wet and ran the sample under a cold water tap for just one minute, wiped it with a tissue and allowed it to dry at room temperature. Four areas of unsightly black staining developed and could not be removed. Although not massively significant, it was instant, and appears permanent and could well be joined by other stains through the years. The photograph is the actual size of the cladding.

We then immersed the sample in about 2" (50mm) of water for about 5 minutes and were able to watch as the pale 'grain' simulations turned paler and paler until the sample was transformed into a patterned piece of slab plastic bearing white lines but little or no reasonable resemblance to any timber. **The attached photograph is after water immersion.**

More than that, it is so bold and brash as to 'scream' 'synthetic' – and will never mellow to give the appearance of genuine wood - to such a degree that CHECAA feels it can never enhance or preserve the character or appearance of the CA in any way at all. It can only cause harm to the area, in our view and, particularly, to the street scene.

It is claimed by the applicant in the document submitted as a schedule and uploaded to the website on the 6 February 2019 that the product **'Looks and feels just like natural wood'**. **That is a false claim, in our view, for it does neither and, more than this, all the benefits listed are for the user and not the CA or observer within the CA.**

Initially, the view of the Principal Conservation Officer was sought on this project and he appeared unimpressed. He has not yet given the Case Officer an opinion on the cladding and we would like him to complete the job. Unhappily, CAAC, which was unimpressed by the initial application details, has not been re-approached and this is something that is regularly happening at Arun. The LPA consults initially but then fails to finish the job by getting another report.

Yours faithfully

Richard D. Ostler
Chairman

Established 20 January 2001

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