

Heritage Statement: 14 Poplar Court, Richmond Road, Twickenham, TW12 DS

Date: June 3, 2024

To the Richmond Council Planning Department:

Introduction

14 Poplar Court is located within the Richmond Road (East Twickenham) Conservation Area, a district characterised by its Edwardian commercial architecture and historic significance as a route linking Richmond and Twickenham. This heritage statement is submitted in support of the proposed replacement of the existing UPVC windows at 14 Poplar Court.

Background and Significance of the Conservation Area

Richmond Road's history as a vital thoroughfare dates back to the completion of Richmond Bridge in 1777. The area evolved with grand villas in the 19th century, followed by Edwardian-era commercial development that shaped its current character. The conservation area is recognized for its well-planned shopping parades, consistent architectural features, and a mix of historic villas.

Rationale for Window Replacement

The existing UPVC windows at 14 Poplar Court are deteriorating, with broken seals causing dampness and drafts. These windows are not original to the building, which was constructed in 1938 and likely featured iron-framed windows painted white. Many neighboring properties have already replaced their original windows with UPVC or aluminum.

Proposed Solution

We propose replacing the existing windows with new aluminum windows featuring white frames. This choice aligns with the following considerations:

- **Historical Accuracy:** Aluminum frames, while not identical to the original iron, more closely resemble the building's original appearance compared to UPVC. The white finish will further enhance this historical accuracy.
- **Durability and Performance:** Aluminum windows offer superior durability and insulation compared to UPVC, ensuring long-term benefits for the property and its occupants.
- **Conservation Area Enhancement:** By choosing aluminium, we contribute to the overall visual coherence of the conservation area and avoid the incongruity often associated with UPVC replacements.

Impact on Heritage Significance

The proposed window replacement will have a positive impact on the heritage significance of 14 Poplar Court and the wider conservation area. It will enhance the building's visual appeal and contribute to the preservation of the area's historic character.

Conclusion

We believe the proposed window replacement at 14 Poplar Court aligns with the principles of conservation and enhancement. By choosing aluminium windows with white frames, we demonstrate a commitment to both historical accuracy and long-term sustainability. We respectfully request your favourable consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Charles Dodd
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