



Kirklees is rich in heritage, in recognition of this there are 60 conservation areas in Kirklees which help preserve and enhance the quality of life in the borough. Conservation in Kirklees has acted as a catalyst for regeneration, helping to diversify the economic base and enhance the character and appearance of the areas, ensuring the heritage of Kirklees is both a historic and economic asset.

Conservation areas are defined as 'areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance' (Section 69 of the Town and Country Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990). Conservation areas are recognised for the contribution they make to the cultural heritage and economic well being of the country and to the locality.

An area with conservation area status imposes a duty on Kirklees Council to preserve and enhance the quality and character of the conservation area. Designation as a conservation area strengthens existing development policy in the Kirklees Unitary Development Plan (UDP) to preserve and enhance the appearance and character of the conservation area.

Kirklees Unitary Plan describes Birkby as 'A mainly nineteenth century residential suburb of Huddersfield, but includes older buildings and a large mill complex together with a Victorian cemetery and public park. The stone terraced properties have a leafy aspect to the streets with uniform stone boundary walls and gateways contributing to the street scene'.

Site Area

The site is located within Birkby Conservation Area, which is noted for being a mainly nineteenth century residential suburb of Huddersfield, but includes older buildings and a large mill complex together with a Victorian cemetery and public park. The main area of Birkby consists of stone terraced properties with stone boundary walls and gateways contributing to the street scenes.

The site consists of a semi detached property with a white rendered exterior. There are two properties (50 and 52) that sit away from the highway and set back from the property line of neighbours and number 54.

Impact on conservation area

The majority of the buildings of significant conservation status are upper Birkby and consist of stone and terraced properties.

The proposed property is white rendered with neighbours consisting of stone built properties. Adjacent properties appear to be more significant in conservation status so the design is to mimic the external material and render of the existing property as not to impact the visual appearance to the surrounding area and adjacent properties. 54 and 56 Birkby Lodge Road have a gable front end which is mimicked in the front dormer as to allow a seamless flow of visual appearance of the properties.

In conclusion the two properties have a unique appearance compared to others within the area. This allows them to sit with their own style. In effect, with the proposed extension not affecting the conservation status