

HERITAGE STATEMENT

23 Imperial Road, Edgerton, Huddersfield, HD3 3AF

Proposal: Conversion of the existing integral garage into a habitable room, including removal of the garage door and reinstatement of a bay window to match the property's original design.

1. INTRODUCTION

This Heritage Statement accompanies a planning application for the above property, which lies within the Edgerton Conservation Area, designated in 1976 as an area of special architectural and historic interest whose character and appearance it is desirable to preserve and enhance. The statement assesses the significance of the heritage asset and the impact of the proposed works in accordance with the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and the Kirklees Council's Local Plan.

2. SITE AND HERITAGE CONTEXT

23 Imperial Road is situated within the Edgerton Conservation Area, which includes the eastern end of Imperial Road and properties on the northern side of Regent Road. This area is defined by its tight-knit urban grain, narrow streets, and villa pairs set within small front gardens enclosed by low stone walls. The property contributes positively to the character of the area through its scale, materials, and architectural detailing consistent with Victorian design.

3. PROPOSAL

The proposal involves: Conversion of the existing integral garage into a habitable room, including removal of the garage door and reinstatement of a bay window to match the property's original design. The works will use natural sandstone for any external alterations, timber-framed windows, and detailing sympathetic to the original architectural character. No changes are proposed to the building's footprint or roofline.

4. ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

The proposed works will enhance the building's appearance by reinstating a traditional bay window, replacing an incongruous modern garage door. This will preserve the character of the Conservation Area, as the reinstated feature reflects the original design intent and complements adjacent properties. The proposal aligns with Kirklees Policy LP35, which requires development to preserve or enhance the significance of heritage assets and contribute to local character and distinctiveness.

5. JUSTIFICATION AND MITIGATION

The garage door is a non-original feature that detracts from the streetscape. Reinstating the bay window restores the property's historic appearance and improves the visual harmony of Imperial Road. Materials and detailing will match existing features, ensuring the works are sympathetic and subordinate to the host building.

6. CONCLUSION

The proposed development is modest, well-considered, and will enhance the character and appearance of the Edgerton Conservation Area. It reinstates an original architectural feature, uses appropriate materials, and respects the historic context. The works comply with national and local heritage policies and should be supported.

7. POLICY COMPLIANCE

The proposal complies with Kirklees Local Plan policies as follows:

- LP1: Supports sustainable development by enhancing the character of the conservation area and improving residential amenity.
- LP24: Demonstrates high-quality design that respects local character, scale, and materials.
- LP35: Preserves and enhances the significance of the Edgerton Conservation Area by reinstating an original architectural feature and using sympathetic materials.

The works are proportionate, sensitive, and contribute positively to local distinctiveness and heritage conservation.

Prepared for: Planning Application – Kirklees Council

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Applicant: Harry Dunbar