Climate Change Statement

Site: 47 Highfield Road, Fixby, Huddersfield, HD2 2GF

Proposal: Retrospective householder application for the insertion of a window (900 mm W x 1100 mm H, white uPVC, double glazed) in the side elevation of the existing attached garage.

This statement follows the eight topics in Kirklees Council's climate change guidance for planning applications. As the guidance asks, the response is proportionate to the scale of the development, which is a single window in an existing wall with no new floor space, no change to the building footprint and no change to the roof.

1. Energy demand	The window is modern double-glazed uPVC, which meets current thermal standards. It provides natural daylight to the garage, reducing the need for artificial lighting during the day.
2. Construction carbon and waste	The works were small-scale and used minimal materials: one window unit and a steel lintel. Brickwork removed from the opening was minimal and disposed of responsibly. No demolition or large-scale material use was involved.
3. Renewable / low-carbon energy	Not applicable given the scale of the works. The proposal does not prevent renewable technologies being installed on the property in future.
4. Building design and layout	The window maximises passive daylight into the garage. Its position on a ground-floor side elevation, screened by the existing 1.92 m boundary fence, avoids overlooking.
5. Flooding	The works are within the existing building. There is no new hard surfacing or change to the building footprint, so surface water run-off and flood risk are unchanged.
6. Water use	No change to water use or water infrastructure.
7. Biodiversity	The works are confined to an existing wall of the house. No vegetation, garden land or habitat was affected, and there is no impact on the adjoining woodland.
Species enhancement	The proposal is a single window inserted into an existing garage wall. It creates no new floor space, does not alter the roof, garden or any habitat, and has no ecological impact. Given this very minor scale, a species enhancement feature is not considered proportionate to the works proposed.
8. Air pollution	No new combustion sources, heating plant or traffic generation. The opening window allows natural ventilation. No impact on air quality.

Conclusion: The development is minor and has a negligible climate and ecological impact. It improves natural daylight and ventilation to the garage without increasing energy demand, flood risk or environmental harm.