

LETTERS

Dear Sir,
I read the article headed "Willifield Garage Row" with great interest, as I live opposite the house in question. Although I am not directly affected by the application to build a garage at No. 27, nevertheless my wife and I have been affected indirectly due to the bad feeling this has caused in the immediate area.

As RJW says in his article, the application has been very badly handled by the Trust with its Noes and Yesses and Maybe's, without ever giving any reasons, or apparently sending anyone to discuss the problem on the site. It has caused frustration to the applicant, bad feeling by those neighbours who are affected by it, and degenerated into behaviour more associated with football hooligans than with respectable citizens of Willifield Way (although I have lived here for 14 years I never knew that the Crescent had a name of its own).

I have every sympathy with No. 27 wanting a garage on a stretch of road where every

parked car is at risk of being hit by a passing vehicle, provided it does not cause inconvenience to the neighbours. After all, the fewer cars parked on this bend, the better for one and all.

I do not agree with RJW's demand of a blanket ban on new garages as a matter of policy. The Suburb may have been conceived in 1905, but we are now living in 1985, and whether one likes it or not, the motor car is here to stay. Unless Willifield Way can be protected from the through-traffic, which seems highly unlikely, the problem will get worse every time a house changes hands. If there is a possibility to build a garage without infringing on neighbours, then this should be encouraged and not greeted with the hostility that this application had. For RJW to write of precedent is odd, as within a radius of some 25 yards of No. 27 there are already three garages, so the precedent has already been set much earlier. No. 25 has applied for hard standing drive which should be

no problem, as there are any number of these drives on that side of the road.

In conclusion I should like to say that far from making it impossible for residents to have garages, I think it would be much better if the Trust and the residents got together to find the best way of overcoming the problem and help to take some of the congestion and danger away from that particular corner, and I am sure that with reason and goodwill quite a lot of improvements could be achieved. But if the attitude persists where on the one hand a car is purchased purely for the purpose of standing in front of a house to fill a space, and on the other hand people write on the planning application "over my dead body", then not much progress will be made. Indeed, with the traffic that comes round this corner in the morning and evening rush hour, that last threat may well come true. Yours faithfully,
V.S. Garston.

Dear Sir,

Your article in the last issue of Suburb News rather oversimplified the issues surrounding the planning application to build a garage at 27 Willifield Way. Opinions are divided on whether there is space to build a garage in the front garden of this house. Both the Conservation Area Advisory Committee, which includes representatives from the RA and local architects, and Barnet considered that there is enough space and approved the application. On the other hand some local residents feel that the site is unsuitable for a garage. In making its own decision

about this application the Trust has to take into account a number of different factors. Given the chronic parking problems in this part of the Suburb it is plainly desirable to get cars off the road. On the other hand the Trust has a duty to safeguard the visual amenities of Willifield Way. There are strong arguments on both sides and the issue is far from being clear cut. Moreover this application has generated a great deal of ill feeling in the area and some of the people involved are no longer on speaking terms. The Trust are caught in the middle of this neighbourly feud and whatever we finally decide would be unacceptable to one side. For these reasons the Trust decided to ask the RIBA to nominate an independent architect who would look at the problem with a fresh pair of eyes.

In your article there was also criticism at the Trust's procedures for processing this application. We are anxious to provide residents with a planning service which is both efficient and fair. To help ensure that the Trust are processing applications in a judicious and reasonable manner the RA have a representative on the Property and Plans Committee of the Trust which considers all applications. Through this outside representative Suburb residents have safeguards that the Trust is doing its job properly. Yours faithfully,
C M Kellerman
Trust Manager

Editor's note: The RA representative on the CAAC voted against approval.

Willifield Way Garage

Fellowship Thanks

Dear Sir,

May I through the Suburb News thank all those who contribute to the H.G.S. Fellowship through the Residents' Association annual collection at the time of re-enrolment with the R.A.

Considering that the Fellowship and Fellowship House Club are completely independent of the Residents Association it is very generous of the Association to use its street wardens in this way and equally generous of the Residents so to give.

The Fellowship, as most people know, is a very long-standing Welfare Committee going back to the early days of the Suburb, made up of representatives of the Churches, Synagogue, Schools and Institute, the Trust, and Residents Association, and others co-opted for their special interest.

Although the welfare needs are not as great now as in the past, at every Committee Meeting problems are discussed and help organised for visiting, shopping, gardening, or in some other way.

The Fellowship House Club, which is run through a Subcommittee of the Fellowship, provides activities for the Senior Citizens every day of the week. For a small annual subscription (in addition to any donation given) any Senior Citizen on the Suburb, and a limited number of those outside who can qualify as Associates, may join the Fellowship House Club.

Further details of the Fellowship may be had from me; or about the Fellowship House Club from its Chairman, Mrs. Jean Dyson, 2 Huichings Walk. Yours,
Ralph Y Baldry,
(Chairman, H.G.S. Fellowship)
159 Falloden Way, N.W.11

Trust Duties

Dear Sir,

I read with interest in your Summer Edition the news that the Trust was beginning to take legal action against Freeholders with long standing management charge arrears. What concerns me however, and I have had lengthy correspondence with the Trust Office on this point is that the Trust is failing in its management duties to deal with

breaches of covenants by residents. The Trust in my respectful opinion is not fulfilling its management duties if it does not take steps to at least try to impose covenants on residents who have regrettably taken the law into their own hands. More action is needed.

Yours faithfully,
Murray Cohen

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Lutyens Interiors

Sir,

In his letter headed 're: Lutyens' in your Summer, 1985, issue Mr C W Ikin says that, as far as he knows, the only Lutyens interiors in the Suburb are the Institute Hall, the two churches and 'the house in Ingram Avenue.' He adds that he is uncertain about the Vicarage and the Manse.

It may therefore be of interest if I list the buildings of which we have, in the Suburb Archives, full architectural drawings which were drawn in Lutyens' office. These drawings include, in every case, elevations, floor plans (and usually roof plans) and sections. They are:

All floors (not only the Hall) of the Old Hall Wing of the Institute. (The stage, which was added in 1924, is not by Lutyens, but by Welsh & Hollis).

St Jude-on-the-Hill and the Free Church The Vicarage

The Manse

The houses of North Square
The houses on the west side of Erskine Hill (Nos 1-13, odd)

When Mr Ikin refers to 'the house in Ingram Avenue' I think he must mean No 16 Ingram Avenue, which is listed in the Shankland Cox Report (p 107) as being by Lutyens. The original drawings of this house in the Archives are by J C S Soutar. They were approved in January, 1934. The Archives hold original drawings of all houses in Ingram Avenue except Nos 26 and 28. Of the drawings held, none is by Lutyens. (I should perhaps add that this is by no means the only error discovered in the lists of Suburb buildings given by Shankland Cox between pp 104-109 of their Report. Their details should therefore be treated with caution).

Yours faithfully,
Brigid Grafton Green Archivist

Institute Appeal

Dear Sir,

I should like to pick up a few points about the Institute/Henrietta Barnett School Appeal.

As a Henrietta Barnett School parent, I went to one of the school fundraising appeal evenings and was very much put off by the patronising attitude of the professional fundraiser. His bland assumptions about the wealth of all Suburb residents (very typical of someone from outside), and the bank balance of HBS parents, did nothing to encourage this particular family and many around me to give.

I therefore waited to hear from the Suburb Trust or Residents' Association, assuring that they would be making a big splash in which we and other local parents could join.

Your article in the Summer issue said that 5,000 brochures had gone out. I never received one as a resident, and had not been given one at the meeting I had attended because they were not ready. If its tone was similar to that of the meeting, I am not surprised that only 125 donations were received.

Surely the answer, to create public awareness of the true necessity of raising a lot of money for the work to be done on our most central building, is not a few shing pages, but a vast, typically Suburb community event in which everyone can take part, so that those of use who are not millionaires can contribute too. Hill Close does it every year.

Yours,
Mrs Marjories Harris

Selmans

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