



*Hogarth Hill. Before and after – an unsightly garage replaced with an attractive extension.*

The outlook from gardens is terribly important. In my experience, it is one of the things people value most and where feelings run highest when planning applications are submitted.

**What about applications to change a house to fit modern living requirements, changes like double glazing, off street parking spaces and decking?**

The Trust is very sympathetic to the desires of residents to upgrade their homes. I spend a lot of time on site visits trying to find ways to help residents find solutions that fit with their requirements but also retain the character of their home, whether they want more living space or double glazing. If a proposal does not adversely affect the appearance of the building and its surroundings then the Trust will be happy with the change. Suburb houses are for living in there is no reason they can't be adapted in certain ways to modern demands.

But these demands do need to respect the design of the traditional details of the original house and this sometimes means some changes cannot be allowed.

**What about damage that has already been done? There are some real eyesores around, why doesn't the Trust do something about existing problems?**

Many of the 'eyesore' alterations were done before the Trust had powers to control change. Remember the Trust was only set up in 1969 and before 1974 it had no powers to control development. The Trust and the Scheme of Management were set up as a result of residents' concern about this. We do not have any retrospective powers. However, when properties change hands new owners are often keen to improve the appearance of earlier mistakes.

**It can be very daunting for residents to try and reinstate original features or even try to conserve the features of their houses – where do you begin?**

The Trust can help here. We can help you to find the right materials and specialist craftsmen. We have lists of architects and builders who are familiar with the Suburb. It is possible to obtain all of the traditional materials used in

Suburb properties and to replace windows and doors to the original pattern. We also have a lot of original drawings of the houses if you wanted to know how it may have looked.

Restoring the authentic detail is not as expensive as you may think. It is also a good investment; an 'unspoilt' house always commands a better price. It is only through the careful preservation and sensitive change that we can maintain the unique character that attracts people to live in the Suburb in the first place.

*The Trust has approved these carefully designed timber double glazed windows.*

