

Dear Haringey Council,

We wanted to write to you ourselves, as the people who live here, rather than leave everything to the drawings.

Why we are asking for planning permission

We bought our house five years ago and since then we've been working through it steadily, restoring, repairing and improving both inside and out. We have restored the front of the house, path and garden, rebuilt the fence to the roadside, created a back garden, and worked our way through every room inside, keeping the original features where they had survived and putting them back where they had been lost.

Most of that we have done ourselves, room by room, over five years. This is the first larger building project we have taken on.

We are very keen to have a house that is in keeping with the rest of the street, and is maintained to a standard that reflects the best it can be. What we are proposing now is the next step, and would allow us to stay in our family home long-term, in the neighbourhood and community we love.

What we would like to do

The ground floor part is small. It replaces an old bin store that is falling apart, and we would like to bring it in line with the improvements we have made elsewhere. In its place we would have a small WC off the kitchen. Because we are on the end of the terrace this side of the house faces the road, so we have kept it low and modest, matched the materials, and left the pavement and access exactly as they are. We think the street will look better afterwards than it does now.

Upstairs, we would like a hip to gable extension giving us a small bathroom and the extra bedroom that would enable us to stay in the house as our children grow up. Our architect has designed the roof to sit comfortably with the existing house and with the roofline along the street, with materials and detailing carried through so it reads as part of the original building rather than an addition to it.

One further benefit, which the last few summers have shown, is that openable windows at the top of the house make a real difference to airflow through the whole property. With proper roof insulation as part of the work, it should make the house more energy efficient year-round.

Precedent nearby

From talking to our neighbours and walking around the neighbourhood, this seems a well established pattern here. No. 10, opposite, has permission for a hip to gable extension. Like us they are on the end of the terrace, though our scheme is more modest, with no rear roof terrace or privacy screen.

A very similar scheme has been built and completed at 12 Tancred Road, two streets away. We have also seen comparable roof extensions at 6 Lothair Road North and 16 Warham Road. What struck us walking round is how unremarkable they look once built. They simply read as part of the street.

Our neighbours

We have spoken to our neighbours at 9 (next door) and 10 (opposite) and all are supportive. Nobody has raised any concerns about light, outlook or privacy.

We are very happy to accept conditions on materials, glazing and anything else that would help.

We would be very glad to meet you here on site if that would be useful, and happy to share photographs of the work we have done to the house so far.

Yours sincerely,
Sam