



6, Railway Cottages,
Leekbrook Junction,
ST13 7AU

To: S.M.D.C. Planning Department, re: SMD/2024/0105.
From: Penelope Lawton (Miss)

The above proposal is for extensions front and back at 7, Railway Cottages, the property adjoining mine. I have previously submitted my comments to the Council about this proposal but I now have further concerns.

I spoke with the applicant, Mr. Kerr on Sunday. The conversation was quite amicable and non-confrontational but has left me rather confused and worried about what he might do. What he said was not at all consistent with the proposal he has submitted.

Most alarming: I pointed out that the proposed extension on the railway side would build over the mains electricity cable which supplies the whole terrace.

He first said it would be alright because he would leave "inspection hatches", to provide access if necessary.

He then spoke about replacing the mains cable with a new one, re-routed. When I said that would mean cutting off the electricity supply to the whole row, he said "only for about half an hour when people are at work".

He told me he was an "electrical engineer", and left me with the distinct impression that he was intending to do the job himself. I have no idea as to his qualifications but I doubt whether they permit him to replace or in any way interfere with the common mains cable.

He also said that the internal wiring in his house had not been done to proper standard but again, he is doing the re-wiring himself, including replacing what he said was an "old 1970s meter". I can well believe the wiring is sub-standard as that house has been altered and badly botched in the past but I do not know if he is qualified to carry out domestic wiring or will have the work inspected by the appropriate body. Any fault, particularly if it caused a fire, could affect my property.

At one point, said that his main concern was to put the stairs "back in their original position", "without affecting the kitchen", although he had previously shown that he was aware that the original stairs were removed when the present kitchen was extended into the hall.

The proposal is for the kitchen to be moved to the extension into the yard. The proposal does not put the stairs in their original position but in the extension on the railway side.

He said he would like to "restore the bay window". This is the window facing into the yard where the current proposal is for a large extension, so contradicts the plan submitted. (It didn't originally have a bay window.)

He said he talked about restoring the cottage to its original character but the proposal he has submitted is for extensions that would deface that character of the whole row.

The conversation has left me confused and very concerned. Most of what he said contradicted the proposal submitted and left me with the distinct impression that he was making it up as he went along.

I would welcome a visit from the Council Planning Officer.