

Hi Fiona, thanks for your update on Duncan's window review.

From a younger residents perspective I find the results rather disappointing.

Firstly, we all know that we live in a conservation area and that the appearance of the houses are important. But it is very hard to tell the difference between modern wood effect UPVC windows and traditional wooden ones. Indeed the conservation people who came to do the review a little while ago took pictures of the windows at No 34 thinking that they were plastic. This was pointed out to them in the review meeting. The gentleman chairing the meeting also agreed that you would probably have to tap and scratch modern wooden effect UPVC window frames to tell if they were wooden or plastic.

One of the issues facing the area is the lack of modern housing in the village. People these days have just come to expect modern double glazing as standard. UPVC windows are more energy efficient, require less upkeep, last for a lot longer and are more cost effective. An ex local couple who I know very well and want to come back to the village looked at No 37 when it came up for rent but were put off by the single glazed windows as they have young children. It has a knock on effect as this could have resulted in two extra children for the local school. Myself and my wife actually lived in No 37 for 5 years prior to buying a house in the village and it's a cold drafty house!

There are many examples in the village of wood effect and non wood effect UPVC windows. Granted not in the immediate surroundings of No 37 but further down the village you will see them. I can think of two within 30m of No 37.

As younger people come into the village they will no doubt look to sympathetically adapt and modernise the current housing stock. This has been done by generations before us to varying degrees of style and tradition which is what gives the village its unique look. A local contractor in the area asked the conservation review lady during the review meeting what era of the areas tradition are we trying to conserve in relation to windows and doors? He came up with at least three different eras/styles. She had no answer and just referred to her statement that traditional single glazed wooden windows were to be used in the future and that only 10 - 15% of heat is lost through them. 10 - 15% is 10 - 15%, especially in the current economic climate.

I just feel that unless we are allowed to sympathetically modernise the current housing stock we are putting the brakes on the areas future. As the older generations pass on and the housing stock ages, people will undoubtedly look to modern traditional looking materials and building techniques repair and improve the quality of the local housing stock. We want to conserve the area in which we live, as it's the area, the village and the setting that draws people to live here and come to visit, but we also don't want to feel that we're being forced to live in a museum for everyone's viewing pleasure, especially as most folk wandering around the place won't tell the difference.

I'm not sure if this will have any bearing on the decision of Duncan's windows but hopefully food for thought for the future.

BR

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