

## Statement by Mr P Jeffreys

"My name is Paul Jeffreys and my family and I have lived in Earls Colne for fifteen years. We feel very fortunate to live in an Arts and Crafts home set on the outskirts of the village which we dearly love. Our house is set in an acre plot at the end of a one way track. The garden gives our kids all the space they need to explore nature, however their bedroom sizes and usability are now inadequate.

Our house is no longer fit for purpose for my growing family, so we looked at the neighbour's extension as a way to extend our house, without unsettling the family. The main problem with the extension next door is the minimum gain of internal space as expressed by my neighbour to me. The rooms next door due to roof slope are in the main, unuseable and not sustainable with a growing family. This will result in the need for more extension works at a later stage.

We enlisted the help of Damian Lockley because of his knowledge of the local architecture and respect of the local area. He has a passion for 1930s architecture and the Arts and Crafts movement with a large number of his designs taking kudos from this time. We briefed Damian with our design criteria to design something in line with the 1930s ethos but would give us and our children practical living space. The plans he created are sympathetic and modest in design to our property and very importantly offer a sustainable living space that in no way is overbearing on the existing property. The proposed design adds character to our house with the use of clay hanging tile and maintains the soft red brick with the existing long cat side roof.

The design is of high quality to a high standard and our small community around The Kennels really like what we have come up with hence they supported our application. The Parish Council raises no objection and we continue to be baffled by the comments made by the planner. The design of the extension keeps all the important architectural features or we would have not approved this design. This is after all our family forever home. We do understand the wider picture of homes in the countryside, but the proposed footprint does not over develop our plot. One section of the extension is over the existing building area.

We understand it is easy for the planner to justify the neighbour's extension and keep the designs the same as each other. However this type of opinion adds to the degradation of designs all over the county and is not the high standard of design we have come to expect.

I would like to thank you for your time to listen to me, and I hope you see this extension design as we and our community do, as a great design which keeps all the historic importance and is sensitive to the existing building but will be a long term sustainable family home."