

Heritage Statement relating to the change of use of 73 Brookhouse Hill.

In around 1836 Miss Phoebe Silcock of Whiteley Wood Hall endowed land called Round Stubbing and gave £2,200 to build a church on the opposite side of Brookhouse Hill to the site of the planning application. Three years later the Fulwood parish was created occupying an area of 19 square miles.

Chorley Road, the church and the adjacent village school contributed to the locality forming a centre for the community. The road now called Canterbury Avenue was previously called School Lane.

It is possible that at this time the houses on Brookhouse Hill were constructed. This road runs along the rear of these properties to service the stables and the front entrances faced south towards the river Porter that powered several mills and provided employment for the village. Over the years these houses have been adapted to accommodate Brookhouse Hill as the main approach to the properties. Before selling number 73 to the Abbeyfield Society, it was the family home of Gordon Grayson, a well-known solicitor in Sheffield. Until recently, the property was a residential care home for the elderly.

With the creation of new purpose made accommodation for the elderly, the use of the house as a residential home has become uneconomic. Fortunately, the property has had only limited structural alterations so that with the return to a private dwelling, the character of the original building is maintained with few external changes. As a private dwelling, it is likely that the building will be adequately maintained and sustain the character of the locality as a part of Fulwood village centre.

As times change so does the demand for different types of house. At present there is a demand for larger detached family houses in the district and this proposal should help satisfy this need and sustain the property's heritage values.

The main approach to the house is now into a yard surrounded by outbuildings. This yard is of a size to accommodate parked cars that can "nose" out on to Brookhouse Hill. Total car traffic for the site will probably reduce with the change of use.

The form, proportions, massing, silhouette, views, materials and planting associated with the house will not change and should continue to reinforce the character of the Fulwood village centre. The road Brookhouse Hill has a long history as route from the water powered industry on the River Porter to the workers and owners houses and to the industrial centre of Sheffield.

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