

Ref: Planning application for 9a High Street, Lenham, ME17 2QD

Dear Sirs and Madams,

This letter is to explain our intentions in wishing to convert the property from office to residential and to provide you with some background in support of our application.

9 and 9a have been in our family for 50 years. The property was bought by my father in the early 70's from where he ran his electronics business for over 30 years. My grandmother lived in the next door property which also remained in our family until 2020. I was born in West Street, Lenham, attended the local schools and my husband and I were married in Lenham Church. I still have many friends in Lenham and visit regularly. I have a strong and longstanding connection with Lenham and am absolutely not some 'out of town developer'.

My father sadly passed away in 2018 when my husband and I inherited 9 and 9a High Street and have managed the properties since then. While 9 High Street continues to trade as a shop due to its frontage, unfortunately it became increasingly difficult to rent the offices at 9a due to lack of a requirement for office space in Lenham. The property remained empty at one point for almost 2 years until a charity took on the lease until recently when they moved out in May 2022.

We consider that the property is not rentable in its current state either as an office or as a residential property since it needs updating to achieve modern insulation, heating and electric standards.

We are therefore seeking planning permission to convert this property into a residential one so that we can sympathetically update it and ensure that it has a new lease of life and provide useful accommodation in the centre of the village. I have no intention of selling the property. On the contrary, my wish is to continue my father's stewardship of it but I can only do this by bringing it up to date and make it an appealing home in Lenham.

Lenham has changed an awful lot since I was a little girl but my aim is that this renovation will bring an old listed building back to life while maintaining the character of the property and its place in the village.

I would be delighted to provide you with any information in relation to this application.

Kind regards

Susan Leeman

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Kind regards  
Susan Leeman