

Heritage Statement

Ref 23/01180/LBC

Grade 2 listed building at

91-95 High Street Hemel Hempstead

English Heritage ref 355547

31.05.2023

Dear Sir/Madame

The property formally known as The New Mogul Ltd was rebranded in 2019 to Dalchini. The landlord remains the same Mr Ali Ahmed [REDACTED]

I am the new manager and have responsibility for the day-to-day running of the business. Unfortunately, we were due to open just as the first Covid 19 pandemic erupted around us. That caused a number of delays and impacted heavily on our business as it did with all our fellow neighbours. A situation we have still not recovered from.

At that time the restaurant required redecorating and during that process it became clear that the main door needed replacing due to its poor condition and also the exterior woodwork around the main frontage required maintenance. This work was carried out and the door was replaced with a like for like wooden half glazed door. The wooden frontage was retained however, it was thought best to cover that with light grey tiling. Firstly, to protect the wooden panels and also to provide what we considered a blending of materials and colours to present a safe and clean frontage. Also of course, maintain the general look of the building in relation to those surrounding us.

We also changed the signage on the restaurant to Dalchini. Whilst the old signage Mogul was in white letters, we did change the new signage to low orange colour.

All this work was carried out using tradespersons, to what we consider a high standard, and in keeping with the original building.

I recall a gentleman from planning attending the restaurant around this time and he explained the matter of the tiles was of concern to him and he would get back to us to discuss further. He did say he would get back to us with assistance in the matter, however I do not recall him returning or who he was. I understand the Covid 19 situation was probably the reason why he did not return.

We did manage to open and have struggled to trade since then encountering many unexpected costs and now almost crippled by the latest energy tariffs meaning business is very hard.

The letter concerning planning matters we received just prior to the Christmas period was a surprise. However, I understand the reasons behind it. As we are struggling to make any real

profit we are trying not to incur any additional costs or fees, hence why I have imposed myself on my long-time friend Mr Cantellow. Mr Cantellow has offered to assist as best he can and assisted me with the application.

He has explained to me the importance of this entire matter and the need to resolve it and meet the stipulations that we should have taken notice of at the very start. However, let me explain we did so with no intention to flout any planning laws or process. Our lack of understanding is clear and we wish to make amends for what has taken place. The front door was replaced with an almost identical one to what was already there. The tiles we considered were in keeping with the other nearby properties and indeed enhanced the overall appearance of the property. The signage although similar in size we of course concede is now a different colour to what was originally present. Taking all these matters into consideration we have tried to maintain the property to a standard and style that is consistent with the other properties within the High Street.

We seek your further assistance and guidance in this matter

Yours sincerely

