

## **PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP: REPORT TO WPC MEETING 10 JUNE 2019**

### **9 Church Lane Walberswick IP18 6UZ**

Ref. No: DC/19/1902/FUL

1 The Planning Action Group considers that the proposal to change the external cladding, contained in this application, is not appropriate to the location nor to the particular existing building and should be rejected. It would disrupt an otherwise consistent appearance of a set of extremely attractive buildings

2 When heading north along Church Lane, No 9 lies approximately 150 metres on the left hand side. It is the first bungalow in three pairs of 'Swedish Houses' which take up almost half of that side of the street. These Swedish prefabricated houses (assembled on site) were among those built as a response to the housing shortage in Great Britain immediately following WW2. It was thought that they would be a temporary measure and would last about 15 years. In fact, those properly maintained, have survived in good condition for more than 70 years. They are particularly well designed in detail, proportion, and in the use of the materials (particularly the timber cladding). They make a beautiful contribution to the Village.

It is relevant to note that an identical pair of bungalows in Aukley, Doncaster were listed in 2017 (Historic England listing 1392257).

3 The proposal of the application is to remove the existing timber cladding which is in a poor condition, to provide insulation to the walls, and then to re-clad the building with new cement based 'Cedral' cladding 'vertically with a neutral finish'. It is of course proper that the house should be well insulated but this can be done equally well by re-fixing timber cladding to match the existing. The timber cladding of the other 5 bungalows is generally in a reasonable condition and that of neighbour to no 9 (the other half of the pair) is in immaculate state and a pleasure to see.

PAG is concerned that the application form refers to the provision of Cedral cladding, whereas on the layout drawing it is referred to as render. No information is included about the detailing and spacing of the Cedral (indeed it is questionable whether it can effectively be fixed vertically but this can obviously be ascertained from the manufacturer).

4 The property is not listed, but the PAG firmly consider that it, and the other five of the group, are potentially a non-designated heritage asset for the following reasons (under categories taken from East Suffolk's criteria).

(a) Historically it is a mark of the rebirth of hope and re-building in the country after WW2.

(b) Aesthetically is part of a well designed group of houses which form a powerful visual statement in Walberswick. These designs were part of an awareness of good design from Scandinavia which has subsequently shaped the design taste of the country

(c) Information gained from the Prefab Museum, shows that of the 26 pairs of Swedish bungalows built in Suffolk this group of three pairs is the only one having retained their original appearance (the others have either been demolished or altered in serious ways).