**Design and Access Statement**

**The Site:** Fieldend is a Span estate, built in 1950 and granted Conservation Area status in 2009. The estate consists of 51 houses, the majority of which are arranged around two large lawned areas. All houses have the same frontage, which includes a flat-roofed, glazed and timber porch. The porches were originally glazed with a lightly opaque glass which served to reduce the visual impact of the porches’ contents. Over the years, several porches have been boarded up to accommodate the inclusion of downstairs lavatories , others have net curtains or been re-glazed with wired, plain or stippled glass. Most porches are now used to store a range of domestic items and appliances, which when visible, can detract significantly from the overall appearance of the estate. Residents, led by Fieldend Residents Association Ltd, (the management association), have long sought to find a solution to this problem and enable a return to a more uniform approach to porch glazing.

**Involvement of Community and LPA:** Research into available solutions was carried out by the FRAL Board in 2008/9 and diffused white laminate glass was identified as a possible solution. Following consultation with residents, its use was approved at the AGM in February 2009. At a similar time we were approached about the Fieldend Character Appraisal and Management Plan and Ms Rachel Case was asked to comment on the use of this glass. She visited Fieldend, was given a sample of the glass and visited the supplier, A1 Glass in Twickenham. The Conservation Department agreed that the diffused white laminate glass would be a sympathetic replacement and had no objection in principle to its wider use. It was agreed that No 38 Fieldend should be re-glazed and this was done in the summer of 2009, prior to Conservation Area status and the Article 4 directive. The FRAL Board issued a notice to all Residents advising them that diffused white laminate glass could now be used for re-glazing of the porches.

**Design:** The Article 4 directive for Fieldend porches states that: “repairs and replacement should be to the original design. Porches are steel framed with a timber transom, and should have semi-transparent glass without pattern, decoration or wire grid”. It should be noted that the original glass is no longer available and that residents now make far more use of their porches for storage than was envisaged by the architects. Each porch consists of 6 panes of glass. The side panels measure approximately 113 cm x 106 cm and 79cm x 106cm and the front panels are 127 x 114 cm (top) and 127 x 79 cm (bottom).

**Evaluation:** It is the opinion of the FRAL Board and the majority of Fieldend Residents that the use of diffused white laminate glass provides effective glazing for the porches, and a finish which is in keeping with the appearance of Fieldend and with Eric Lyons’s original vision. It also reduces the visual impact of items stored in the porches and hence enhances the overall appearance of Fieldend. It is, however, expensive and therefore the Board cannot expect it to be used in all houses.

**In summary**, the selection of the glass was made in full consultation with Fieldend Residents, approved for use by the FRAL Board and accepted as a sympathetic replacement for the original by Richmond’s Conservation Officers. As far as the FRAL Board is aware, the diffused white laminate glass was, and still is, the only glass available which fits the Article 4 condition for Fieldend porches.

The work involved is the replacement of 6 panes of glass. No other building work is involved and work on one house has no impact on any other, nor on public access to Fieldend. The work does not change the size or accessibility of the porch.