1 Lynwood Close
Ponteland
NE20 9GJ

Ms. Pam Woodhouse
Planning Department (West Area)
Northumberland County Council   1st February 2010
Hadrian House
Market Street, Hexham
Northumberland NE46 3NH

Dear Ms. Woodhouse,

Planning Application CM/20100003, 45 Bell Villas; Conservation Area Consent for demolition of modern rear extension and front wall.

I wish to formally object on behalf of The Ponteland Civic Society in respect of the above Planning Application.

The front wall, which has already been partially demolished, is viewed as an established feature which contributes to the character of the building as seen from the front. Shortly after the site was acquired by (we assume) the present developer, there was, however, an attempt made to demolish this wall without permission. This was halted when one of our Members notified the Castle Morpeth Enforcement Officer, who arrived on-site shortly after.

The Planning Application which has been submitted envisages the area behind the wall being made into a "garden" for residents, and presumably some planting would be undertaken. It is difficult to see, however, how such a "garden" could meet the needs of elderly and infirm residents, bearing in mind that this area is only yards from a bend in the A696 and would be subject to traffic noise, exhaust fumes, etc.

However, if such an area is to be provided, then a degree of separation provided by a low wall would be advantageous and might provide an element of protection to residents. This area of concrete in front of the building was previously used for occasional car parking. There is, we feel, a possibility that if the proposed "garden" were not to prove popular, then the absence of a wall would make it all too easy to use the area for parking once more. We consider that this area is not suitable as a car-park and would lead to cars going on to the footpath and grass verge – to the danger of mothers and children making their way to the nursery next door.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Ham,
Chairman, Ponteland Civic Society.