Hello,

First, apologies for this unusual and un-solicited letter & request.

My name is Bob and I used to live in the three storey houses on Abbotts Road during the 70s & 80s. I went to Crowmoor and Belvidere schools and loved playing in the local area with my friends and relatives. Some of whom lived in Caradoc Crescent, Ragleth Gardens, Mynd Close and Crowmere Road. I loved the steel framed houses then, even though some of my friends didn’t and they mockingly referred to the area as Tin Town. These properties are eye-catching and uniquely designed and following some research into the design and history of BISF houses I understand how innovative the design was in the post-war period. There are fewer BISF houses remaining in the UK but they are highly regarded as a design icon.

During some work for a photography degree, I have been making some photographs of places that hold personal memories, you may have seen me with my camera at some point. During a walk around the Crowmoor/Belvidere area I noticed that some of the houses in Ragleth Gardens are being insulated and rendered with the result being the covering up of the unique steel corrugated cladding. Some other houses are left uncovered but painted and maintained. This work might possibly be an initiative to help with energy efficiency of the houses, but I also wondered if there might be other reasons for these works being carried out, such as a wish to modernise, or improve the appearance.

As a result of this train of thought and on the advice of my university lecturers to find out more information, I felt it best to ask you but did not want to knock on your door unannounced. I have five questions below that would help me in my research.

* Is your house original cladding or insulated and rendered?
* Do you prefer your house to be original or clad with more modern materials?
  + Why do you have this preference?
* How aware are you of the history of the buildings’ design?
* Do you object to people referring to the area as Tin Town?
* Do you have any comments on the experience of living in a BISF house?

Please feel free to just sling this letter in the recycling if you think I’m just being a nosey git, but if you’d like to reply with any information that I could use as primary research in my degree study, I’d very much appreciate it.

You can email responses or information: [r.w.griffiths@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:r.w.griffiths@wlv.ac.uk)

All responses can be anonymised if you prefer, and I will not hassle you further for more information or pass on personal details or email addresses to anyone else.

Many thanks for your time and kind regards,

Bob Griffiths