

STRIPE ME PINK! UPROAR AT 'SHOCKING' SPLASH OF COLOUR

BY EMMA SEYMOUR
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Residents in Rusthall had a nasty shock when they awoke to find their block of flats painted salmon pink. The buildings in Cranwell Road used to be a conservative cream until the Town and Country Housing Group repainted them on Friday as part of "major improvements".

Kelly O'Brian lives in the flats and thought it was a joke when she saw the colour. She said: "It's not the most attractive block in the world anyway, now it looks like Elmo's winebar."

The buildings either side of the 31-year-old have also been given a fresh coat of *lemon yellow and orange* paint.

She added: "When you move into a flat you try and make it nice, then they go and do that. It aggravates me because it's a waste of money. If they don't change it, I'll be out there on a ladder painting it myself!"

The housing group defended its choice of colour, saying it was one of a number of changes made to enhance the area, including installing a door entry system and a security fence. Head of property services Mehmet Bekir said: "The finishing touches include repainting the exterior of the flats with a high quality Dulux co-ordinated paint range. Colours that have been widely used in other areas and which have proved popular were chosen. The paint can look a little bright when it is first applied but the colour soon fades as it weathers."

These flats are just the latest in a line of garish paintwork causing uproar in Tunbridge Wells.

The Greyhound Pub on Upper Grosvenor Road was set ablaze in 2003 and has lain derelict ever since, boarded up and covered in graffiti - and painted *bright blue*.

The notorious site was featured on a list of "grot spots" documented by Royal Tunbridge Wells Civic Society and Town Forum member Daniel Bech.

A wall in Garden Road has also bemused pedestrians and passing motorists with its *bright green* coat of paint.

Mr Bech, who snapped the shocking spectacle, said: "If you have set up a Conservation Area and you want to attract tourists and visitors to it, it cannot look and shouldn't look like a town where everybody can paint his fence in metallic green.

"In my opinion there is no difference to graffiti."

Sevenoaks-based developers, Regal Point, were recently forced to change the colour of their hoardings outside their property on Church Road, after the *bright purple* raised so many objections.

Building manager John Patching said: "We're not there to upset anyone so if anybody objects we don't mind changing it."