

This document outlines information relevant to the removal of the hedge and installation of new fencing.

I completed purchase of this property in October 2024 and live here on my own. The Leylandii hedge in the rear garden was extremely overgrown. I attempted to cut this back in November 2024, however noted that a large area of the hedge was dead and was rotting inside and I am aware that this type of hedge does not generate new growth from old wood. Within the hedge, there were dog faeces from the previous occupiers and as a result, was causing a stench of ammonia and constituted a health hazard. I also noted that the small brick wall in front of the hedge (which is the boundary wall between my garden and the pedestrian pathway) was cracking and falling apart, my builder believed that this could have been caused by the tree roots. Prior to removing the hedge, I did a thorough check to ensure no wildlife was present or would be disturbed and on removal, no old bird nests were located.

I decided to remove the hedge and this allowed me to re build the small wall, ensuring it was sturdy and would not collapse in the future. I replaced it with a feather edge fence which was similar to those erected on neighbouring properties in the area. I was not aware I had to apply for planning permission, otherwise this would have been completed prior to carrying out the work. I am therefore, now applying for planning permission retrospectively.

The fence was installed to ensure adequate privacy and security for my rear garden. The main entrance from my property into the garden are two large patio doors that would otherwise be visible from the road. The area is very popular with dog walkers and by reducing the height of the fence to 1 metre it would mean that my garden and lounge area (my only reception room) would be entirely exposed to public view from the adjacent highway and surrounding properties, which would significantly compromise my privacy, security and safety, especially as I'm a lone female living at this address.

I am currently a serving member of Gwent Police and my uniform is washed and hung out to dry in the back garden approximately three times a week. Without the current fence, the uniform would be on view and I would fear for my safety as I could be targeted due to my job. With the stress that can come with the job, my garden is one place that I can feel relaxed and switch off.

In addition to this, I have a Springer Spaniel dog who relies on the fence for containment and safety, and as such, the current fence is essential in preventing the risk of escape and potential road traffic incidents. My dog is also reactive to other dogs and passers by and would bark continuously, therefore disturbing neighbours throughout the day.

Given that privacy and security are legitimate planning considerations, I respectfully request that planning permission is granted, allowing the fence to remain at its current height. I am

willing to undertake any reasonable measures to mitigate the visual impact such as painting the fence or other suggestions you may have.

With reference to the LDP adopted plan 2015, GP2:

- (i) I do not believe there will be any adverse effects on local amenity such as noise, disturbance, privacy, overbearing, light, odours and air quality. The hedge that was in place prior to its removal was overgrown on to the pedestrian walkway, had significant odour due to a large amount of dog faeces that had been thrown in over many years and was producing a stench of Ammonia. The majority of the hedge was dead, rotting and very unattractive.
- (ii) The fence is not detrimental to the visual amenities of nearby occupiers or the character of the appearance of the surrounding area. When completing the work, several residents commented on the appearance of the new fence and how it was an improvement on the hedge. These residents are also happy to provide a letter, supporting their backing of the fence. Within the area, there are a number of fences of a similar appearance meaning that it does not hinder the character of the area.
- (iii) There will be no opportunity for crime or anti social behaviour based on the fence.
- (iv) The fence does not impact the access around the area and has now allowed a clear path for the public to walk on, rather than walking on the road due to the overgrown hedge.

With reference to GP4:

- (i) The fence now provides appropriate access for pedestrians and cyclists, allowing them to have a clear path. I have provided a document from a Roads Policing & Specialist Operations Sergeant outlining how the fence allows a clearer view of the junction and road, and is not detrimental to highway or pedestrian safety.

With reference to GP6:

- (i) The fence follows the character of the area with surrounding properties having a similar fence. It has been built to a good quality and does not affect the appearance of the area.

Thank you for your time and consideration.