

Reasons for Fence

I am respectfully requesting retrospective planning permission to retain the boundary fence that has been installed at my property, which is situated within a designated conservation area.

I fully appreciate the importance of preserving the character and appearance of the conservation area and have always made every effort to ensure that any alterations to my home are sympathetic and respectful to its surroundings. The decision to erect the fence was not taken lightly; it was a necessary and urgent measure following the approved removal of trees that had previously provided protection, privacy, and security along the boundary.

Background

I was granted permission to remove trees that were compromising the structural integrity of the boundary wall. Once these were removed, significant gaps remained, leaving the property exposed to the adjacent footpath and a busy road junction. This resulted in an immediate and serious safety concern for my family.

Given the circumstances and the vulnerability of my household members, I felt a duty of care to install protective measures. The boundary fence was therefore erected as a necessary and responsible response to the sudden loss of natural shielding and the increased risks presented.

1. Safety Considerations for Children and Elderly Family Members

My household includes small children under the age of five and elderly parents over the age of seventy, both of whom are at heightened risk of falls, disorientation, and accidents. Prior to installing the fence, the exposed boundary created an extremely unsafe environment, with direct access to a footpath and a busy junction where vehicles often accelerate to pass through traffic lights.

Without a protective barrier, there was a very real danger of a child or elderly family member accidentally stepping, slipping, or falling into the road.

The fence is essential because it:

- Prevents young children from running or wandering into the road, reducing the risk of serious or fatal accidents.
- Protects elderly family members, who may be unsteady on their feet, from inadvertently stepping onto the footpath or roadway.
- Creates a clear physical boundary and reduces the risk posed by uneven ground left after the tree and hedge removal.
- Ensures a basic level of safety for family members and visitors to the property.

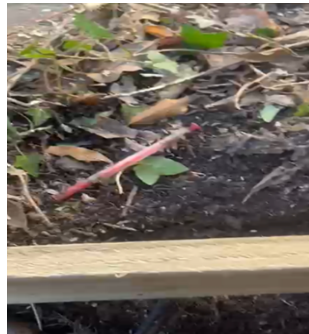
Without this fence, I would be unable to safeguard the welfare of my household.

2. Security Concerns

The surrounding area has experienced issues with antisocial behaviour, which has had a direct impact on my property. Prior to the installation of the fence, the garden was left completely exposed, making the property vulnerable to unauthorised access and misuse of the boundary space.

The fence provides essential protection by:

- Preventing intruders from easily entering an open and accessible garden.
- Reducing health risks associated with drug misuse in the area; I have recently found used needles and medication containers along the boundary where the hedges once stood (photographs attached). Without a barrier, these items could easily be thrown directly into my garden, posing a severe health hazard to my family.



(The builder said this is methadone medicine to come off drugs)

- Protection from late-night drinkers: The footpath outside is frequently used by people returning from pubs or bars. As a Muslim family, it is distressing to regularly find alcohol cans and bottles thrown over into our garden. The fence significantly reduces this intrusive and disrespectful behaviour. I didn't take pictures but a few I managed to get.



- Theft of personal belongings: items such as clothing have been taken from the washing line since the boundary was open. Without a fence, passers-by have a clear and unobstructed opportunity to reach into the property.

The fence provides a reasonable level of security and enables my family to use the outdoor space without fear or discomfort.

3. Appearance and Fit Within the Conservation Area

I am highly conscious of the conservation area designation and selected a boundary treatment that is modest, natural, and sympathetic to its surroundings.

- The fence is made from natural wood, not metal or harsh materials
- Its height is a modest 1.6 metres—sufficient to protect safety and privacy without being excessive.
- It fits in with the wider area.
- Its natural colour helps it sit.

If the Council feels any small changes are needed to help it blend in even better, I am more than willing to do so.

4. The Fence Is a Necessity, Not a Preference

The fence has not been put up because I wanted it. It is a genuine safety and welfare requirement, particularly given that:

- The property does not have a private rear garden, and the front area is the only outdoor space available for my family.
- My family cannot use the outdoor area for normal activities such as children's play.
- Pedestrians and drivers waiting at the junction have a direct view into my home, severely compromising privacy and increasing the risk of opportunistic crime.
- It reduces Noise, headlights, and traffic disturbances significantly affect the wellbeing of children and elderly family members.
- It stops uncontrolled animals from entering the property, creating hygiene and safety issues.

The fence enables us to enjoy a basic level of privacy, comfort, and normal residential use.

5. A Reasonable and Proportionate Measure

Considering:

- the vulnerability of the children and elderly family members,
- the very real safety and significant security risks without a boundary barrier,
- And the careful choice of materials to respect the conservation area,

I believe that retaining the fence is a reasonable, proportionate, and justified measure. It serves essential safety and welfare purposes while maintaining sensitivity to the area's character.

Conclusion

I sincerely hope the Council can appreciate the necessity of installing this fence under the circumstances and recognise its vital role in protecting my family. I remain fully committed to working collaboratively with the Council to ensure that the boundary treatment remains respectful of the conservation area while meeting the essential safety and privacy needs of the household.

Thank you very much for taking the time to consider this application. I respectfully request that planning permission be granted to allow the fence to remain in place.