

Mark Wilkinson
8 Holmes Lane
Rustington
BN16 2QB

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find an amended planning application following our refused application R/232/14/HH.

The primary change to this application is that I propose to reduce the height of the fence by 15cm to a height of 1.65m. This reduction in height will reduce the visual impact of the fence on the street scene and will make the fence less imposing. In addition I am planning to plant a hedge to the right (south) of the fence. The addition of the hedge will create a more consistent boundary with the other properties in Hawley Road and therefore the fence will appear less as less of an 'alien and incongruous structure' as you described it in the officer's report for our previous application. I understand I do not need permission for the hedge but I am mentioning it as it may be a factor in your decision.

The majority of the houses on Hawley Road have walls or hedges and by creating a continuous boundary, coupled with a reduction in height of the fence, will in my mind reduce the visual impact of the fence. In addition the fence will weather over time and this too will make the fence stand out less.

I appreciate that there will no longer be symmetry between our house and number 6 Holmes Lane, but this symmetry will be lost should I follow your advice to lower the fence to 1m and plant a hedge behind it. This would however mean that I lose more garden as the hedge will take up valuable space.

I would like to reiterate the purpose that the fence was erected for; it is to improve the security of the property and of my children who now play in the front garden. The fence is in excess of the 1m height restriction in order to prevent anyone from easily entering the garden whilst the children are playing or for anyone to lift them over from the outside. We were burgled a few years ago so we are conscious that crime does exist in our area. We also used to regularly find litter thrown into our front garden, which has not been an issue since the fence was erected.

I appreciate that your decision is based on the development proposed, and not the planned use of that development but I feel that by lowering the fence slightly and continuing the boundary it will be less of an intrusion. May I bring your attention to a similar application (R/182/12/) that mentions the weathering process and how that will lessen the visual impact of a fence of this type. This application is similar in many ways but was approved which to me shows that this sort of judgement is subjective where personal preference can play a large part.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this application please contact me and I will happily address any concerns that you have.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Wilkinson.