

Notice of Review

Not applying for planning permission was a genuine oversight on my part and I apologise once again for that.

There was a single letter of objection to my application – from someone living 5 miles away – and two letters of support from the immediate area. As a compromise, and in response to suggestions from officers, I have offered to:

- Paint my fence banco National Trust green (I had originally made it grey to match it to the building)
- Remove 2 slats rather than the 3 had been asked for, a difference of just 14 centimetres
- Grow clematis on the fence (I sought advice from a professional gardener), so that the top slat is obscured, achieving a visual softening

I would ask you to consider *why* I erected the fence in haste – to protect my privacy and amenity.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] the bay was placed nearer my ground floor neighbour's front gate to avoid a tree. For four years we had shared the maintenance of a long-established chest-high boundary hedge (one I loved). [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

the remaining hedge on [REDACTED] to over 2 metres, leaving the upper reaches to lean into my airspace. Bamboo canes were tied together with Christmas tinsel; a wooden board was wedged against a communal downpipe. This is what I was confronted with (the original fence can be seen):



Since then, horizontal plastic poles have been added to the vertical bamboo ones, creating a lattice structure to which fairy lights have been added. I do not believe this is more in keeping with a conservation area than a simple wooden fence.



I understand the value of guidance to preserve the historic character of the area. However, I would ask the Local Review Body to look beyond material planning considerations and take a more human-centric view when considering this appeal.

the enforcement of conservation rules in this case without consideration of my lived-experience would represent such a disadvantage.

When I was told in April by planning inspector Mr Morrice that I needed to apply for planning permission, he advised: "The limitation on the fence comes from the fact the property is located within the conservation area and not in relation to the height." I have since been told I can keep my fence if I reduce its height by 46 centimetres, a somewhat contrary position.

I was told: "This would be the highest level at which the fence would correspond to most other built boundary treatments on the street and therefore reflect the prevailing built boundary treatment for front gardens in the area." Note, this states "most" but not "all". According to public planning records, [REDACTED] "bamboo fencing" (as it was described on the Council's website) did not require consent. A few doors away there is a wooden fence that has stood for several years, both being higher than my fence:



The rejection of my planning application is at best inconsistent; at worst, potentially discriminatory.

[REDACTED] As I said, I am happy to remove 2 of the 3 slates requested and to cover the other one with foliage. A mere 14 centimetres is the difference between me having peace of mind and living with anxiety by having the fence serve as a deterrent.

My hope therefore is that the review body will exercise some discretion; that I might be granted retrospective consent given the extenuating personal circumstances described, the planning precedents set elsewhere on Devonshire Road and in the conservation area, and my attempt to sincerely maintain the tone not just of my garden but the street through the proposed compromise/enhancements.