

PLANNING REF : 241992
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 286 Nine Mile Ride
: Finchampstead, Berkshire
: RG40 3NT
SUBMITTED BY : Mr John Nettleton-Hammond
DATE SUBMITTED : 24/08/2024

COMMENTS:

As neighbours (286 Nine Mile Ride), we're responding to the above retrospective planning application and specifically our objection to the erection of a balcony on the first floor, construction of an elevated rear patio and the installation of two heat pumps. The basis of our objections are as follows:

(1) First floor balcony

The size and presence of the current balcony goes well beyond the original plans for a modest 'Juliette balcony'. The balcony overlooks our main patio area and garden, and is also visible from our bedroom window, directly invading our privacy. The intrusive nature of the balcony is creating an environment that is uncomfortable and invasive. The imposing nature of the balcony significantly diminishes our enjoyment of our property and outdoor space and is not appropriate with the proximity of other nearby properties.

(2) Construction of elevated rear patio

The patio has been raised significantly (>300mm) from the original property ground elevation. As a result, the fence only provides 1290mm (4'ft 2") screening, and directly impacts our privacy at the back and side of property, both overlooking our patio and seating area and directly into our house. Overall, it feels like we are in a goldfish bowl alongside the concerns of the balcony mentioned above. We are also concerned that the construction is inadequate as it is supported with wooden boards against the fence. Our concern over time is that this will be compromised, and rainwater may potentially drain into our property.

(3) Two Heat Source Pumps

Although the owners have now moved the 2 heat pumps further from the boundary fence, we feel that their placement directly next to our patio and back of our house, lounge and the proximity to our bedroom window is inconsiderate. Alternative options e.g. further down the garden would have been a better option. At no point had we been consulted on their placement. It is our understanding that heat pumps can get noisier over time due to age and wear, so this is a concern that it will become a nuisance noise in time, especially with two pumps operating.

Thank you for considering our objection to this retrospective planning application.