

PLANNING REF : 250716
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 1 Agate Close Wokingham
: Rg41 3auh, Wokingham, Berkshire
: RG41 3UH
SUBMITTED BY : Mr Troy Rahme
DATE SUBMITTED : 30/05/2025

COMMENTS:

Response to Comments on Fence Application

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the comments regarding my fence application. I appreciate the engagement from the local community and would like to provide the following clarifications:

Legal Compliance

The proposed fence is within the legal height and adheres fully to council regulations. It is important to note that the fence is being constructed to the side of my house, not the front, where a servitude exists. This servitude has been respected in full, and the fence does not encroach on it.

Driveway Safety

Concerns were raised about potential safety issues related to the driveway. Please note that the fence includes a 1-meter chamfer, and it has also been set back 0.5 meters, ensuring clear and safe visibility well beyond the council's minimum requirements for pedestrian and vehicle safety at pavement intersections.

Traffic Volume on Northway

While my driveway opens onto Northway, it is worth noting that Northway is not a main road. It is a quiet residential access road that serves only homes beyond Agate Close. It does not function as a throughway and experiences minimal traffic, especially at the intersection of Topaz and Agate Close.

Blind Spot Allegations

There have been claims of the fence creating blind spots. This is not supported by the actual sight lines from any of the surrounding roads Agate Close, Topaz Close, or Northway. The fence has been positioned specifically to avoid any impact on visibility for vehicles or pedestrians.

Precedent Concerns

A comment suggested that approving this fence might set a precedent. However, it is important to highlight that the vast majority of homes within the Woosehill Estate already have fenced or bricked side boundaries. In fact, within 50 meters of my home, there are properties with brick side walls, and less than 150 meters away is a council-owned wall topped with barbed wire. This demonstrates that such fencing is already an established and accepted part of the local character.

Reason for the Fence

One comment correctly noted that the purpose of the fence is to

expand my private outdoor space. To elaborate, this is intended not only to enhance our family's use of the property but also to respect our quiet neighbors by providing them greater privacy.

Additionally, a more sensitive matter that I initially chose not to include is that a neighboring resident has been seen entering our side garden area and peering through our kitchen window. This has caused significant distress in our household, especially for a vulnerable adult child, who no longer felt safe and insisted on locking all doors even when inside the home. While I did not wish to escalate the matter given the age of the individual involved, the fence serves as a necessary and discreet solution to restore a sense of security and dignity in our home environment.