

Retrospective planning ref 250716 Garden Fence 1 Agate Close, Wokingham

Submitted by: Carol Montague

Tamar Way, Woosehill, RG41 3UB

Date: 06.05.2025

Comments:

The fence has been built alongside what is at times, a very busy footpath used by pedestrians of all ages and abilities, as it is a main route to both the Hawthorns Primary school and Chestnuts preschool nursery located further down Northway and to shops, the medical centre and other facilities the other side of the spine road.

Its erection has created a blind spot at both ends of the fence which fronts to the footpath.

1. Agate Close is now a blind corner for vehicles exiting the close.
2. The other end of the fence which follows the pathway along Northway, is now a blind corner for the two drives and garages which serve 1 Agate close and 50 Northway. The drives both incline down from the footpath to the garages.
3. The height of the fence is such, the majority of pedestrians are unable to see over the top of the fence, so cannot see cars on the drives preparing to move or moving. It is a serious accident waiting to happen, especially given the ages of young pedestrians (2years upward) using the footpath. Cars leaving the drives have little or no view of pedestrians until the front or rear of the car is on the footpath. Children on bikes, scooters, go karts, skateboards etc. or even just running ahead or lagging behind carers, risk serious harm if they do not stop in time and collide with even slow moving vehicles. This danger is compounded if vehicles are electric and emit little or no sound moving. People who are blind, using wheelchairs or mobility scooters on the footpath are also at risk of not being able to stop in time. Some pedestrians maybe completely unaware there are drives behind the fence if unfamiliar with the area.
4. Lastly - I understand, Woosehill is an open fronted/open plan estate. I have lived here for 38 years and there has never been a fence where the applicant has erected one, despite his claims there had been one previously.
5. It's true a previous occupier built a small brick "wall" approx 2 bricks high, to retain a flower bed abutting the footpath, to prevent soil spilling on to the footpath and stop people walking on the plants, but there was never a fence involved until the applicant built his.
6. Under planning rules, if enclosed, the fence height in a front garden should not exceed one metre. It can be higher if planning permission is sought and granted.

7. The height of the applicant's new fence is nearer two metres. It is neither an appropriate nor attractive choice of fencing for a front garden, its design being completely out of character with surrounding properties is certainly not an improvement on what was there before its erection.

Carol Montague 6th May 2025