

PLANNING REF : 252081
PROPERTY ADDRESS : Meadswood
: Loddon Drive, Wargrave, Berkshire
: RG10 8HD
SUBMITTED BY : Mr I Simon F Gore
DATE SUBMITTED : 22/09/2025

COMMENTS:

Given how many residents on Loddon Drive will be affected by the installation of a new electric gate, I'm surprised that there has been NO consultation with local residents. Luckily the alarm to this proposal has now been raised, albeit just before the planning deadline, and some of us have had time to review and comment on this challenging application.

Whilst I appreciate and respect the private status of Loddon Drive, I object to the need for any form of daily opening and closing gate - this is on the grounds of preserving the many residents' rights of way, established over years, and avoiding anything that could hinder access for the emergency services in any way (and the liabilities that go with that). A gate would also prove very inconvenient and disruptive to Royal Mail and other delivery services, which are used very frequently by most residents.

The main reason for installing this gate is stated as preventing Loddon Drive becoming a shortcut to avoid The Piggott C of E School traffic morning and evening. In my view, the traffic on Loddon Drive has been relatively quiet of late, despite being the 'busy' back to school time, and I believe that this route is in fact a rather inconvenient 'longcut', narrow in places, hard to pass other vehicles and turn around, with several steep bends, and crossing three narrow bridges.

If the reason for the new gate is to stop vehicle traffic, why is the proposed gate design 2m high and right across the road and verges? It looks like it is also designed to prevent access to anything, including cyclists, runners and pedestrians, with many of the residents of Loddon Drive enjoying these activities, myself included.

Finally, as we all well know, Loddon Drive is on the flood plain, and floods several times annually. I would suggest that the installation of an electric gate is a big mistake, as in the instance of the power failing, the people of Loddon Drive could become stuck behind closed gates, and emergency services, who have been called upon to evacuate elderly residents, could be prevented access. And this end of the Drive is the one that remains the most navigable by cars and small boats in particularly long and deep floods.

Finally I believe that the private status of Loddon Drive can be preserved more effectively and with a lot less disruption, especially to the aforementioned emergency services, by reviewing and upgrading the signage. Thank you.