

Design and Access Statement

We have removed the old hedge from the front of our property and replaced this with a timber fence constructed from 3 inch posts with alternating horizontal lath, to a maximum height of 2m. We felt this design was more aesthetically pleasing and more robust than the more common panel and post fencing. The companies quoting for the work advised that planning permission would not be required as the maximum height did not exceed 2m.

Reasons for the work and design of the fence are as follows:

We had to remove the hedge as it was mostly dead or dying and had started to lean outwards over the pavement. Over the last few years we have received letters from HBBC asking us to cut the hedge back to stop encroachment to the service road path. This was no longer possible without effectively destroying the hedge.

We decided to replace the hedge with a fence rather than a wall as this would provide a softer, more natural appearance.

A tree surgeon suggested planting new hedging within and between the old hedge. We tried this, but nothing would grow with the old hedge in place, with any nutrients leached out of the soil.

Our property is surrounded on 3 sides by garden, the majority of which is at the front and side of our property. To make this a usable space, which is secure and private, we needed to replace the hedge with a fence of similar height. The company carrying out the work advised that we would not need planning permission as long as the fence did not exceed 2m in height.

We have also created a play area for our young grandson (2 years old) in the front/side area of the garden, keeping it separate from the rear garden which is accessible for our dogs. For us, this is a critical aspect as the fence ensures this is a safe and secure space for him.

The front of our property is directly opposite the junction with Hinckley Road. Headlights of vehicles coming down the hill towards the junction shine directly into our lounge and dining room. The height of the fence limits this disturbance.

People visiting or working in the area often park along the service road, and especially in front of our property. The fence provides a level of privacy from these vehicles and screens them from our view. Previously, due to gaps in the hedge people walking past were able to look in and often threw litter into the garden. The fence will prevent this.

There are a number of properties in the area with walls and fences of similar height to ours, facing the highway. We feel that our fence is less imposing compared to many of these due to our property's location on a service road, behind mature trees, away from the main Burbage Road.

Due to other work being carried out in our garden, the fence is not yet finished. We intend to paint the fence a suitable colour to soften its appearance and move away from the 'raw' timber. However, due to weather conditions, this cannot be carried out until the Spring.

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