

Working to Protect the New Forest



PLANNING COMMITTEE

Reply to: -

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Sent as attachment to Email only

9 April 2016

Lucie Cooper
New Forest National Park Authority
Lymington Town Hall
Avenue Road
Lymington SO41 9ZG

Dear Lucie,

Application 16/00170 Retention of 1.8 metre high fence and 1.6 metre high pedestrian gate WILD CLOSE, WOODGREEN COMMON ROAD, WOODGREEN, FORDINGBRIDGE, SP6 2QX

1. New Forest Association (NFA) objects to this application.

2. These fences are one of the scourges of the National Park and it is unfortunate that many residents, often new to the Forest, fail to recognise the local distinctiveness that is imparted by a five bar gate (of the 9 foot length demanded by the FC licence) and the combination of standard stock proof mesh fencing backed by a hedge of native plants. Her Majesty's Government recognise this by insisting that planning permission is required for fences over 1M and in this National Park with such an intimate relationship between open common land and private property higher fences should not exist.

3. Certainly residents are discouraged from their use By the Authority's reference in the Design Guide under rural enhancement *Replacing urban boundaries such as concrete block walls and close boarded fences with simple, good quality traditional solutions like clay brick walls with matching copings and relatively low fences where planting can poke through.*

owners of properties adjoining the Open Forest

Through the Authority's leaflet *Advice and guidance for*

article *Help maintain the character of villages in the north west of the New Forest* from which the following is a quotation *Local residents also identified the important contribution traditional boundaries made to the character of the Conservation Area. These can be in the form of traditional hedges, simple picket fences, low brick walls or estate fencing. The steering group says several traditional boundaries have been replaced in recent years with unsympathetic treatments such as high close-boarded fencing which is why they produced a short leaflet giving practical guidance on traditional boundary treatments and where to find out more information.*

By various Parishes in their village design guides for instance in that of Hyde; - *Brick walls, high fences and security gates may form a barrier between landscape and built form; these barriers are not characteristic in a landscape where built form and landscape setting are closely inter-related.* (Nearly all other VDSs contain a similar message).

By HM Inspectors in recent appeal decisions APP/B9506/C/15/3018492 and APP/B9506/C/14/2216553 & 221 supporting the removal of fences on busier roads and even where neighbours had such fences.

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4. NFA does not consider there is any great merit in the car lights excuse. Just how long do the occupants spend downstairs in the western end of their house, sitting in the dark with the curtains drawn back? Neither can the Authority ever accept that livestock are a reason for these ugly enclosures. The roaming stock are the essence of the forest and all must bow before them.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Graham Baker'.

Graham Baker, NFA Planning Committee