Dear Harriet

I write regarding our planning application - reference number 137934/FH/2023 to explain why we require a fence at 2.4 meters and why this must include a fully enclosed section at the rear of the property closing off the current driveway. The garage is not used to house a car and has not been used for that purpose for decades and neither has the driveway (for reasons I will explain below) unless we have been asked to keep the road clear for roadworks or access purposes, which has been extremely rare. Going forward the driveway will not be used as a driveway at all but will be incorporated into the garden space because as per the application a driveway is required at the front for accessibility purposes to meet my mother and sisters' disability needs (I will address this in detail later).

Firstly, I would like to tell you why we have made the specific application for a fence at 2.4m height and for it to enclose all of the garden, level to the front of the house and existing driveway. As briefly explained to you when you spoke to my sister on 10.10.2023, we have suffered significant anti-social behaviour which has caused us distress and lasting trauma.

Background

Since living in this house, we suffered a continuous campaign of racially motivated physical, verbal abuse and property damage. For many years a gang of up to 30 youths used to gather outside our house everyday sitting on our wall, coming into the garden, damaging our property, they would go into the driveway damage the garage door, urinate in the garden and particularly against the wall in the driveway. We called 999 on a daily basis, sometimes more than once, however, due to the lack of police support and a failure to deal with any crimes we stopped calling them a very long time ago. When they did turn up the police would have a laugh and joke with the youths or release them after a very short time without charge which would cause things to escalate for us and then after the advice from one officer to my mother which was ..."if they were doing this to me I would have tw***d them and sorted them out!", we gave up on calling the police at all, until the most recent wall damage which we had to do for insurance purposes but which was not investigated at all.

Prior to the green fence being installed around Highfield Country Park, we repeatedly requested the hole in the chain link fence to be closed because this attracted the youths committing anti-social behaviour but this was ignored. When the land was being turned into a park, we went to the community meeting to express our concerns but were shouted at by the councillor who was hosting this and the issues we were going through were completely ignored. Unfortunately, at the time my sister was unwell and was unable to speak to a solicitor to apply for an injunction preventing the hole in the fence becoming a park entrance, but we have spoken to people from the council and the trustees of the park about our ongoing issues but have been ignored or

fobbed off. Nearly all who have come from the council have offered no help or solution to the issues that we suffer which are in the main caused by the park entrance but have simply told us we should have moved ....trust us we would have moved if we could afford to move to an area where we felt safe and our mothers needs could be met. In all the years that we have suffered anti-social behaviour the Council have done nothing to help us, but I hope that once you read this you will allow us to do what we need to do to protect ourselves and safeguard our health.

As my sister explained, we have suffered significant anti-social behaviour and are extremely traumatised. This has impacted on our physical and mental health in a very big way. In order to help you understand why we need what we have requested I will set out some of the most serious details of the issues we have suffered - please note this is not all of it because if I told you everything this would end up making this an extremely long email.

Physical attacks on each member of my family

My mother had a lit firework thrown at her whilst she was in the garden, and this narrowly missed her eye.

My mother was jostled and pushed by those committing anti-social behaviour whilst she was trying to get from her car to the house, she was very shaken and upset.

My younger brother and I have been attacked several times in and around our property and my brother was viciously attacked twice by those who were committing the anti-social behaviours and he has been left with scars on his head. The police did not effectively investigate the matter and no arrests were made.

We have all been spat at and had objects such as glass bottles thrown at us if we had to leave the house whilst they were there, we could not go into our own garden or to the car with abuse and things thrown at us.

If we were in the garden when they arrived, they would immediately jump into the garden and start intimidating us and pushing us around.

We found a mini axe and petrol bomb on our property (hidden in our garden) which they were going to use on our house, but they got scared off by sirens (which turned out to be a fire engine). In the hurry to get away they hid these in our garden to use on their return but luckily for us we were able to remove these before they returned and report the matter to the police but as usual the police did nothing.

Verbal abuse -

We have all been sworn at, called 'P*kis', and 'told to go back home', whilst we were in our garden.

We were threatened with further violence, whilst we were trying to go into our house.

They have written 'we hate P*kis' in chalk on the path in our garden, driveway and on the footpath outside our house near the driveway.

Property damage -

We had to have our letter box sealed for a long time as they would throw rubbish and dog poo through the letter box.

Our windows have been smashed.

Our garage door has been kicked in

Our garage door was spray painted with the words 'P*kis die' - which the police investigated and reached the most ludicrous conclusion - i.e. they could prove the youths broke into the shop and stole the spray paint, they could prove they graffitied all up Stockport Road and Cringle Road up to our garage and could prove they continued to graffiti down the rest of Cringle Road but could not prove they spray painted 'P*kis die' even though they could prove it was the same spray paint used on our garage as was used elsewhere !!!!!

The youths climbed onto our garage roof by standing on the lower wall and pulling themselves up and peered into our bedroom windows and threw objects. (We have even liaised with Electric Northwest to see if they could extend the fencing around the electric substation so that it would prevent kids messing about in the substation, climbing onto our garage and damaging our garage further - but this was also a fruitless exercise).

They climbed over the wall into the current back garden and stole our clothes off the washing line.

When we had to park in the driveway our car windows were smashed, and the car was damaged.

Rubbish was thrown into the garden

And the boundary wall has been broken and kicked down so many times we've lost count - the most recent of which can still be seen.

Whilst the severity of the anti-social behaviour has eased, we still experience anti-social behaviour due to our proximity to the park entrance and the fact that the stairs are diagonally opposite our house results in most people crossing the road to walk towards our house. They sit on the wall or lean against it and kick it - which has loosened the top layer of the brick work and broken the wall numerous times. They damage the wall, mark it / tag it and leave rubbish. Further, cars park at the entrance of the park, near it or near our driveway, some staying for several hours. As you can imagine, with people sitting in their cars and watching the house or us in the garden is very distressing. They also throw a lot of their food waste from the nearby fast-food restaurants into our garden and driveway - after purchasing their food they come and park opposite or outside our house and dump their rubbish in our garden and / or in the driveway as well as in the street. We have had to clean our garden and driveway on a daily basis, and we have regularly found gas canisters in our garden and in the driveway which young people sat in cars throw out before driving away. The driveway is used as goal for football and our door has been dislodged due to the ball kicking against it, and young people often sit on the broken wall and leave rubbish in the driveway and urinate against the wall near the garage door (this is why we need the driveway completely closed). If we say anything to anyone we are faced with verbal abuse and threats. We hardly use our side garden as we are always watched and have been sworn at, which is all very distressing. We still face verbal racist abuse I have often been sworn at and called a P*ki etc. when I am doing the gardening or going to the car. I was recently helping my mum from the car and a group of white youths walking past threw rubbish in my garden and when my mum looked up, they said 'what are you looking at you P*ki Bi**h'

We planted privet hedges in the hope that they would grow and provide security and privacy, unfortunately these have not grown at all. They were planted at the beginning of 2021 but are still the same size even though the gardener assured us they would be thick and shoulder high within 2 years.

Please note that for the reasons set out above we respectfully request the entire area including the current driveway at the rear has to be completely closed off for us to feel safe and secure and have privacy and the height of 2.4m also be approved because when people are stood at the top of the stairs in the park they can look all the way into our back garden **Subhan you said you could add the sight line image - please can you do this here**. Unlike the rest of the park where there are trees and bushes, we have no natural barrier to obstruct people's views. Please see pictures below, you will note that we are the only residence that is not protected by a dense natural barrier.



This picture does not clearly show how open the area is as it is blurred out and google maps also did not let me position the view, so it shows a more accurate picture of how clear the area is compared to the rest of the park.

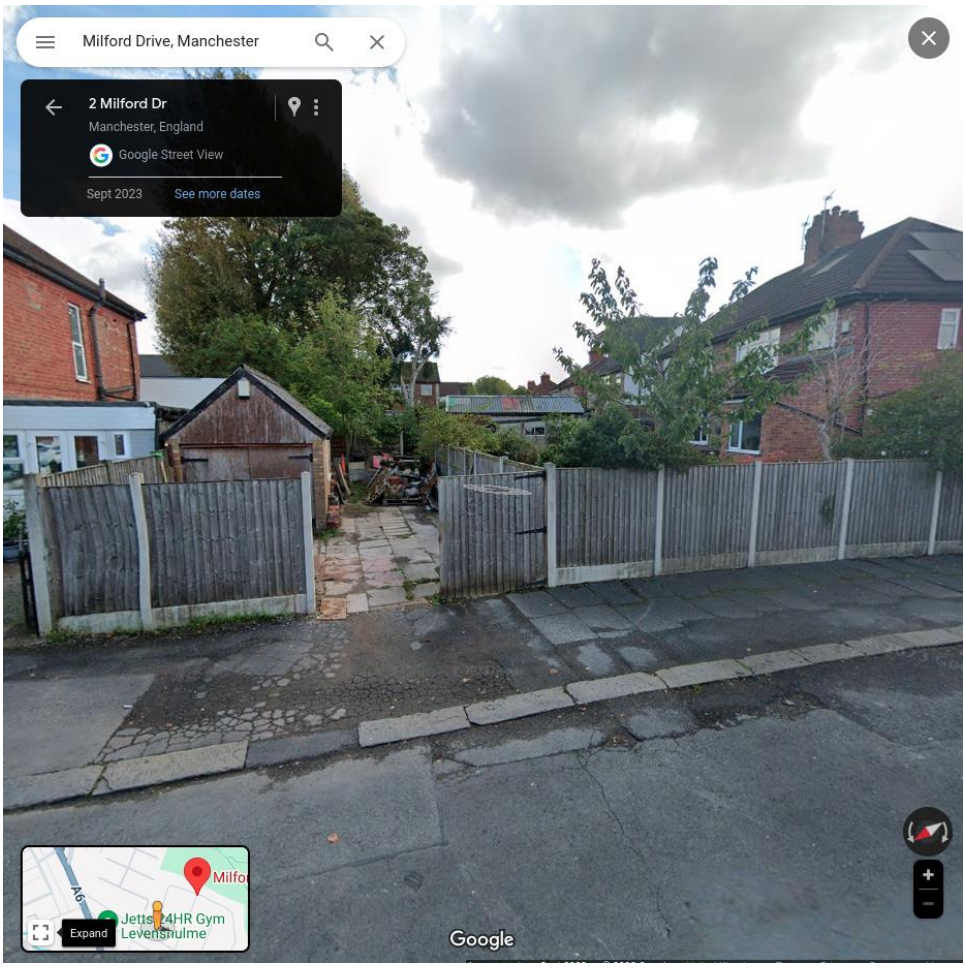
The images below show the dense bushes and trees that afford all other neighbours privacy from those walking along the elevated path in the park







I am aware that you have suggested a shorter fence, but we feel this will not provide the security, safety and privacy that we need and a shorter fence would also allow those who stand at the top of the park stairs and elevated pathway, on the pillars blocking the substation and the green telecoms box (which is next to our wall opposite the park entrance) to look into the garden. Given what we have endured and continue to endure we would appreciate you allowing a 2.4m height fence all the way to the front of the house (level) and for a complete enclosure at the rear as this will not impact anyone else in a negative way. I am not sure that you are aware but there are houses on the streets nearby where the driveways are closed off with no sight lines etc. for visibility and they are still using the driveway as a driveway - please see pictures attached below. As stated above we will not be using it as a driveway.

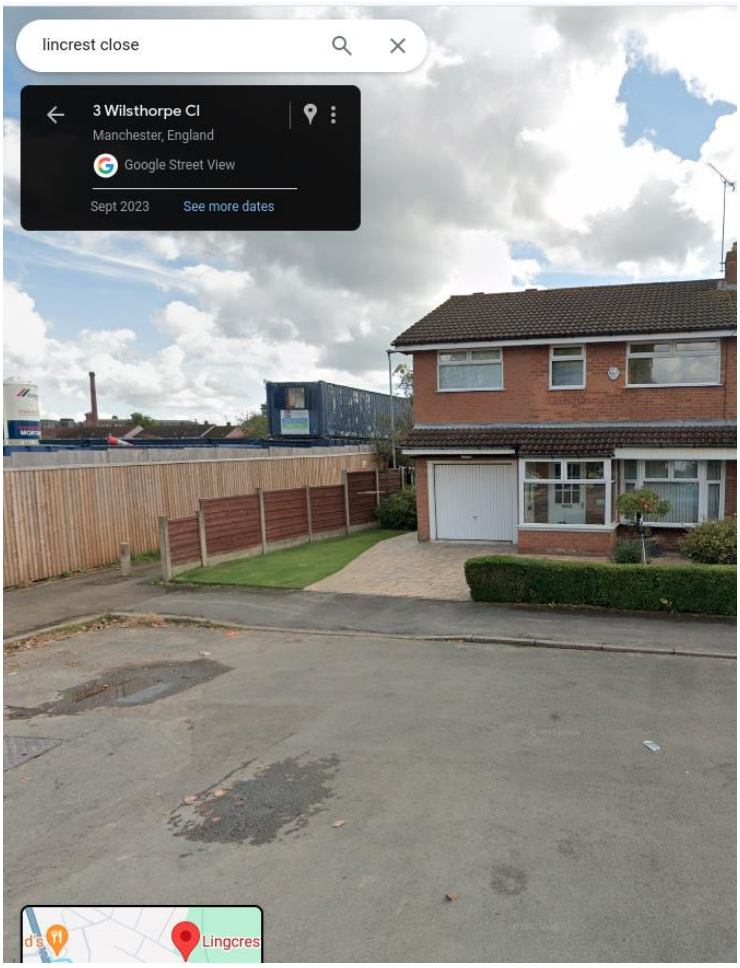

Milford Drive, Manchester
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Manchester, England
Google Street View
Sept 2023
See more dates
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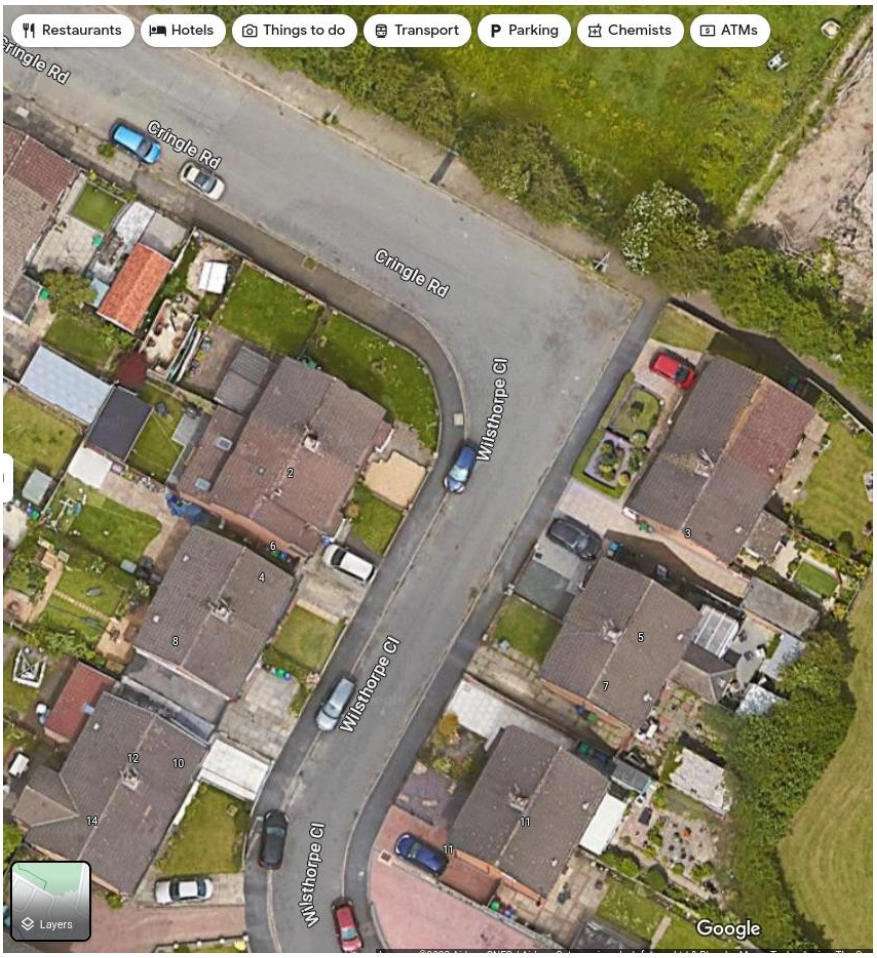


With regards to the accessible parking at the front, this is needed as my mother has significant mobility issues (supporting information can be provided if required) and currently the car is parked on the road outside of the house but with her deteriorating condition she struggles to get from the car to the house. With the car being closer this will greatly assist, especially going forward, she will require even more assistance and the closer the vehicle is to the house the easier it will be for her and anyone assisting her. My sister also suffers with fibromyalgia, which impacts her mobility too, so an accessible car park space will help her a lot too. This will then be the only driveway that the property has.

I am aware that you have some concerns regarding this accessible driveway, in particular around the distance from the front of the house to the path, which I understand but I request that you exercise your discretion in light of the Equality Act 2010 and allow this accessible parking as a reasonable adjustment to the policy as there are other driveways on the estate which are less than the required distance mentioned to my architect and less than the space we have. Please see attached pictures from Wilsthorpe Close which is on the same estate as our street. This driveway is a lot shorter than the measurements mentioned to my architect


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Manchester, England
Google Street View
Sept 2023
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I hope that in reading this you will have some understanding as to why we need the area closed off and why the particular height has been requested. Further, you will be able to appreciate the detrimental impact that a refusal will have on our health and wellbeing.

We are willing to speak to you further about the incidents if that will help you justify your decision but would greatly appreciate not having to relive and recount the horrible upsetting details because as you saw even a brief mention was very distressing for my sister, as it is for us all.

Regards

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