The planning department
Adur and Worthing Council

ADUR & WORTHING
PLANNING SERVICES
PLAN | AWDM/ 0928/12
DATE VALID | - 9 JAN 2013

Tara.

St. Nicolas Lane.

Shoreham by Sea. BN43 5NH

22nd July 2012

To whom it may concern

In support of my application, I would like to give you some background details.

Mr. Flynn and I moved into Tara in October 2011. When we moved in the borders of the property on St. Nicolas Lane and to the neighbouring house, 'the lambing fields' were leylandii and ivy hedging. This hedging had not been looked after and in places was dead and in other places was very overgrown. In particular, the hedging at the front had grown out over the public pavement. Whilst moving into the property and for some time after, several people stopped and asked us if we could cut the hedging back from the pavement. One of these people was the church verger, who said he was worried about the safety of the children having to walk on the road going to and from church.

We agreed to cut the hedging back, but were unaware that it would not grow back green again. The result was a really unsightly hedge. We contacted a local gardener / tree surgeon who said he could cut them down, grind up the roots and replant with a much more environmentally friendly beech. We decided that with the hedges down we needed a form of fencing for several reasons. The first was to restrict the hedging to only our property and for it not to impede on the public way or our neighbours property. In addition, we wanted security for our dog and for our friends' young children, as the busy Old Shoreham Road is very close. We also had the problem of people continuously using our drive to turn around and during the Easter beer festival we even had a couple of people sleeping on our front lawn!

At the beginning of March I phoned the Adur council to find out about any restrictions that might be in place because it was a conservation area. I spoke to the design and conservation consultant, I believe his name is Richard Small. He told me that as the lleylandii was hedging, I did not need planning permission to cut them down.

I then asked if there were any restrictions about the fencing and was told that the only restriction was that it had to be less than 1 meter at the front and 2 meters at the side. I asked him to double check and gave him my postcode as I couldn't believe that there was so little control in this part of Shoreham. He checked and confirmed what he had said before.

Out of politeness, I then visited the neighbours in the immediate vicinity of the lambing fields and the old school house and explained what I planned to do including the removal of the hedging and the erection of palisade fencing at the front and closed board fencing at the side. The reaction was favourable all around. However, after the hedging was taken down, the neighbour from the lambing fields said that she didn't want closed boarding and wanted palisade at the sides. She also stipulated that we were to make sure that we kept to our side of the border, did not attach it to her garage and graduate it down to the front, all of which we did. We are therefore very surprised not only to have received a letter from the council planning department, but also for it to be sent as the result of a complaint.

I apologise for the length of this letter, but wanted you to know the circumstances behind our action and to assure you that we had no intention of doing anything without the relevant permission.

Yours faithfully,



Joanna Odgers.