

Supporting Statement

I would like to take this opportunity to explain the circumstances surrounding this application and to express my genuine commitment to both my property and the wider Whalley conservation area.

I absolutely love living in Whalley. It is a beautiful and historic place with a strong sense of community, character and heritage, and it was for those very reasons that I chose to make my home here. When I purchased my property, I did so with the intention that it would be my forever home. Since then, I have invested significant time, care and resources into sympathetically renovating and maintaining the property to a high standard, always seeking to preserve and enhance its character and its contribution to the conservation area.

The gate and fencing that are the subject of this application were installed with the best of intentions. They are of high quality construction, built using sustainable and durable materials, and were chosen specifically because I believed they were appropriate to the character of the area. My objective was not only to improve security and appearance but also to enhance and tidy the rear access track, which had become neglected and unsightly in places.

In fact, I hope my actions demonstrate a wider commitment to improving the area for everyone's benefit. At my own expense, I have resurfaced a significant section of the rear access track because it had fallen into disrepair and was not being maintained. I have also paid for tarmac repairs to potholes along Brooke's Lane to improve its appearance, usability and safety. These works were undertaken voluntarily, with no expectation of reimbursement, simply because I care deeply about the environment in which I live and wanted to make a positive contribution to the local area.

I would never knowingly undertake any work that would harm or erode the special character of the conservation area. Quite the opposite. Every improvement I have made to my property has been carried out with the intention of enhancing its appearance and ensuring that it remains a well-maintained and attractive part of the neighbourhood. I take great pride in my home and in being part of the Whalley community

With reference to the compliance issues that have been raised by the enforcement officer - I sincerely apologise. It was entirely inadvertent and was never an attempt to circumvent planning controls. Had I appreciated that further permissions were required, I would have sought them immediately. I have always sought to act responsibly and in good faith, and I am committed to working constructively with the Council to regularise the position.

I respectfully ask that you consider the quality of the works, the positive impact they have had on the appearance and maintenance of the rear access lane, my longstanding commitment to caring for both my property and the surrounding conservation area, and the fact that any failure to comply with the relevant requirements was unintentional.

Whalley is a wonderful place to live, and I remain committed to preserving and enhancing the character and appearance of the conservation area for the benefit of residents now and in the future.

Yours faithfully

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