

241 Fair Oak Road
Bishopstoke
Eastleigh
Hants
SO50 8JU



6th March 2023

Application number PN/23/94536

Dear Mr Grandfield,

Thank you for your letter of 21st Feb 2023 regarding the planning application noted above, I cannot say that it was a communication that I was pleased to receive.

There are a number of blocks of flats on the Itchen ~~Vale~~ ^{AVENUE} Estate, most built to the same or similar design to the flats in question, if permission is granted for this development then one must assume that the owners of the freehold of the other blocks of flats will immediately follow suit in applying for permission to increase the height of their blocks and hence their income potential. If approved, this development would undoubtedly necessitate further approvals in the future, Eastleigh Borough Council having set a precedent that they would be hard pressed to deny.

The flats in question were extensively remodelled and refurbished just a few years ago, adding a further four flats to the original block. This was after the block had been encased in Herras Fencing with no work being undertaken for the better part of five years. The noise, dust, mess and traffic chaos was appalling, those living in Badger Close must have been even more adversely affected than I was and I had it bad enough. Work would start at 6:30 or 7:00 in the morning and continue well into the evening with tradesmen shouting and swearing throughout, on top of the noise of drills, grinders, jackhammers and a host of other mechanical and electrical tools. No attempt was made to mitigate the disruption caused to neighbours and that alone should speak volumes as to the type of individual that had this work carried out.

The flats were specifically designed at this height so as not to create a blot on the landscape of the estate. Any increase in the height of these buildings would adversely affect those that live nearby, with reduced privacy from being overlooked, increased noise and traffic and a further increase in parking issues which are already a significant problem in the immediate vicinity. Those who live in the flats in this block already park along Fair Oak Road rather than in the designated parking area at the rear of the flats. The parking along Fair Oak Road makes it near impossible for the buses that use this route, (the main route between Eastleigh and Fair Oak) to access the designated bus stops and virtually every bus has to weave through a multiple chicane of parked cars along the length of the road from Whalesmead to

the bottom of Middlestreet Hill, creating a dangerous traffic flow and increasing the risk to both road users and pedestrians alike.

Indeed, just last evening, I returned to my home to find it virtually impossible to access my driveway due to the inconsiderate parking of vehicles by the tenants of these flats, and now an absentee landlord wants to add a further 4-8 cars to that problem. Perhaps Eastleigh Borough Council would like to place some double yellow lines along Fair Oak Road to discourage this antisocial practice, albeit that that is another issue entirely.

The flats overlook my rear garden and I have already raised the height of my fence line in an effort to retain a degree of privacy. Installing a further floor on this block of flats will mean that I have essentially no privacy at all. Furthermore, during the period October – March when the Sun does not get very high in the sky, my garden will be deprived of virtually all direct sunlight, damaging my plants and the wildlife that inhabits them.

Whilst I am mindful of the need for us all to have somewhere to live, I do not believe that this proposal carries much weight in respect of providing good quality housing and perhaps more importantly the infrastructure that supports it. The property has already been extended way beyond its original design parameters with no increase in the parking nor other amenity facilities that it offers to its tenants. In essence, dumping those needs onto surrounding streets.

I would most strongly recommend that Eastleigh Borough Council refuses this application and indeed any further application designed to extend the amount of accommodation provided at this site.

Gillian Cooper

