Supporting Statement – Fence Installation at 35 Nichol Road

1. Introduction

This statement is submitted in support of the application to retain the newly installed fence at the rear boundary of 35 Nichol Road. The fence was erected to address urgent concerns regarding security, privacy, and public safety, following the removal of an old, deteriorated hedge.

2. Security Considerations

The rear boundary of the property is not visible from the main house, leaving the garden vulnerable to unauthorised access. Previously, the boundary consisted of an old and mostly dead hedge, which presented several risks:

- It created a security weakness, enabling easy access to the garden.
- It posed a risk to the applicants' dog, who could potentially escape through gaps.
- The household has previously been a victim of burglary, increasing the need for a secure boundary.
- On removing the hedge, suspicious packaging was found, indicating misuse of the hedge as a hiding place or waste point.
- A nearby house on Nichol Road has been raided for drug-related activity in the past 9 months, further heightening concerns about boundary vulnerability.

The installation of the fence provides an immediate and effective deterrent, ensuring that security risks are significantly reduced.

3. Privacy Requirements

The fence borders the rear garden—a space regularly used by the applicant's grandchildren for outdoor play. The previous hedge offered inadequate privacy, especially during summer months when the garden is used most.

A fence provides the necessary and immediate privacy that a new hedge would take several years to achieve. This ensures:

- The family's right to private domestic enjoyment.
- Screening from passersby using the path behind the property.

4. Community Benefit and Local Feedback

The fence has also had a positive impact on the local environment:

- Immediate neighbours have expressed their support and noted that the fence is a positive improvement to the boundary.
- Several passersby, including parents with pushchairs heading to the nearby nursery, have commented that the new fence improves the usable width of the path, whereas the old hedge restricted access.

These responses indicate wider community benefit, particularly for pedestrians and families.

5. Conclusion

The decision to install the fence was taken to address serious and immediate concerns around safety, privacy, and community accessibility. While a hedge could eventually provide some of these benefits, it would require several years to establish and would not resolve the short-term risks that existed at the boundary.

The fence:

- Enhances security for the property and surrounding area
- Protects the privacy of the family, particularly young children
- Improves pedestrian access and safety
- Has received supportive feedback from neighbours and the wider community

For these reasons, the retention of the fence is respectfully requested.