

Statement from Helen & Shaun Beck

Our Grade 2 listed thatched property, 130 Colne Road, White Colne, is next door to Colne Commercials, who have recently erected a fence that badly affects our visibility so we can no longer drive safely out of our property onto the highway.

We have previously had a very good relationship with the owners of Colne Commercial, they were aware that if their vans were parked too close to the road, we couldn't see the road properly. They happily moved the vans when we asked them, to enable us to drive out safely. We were therefore staggered and saddened that they erected a new fence without any discussion with us.

Where once leaving our drive was a relatively easy manoeuvre, with this new fence in place, it has become impossible to leave safely as our view is so restricted. The fence is no more than ½ a metre from the edge of the highway, although the application states it is 1 metre away. The fence appears solid even though it's a mesh security fence which gives us no visibility.

It is well documented and recorded, that traffic travels very fast through White Colne. It is not unusual for traffic to speed past our house at 60 – 70 mph in spite of the 30 mph speed limit. There is a bus stop and cars overtake buses at this bus stop, cars also overtake others that are observing the speed limit. There is a tendency for traffic to gather speed as it leaves White Colne heading for Colchester and drivers frequently don't observe the speed limit.

You will appreciate, with this fence in place, that we now have to pull out onto the road "blind". There have been too many near misses to record and at all costs we want to avoid accidents that might be caused by this fence.

Objections from local villagers, show that others see the fence as a risk to life and would therefore urge the Council to refuse the Retrospective Planning Permission and enforce the removal of the fence with immediate effect.

It appears that only the front of the fence has had Retrospective Planning Permission applied for, so the site is in breach of other pre-existing conditions set out in application (016113/FUL) namely, to the fence that surrounds all the whole of the premises. There is excessive floodlighting and illuminated signage which encroaches onto our property and the main road. This has become a distraction to drivers and we would ask the Planning Committee to investigate this further.

We hope that you will refuse this application and that the fence will be removed, we also would like to ask that any vehicles parked at Colne Commercial must be parked at a safe distance from the highway.

I have included some images that highlight the issues we face

- 1 Visibility is zero, highlighted further when the vans were temporarily moved
- 2 Visibility splay – vans parked too close to the road impede visibility along with the fence
- 3 If cars are travelling at more than 30 mph driving into White Colne, they don't see our drive until the very last minute
- 4 The fence is very close to the road

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