

To the Members of the Braintree District Council Planning Committee,

Please accept this as the written statement on behalf of myself and my wife objecting to the retrospective approval of planning permission for the security fence erected at Colne Commercial, Colchester Road, White Colne.

Highway Safety:-

The fence as erected obstructs the visibility splays for vehicles using not only the site access from the property onto Colchester Road but also obstructs the visibility splays for vehicles exiting the adjacent property The Thatched Cottage 130 Colchester Road. This lack of visibility is a hazard to all users of Colchester Road from cyclists to drivers of motor vehicles and as such is to the detriment of Highway Safety. Whilst we are sure that the Highway Authority will comment on this since it will be contrary to aims and objectives of management policy and guidance our concerns are more direct since it will affect our vehicles, our cyclists, our neighbours who will be involved in an accident due to lack of visibility caused by this fence.

Appearance:-

The property is in a rural area in which we live, there are open agricultural fields in the immediate vicinity of the site and the pretty thatched cottage immediately adjoining the site is old and probably listed. We feel that the construction of the fence, its stark appearance, its dark colour, the fact that it is virtually opaque in appearance when viewed from most angles in our opinion means that it is not in keeping with a rural environment. We are not NIMBYs but concerned residents that wish to retain the feel of the rural countryside without the encroaching urbanisation that this fence seems to represent. In rural areas we use hedges to secure our properties native species hawthorn has always been a good security option why wasn't this considered.

Impact on Local Amenity:-

Whilst in the first instance there may seem to be no major detrimental impact of the fence on the local amenity we feel that this is not the case. An amenity is something that makes it comfortable or enjoyable to live somewhere. The colour and opaqueness of the fence detracts from the beauty of the immediate area and in this respect the enjoyment of living in a rural village. Whilst not covered by this application the increase in security lighting and signage at the site again has a detrimental impact on the local amenity.

John Wilson and Heather Wilson Colchester Road White Colne,