

Enforcement and possible unauthorised development

1. Introduction

This report considers current matters of enforcement and possible unauthorised development. Authority to take planning enforcement action is delegated to the Head of Economy, Planning and Strategic Housing. Matters that require a Committee decision are reported, together with delegated decisions to take action.

It is not an offence to carry out works without planning permission and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that enforcement action is discretionary and that local planning authorities should act proportionately in responding to suspected breaches of planning control. Local authorities are also advised to take action only where it is appropriate to do so. The purpose of this report is therefore to report to Committee decisions with regard to enforcement action and/or to seek approval for further action.

2. Policy

The Council's Approach to Planning Enforcement is set out in the adopted Local Enforcement Plan. The essential thrust of the Plan is that we will not condone wilful breaches of planning law, but we will exercise our discretion regarding enforcement action if it is considered expedient to do so. Our priorities with regard to enforcement are:

- To focus our resources to ensure that the most pressing and harmful issues are addressed appropriately.
- In determining the expediency of enforcement action we will have regard to the seriousness of any harm which is evident as a result of a breach of planning control.
- Matters which can potentially have a serious impact on the safety or amenity of residents or occupiers of property or on the natural environment will take priority over minor infractions and matters of dispute between neighbours.

3. Items

Each item contains a full description, details of any investigation, and an assessment of the situation and concludes with a recommendation.

This report relates to:

Item 1 14 Ash Road, Aldershot

All information, recommendations and advice contained in this report are understood to be correct at the time of writing this report. Any change in circumstances will be updated verbally at the Committee meeting. Where a recommendation is either altered or substantially amended between preparing the report and the Committee

meeting, a separate sheet will be circulated at the meeting to assist Members in following the modifications proposed.

4. Human rights

The Human Rights Act 1998 (the Act) has incorporated part of the European Convention on Human Rights into English law. Any recommendation either to take or not to take enforcement action has been assessed to make sure that the decision is compatible with the Act. If there is a potential conflict this will be highlighted in the individual report on the relevant item.

5. Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, in the event of an appeal, further resources will be put towards defending the Council's decision. Rarely, and in certain circumstances, decisions on planning enforcement cases result in the Council facing an application for costs arising from a planning appeal. Officers will aim to alert Members where this may be likely and provide appropriate advice in such circumstances.

Tim Mills
Head of Economy, Planning and Strategic Housing

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Rushmoor Local Plan (2019)

Rushmoor Local Enforcement Plan (2016)

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

Item 1**Site location** **14 Ash Road, Aldershot****Alleged breach** **Fence posts higher than 2 metres and erection of decking****Recommendation** **No Further Action**

A complaint was received regarding new fencing and decking erected in the rear garden of the property. It was claimed the fencing exceeds two metres in height, is visually harmful and dangerous. The decking was claimed to house foxes. The owner/occupier was contacted regarding the height of the fencing as this is the only element which might constitute a breach of planning control. The decking is less than 30cm high. The owner/occupiers removed some of the fence panels leaving it less than two metres in height and therefore falling within permitted development. However, the concrete supporting posts still remain at full height. The owner/occupier was contacted and asked to lower the posts or to submit a planning application for their retention. Neither were forthcoming and correspondence with the owner/occupier of the site has ceased.

As the fence panels have been lowered and only the posts now remain at over two metres it is considered that if an application were to be submitted it would receive a recommendation that permission be granted.

Full recommendation:**NO FURTHER ACTION**

Associated Documents Enforcement Reference 19/00132/BOUND