

Please see below the list of many reasons for our notice of review.

Privacy- My partner and I live directly on the corner of 2 junctions which lead to the extremely busy main road through Selkirk. The house is also situated very close to a primary school, which adds to the traffic in the area. Due to this, and the fact we live at the bottom of a hill, means we get zero privacy. When walking on the pavement, pedestrians can see right into the windows of the property which is highly uncomfortable. In the evenings, beaming headlights of oncoming cars would shine directly through our living room window, which was unpleasant to say the least. Summer in particular was difficult to enjoy as we felt we could not sit in our own garden, lessening our quality of life significantly.

New pet- We recently welcomed a dog into our family, which as you can understand is a huge responsibility. Part of the responsibility of being a dog owner includes ensuring your pet is kept safe. Given the increase in crime surrounding dog theft, we thought it best to ensure the fence was high enough and secure enough to ensure our dog was protected. In addition to this, if we were to have a smaller fence it would run the risk of somebody simply being able to 'lean over'. This was not a risk we were willing to take, given the number of people who pass by every day. This was our main concern as prior to the fence being erected, it was an old, bent, chipped and rusty three-bar wrought metal fence which provided little to no privacy or security.

Litter - With our house situated at the bottom of a steep hill, it meant that unfortunately we experienced a huge amount of litter gathering in our then exposed garden. From bottles and cans to wrappers and food, this is far from ideal or fair to spend time out of our busy days gathering other peoples rubbish and disposing of it using our own bins.

Bus stop - There is a bus stop directly outside our house, which comes every hour and is usually very busy, particularly around school times. As this is outside our living room window, anybody waiting for the bus would lean on/climb on our previous fence. They would also peer in through the windows, so we would avoid sitting in the living room through the day.

Similar situations - Having lived and worked in Selkirk my entire life, I am very familiar with the surrounding area. Therefore, I have observed properties not far from mine where the fence is of similar height and style. I struggle to understand why our fence is any different, given that we have a vast list of reasons to request a higher fence than others may need.

Neighbours - I have an extremely positive relationship with my neighbours, particularly the two on either side of me. They not only understand our reasons for the fence, but have, along with many others, been encouraging enough to say thank you for making the area a bit more presentable. As per the planning permission application process, our neighbours were contacted to ensure that they voiced any concerns they had. As we know, not one complaint was received, therefore it could be gathered that they do not agree with the reason for refusal.

What we found to be most disappointing, is that the decision made by the planning officer was purely on the aesthetic of the fence as opposed to there, being a risk to anybody. In simpler terms, we do not understand who we are hurting by having this fence. Our reasons surrounding the safety of our dog most importantly, in our opinion outweighs the reason for refusal.