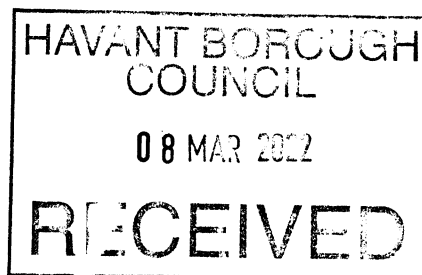


Planning Services
Havant Borough Council
Public Service Plaza
Civic Centre Road
Havant
PO9 2AX



24 Brightside
Waterlooville
PO7 7BA

3 March 2022

Your Ref: APP/22/00117

Dear Sir or Madam

Site address: 154 London Road, Waterlooville, PO7 5SR

Proposal: Retrospective application for the erection of 4No. light posts.

Thank you for your letter dated 24 February 2022 and I have looked at the planning application online and read the Supportive Statement from Mr Shaw, General Manager, J F Goodwillie Ltd.

I object to the erection of these lamp posts.

Mr Shaw mentions that J F Goodwillie Ltd have been trading for many years. The houses in Brightside have also been in existence for many years. They were built in 1978. For 44 years there has been no need to position lamp posts on the boundary fences of Brightside.

Mr Shaw states J F Goodwillie Ltd have many business problems.

He says the area "*especially around the fencing items*" requires lighting as they have identified this area as a health and safety problem to customers and workforce. The company chose to locate their fencing items next to the boundary fences of Brightside but have now discovered this area is not a suitable place. Installing lighting is not the solution. Moving the storage of the fencing to another location on their site, is a more likely solution.

The Forklift trucks used by staff at J F Goodwillie should be equipped with their own lighting system that sufficiently guarantees the safety of employees during the work to be carried out.

All businesses should assess why their sales figures have dropped but lighting is unlikely to be the reason for a drop in Goodwillie's sales figures. Competitors of Goodwillie such as Wickes, B & Q, TradePoint, AVS, Knight Fencing etc all have online shops that deliver fencing direct to the customer. Goodwillie does not have a website offering online shopping. Customers during and following the Covid-19 pandemic have got used to shopping online.

Mr Shaw says the Goodwillie site has "*tired buildings*" so maybe they could reinvigorate their "*tired buildings*" and turn them into the fencing storage areas. This would also help with another of their business problems that he identifies of "*customer perception*".

Mr Shaw also gives a reason for needing the lights as their warehouse staff are unable to pick orders correctly. This is a staff training problem, not a lighting problem.

Another reason given was that lighting could potentially stop theft. As the lighting is only required during business hours, then the "*theft*" that Mr Shaw mentions must be either by staff or customers. Goodwillie allows customers to drive to the fencing storage area and load their own vehicles. Perhaps they need to rethink the way they let the public take their vehicles alongside the fencing and help themselves to the stock. The picking of stock should only be done by staff. Lighting is not the solution to theft.

Mr Shaw says "*lights are controlled with an auto shut-off adjustable timer*". However, it's likely the lights are controlled by a member of staff when they arrive at work and when they leave. If they are turned on/off by a member of staff, then the 07:15 turn on time and 17:15 turn off time, cannot be adhered to, as the staff member may arrive at work at 6am and leave at 6pm. The dates Mr Shaw identifies in the second page of his statement would also not be adhered to, as a member of staff would have to remember which dates they were supposed to be putting the lights on/off.

The Goodwillie site is situated at a high point and residents in Brightside are much lower down the hill. This gives a perception to residents in Brightside that the Goodwillie buildings, vehicles, forklift trucks, lamp posts etc loom over Brightside.

The sloping nature of the land must be considered for the residents of Brightside as having lamp posts positioned adjacent to the boundary fence makes them appear extremely high and no amount of positioning or size of a shield to deflect light, will ever work.

The lamp posts should not have been installed. Lighting the Brightside boundary fences, for a few hours each year, will not solve all the business problems that J F Goodwillie have.

If planning permission is granted for these lamp posts, then the residents of Brightside have to endure these eyesores for 365 days a year – despite the fact that Goodwillie's say the lights will only be turned on for a few hours each year.

The lamp posts were installed in November 2021 and the lights should have been immediately disabled and taken down while a planning application was considered. Havant Council were alerted to the erection of the lamp posts and is at fault for allowing the lights to remain on, as planning permission had not been granted.

I therefore object to the erection of these lamp posts.

On a personal level

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A.M. Wheeler'.