

Towers Gardens

I wish to object to the reapplication to make standing for vehicles in front of 2 Towers Garden because it does not address the main reason why the previous application was refused.

The proposed surface would be out of character with the appearance of the street scene and the wider Conservation Area because it would be a visual obstruction, with vehicles parked on it much of the time, to the predominantly green frontages of the other properties. The open plan cul de sac was laid out in the 1960s to provide a rural feel in contrast to the High Street, where the old cottages front the pavement. The adjacent Close, The Saltings, also has grass frontages, as do five houses in the High Street. Together they contribute to the biodiversity and charm of the Langstone Conservancy Area.

This application is the first to apply for a hardstanding under the 2022 Article 4 Direction. If the application should be permitted it would seriously harm the character and appearance of the Langstone Conservation Area and no doubt would lead to further applications in Towers Garden, and elsewhere in the village, it being difficult then to refuse other applications. It would encourage such applications throughout the Conservancy Area, which incidentally has 13 Listed Buildings, and is Havant's historic gem to which visitors come in their thousands throughout the year. Anyone who does not like the restrictions imposed by living here are of course free to move elsewhere.

ORIGINAL LANGSTONE CONSERVATION AREA ARTICLE 4 DIRECTION

it is important not to compound the serious mistake HBC made in the 2012 Article 4 Direction by not confirming it. Had it been confirmed, there would not now be any hard standings in Towers Gardens.

Councillor Satchwell explained this in her report to Full Council in March 2022. The Council began the preparation of an Article 4 Direction for the Langstone Conservation Area Article 4 Direction in 2011, with all of the statutory steps in its preparation being taken, save for the last one. This involved the confirmation of the Article 4 Direction to the Secretary of State following the one year grace period to avoid compensation claims to the Council, as is commonplace. Unfortunately, due to human error at the time, this did not take place and only came to light last year, when the Enforcement Officer tried to enforce the creation of a hardstanding at the bottom of Towers Gardens. Confirmation has now taken place and so planning permission will be required for a number of household projects, which have the potential of harming the special character of Langstone Conservation Area.

We trust the Council to preserve and enhance the character and appearance of Towers Gardens, and the wider Conservation Area, and also to retain all the grass areas in the village for the enjoyment of both visitors and residents alike.

