

HAVANT BOROUGH
COUNCIL

- 5 DEC 2016

RECEIVED

1a. Fairlea Road
Emsworth
Hants
PO10 7SX

1st December 2016

Recorded Delivery

Case Officer Mrs T Pickup

The Planning Service,
Public Service Plaza,
Civic Centre Road,
Havant,
PO9 2AX

Dear Mrs Pickup,

Planning Application No.9 Fairlea Road. Your Ref: APP/16/01184

I write regarding the notice of a planning application.

During heavy rainfall water rises from the rear of our garden to approach our bungalow. When wet weather is expected we keep a close lookout and during periods of rain we check for rising water. Usually it recedes without cause for serious concern. Unfortunately there are times when the water does not drain away fast enough allowing the water to continually increase in depth as it approaches the threshold of our home. When this happens we act immediately to inspect the drainage flow to where it enters the drain. When available, our neighbours join us to remove anything that has blown or fallen into the drain-way. This brings about an immediate improvement slowing any further rise in water levels saving our home from flooding. I make the point most strongly that this has only been possible because there has always been no obstruction to us gaining immediate emergency access. It is absolutely essential that we can continue with this self-help to protect our home from flood water and respond immediately without any obstruction from fences or anything else that can interfere with our efforts to protect our home.

I see from the application that it is intended that the land with the drain would be turned into a private garden. I can also see that the applicant does not own the land. In this situation I would not like to have to obtain permission to enter the land to protect my home from flooding. I reiterate the point that open and immediate access is essential. Further, I would not like to have to rely on the applicant to make sure that the drain is fully working at all hours, as torrential rainfall happens at any time of the day or night. I am also concerned as to what might happen in the future when the land is sold or otherwise passed on to another person, giving uncertainty over future access and commitment to the upkeep of the drain.

Continued....

The land has had fences built preventing access. I would like these fences removed as soon as possible, so that we can again protect our home from flooding as and when necessary. Climbing over obstacles is not an option for us.

At question 12 on the form no mark has been added to identify an increased risk of flooding elsewhere. This is not right! From our own past experiences flooding will definitely happen if we cannot continue to have freedom of access (at all times) to the watercourse. It is by use of this access (now fenced off) that we released the water shown on the enclosed photograph, before it entered our home.

I oppose the application for a change of use into a private garden.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of Mrs G Davies.

Mrs G Davies

Photograph attached to letter dated 1st December 2016.

Totally open access with no fences or any other barriers has always allowed easy access to drain.
This allowed us to drain-away water shown.

Unauthorised change of use now prevents access for us to take flood prevention action.

