1. Introduction

This heritage statement accompanies a householder planning application for the erection of a wooden boundary fence in the rear garden of Skeyne House, 26 West Street, Emsworth, Hampshire PO10 7DY.
The property lies within the **Emsworth Conservation Area**, designated for its historic and architectural character.

The proposed works are minor, domestic in nature, and located **entirely to the rear** of the property—**not visible** from West Street or any public viewpoints. This statement assesses the heritage significance of the property and its setting, and the effect of the proposal on that significance.

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2. Site and Context

- **Property description:**
  No. 26 West Street is a two-storey mid-terrace house built around **1920**, forming part of a terrace of three dwellings (Nos. 24–28). The houses are of red/orange brick with tiled roofs and are typical of early 20th-century domestic architecture in Emsworth.
- **Setting:**
  The property is situated within the established residential area west of Emsworth's historic centre. The rear gardens are long and enclosed by a mixture of fences. These gardens are **not visible** from West Street and **make no contribution** to the public character of the conservation area.
- **Designations:**
  - Within the **Emsworth Conservation Area** (designated by Havant Borough Council).
  - The building is **not listed** and not on the local list of heritage assets.

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3. Statement of Significance

The significance of 26 West Street derives primarily from:

- Its contribution to the **historic townscape of West Street**, through its frontage, form, and materials.
- Its location within a consistent terrace that reflects early 20th-century domestic development in Emsworth.

The **rear garden area** contributes little to that significance, being private space outside the public realm and with no visibility or architectural features of heritage interest.

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4. Description of Proposed Works

The proposal involves:

- Erecting a **timber boundary fence** approximately 2.1 metres high, positioned along the **shared boundary between Nos. 26 and 28 West Street**, within the rear garden.
- The fence will be constructed of **timber horizontal boards** with timber posts and will be left natural or finished in a subdued colour appropriate to its setting.
- No trees or historic features will be removed or affected.

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5. Assessment of Impact

- The proposed fence will be **entirely screened** from West Street and from public vantage points within the conservation area.
- The works **do not affect the building's façade, roofline, materials, or any features of architectural or historic interest.**
- There will be **no change** to the character or appearance of the conservation area as experienced from the public realm.
- The proposal will maintain the established pattern of domestic rear-garden enclosures typical throughout the area.

Therefore, the impact on the heritage significance of the conservation area is assessed as **neutral**—there is **no harm** to the heritage asset or its setting.

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6. Design Approach and Mitigation

- The fence is modest in scale and uses **traditional materials (timber)** compatible with its domestic garden setting.
- The colour and height have been chosen to ensure visual continuity with neighbouring garden boundaries.
- Its position on an internal boundary ensures it has no visual or physical impact on the conservation area's public character.

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7. Policy Compliance

The proposal accords with:

- **National Planning Policy Framework (2023)** paragraphs 199–208: conserving and enhancing the historic environment.
- **Havant Borough Local Plan Policy E13**: development within conservation areas should preserve or enhance their character and appearance.

Given its concealed location and sympathetic design, the fence preserves the character and appearance of the Emsworth Conservation Area.

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8. Conclusion

The erection of a wooden boundary fence between the gardens of Nos. 26 and 28 West Street is a **minor domestic alteration** that:

- Is **not visible** from the public realm,
- **Does not alter** the historic fabric or setting of the building, and
- **Preserves** the character and appearance of the Emsworth Conservation Area.

The proposal therefore fully complies with local and national heritage policies.