

Comments for Planning Application WD/D/20/002427

Application Summary

Application Number: WD/D/20/002427

Address: ST OSMUNDS CHURCH OF ENGLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL, BARNES WAY, DORCHESTER, DT1 2DZ

Proposal: Replace existing boundary in wire with associated access gates and widening of footpaths.

Case Officer: Annabel Cox

Customer Details

Name: Ms linda poulsen

Address: Not Available

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Other

Stance: Customer made comments neither objecting to or supporting the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment:Ref Planning Application: WD/D/20/002427, application to erect new security fence around the perimeter of St Osmund's School.

Altho' I understand why the school feels the need to erect a secure fence, I am deeply concerned about the effect of creating such an enormous barrier on the movement of wildlife, particularly hedgehogs.

The school campus, together with adjacent Manor Park School, is at the hub of a very active, thriving hedgehog population which interacts with all the neighbouring areas including Mellstock Ave, Barnes Way, Hardye Gardens, etc. The erection of an impenetrable barrier would have a devastating impact on the hedgehog population as they need to roam widely in order to survive.

A similar fence was erected at Damers School at Poundbury & in July 2020 a young hog was actually trapped in the mesh, even though a few hog holes had been dug under the fence. Fortunately the hog was found in time & rescued, but this scenario would be repeated endlessly at St Osmund's unless a gap of about 15cm is left between the bottom of the fence & the ground, likewise all the gates.

This compromise would also enable hogs to escape from dogs being exercised on the public footpaths, rather than being trapped between two fences & unable to escape. Unfortunately dogs can inflict the most horrific injuries on hogs, causing unnecessary suffering & often resulting in painful deaths.

I am also concerned about the storage & disposal of the old fence & the new, as this is also a potential trap for hogs. I would suggest that fencing materials should be checked daily. Even in winter you cannot assume there is no hog activity as in recent winters we know that some hogs continued to be active, even when it snowed.

Although the hedgehog is identified as a 'Priority Species', in Section 12 of the application form the applicant has claimed there are no priority species present on site. At a time of such enhanced awareness of ecological emergency & given the school's own ethos, I am dismayed that the agent denied the presence of hogs even tho' there is plenty of suitable habitat all around.

Linda Poulsen,
Hedgehog Friendly Dorchester