



# Waldringfield Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Rebecca Todd  
5 St George's Terrace, Church Road,  
Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 9ND  
Email: [pc.waldringfield@googlemail.com](mailto:pc.waldringfield@googlemail.com)  
Telephone: 01394 271551  
Website: [www.waldringfield.onesuffolk.net/parish-council](http://www.waldringfield.onesuffolk.net/parish-council)

17<sup>th</sup> August 2020

## Re. Waldringfield Parish Council Response to DC/20/2710/FUL Rosemary Cottage, Sandy Lane, Waldringfield

Dear Liz Beighton,

Waldringfield lies within the Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Sandy Lane is a single track public road surrounded by open countryside with views towards the River Deben. Rosemary Cottage is the first of a small cluster of houses. The house extends to approximately 4 feet of the southern boundary of the plot adjacent to Elm Cottage and sits on the boundary of a PROW to the north.

Permission was granted to extend substantially the house under Planning Application C/12/1396 – this included a new first floor balcony, extending approximately 19 feet beyond the rear elevation of the house.

The Planning Officer's report states that the large balcony area was initially a concern but the extensive tall hedging along the southern boundary provided sufficient screening to prevent views from the proposed balcony into the neighbour's garden.

A condition was imposed to ensure that the screening between the two properties should not be removed in order to prevent direct views into the neighbour's garden resulting in a loss of privacy.

Waldringfield Parish Council believes that such screening should remain in place to protect the amenities of the neighbouring Elm Cottage.

Application DC/20/2710/FUL now seeks to remove this stretch of tall hedging, some 30 feet in length, and replace it with a wooden fence and trellis at a height of 11 feet. (A photo in the application pack shows a mock-up of a single panel applied to the northern boundary for illustration purposes.) The reason given in the application is that this entire stretch (30 feet) of hedging is diseased and dying.

We have set aside the ownership/responsibility issue that the applicant raises as we understand that boundary issues are not covered by planning.

Waldringfield Parish Council **objects strongly** to this application for the following reasons:

The removal of the hedging will cause significant loss of privacy to the main sitting-out area and much of the garden of the neighbouring Elm Cottage. This would be contrary to policy DM23 – Residential Amenity.

The proposed 30 feet length of 11-foot-high fencing is not a suitable alternative as it would be a very ugly and overwhelming structure in any surroundings but particularly in this rural location in the AONB. It would be contrary to policy DM21 - Design: Aesthetics.

Both Waldringfield Parish Council and East Suffolk Council wish to actively support biodiversity and habitat. Removing hedging and replacing with wooden fencing on this scale provides a hostile environment for wildlife and is therefore contrary to policy DM27 – Biodiversity and Geodiversity.

A wooden fence of 11 feet high would be subject to strong winds, the concrete supports would require foundations of significant depth to prevent such a fence from becoming unstable.

# Waldringfield Parish Council

In addition, the attached report of the Parish Tree Warden states that the existing hedge is currently about 13 feet high and consists mainly of privet. She does not agree that the stretch of 30 feet needs to be replaced on the grounds of being dead or dying. Her observation is that a stretch of only 6 feet or so appears dead, the remaining stretch of approximately 24 feet of hedging appears green and healthy and therefore the proposed scale of the removal is not justified.

Waldringfield Parish Council recommends that only the dead stretch (approximately 6 feet) of the hedge nearest to the house should be removed and replaced with mature hedging troughs which are readily available and would grow rapidly to provide the necessary screening.

In addition, the Parish Council agrees with the Tree Warden's recommendation to:

- i) remove the edge row of paving slabs to allow a better root run for the remaining and new section of the hedge and
- ii) reduce remaining hedge height by 3 feet to encourage it to bush out and make it easier to trim.

Kind regards,



Rebecca Todd,  
*Parish Clerk*