

18 December 2012

Dear Ms Jeakins,

Thank you for your email and for giving me the opportunity to explain the reasons behind the additions to the body of the garden fence at 13 Oxford Road.

We have endeavoured to make a garden which is secluded and secure in the small space available. In order to soften the boundary fence we have planted climbing plants along its length: rambler or climbing roses at each post and clematis in the intervals between. After their first year, these plants are now reaching their upward limit and we wish to tie them in to horizontal supports to complete their shape. We considered wires, but decided in favour of 2"x1" horizontal battens as a kinder support for the growing stems. We have therefore attached a line of two battens between the posts as you have seen. We are confident that the attached stems and foliage will conceal the battens as the plants continue to grow.

These climbing plants are an important addition to the garden, which has very limited open planting space and have been chosen for their long flowering season and their foliage interest. In many places they will grow together with the rose structures helping to support the climbing clematis.

A further important consideration was the need for increased security on that boundary with the construction by our neighbour of a passageway along its length to the rear of the properties of our two neighbours to the south in Oxford Road. This also incidentally gives access to the rear gardens of three properties behind the area in Marion Close. This metre wide path is unlit and provides a potential secluded access route to these properties for intruders. There is a gate at the Oxford Road end, but it is rarely closed and is low and unlockable. After the third attempted burglary at our home a while ago (two of which occurred behind the locked side gate to our front door), we were visited by the police security team and advised to raise the fence along our boundary next to the passageway to provide more security. The battens which are now in place will certainly help with that. We have, in addition, fitted a burglar alarm with sounders front and back at the suggestion of the police.

I hope that this helps to clarify the reasoning behind the fence structure as it now stands.

Yours sincerely,

Michael J Allen O.B.E

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