

The Louisa Lilley Almshouses

Design and Access Statement for a new boundary fence at the Louisa Lilley Home Abbey Road Wellingborough Northamptonshire .

The Louisa Lilley Homes were built in 1930 as Alms Houses by Miss Louisa Lilley, the daughter of the Lilley Boots and Shoes manufacturing family who were also part of the Lilley and Skinner national shoe shop chain .

Fourteen bungalows were provided at Wellingborough and six at Irthlingborough. The homes are now run as a housing association and charitable trust by a board of Trustees who administer the homes in accordance with the wishes of the late Miss Lilley . The homes are for elderly people who are in need of the type of accommodation provided – each resident must meet that criteria.

When the homes were built the site was enclosed on the two sides abutting Abbey Road and Doddington Road by a low brick wall topped by iron railings . The railings were subsequently removed as part of the war effort in World War II . Since then bushes have been allowed to grow up behind the low brick wall giving an element of privacy and security. These have now in parts ceased to provide the security and privacy required and the trustees plan to have them cut back to make more garden available for the residents . There has also been an ongoing problem with litter and rubbish being thrown over the low wall into the gardens .

In order to increase the security for the benefit and wellbeing of the elderly and disabled residents it was originally proposed to erect a close boarded timber fence on top of the low brick wall around the two sides of the site abutting the public roads , however this did not find favour with the local authority and the planning application which was validated on 22rd March 2021 was withdrawn . The trustees , taking advice from the planning officer, have subsequently decided to make an application for hooped topped railings . The maximum height of the railings will be 1.5 metres with an average height of 1.35 metres . As the low brick wall varies in height from 200mm to 600mm at the corner due to the slope of the ground and is stepped at the front , it will be necessary to vary the height accordingly between 1.35 and 1.5 metres in height above the wall .

The provision of the railings will give more security , enabling the shrubs to be properly managed and a hedge to be planted behind the railings as necessary . It will also enable gates to be fixed at the two pedestrian access points should it become necessary to lock the site for added security .

There are no actual access issues as the two pedestrian access points to the site will remain unchanged .

(Revised 23rd July 2021)