

Crime Prevention Changes to Boundary Wall



Ref No: 539-1-2023

For: [14 Clifton Green](#)
[York](#)

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. On Tuesday 28 November 2023 a site visit was conducted at 14 Clifton Green York with the resident Mr. Lindon. The purpose of the visit was to discuss changes that could be made to the brick boundary wall of 14 Clifton Green where it abuts to the Love Lane alleyway, with the aim of improving safety and security.
- 1.2. As part of a proposed planning application Mr. Lindon wishes to rebuild his section of the brick wall that abuts to the Love Lane alleyway, so that it does not collapse and potentially cause injuries to a legitimate user of the alleyway. He would also like to include low level lighting within the wall to the alleyway side to improve the safety of its users, and enhance the security to his property,

2. Planning Policy Context

- 2.1. A strong legislative and policy framework exists for considering Community Safety as part of the planning process.
- 2.2. Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion – for example through the use of attractive, well-designed, clear and legible pedestrian and cycle routes, and high-quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas. (Section 8 - Promoting healthy and safe communities, paragraph 92b).
- 2.3. Planning Practice Guidance on Design reminds practitioners that local authorities are duty bound to adhere to Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and exercise their functions with due regard to their likely effect on crime and disorder and do all that they reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder. Furthermore, practitioners are also reminded that the prevention of crime and the enhancement of community safety are matters that a local authority should consider when exercising its planning functions under the Town and Country Planning legislation.
- 2.4. Taking proportionate security measures should be a central consideration to the planning and delivery of substantive retrofits. (Ref ID: 26-011-20140306 para 011).

3. Assessment

- 3.1. The brick wall is approximately 2 metres high; the bricks and mortar are in poor condition and there is also a bow in the wall. The top of the wall has broken glass pieces imbedded into it. There are no signs to warn of the broken glass. Recently intruders have climbed over this wall with the intention of committing burglary. It was noted that a brick wall further up the alleyway has collapsed.



- 3.2. The Love Lane alleyway from Clifton Green to Clifton Dale is narrow with high walls on each side. It twists and turns making it impossible to assess whether there is a threat further up the alleyway. It does not have any street lighting. It is considered that it would not be safe for women and girls to use when it is dark.



4. Advice and Recommendations

- 4.1. It is accepted that light pollution may be a consideration; however, lighting or the lack of it can have a significant impact on crime and the fear of crime.
- 4.2. It should be noted that low level lighting does not project sufficient light at the right height and distorts the available light due to the 'up-lighting' effect; making it difficult to recognise facial features and as a result can cause an increase in the fear of crime. Low level lighting is also susceptible to deliberate or accidental damage.

- 4.3. It is recommended that a lighting scheme should be installed to the boundary wall of 14 Clifton Green where it abuts to Love Lane as part any future planning application. Vandal resistant fittings should be used and positioned out of reach. This lighting does not need a high lux level, as long as it is positioned at a height to cover all areas without creating shadows.
- 4.4. It is also recommended that the broken glass imbedded into the top of the wall is replaced with a recognised security measure. There are various materials and methods that can be used to prevent climbing over a wall. For example, there are non-aggressive roller spinner systems. Roller cups are designed to be too large to get a handgrip on. The cups are threaded onto a central spindle and rotate independently to form an unstable barrier, making it difficult to climb.



5. Conclusion

- 5.1. It is acknowledged that 14 Clifton Green is within a conservation area. However, the above advice and recommendations are intended to ensure that the residents of 14 Clifton Green and legitimate users of Love Lane are provided with a more secure and safe environment by reducing the opportunities for crime and antisocial behaviour to occur. This will accord with the core principles and design objectives set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and national planning guidance outlined above.