

Statement in Support of Retrospective Planning Permission

I am writing to support my application for retrospective planning permission for the cat-proofing system that has been installed in my garden.

The primary purpose of this system is to ensure the safety and welfare of my cats. Cat-proofing is widely recommended by animal welfare organisations and veterinary professionals who advocate enclosed outdoor spaces as a safe alternative to free roaming. This approach protects cats from common hazards including road traffic, injury, theft, and conflict with other animals, while also preventing them from entering neighbouring properties or impacting local wildlife. As such, the development aligns with principles of responsible pet ownership and community consideration.

Cat-proofing systems rely on a certain height and inward facing angled features to prevent cats from climbing and escaping. If it were to be reduced in height, it would significantly compromise its effectiveness, potentially allowing the cats to escape and exposing them to the risks the system is specifically designed to prevent.

In planning terms, the barrier is lightweight and unobtrusive, and does not result in any loss of natural light into my garden or neighbouring properties. It does not obstruct views or negatively affect neighbouring properties in terms of outlook, privacy, or amenity. It has been installed entirely within my property boundary and does not create noise, disturbance, or overshadowing. As such, it has no adverse impact on neighbours or the wider streetscape.

It is also relevant to note that the cat-proofing system is not a permanent structure in the conventional sense. It is a lightweight, reversible installation that can be removed without any lasting alteration to the property. Should I move house, it would be taken down. In my opinion it sits within a grey area in planning terms, as it does not represent a fixed or permanent form of development typically associated with works requiring permission.

In summary, the cat-proofing system is a proportionate and well-considered addition that delivers clear animal welfare and community benefits without causing harm to neighbouring amenity or the character of the area. I respectfully request that retrospective planning permission be granted on the basis that the development is proportionate, unobtrusive, and in line with responsible pet ownership.