

Ref: DM/26/1460 & DM/26/1461

Personal Statement & Letter of Objection to the proposed landscaping alterations to the rear of Mulberry Cottage, Old Place, High Street, Lindfield, RH16 2HU

From: Mrs Sarah Tavaré, White Lodge, Old Place, High Street, Lindfield, West Sussex RH16 2HU

4 July 2026

We are delighted by our Lindfield life since relocating here 18 months ago and especially our move to Old Place, which is a major source of joy to us. We bought into a unique and historical gem and we're proud to be a part of it and to uphold its values and history. We live at White Lodge, which is linked to Sundial Cottage and in turn to Mulberry Cottage. We share a beautiful brick paved courtyard that runs from the side of White Lodge and in front of the rear of Sundial and Mulberry and on into the archway between Turret House and Archway House. White Lodge was the former carriage house to the main house and Sundial & Mulberry Cottages were the stable block.

The rear courtyard featured in the sale particulars of White Lodge show uninterrupted views of this space, of which we own up to the boundary of Mulberry. We were quite satisfied by the property searches and Covenants on this particular area that guaranteed it would remain as such with no building or structures permitted or any unsightly or disruptive items allowed (including hanging out washing), whilst allowing us our right of access at all times.



(JACKSON-STOPS 2024)

We were therefore puzzled when we moved into White Lodge that planters had been placed by Mulberry at either end of their property to denote their boundaries but as newcomers we were hesitant to raise an objection without referring in more detail to the Covenants and were rather reticent in approaching our new neighbours to address this matter, which is not to say we were happy about it.

Now with a toddler in tow, Mulberry are keen to domesticate their area at the rear of their property and wish to completely re-visualise an area of historic significance by turning half of it into a lawn and thus removing half of the bricked area and furthermore, dividing the area permanently by the erection of a wall at the gated end of the courtyard and furthermore, from what can be gleaned from the hidden wording, another wall to be erected between Mulberry and our boundary, in order to keep the young toddler contained. It cannot be argued sensibly that any of these proposals are 'reversible' and all of which destroy our own joy and vista and enjoyment of this area, which is equally important to us as their wishes. Additionally, I object unreservedly to the proposed positioning of an air sourced heat pump at the boundary to our property. It is in direct contravention to the Covenant of "anything of a permanent nature whatsoever", plus, the associated noise is totally unacceptable to us and to other neighbours to whom we have spoken. (Perhaps it could be repositioned at the far side of their property well out of view, where no neighbours can see it or hear it?)

We would have welcomed & appreciated the opportunity for a conversation with Mulberry of their intentions regarding their 'minor landscaping' proposals, which are, in fact, 'major' proposals. A conversation to discuss the matter would have imparted good will and neighbourliness, where all parties were afforded the opportunity to have their feelings acknowledged and included. As this application stands, I am in heartfelt disagreement with the proposals and all that this will bring with it. This area of Old Place is not intended to be either domesticated, 'pocketed off' or divided, as it ruins the whole footprint and integrity of the history of the carriage house, stables and the run through from the entrance at the archway; the planters alone with their unsightly, leggy plants do harm enough to impair this beautiful and historic view and should be removed.



JULY 2026

I would like to reiterate that Covenants exist to preserve the historical value and original footprint of the courtyard area and that White Lodge has a right of access across the extent of the courtyard. I can provide documentation should they be required but Mulberry will also be aware of these.