

Email sent to parish council shortly after the burglary in July 2025 owing to our security concerns.

Fwd: Request for Support – Proposed Fencing at Rose Cottage, Cuckfield 

James & Ali Clark <rosecottagerh17@gmail.com>
to kate.west ▾

Wed, Jul 30, 2025, 9:11 PM ☆ 😊 ↶ ⋮

Dear Noemi and Councillers

We’re writing to seek the Parish Council’s support regarding a new planning application and listed consent for Rose Cottage on the High Street.

As part of our recent application for planning permission and listed building consent, we had initially hoped to include closeboard fencing around the boundary of the property. However, during early discussions, the planning officer advised that this element would likely not be supported, particularly in relation to the boundary along London Lane and the high street. Based on this advice, and following guidance from our heritage architect, we removed the closeboard fencing element from the application so that the wider renovation works could begin.

Unfortunately, our property was broken into last weekend. When the police visited the site, they suggested that the very open and exposed nature of the garden likely contributed to the theft, as it allowed clear views into the property and the works being carried out. Understandably, we are now feeling extremely vulnerable and very concerned about the security of our home and possessions.

Since the incident, I’ve found it very difficult to relax. We’ve temporarily moved into a cabin on-site to try to deter any further intrusions, but I’ve barely slept since — every noise and passing scooter makes me anxious that someone may be returning. It’s been a genuinely unsettling and distressing experience, and I hope you can appreciate the emotional toll this has taken.

In the planning officer’s communications, it was noted:

“The London Lane boundary... it is proposed to remove existing chain link fencing and timber vehicle gates, and replace these with further close boarded fencing, and five-bar style timber gates. Although the existing chain link fencing to this elevation is not attractive, it does at least allow views into the site of the attractive gardens around the Cottage.”

While we understand the desire to preserve the openness of the village’s character, we feel strongly that our right to secure our home must take precedence over the preference for passers-by to have a view into our private garden.

We are therefore planning to submit a retrospective application that includes 6ft close board fencing around the garden that we are going to install to protect our home. To minimise the visual impact, we will position the fence behind the existing hedgerow along both the London Lane and High Street boundaries, and commit to replanting and maintaining the hedging as already agreed in our approved application with the agreed list of species so that the outward appearance remains green and in keeping with the rural nature of the village.

We hope the Council will understand our position and be willing to support this application. If helpful, we would very much welcome the opportunity to discuss the proposal further at your next meeting or at another convenient time either in the hall or on site.

Many thanks for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,