

APPLICATION NO: 20/01680/FUL		OFFICER: Mr Daniel O Neill	
DATE REGISTERED: 29th September 2020		DATE OF EXPIRY : 24th November 2020	
WARD: College		PARISH:	
APPLICANT:	The Applicant		
LOCATION:	British Telecom, Oriel Road, Cheltenham		
PROPOSAL:	New sliding vehicle access gate to Oriel Road, replacement of existing gate to Vittoria Walk and new metal railings on top of existing low level brick wall to achieve an overall height of 1.6m, as well as 1.2m railings opposite Wolseley Terrace.		

8 Vittoria Walk
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL50 1TW

Comments: 19th December 2020

As a resident of Vittoria Walk I object to the BT's planning application to erect a fence 'to reduce anti-social behaviour occurring on the British Telecom site.' This will not resolve the problem, it will simply displace the YMCA residents and make the place look ugly in the meantime. Both BT and the YMCA need to collaborate to make a more long-term solution that will not negatively impact our neighbourhood.

M R Ratcliffe Consultants Ltd
Suite 1 To 6 and 10 To 13
Wolseley House
Wolseley Terrace
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL50 1TH

Comments: 21st October 2020

Thank you for notification of BT alterations to land adjacent to 1-4 Wolseley Terrace.

Attached is my response which makes clear the detrimental effect BT's application would have on this locality (attached).

I would also like to emphasise that buildings 2, 3 & 4 Wolseley Terrace are occupied by a charity The Isbourne Foundation, which receives rate relief. The Foundation provides an education centre which is open 24/7 in non-Covid times. There is a constant flow of disabled students with various degrees of mobility to the Centre, both on foot and vehicular. This ill-thought out plan would severely impact on the disabled and less fortunate people within our community.

In addition to the necessary vehicular disabled access, there are circa 100 self-employed tutors and therapists who teach in the educational Centre at various times of the week

and also require on numerous occasions vehicle access to load and unload teaching materials.

On the question of security, I am conscious that a small number of principally young people from the YMCA in Vittoria Walk congregate under the sheltered area on occasions. I can assure you that at no time have any of the Isbourne Team or students felt threatened, in fact quite the contrary because they are always most amenable. I acknowledge that there can be a small degree of drug abuse, but surely an organisation the size of BT could provide disposable facilities at minimal cost as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility to their local community. Having occupied Wolseley Terrace since 1983 - some 37 years - I am sadly unaware of any local contribution which BT has made locally to our town but I stand to be corrected of course.

I have asked other tenants to respond as quickly as possible but with the 'dispersed' nature of homeworking, I am sure you can appreciate there is a delay. Both the BID and Chamber of Commerce offices are not yet officially open.

Lastly, I am content to speak to the planning committee either during their visit or at their planning committee meeting, given the opportunity.

Cheltenham Chamber Of
Commerce
2 Trafalgar Street
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL50 1UH

Comments: 21st October 2020

I am writing on behalf of Cheltenham Chamber of Commerce both as a Chamber but also as an occupier of Wolseley Terrace to register our objection to this application.

While we do have every sympathy with BT's problem we do not consider that anti-social behaviour can be solved by the construction of an extremely unattractive metal fence. At best it will only move the problem to another site it will not solve it. The solution must surely be at source and not by building a fence.

We hope that application which only detracts from the area will be refused.

Isbourne Foundation
4 Wolseley Terrace
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL50 1TH

Comments: 21st October 2020

I write on behalf of The Isbourne Foundation, a registered charity who occupy No 2-4 Wolseley Terrace and would confirm my full support for the submission from M R Ratcliffe Consultants.

In addition I would like to raise the need for maintenance vehicle access, not only for ease of access but to deliver and collect materials. As I'm sure you are aware these Regency buildings, I believe some 170 years old, require constant on going attention to keep them in pristine condition.

The Isbourne Education Centre which is all about wellbeing for both the individual and our community is proud of its location and appearance in our town centre being close to our iconic Town Hall and situated within Cheltenham's Conservation Area. Having talked at length to my staff, tutors and therapists we are horrified of the inappropriate approach being undertaken by British Telecom. One can only imagine the damage to the Regency environment of this terrace should planning permission be granted.

I understand the reason for this application is to combat antisocial behaviour. However I would seriously question whether this is an appropriate course of action which only moves the alleged antisocial behaviour to another location. Surely an organisation the size of British Telecom has some form of social responsibility to its communities and it would not take much imagination to find a satisfactory resolution.

As Mr Ratcliffe alluded to in his response I am also able to confirm that at no time over the past 20 years have the occupants at the Centre felt threatened, in fact quite the contrary.

I hope that common sense will prevail and that this application is rejected.