

Application Reference Number:	2026/0075.		
Application Type:	Full.		
Proposal Description:	<i>Retrospective planning permission for the installation of a metal security fence incorporating two pedestrian gates.</i>		
Location:	<i>Horizon Community College, Dodworth Road, Barnsley, S70 6PD.</i>		
Applicant:	<i>Amey Communities.</i>		
Third-party representations:	<i>None.</i>	Parish:	
		Ward:	<i>Dodworth.</i>

Summary:

The applicant is seeking retrospective planning permission for the erection of a 2.4-metre-high twin mesh galvanised fence incorporating two single leaf pedestrian gates fronting the northern entrance of Horizon Community College.

In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 11 of the NPPF (2024), the proposed development is considered in the context of the presumption in favour of sustainable development.

This retrospective proposal for security fencing incorporating pedestrian gates provides clear public safety and security benefits to an existing educational establishment reflecting the aims of paragraph 96(b) and 102(a) of the NPPF. Paragraph 101 of the NPPF requires local planning authorities (LPAs) to give significant weight to the importance of upgraded public service infrastructure and Local Plan Policy I2 supports this. As such, significant weight is attributed to the principle of this development in favour of this proposal.

This proposal is also considered acceptable regarding impact on residential amenity, visual amenity, highways and public rights of way, and biodiversity and geodiversity which are attributed significant, moderate and modest weight in favour of this proposal.

Consequently, for the reasons given above, and taking all other matters into consideration, planning permission should be granted.

Recommendation: Approve with Conditions.

Site Description

This application relates to Horizon Community College off Dodworth Road to the south-east of Penny Pie Park. The surrounding area is principally residential with other educational and associated sports facilities located to the east and south. A 2.4-metre-high twin mesh galvanised fence with two single leaf pedestrian gates has been erected to the front of the northern entrance just off an adjacent car park and pick-up and drop-off zone.

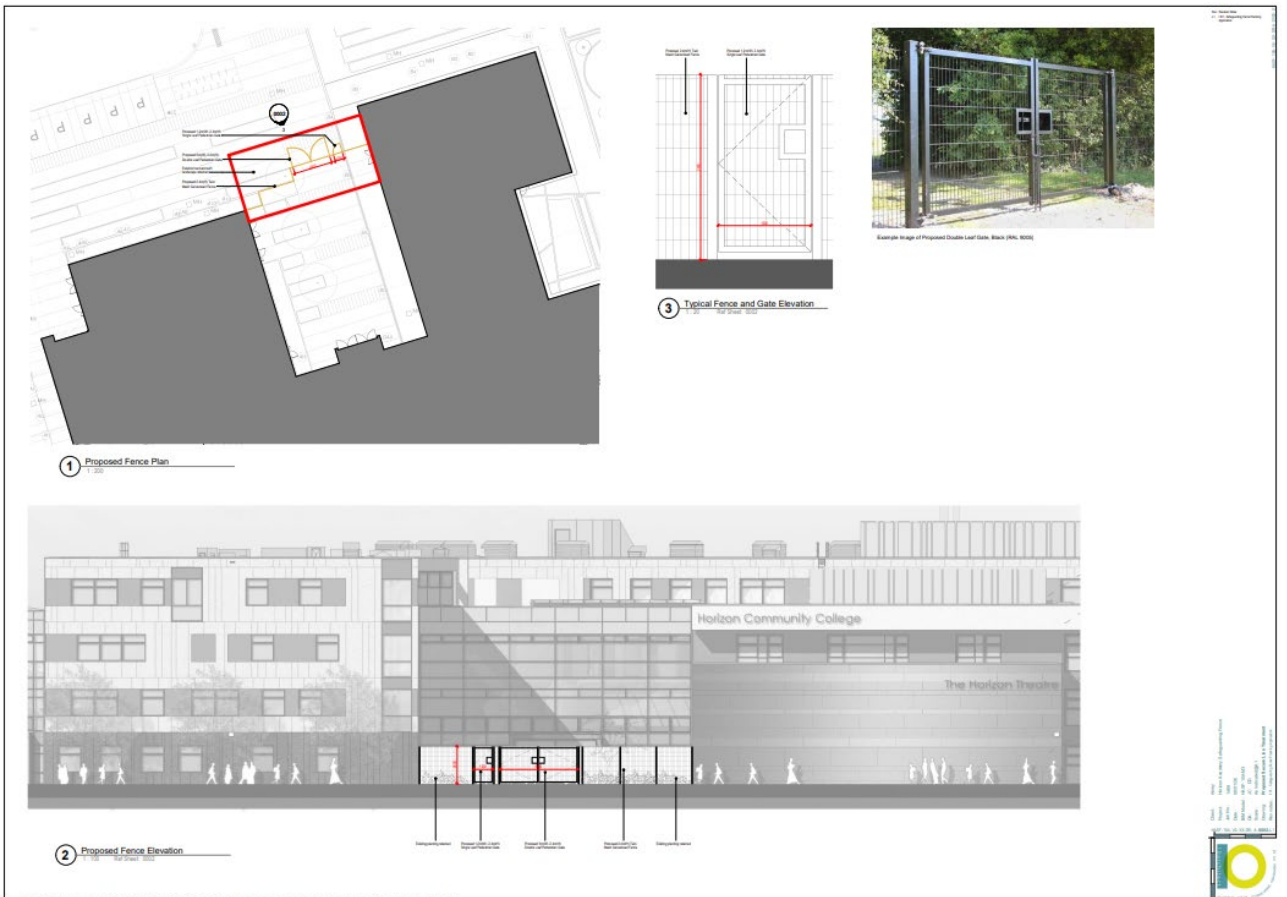
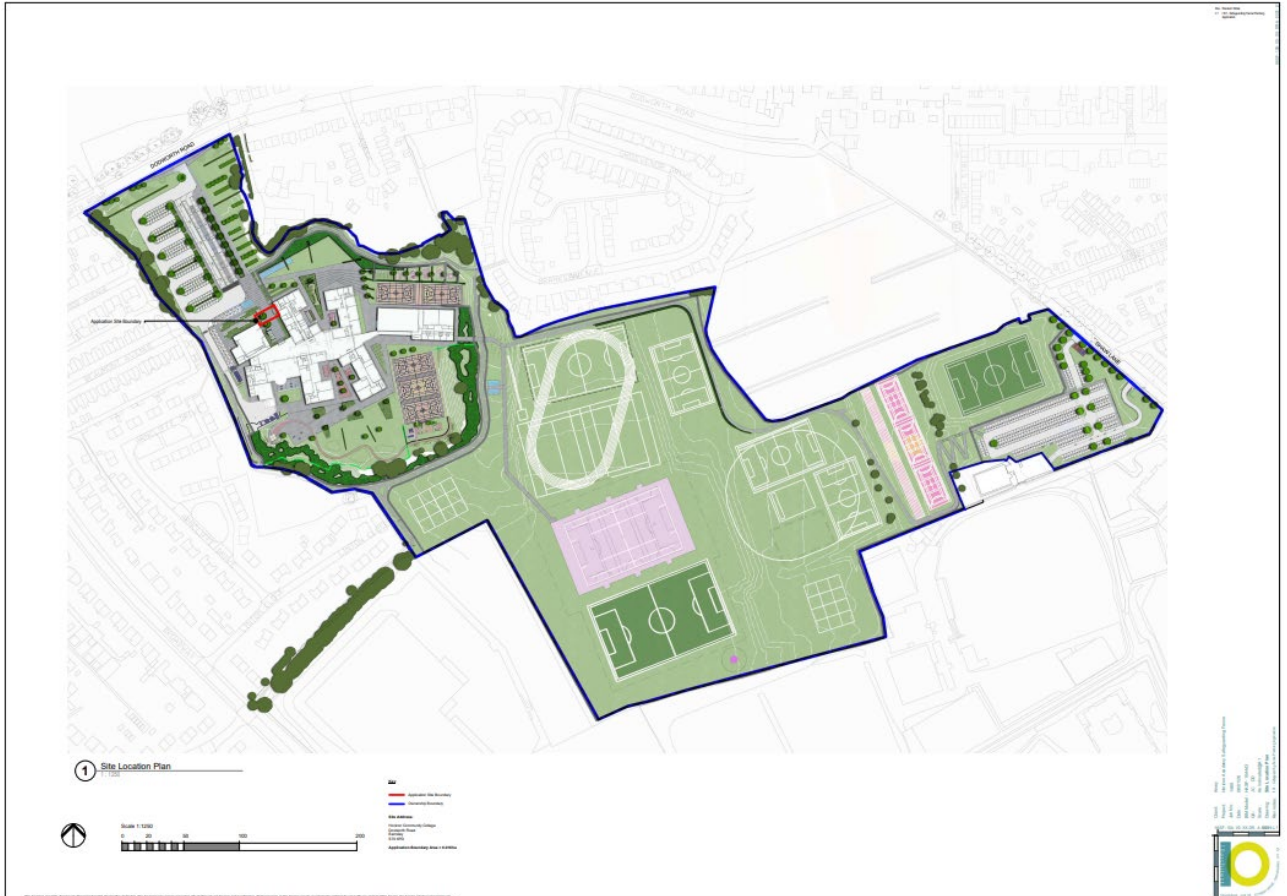
Planning History

There is an extensive planning history associated with the development site. However, the most recent and relevant applications are:

2009/0451	Demolition of existing Holgate school and petrol filling station and development of a new Advanced Learning Centre (Outline) (Resubmission) (amended access arrangements).	Approved.
2009/1614	Variation of condition 2 of planning consent 2009/0451. (Demolition of existing school and petrol station and erection of Advanced Learning Centre).	Approved.
2010/0901	Demolition of existing school and erection of an Advanced Learning Centre (Reserved Matters of application 2009/0451).	Approved.
2011/0828	Installation of pole mounted CCTV cameras.	Approved.

Proposed Development

The applicant is seeking retrospective planning permission for the erection of a 2.4-metre-high twin mesh galvanised fence incorporating two single leaf pedestrian gates fronting the northern entrance of Horizon Community College.



Relevant Policies

The Development Plan

Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires development proposals to be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The Development Plan for Barnsley consists of the Barnsley Local Plan (adopted January 2019).

The Local Plan review was approved at a full Council meeting held 24th November 2022. The review determined that the Local Plan remains fit for purpose and is adequately delivering on its objectives. This means, no updates to the Local Plan, in whole or in part, are to be carried out ahead of a further review, which is due to take place in 2027, or earlier, if circumstances require it.

The development site is allocated as urban fabric within the adopted Local Plan which has no specific allocation. The retrospective proposal is located within the school grounds of the community college. The following Local Plan policies are relevant in this case:

- *Policy SD1: Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development.*
- *Policy GS1: Green Space.*
- *Policy GS2: Green Ways and Public Rights of Way.*
- *Policy I1: Infrastructure and Planning Obligations.*
- *Policy I2: Educational and Community Facilities.*
- *Policy D1: High quality design and place making.*
- *Policy GD1: General Development.*
- *Policy POLL1: Pollution Control and Protection.*
- *Policy T4: New Development and Transport Safety.*
- *Policy BIO1: Biodiversity and Geodiversity.*

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the National Planning Practice Guidance

In December 2024, the Government published a revised NPPF which is the most recent revision of the original Framework, first published in 2012 and updated several times, providing the overarching planning framework for England. The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how they are expected to be applied. The NPPF must be taken into account in the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans and is a material consideration in planning decisions. The revised document has replaced the earlier planning policy statements, planning policy guidance and various policy letters and circulars, which are now cancelled.

Central to the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development (paragraph 10) and plans and decisions should apply this presumption in favour of sustainable development (paragraph 11). There are three dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental; each of these aspects are mutually dependent. The following NPPF sections are relevant in this case:

- *Section 2: Achieving sustainable development.*
- *Section 4: Decision-making.*
- *Section 8: Promoting healthy and safe communities.*
- *Section 9: Promoting sustainable transport.*
- *Section 12: Achieving well designed places.*
- *Section 15: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment.*

The National Design Guidance (2019) is a material consideration and sets out ten characteristics of well-designed places based on planning policy expectations. A written ministerial statement states that local planning authorities should take this guidance into account when taking decisions.

Supplementary Planning Guidance

In line with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, Barnsley has adopted twenty-eight Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) following the adoption of the Local Plan in January 2019. The following SPDs are relevant in this case:

- *Biodiversity and Geodiversity (Adopted March 2024).*
- *Open Space Provision on New Housing Developments (Adopted May 2019).*
- *Parking (Adopted November 2019).*
- *Planning Obligations (Adopted November 2019).*
- *Trees and Hedgerows (Adopted May 2019).*
- *Walls and Fences (Adopted May 2019).*

The adopted SPDs should be treated as material considerations in decision making and are afforded full weight.

Representations

This application has been advertised in accordance with Article 15 of the Town and Country Planning Development Management Procedure (England) Order 2015 (as amended).

Any neighbour sharing a boundary with the site has been sent written notification and the application has been advertised on the Council website.

A site notice was posted nearby which expired 27th February 2026.

No representations were received.

Consultations

No statutory or non-statutory consultees were consulted on this application.

Planning Assessment

For the purposes of considering the balance in this application, the following planning weight is referred to in this report using the following scale:

- Substantial
- Considerable
- Significant
- Moderate
- Modest
- Limited
- Little or no

Principle of Development

The applicant is seeking retrospective planning permission for the erection of a 2.4-metre-high twin mesh galvanised fence incorporating two single leaf pedestrian gates fronting the northern entrance of Horizon Community College and within the existing school grounds.

The Horizon Community College school grounds are included on the Council's green space register.

Local Plan Policy GS1: Green Space establishes that proposals that result in the loss of greenspace, or land that was last used as greenspace, will not normally be allowed unless: an assessment shows that there is too much of that particular type of greenspace in the area which it serves and its loss would not affect the existing and potential green space needs of the borough; or proposal is for small scale facilities needed to support or improve the proper function of the greenspace; or an appropriate replacement greenspace of equivalent or improved quality, quantity and accessibility will be provided which would outweigh the loss.

This retrospective proposal does not result in any loss of green space, nor does it affect the existing and potential green space needs of the borough. Therefore, there is no requirement for replacement green space provision nor any financial contribution to compensate for loss in this instance according with Local Plan Policies I1: Infrastructure and Planning Obligation and GS1: Green Space, the Open Space Provision on New Housing Developments SPD and the Planning Obligations SPD.

Paragraph 96(b) of the NPPF states *'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'*.

Paragraph 101 of the NPPF states *'To ensure faster delivery of other public service infrastructure such as adult education and university facilities, local planning authorities should work proactively and positively with promoters, delivery partners and statutory bodies to plan for required facilities and resolve key planning issues before applications are submitted and significant weight should be placed on the importance of upgraded public service infrastructure when considering proposals for development.'*

Paragraph 102(a) of the NPPF states *'planning policies and decisions should promote public safety and take into consideration wider security and defence requirements by anticipating and addressing possible malicious threats and other hazards (whether natural or man-made), especially in locations where large numbers of people are expected to congregate and this also includes appropriate and proportionate steps that can be taken to reduce vulnerability, increase resilience and ensure public safety and security.'*

Local Plan Policy 12: Educational and Community Facilities supports the need and the provision of schools, educational facilities and other community facilities.

This retrospective proposal for security fencing incorporating pedestrian gates provides clear public safety and security benefits to an existing educational establishment reflecting the aims of paragraph 96(b) and 102(a) of the NPPF. Paragraph 101 of the NPPF requires local planning authorities (LPAs) to give significant weight to the importance of upgraded public service infrastructure and Local Plan Policy I2 supports this. As such, this retrospective proposal is acceptable in principle subject to the consideration of the following matters.

The principle of development is attributed significant weight in favour of the proposal in accordance with the NPPF.

Impact on Residential Amenity, Health, Safety and Pollution Control

This retrospective proposal does not contribute to significantly increased levels of overshadowing, overlooking and loss of privacy or reduced outlook, and given the development has been undertaken there would be no significant detrimental impact on the health or the quality of life of those living and/or working in the locality.

Paragraph 1.2 of a submitted Design and Access Statement (DAS) states that the development was installed in response to identified safeguarding and security requirements, in order to protect pupils, staff, and visitors within the operational educational site.

The retrospective proposal reflects the aims of paragraphs 96(b), 102(a) of the NPPF.

Paragraph 96(b) of the NPPF states '*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*'.

Paragraph 102(a) of the NPPF states '*planning policies and decisions should promote public safety and take into consideration wider security and defence requirements by anticipating and addressing possible malicious threats and other hazards (whether natural or man-made), especially in locations where large numbers of people are expected to congregate and this also includes appropriate and proportionate steps that can be taken to reduce vulnerability, increase resilience and ensure public safety and security.*'

Considering the above, the retrospective proposal provides clear public safety and security benefits to an existing educational establishment with little to no impact on the residential amenity, health or the quality of life of those living and/ or working in the locality. Significant weight is therefore attributed in favour of the proposal.

The proposal is therefore considered to comply with Local Plan Policy GD1: General Development and Local Plan Policy POLL1: Pollution Control and Protection and is considered acceptable regarding residential amenity.

Impact on Visual Amenity

This retrospective proposal adopts a scale and appearance that is typical of this type of development and given its location fronting the northern entrance of the community college and being significantly set back from the highway of Dodworth Road, it does not appear as an overtly dominant or prominent structure in the street scene and has a negligible impact overall.

Considering the above, this is considered to weigh moderately in favour of the proposal.

The proposal is therefore considered to comply with Local Plan Policy D1: High Quality Design and Placemaking and is considered acceptable regarding visual amenity.

Impact on Highways and Public Rights of Way

The proposal is not considered to be prejudicial to highway safety because existing off-street parking and access arrangements within the development site would not be affected and the proposal would not result in a requirement to provide additional spaces. Moreover, this retrospective proposal does not affect a nearby public right of way footpath (363).

Considering the above, this is considered to weigh modestly in favour of the proposal.

The proposal is therefore considered to comply with Local Plan Policy T4: New Development and Transport Safety and Local Plan Policy GS2: Green Ways and Public Rights of Way and is considered acceptable regarding highway safety.

Impact on Biodiversity and Geodiversity

In England, Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) became mandatory from 12 February 2024 under Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021) and means developers must deliver a BNG of 10%. This proposal falls within the de minimis exemption and is therefore not subject to BNG in this instance.

The retrospective proposal does not affect existing landscaped areas within the school grounds.

Considering the above, this is considered to weigh modestly in favour of the proposal.

The proposal is therefore considered to comply with Local Plan Policy BIO1: Biodiversity and Geodiversity and is considered acceptable.

Planning Balance and Conclusion

In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 11 of the NPPF (2024), the proposed development is considered in the context of the presumption in favour of sustainable development.

This retrospective proposal for security fencing incorporating pedestrian gates provides clear public safety and security benefits to an existing educational establishment reflecting the aims of paragraph 96(b) and 102(a) of the NPPF. Paragraph 101 of the NPPF requires local planning authorities (LPAs) to give significant weight to the importance of upgraded public service infrastructure and Local Plan Policy I2 supports this. As such, significant weight is attributed to the principle of this development in favour of this proposal.

This proposal is also considered acceptable regarding impact on residential amenity, visual amenity, highways and public rights of way, and biodiversity and geodiversity which are attributed significant, moderate and modest weight in favour of this proposal.

Consequently, for the reasons given above, and taking all other matters into consideration, planning permission should be granted.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve with Conditions.

Justification

Statement of compliance with Article 35 of the Town and Country Development Management Procedure Order 2015.

It has not been necessary to make contact with the applicant to request amendments to the proposal during the consideration of the application, as it was deemed acceptable.

Due regard has been given to Article 8 and Protocol 1 of Article 1 of the European Convention for Human Rights Act 1998 when considering representations, the determination of the application and the resulting recommendation. It is considered that the recommendation will not interfere with the applicant's and/or any objector's right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence.