

From Fay Ross-Magenty [REDACTED]

Planning application PL/2026/02918 replacement of existing fencing and gates

I support the proposal to fit an access control system to the Lockeridge school gates. However, I strongly oppose the plan to completely replace the iron railings for the following reasons:

- The gates could be modified without replacing all the railings.
- **The raising of the height of new railings to 1.8 metres** means they will be above the eye-level of most people, thus obstructing the view of the school. which is an attractive Victorian design by Ponting, the well-known architect and former resident of Lockeridge who built several neighbouring houses and the pub.
- **The proposal runs contrary to Core policy 58 of the Lockeridge conservation area statement** concerning the conservation of the historic environment. The railings, together with the lime trees and sarsen kerbstones, form a distinctive and pleasing feature in the very centre of the village and conservation area which is in keeping with the 1870's school. They are a dominant visual feature at the junction with the Overton road.
- **The railings are in good condition** and replacing them will in no way do anything to 'proactively meet the education needs of the existing community' required in the **NPPF**. This could be done more effectively by not wasting the money on this part of the proposal.
- **The photographs in the application** (taken with a fish-eye lens on a dark, wet winter day) suggest the railings are becoming an eyesore. This is not the case.
- **The assertion that the railings are not 'historical cast iron'** implies they are of no aesthetic value or importance. This point is irrelevant since the railings are an example of **historical hand-made wrought iron** that carries an honest value of its own.
- It is the small details of a built environment that give a place its own character and atmosphere. The fact that other schools in the area have changed their railings does not mean that has to be done in Lockeridge. **Section 16 Paragraph 216 of the NPPF** specifically allows for the consideration the value of non-designated heritage assets like these railings within their historical context.
- **The application fails** illustrate the position or design of the proposed new gates or fence posts
- **This is not a minor alteration to the centre of the village.** It requires wider consultation and more time for debate. **The village design statement** says that any changes to the High St should receive particular attention. To replace the existing confident handmade railings railings with a higher, flimsy and apologetic modern alternative is an unnecessary degradation of the historical environment and I urge you to refuse it.