

To: The Planning Officer at London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames

Application Number: 21/0776/FUL

Proposal: Installation of soft net above boundary fence

Date: 12 May 2021

Response to Representations

Dear Madam / Sir,

This letter is in response to objections raised by neighbours during the neighbour consultation period

This letter aims to address concerns raised by neighbours in regards of three material planning considerations.

1. ***Objection to the proposal on the grounds of visual amenity & design, appearance & materials*** (references documents FS330185586, FS330186701, FS330188162, FS330190003 all dated 28 April 2021)

The key issue raised by the objection letters is that the proposed materials (metal and net) do not match the materials, look and feel of the existing walls and fences "because all of the partition walls and fences between properties are made of mostly wood and some brick. "

Response:

If the majority consensus is that wooden bars / poles will match better the existing look and feel of properties rather than metal poles, I am happy to use wooden bars.

I tried using wooden poles and found them to be more prominent in a negative way. The wood makes a stronger contrast against a light blue sky compared to the light grey colour of metal.

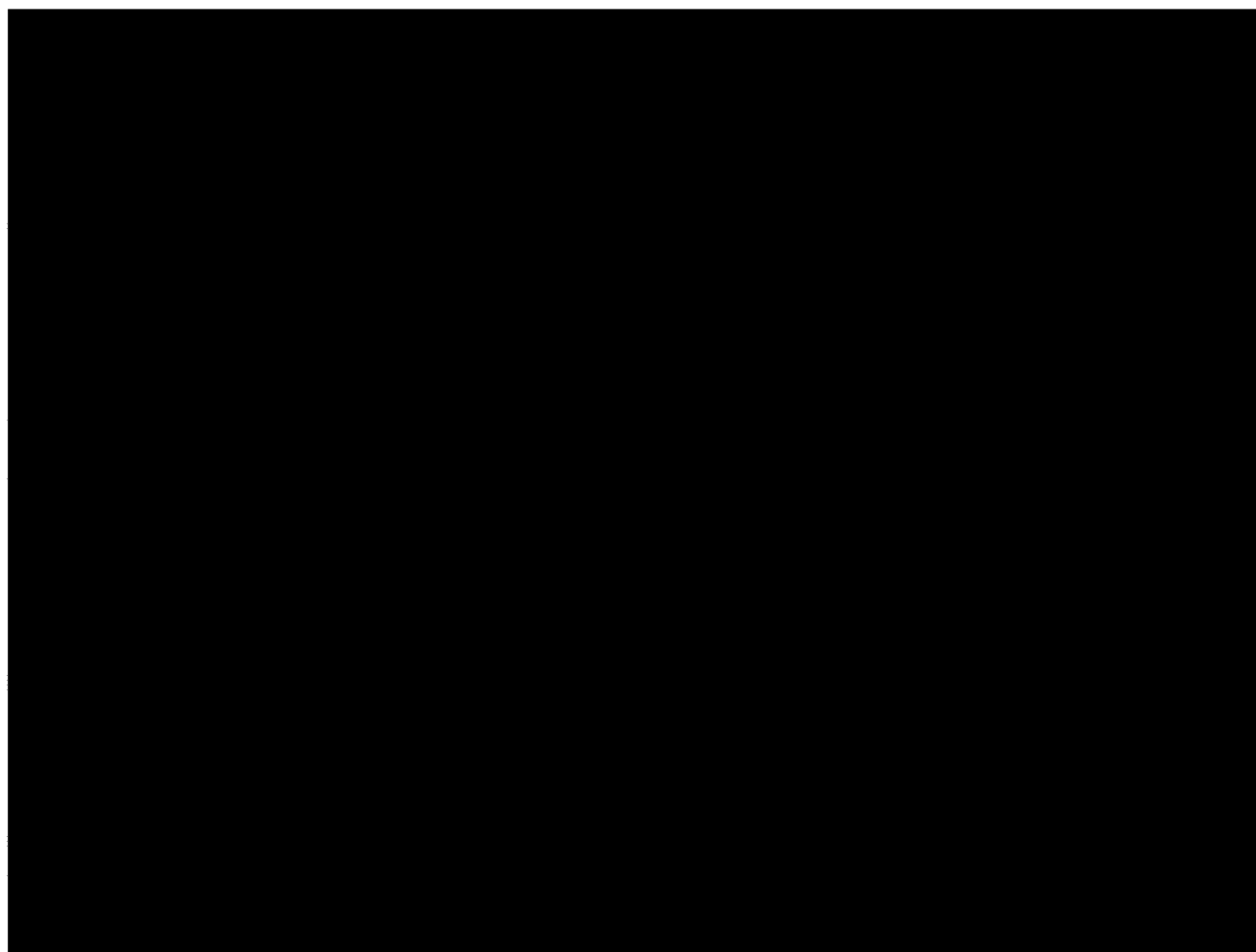
However, I am happy to replace the metal poles with wooden ones

2. ***Objection on the ground of safety risk to the occupants of 3/172 Kew Road, Richmond, TW9 2AS as the structure is seen as unstable*** (reference document FS330186701)

Response

I cannot see the attached picture to understand why the structure is being seen as unstable.

However, please see below a close up picture of the mechanism by which the poles get attached to the fence



It can be seen that there is a safety measure to ensure that the grip doesn't slide back and loosen the grip of the pole to the fence. In addition the product has been sold as extension to walls and balconies so I believe it is reasonable to assume that safety consideration have been taken into account when the product was designed.

In case the metal poles are considered unsafe by specialists then wooden bars will resolve the safety concern as these will get screwed along the full height of the fence and this will practically make them unmovable

3. *Objection on the grounds of loss of light* (reference document FS330185586)

Response

I am unclear whether the objections is against the current height of the poles or to the capabilities of poles to be extended up to a height of 2 meters. I will address both scenarios

a) Loss of light in extension of poles scenario

Quote from objection letter : *“Loss of light*

Height - As per the applicants’ statement in the planning permission application the structure (poles) can be extended to up to 2 metres.

The Current height of the poles is 107 CM added to the 200 CM (6 Ft 2 inches) fence 295 CM (9 Feet 8 inches). When extended, the fence will be 407 cm, and the plants on the trellis will totally cut the light.”

Firmly it is NOT my intention to extend the poles to a height of 2 meters. At NO point in my application I have indicated that the height of the poles will be anything than the minimal of 100 cm. The poles will NEVER be extended.

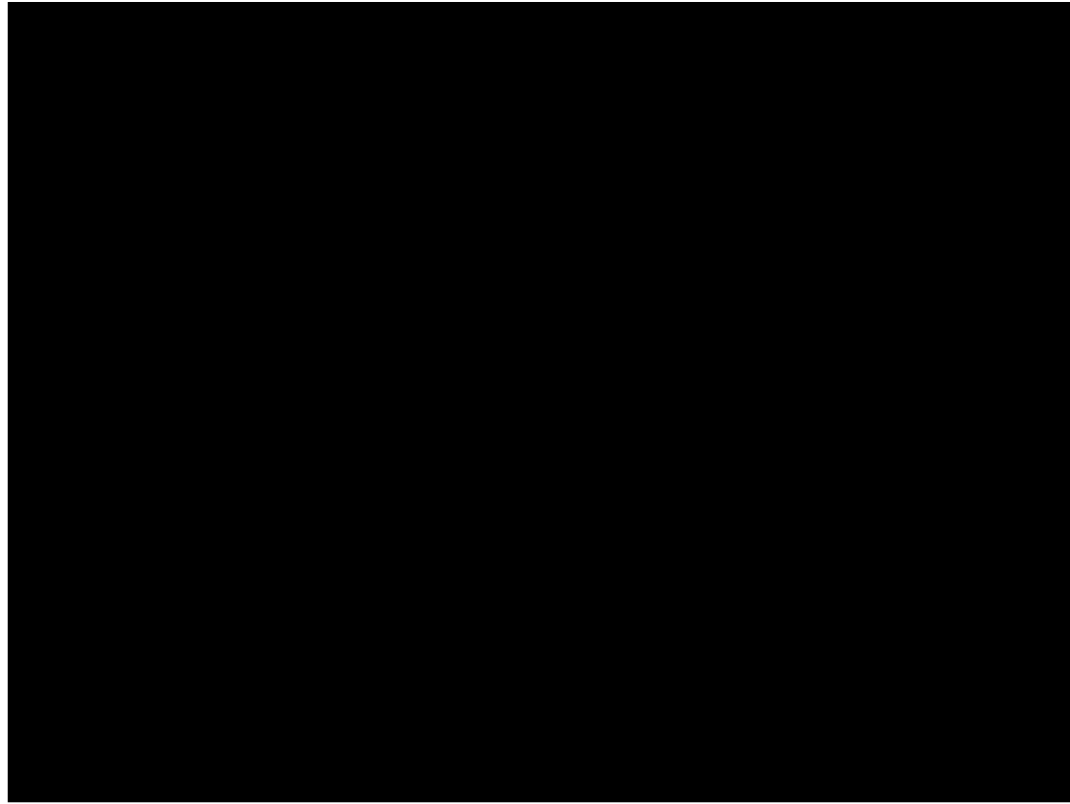
Note: the pole overlaps with the fence at the point of attachment so that a 107 cm pole raises at most 100 cms above the fence

b) Loss of light with 100 cms poles scenario

I consider loss of light a serious objection, however, my investigation indicates that there is no impact on the level of light in neighbours garden due to the following

- The net allows light to go through. If growing climbing plants are an issue I am happy to change the plan
- The shrubs in the garden of flat 3 172 Kew Road (neighbour’s flat) along the boundary walls at the bottom half of the garden are about 3 meters tall....consequently a net in that part of the garden has absolutely no impact on lighting
- The shrubs in flat 3 172 kew road along boundary wall have a depth of about 80 cms. If there is any shade created by the net then it will be fall on the shrubs

I have tested this by taking pictures at different times of the day as below

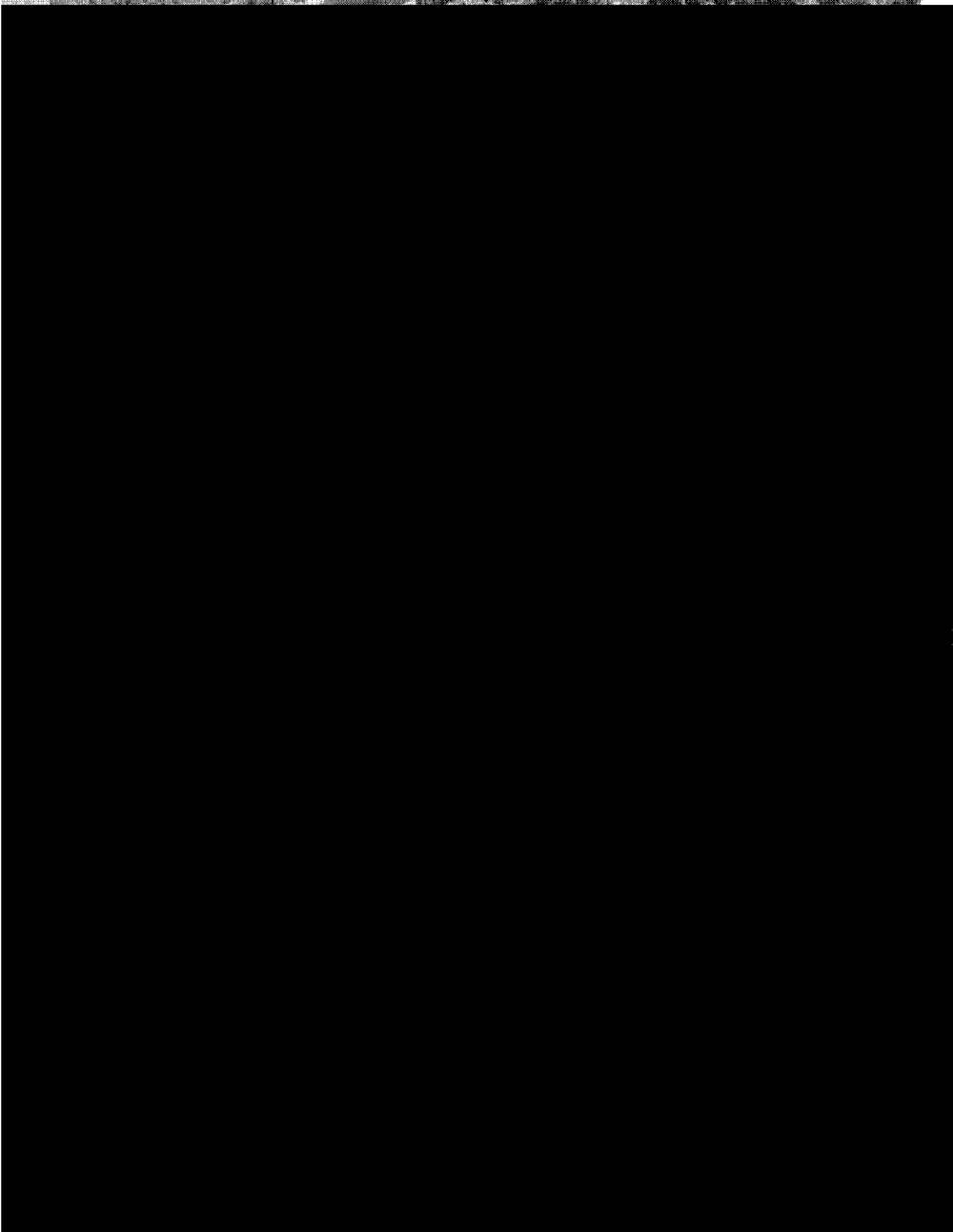


Boundary fence and net
on top of fence

Flat 6 is on the right hand
side

Flat 3 is on the left hand
side

Pic taken at 11.47am on
26 April



Boundary fence and net
on top of fence

Flat 6 is on the right
hand side

Flat 3 is on the left hand
side

Pic taken at 14.52 on 26
April

Conclusion

Thank you for your consideration

If you have any questions or require any clarifications please do not hesitate to contact me

Kind regards

Elitza Bonina

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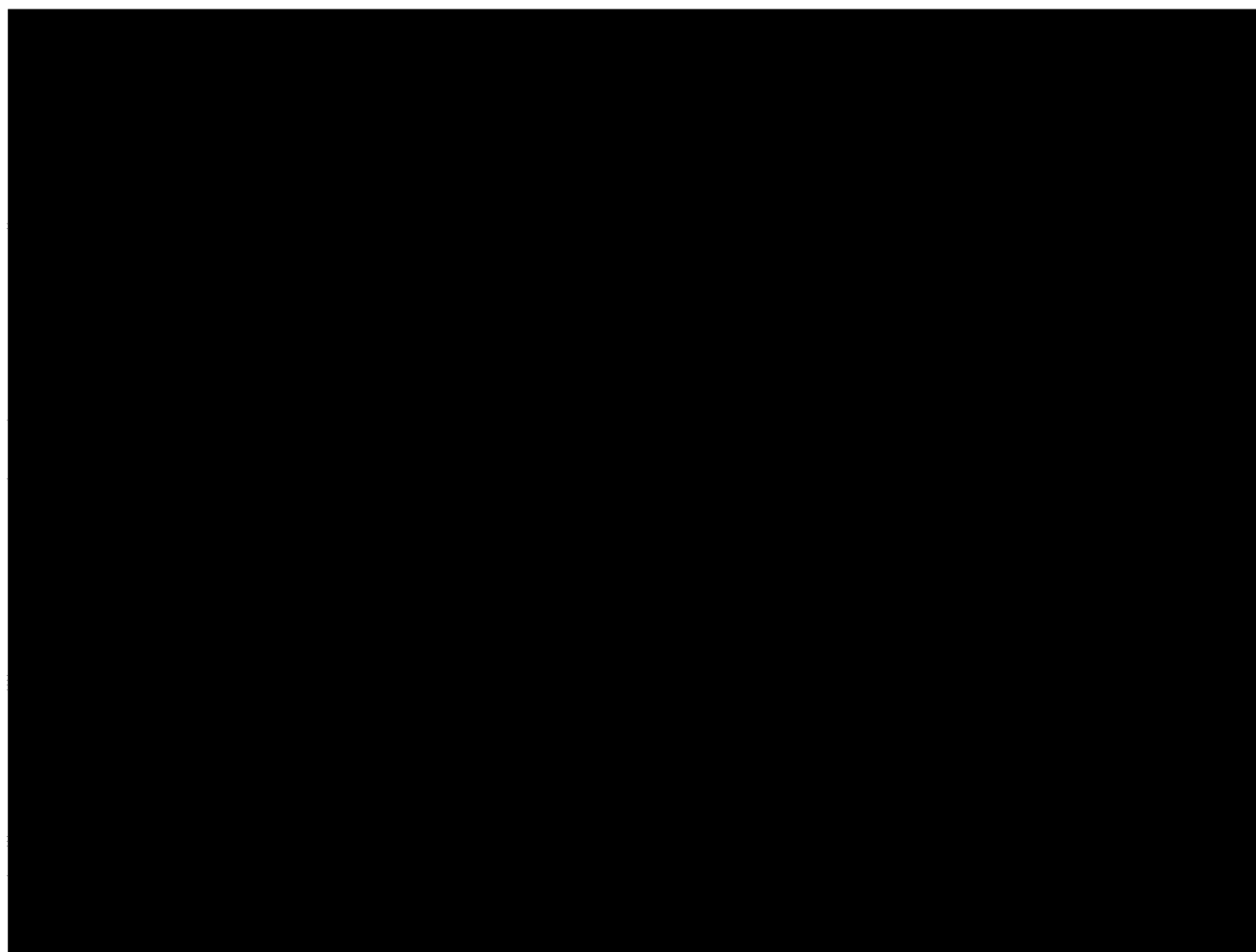
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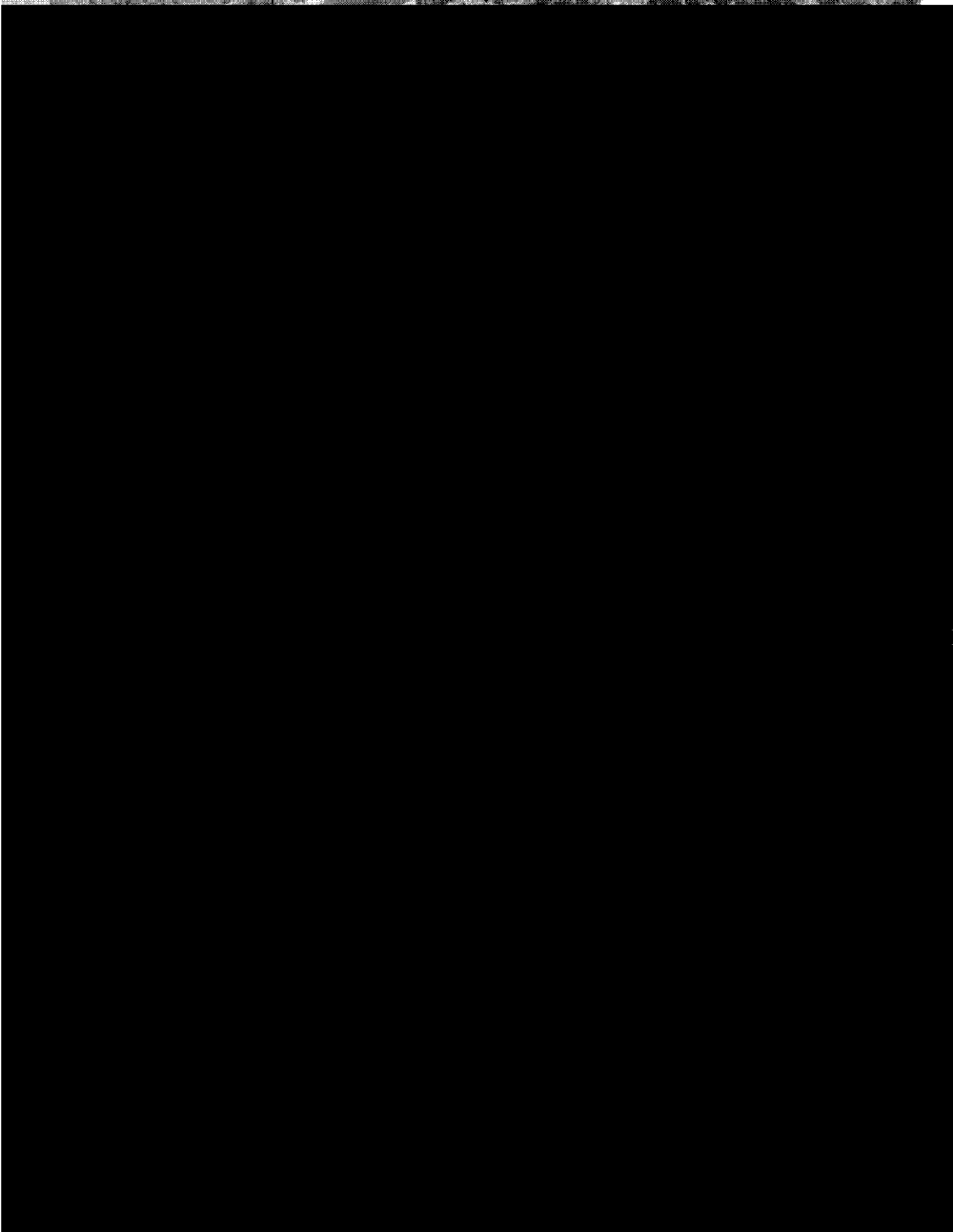


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