
Costs Decision

Site visit made on 9 June 2026

by D A Hainsworth LL.B(Hons) FRSA Solicitor

an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

Decision date: 10 July 2026

Costs application relating to Appeal Ref: APP/C3430/C/25/3365688 Land at The Stableyard, Mile Flat, Greensforge, Kingswinford DY6 0AU

- The application is made by Paul Round under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, sections 174 and 322 and Schedule 6, and the Local Government Act 1972, section 250(5), for a full award of costs against South Staffordshire District Council.
 - The appeal was against an enforcement notice alleging "the construction of close board timber fence along the western site boundary as well as between the dwellings' gardens, on the Land in the approximate position indicated by the solid blue line as shown on Appendix 1 ("the Fence")".
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Costs decision

1. The application is refused.

Reasons for the costs decision

2. The Government's planning practice guidance ("the Guidance") indicates that the parties to an appeal are expected to behave reasonably to support an efficient and timely process and that where a party has behaved unreasonably, and this has directly caused another party to incur unnecessary or wasted expense in the appeal process, the party may be subject to an award of costs.
3. The agent acting for all the applicants has submitted the same claim for costs in this application as he has in the costs applications relating to appeals APP/C3430/C/25/3365691 & 3365692. The Council have pointed out that the information submitted in support of the claims relates only to the fence described in appeals APP/C3430/C/25/3365691 & 3365692 and not to the fences described in the heading above. I agree.
4. I have therefore found that unreasonable behaviour resulting in unnecessary or wasted expense, as described in the Guidance, has not been demonstrated in relation to appeal APP/C3430/C/25/3365688 and that no award of costs is justified in connection with this appeal.

D.A.Hainsworth

INSPECTOR