

APPLICANT'S SUPPORTING STATEMENT

Dear Sirs,

Re: [REDACTED] Erw Fair and Dan Y Coed, Tirbach Road, Ystalyfera, SA92HX

Thank you for attending a site meeting on Wednesday 6th August at the above address, it was very much appreciated and believed it to be beneficial to all parties.

One of the reasons for the meeting was to discuss our reasons for wanting to place our gates at the edge of our property yet within the boundary and to highlight the problems that we are encountering and would continue to encounter if the gates were placed further away from the road.

Tirbach Road used to be a very quiet road with a minimal amount of traffic, and when we submitted our first planning application it only included Erw Fair as that was the only property we owned at the time. However, since then, we have purchased Dan Y Coed which included the land and the garage at the base of the two properties.

The problem with the parking began when Amman Tawe Partnership took over the clinic on Tirbach Road and was granted permission to create a permanent car park at its side. Vehicles would park in the allocated spaces and reverse into the wooden fence that we had erected alongside the car park on the property of Dan Y Coed, and there have been numerous times that we have had to repair the fence. We then approached the Estate Department within the Health Board who have very kindly installed 'U' shaped bollards in the hope of protecting our property, yet again, vehicles continue to reverse into the bollards causing damage to our fence.

As for the gates, the reason why we would like to have them fitted as near as possible to the edge of the road is because drivers are using our driveway as a lay by or for parking their vehicles to go to their medical appointments or to a funeral. There are two Funeral Directors located on the road in front of Tirbach Road.

We have had medical staff sit within our boundary with laptops, when they want to work outside in the sun.

We have mothers who attend baby clinic park in our drive, change the baby's nappy and leave the dirty nappy on our drive.

We have dog walkers who let their dogs come onto our drive to foul and leave it because according to the owner, they are not permitted to come onto private property to clean up after their dogs.

We have drivers who try to turn their vehicles around not even realising what they are knocking into or dragging behind them.

We have placed a chain on bollards across the entrance with 'No Parking' signs over the years which no one pays any attention to, in fact, last year one driver removed the sign so that he could park there.

When we approach the drivers in a civil manner to ask them to move, the abuse we receive is unbelievable, along with the various names that we are called, and are told that the driveway is part of the public road, and that there are no double yellow lines in place. This is one of the reasons that our neighbour at Ty'r Waun, Millborough Road have issued a malicious complaint against us to the council.

We can understand that the visibility is an issue and appreciate that there is a safety factor to be considered, however, due to the fact that there is no pavement in place and cars are parked at each side of the driveway blocking any form of visibility, there is no means possible to gain any visibility. Dan Y Coed has always had thick, high conifers running along the side of the garden, adjacent to the clinic car park and when we purchased this property we replaced the conifers with a wooden fence, there is also a lamp post situated on the road at the base of our boundary. There has never been any form of visibility as you drive out of the two properties. Plus, both properties have turning areas within the driveway to eliminate reversing onto the road.

The road leads to a dead-end and vehicles are often double parked, making it impossible for residents to have deliveries and it has been known that the rubbish truck cannot gain access to collect the rubbish.

We approached Councillor Susan Grounds for help and advice on what would be the best way to resolve this problem, and she agreed to meet us on 26th June at our property, on that day she witnessed how chaotic the traffic can be in that area.

In fairness, the council officers who attended the meeting suggested a couple of options, which were good options which we would have considered if we lived elsewhere. Ystalyfera is increasingly having drug problems and the front of the clinic is attracting a lot of drug/alcohol users to sit and congregate in the doorway and steps of the clinic and we do not want to create a planting section between the two gates as this could become their new sitting or a trash area. We want to be able to resolve the problem permanently not divert or attract other problems.

We have lived at Erw Fair for approximately 27 years and have enjoyed living here until the last few years where the volume of traffic has increased and for these last few years we seem to encounter problems and abuse on a daily basis, it is sad to say that society has gone that no one considers others or show any respect towards other people's property, and we always have to pay to have any damage repaired or replaced.

We ask that you please consider all the factors when you consider our request to place the gates on our properties along side the road, as this is the only way to stop people believing that our driveway is a lay by or a parking space.

Yours faithfully,

Mr and Mrs David Howes

13th August 2025