

Public Statement: Martin Harrison

I purchased 8 Fiske Close on a part buy / part rent scheme from Greenfields Housing Association, which is now Eastlight, Braintree. It was the only way I could afford a home to be able to stay in Saffron Walden.

My house was under construction, so I was shown a finished property on part of the estate as an example.

I had to put a non refundable deposit of £500 to secure the right to purchase 8 Fiske close.

At the time no one mentioned the fact that the substation would be directly behind my back garden. It was only later in my purchase that the substation was mentioned, but we were assured that Bloor Homes were to put a sound reducing fence around it, so the noise would be minimal.

In August 2019 about 6 weeks before moving in, we actually got to see the house for the first time. We were shocked to see a 12 foot fence at the bottom of our garden, as we didn't realise the actual size of it.

Anyway we moved in mid-September 2019, just a few months before Covid started. Initially the substation wasn't too loud, just an eyesore, but as time went on it just seemed to get louder, especially at night. It has totally stopped us from enjoying our garden as the constant humming is very loud. It's impossible to sit in for any length of time, as it gives you a headache!!! We can't even have our living room window open in the summer because the noise is so bad.

I can't understand why planning permission was granted to build homes so close to it, and we feel let down with the fact that Bloor didn't honour their agreement to the soundproofing.

As a part owner, I feel if I ever wanted to sell and move on, it would be very difficult as the substation has totally ruined the garden experience. Had I known what I know now, I wouldn't have purchased this house. I feel let down by all parties that allowed this to happen.

Thank you, Martin.