

Malcolm Carter

From: Doc Martin <iamdocmartin@gmail.com>
Sent: 04 November 2015 15:14
To: coordinator@ashtonkeynesneighbourhood.com
Subject: Pre-Submission Consultation Representation - Car Park P5 / Doc Martin / AGAINST

Importance: High

Dear Coordinator,

Further to my previous correspondence, I should like to add the following :

PROPOSAL TO BUILD CAR PARK P5

As one of the Gosditch residents who frequently suffers the foul-mouthed language and glares from parents driving their children up Gosditch with an over-bearing air of entitlement while I am trying to gain access to my own home ("I only live here, you know !"), I would love to believe that a proposed P5 car park would be the answer to my prayers and an end to the hostility exhibited my many arrogant parents who twice a day seem to suffer brain freeze and humour bypass.

However, unfortunately I see overwhelming reasons why the installation of a car park at P5 will do nothing to relieve the current situation, or reduce the risk of injury to children. Therefore, I have to go on record that I DO NOT AGREE WITH THIS POLICY.

1. I don't doubt the sincere objectives for this car park in this position, but history shows us that it will not deter parents parking 250 metres from the school, even further than they do now.
2. They do not bother walking presently and will be less inclined to in future.
3. Why should parents on the other side of the village drive past the school to park here at P5 and then walk to school and back to P5.
4. Houses backing onto the car park and footpath would suffer loss of rural view to the back / north.
5. In recent months neighbours have been alerted to potential burglars using the Mill Field / Taylors Field to look at Dairy Farm, Pebble Lodge and Drummond House houses viewed from the back during daylight hours.
6. In the past, the Parish Council bought a strip of the Mill Field from Ted Taylor to build the white elephant footpath at the back of Dairy Farm bungalow and Pebble Lodge, at a cost to villagers of £14,000, a sum I pointed out at the time could very well have kept the village school in books and pencils for 20 years. In all the years it's been there, no-one's ever used it to get to the school - the school declined to 'man' the gate leading from the footpath into the back of the school.
7. Why would mothers, usually with a pushchair, opt to come off Gosditch at the join between Dairy Farm and the DF bungalow, over three styles (now 2) at the back of the bungalow and Pebble Lodge, then down the footpath back onto Gosditch, 3 sides of a rectangle, just to save 60 yards of Gosditch ? It was never going to happen and it never did. Equally, human nature being what it is, an extended footpath from a proposed P5 car park will also not be used - and the stiles are still there.
8. The Parish Council continued (and continue) to waste villagers' money by keeping the existing footpath cleared several times a year, as if it were meant to be a bowling green. Maintenance of such a footpath will be an additional financial burden to villagers for what will become an even larger white elephant than it is currently. We must learn lessons from the past.

9. On average once a year, ramblers have appeared along the existing footpath and asked us rather bemusedly why the footpath is there (!). You cannot change the laziness of human nature - parents will not park on the outskirts of the village at P5 only to walk along the footpath with toddlers and prams in the rain, over stiles.
10. For a number of years responsibility for clearing the existing path was passed to North Wilts District Council and when the man used to come to clear it he always grumbled about how pointless and futile the exercise was. Please don't compound this mistake made in 1980 by an even bigger one in 2015.
11. What about lighting the footpath ? Would the PC feel obliged to protect the non-existent parents in the wintertime by not only keeping the footpath pristine but lit ? Additional capital cost. Additional ongoing maintenance cost.
12. If the footpath were to be lit, what about the light pollution to all the houses backing onto it ?
13. Would the car park itself have to be lit ? If so, again a light pollution issue for neighbouring residences.
14. Overnighting vans, lorries and coaches would need to be dissuaded from parking at P5 and the only effective deterrent would be overhead gantry - not exactly in character with Ashton Keynes.
15. The green field would be lost forever and is a haven for wildlife and birds.
16. It would create a precedent for the adjacent Mill Field housing development plan, which next time round could claim that access from the B4696 exists already !
17. As an unsupervised car park next to residences, it would promote potential for unwelcome crime.
18. Parents will continue to drive down Gosditch to drop off children as there is nothing to stop them and they, sadly, are lazy by nature.
19. The proposed car park P5 exit onto the B4696 is extremely dangerous and the Wiltshire Highways planners have thrown it out on many occasions in the past. It will be difficult to negotiate at peak school and office/work start and finishing times combined with the possibility of cars queuing to enter and leave on this well-known 'rat-run' between the M4 and A419 and Swindon and Cirencester 'back-road'.
20. The Conservation Area Statement specifically addresses the issue of access off the B4696, as follows : **“Resist development and creation of accesses along the B4696 frontage . . . “**.
21. Detrimental outlook onto blind bends in both directions plus the noise for adjacent residents.
22. Increased security risk for adjacent residents who would have to erect tall fencing, thus spoiling the rural Cotswold view.
23. It was noted in the 1998 Village Plan that this B4696 area 'is a rather poor entrance to the village from this end' (p28).
24. Lorries and vans must also be deterred due to the high voltage electricity line running diagonally across it overhead.
25. This area frequently floods in winter due to the proximity of excess water unable to drain away.
26. Gordon Cleverly wanted to build on this site but was turned down 35 years ago for the same reasons stated above, particularly the dangerous entrance/exit. Since then traffic has multiplied several fold and is often used when A419 or main roads are diverted.

Kind Regards

Doc Martin
Pebble Lodge
Gosditch