

Matter 3 Written Statement – Mr Dennis Kidd (1187736)

Site H2.1- Elm Grove, Trowbridge

- 1) The Queen Elizabeth Field, came about as part of a legacy, to create grassroots, after the London Olympics, for sporting activities. With the following pledge. “This space has been protected forever, for your community, to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee”. Does this Council intend to break that pledge?

- 2) We need green areas in all towns and cities and this piece is the only one in the middle of an established residential area, for exercise, tranquillity and nature, rather than having to travel miles, which only adds to the current air pollution problems. It’s a rare luxury for children of this day and age. Don’t take it away from them, let everyone enjoy the abundant wildlife in the field. Foxes, badgers, frogs, toads, hawks, plus all the common birds, have been seen in the field. Is it right for this to be taken away, when everyone, including the government, is saying that we all need to exercise more?

- 3) It’s understood that £20k is available under an S106 agreement, from the development of the WWDC Offices, should this not be spent on up grading the playing equipment in the field?

- 4) The area is not maintained, drainage ditches need cleaning out, the grass is allowed to grow far too long, it’s then cut and left to rot, making it impossible to play on. It used to be maintained to a much higher standard, prior to 2009. **Photos showing the state of the field are available.**

5) The Council should have correspondence from 2004, saying that access to the site, via Wiltshire Drive would be very dangerous. The highways officer turned down access to the area, on two issues.

1). the possibility of overspill parking on the surrounding roads.

2). stated that the visibility, to the left, for emerging traffic did not meet the required standard.

To suggest that large Lorries and even more traffic, than was mentioned in the plans at that time, now be given access to the site, would surely not reach the required safety standards, would you not agree? Trees would also be destroyed in that area.

6) A record exists of 14 accidents on Wiltshire Drive, between Ramsbury Walk and the turning into Dursley Road. Speed related, pavements mounted, walls knocked down, collisions with parked cars.

7) Wiltshire Drive is currently seeing an increase in traffic, as more are using this as a rat run, from the town centre, to Bradley Road. It would see an even greater increase should all the proposals go forward.

8) Information says that Wiltshire Drive was purposely designed, with its bends to stop parking and speeding on this type of road. Supporters of the football and parents of children would park on the road, whilst attending the match or dropping/collecting their children from school. This will cause complaints and conflict with

residents, as the latter will find their roads and drive ways congested with cars.

- 9) Why after a long period of time, since a housing developer put a proposal forward, was it decided to put forward a plan that included a school and a change to the Queen Elizabeth Field? Who is financing the cost of building the school and what capacity would the school have?
- 10) We already have Holbrook school in the immediate area and several more within a mile, so another school would mean the majority of children would need to be brought in by car, from the other side of town to fill the school, all adding to extra congestion and pollution. The developer has already made provision in area 2 of his plan for a school site.
- 11) If the housing development part was to be granted, leaving the Queen Elizabeth II Field as it is. Would it not be more beneficial and make more sense, from a safety point of view, to start construction of the new road, from the roundabout at the KFC / North Bradley turning? This would enable all the heavy building traffic to go direct to the building site, the method used when the Paxcroft new development was started, rather than cause congestion, dust and dirt, passing through an already mature residential area, for the next 2 to 3 years. Not to mention the danger element.

Good evening everyone.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to raise the concerns of a large number of the people, who live in the locality of Elm Grove Farm and will be affected by the proposed building

plans. Also thanks to the people who helped gather the signatures, as well as the people who signed the petition.

The petition has been raised, not by Facebook or any media method, but by talking to people in the local area of the proposed site and producing a list of signatures, of people who are against the idea. A total of **348** signatures have been collected.

It was amazing how many people didn't have any knowledge of what could possibly happen in this planning for houses in the town, 90% to 95% knew nothing about it.

Can I just say that a much longer, more detailed version, will be handed over, so that it is available for the Inspector of planning to read and hopefully take into consideration.

The petition was based on the following:

- 1). The loss of our only green area, for children to play, people exercising and dog walkers to use.
- 2). The field became part of a legacy, after the London Olympics. It has been a recreational area for the past 30 years and people thought it would remain as such.
- 3). Increased traffic on Wiltshire Drive. At least 14 recorded accidents in recent years.
- 4). Large construction Lorries entering the field from Wiltshire Drive, during the adjacent housing development, prior to the school being built.
- 5). Do we need a new school? Schools are included in plans for the Yarnbrook to Hilperton development.

The Queen Elizabeth Field:

The field has not been well maintained over the latter few years by the County Council, grass not cut on a regular basis, left to rot when it was cut, both making it impossible to run around on. Not the condition a playing field should be kept in. I understand the Town Council have been trying to take over the maintenance of the field, but to no avail, now we possibly know why, The County wanted it for building on. Funny that in the later few weeks the grass has been cut a lot more often and the hedges have even been trimmed, the first time in years.

The government are always emphasising the need for people and especially children to get more exercise. Demand is growing from the public, as highlighted in the press recently.

I understand money is available under an S106 agreement, to be spent on up grading playing equipment. Let's see this carried out.

It's also a wild life haven, with lots of different birds and animals seen in the field.

Access to the field off Wiltshire Drive:

The County Council states that access is sufficiently large that it can be used for construction traffic.

I would totally disagree with this statement, Wiltshire Drive is at times a very dangerous road. There have been 14 accidents, between Ramsbury Walk and Dursley Road, 12 of which have occurred between Ramsbury Walk and Campion Dive, dead centre of these two roads, is the proposed entry to the field.

The accidents were varied, with pavements mounted, walls knocked down, collisions with parked cars, even a car hitting the front wall of a house and one demolishing a telephone junction box. Speeds of over 60mph have been officially recorded.

Wiltshire Drive is currently seeing an increase in traffic, as more are using it as a rat run, from the town centre, to Bradley Road and beyond. It would see an even greater increase should all the proposals go ahead.

A previous planning application was turned down by the Highways Officer, on three issues: a). the possibility of overspill parking on the surrounding roads, which in this case would be cars dropping and collecting school children. b). It stated that visibility, to the left, for emerging traffic did not meet the required standard. c). The site has insufficient frontage to the south-west to enable an access to be satisfactorily laid out incorporating the necessary visibility splays which are essential in the interests of highway safety.

The correspondence also said that overspill parking would cause complaints and conflict with residents, as the latter would find their roads and drive ways congested with cars.

Too suggest that large construction Lorries and even more traffic, than was mentioned in the plans at that time, now be given access to the site, surely this would not reach the present required safety standards.

Established trees would be destroyed in the access area, as it's not wide enough for large Lorries to pass through, without damaging the branches.

There is also a Public Right of Way footpath down the centre of the access area.

If and I say this with a big if, access was deemed necessary to the site, would it not make sense to build the proposed road for the new housing development first? Starting at the KFC roundabout and going through the development to join up with Dursley Road. Even access for a school could be provided by a turn off from the new road, thereby leaving the present entrance as a green area and eliminating the increased traffic problems on Wiltshire Drive. A method used when the Castle Mead new development was commenced.

Do we need a new school? In Council documents they are looking to deliver a two form entry primary school?

I think I'm right in saying that this would cover some 420 pupils, plus the necessary teachers, teaching assistants, cleaners etc. and a possible nursery attachment.

We already have several schools in the area, not all are fully subscribed.

Take the national figures for new schools, were they say that new houses generate 1 primary pupil for every 8 new homes built. Taking into account of the 360 new houses to be built in the immediate area, that's 45 pupils, not sufficient to demand a new school. To achieve full occupation, pupils would have to

be transported in, only adding to the already increasing traffic problems.

Noise levels.

The noise levels for houses backing onto the proposed football pitches would increase considerably, with 44 players, officials, supporters etc. shouting. Would floodlights be on the agenda next?

Mentioning noise, one house in Sorrell Close, adjacent to the proposals is run as a home for children with learning difficulties. The last thing they would want is the noise / disturbance of construction Lorries driving past They want calmness and tranquillity.

Thank you.

15 accidents down WILTSHIRE DRIVE, Trowbridge,

12 between the turnings into Ramsbury Walk & Campion Drive,

PLUS two accidents on the corner of Drynham road and Wiltshire Drive

PLUS one accident near the post box higher up Wiltshire Drive

since the road opened into Drynham Road. (Early 1990's)

Apart from three accidents, the rest have been caused by **SPEED** and **SPEED** alone.

NO warning signs to say there is a children's play area.

NO warning signs to say that children may be crossing the road.

NO warning signs to say there are bends in the road.

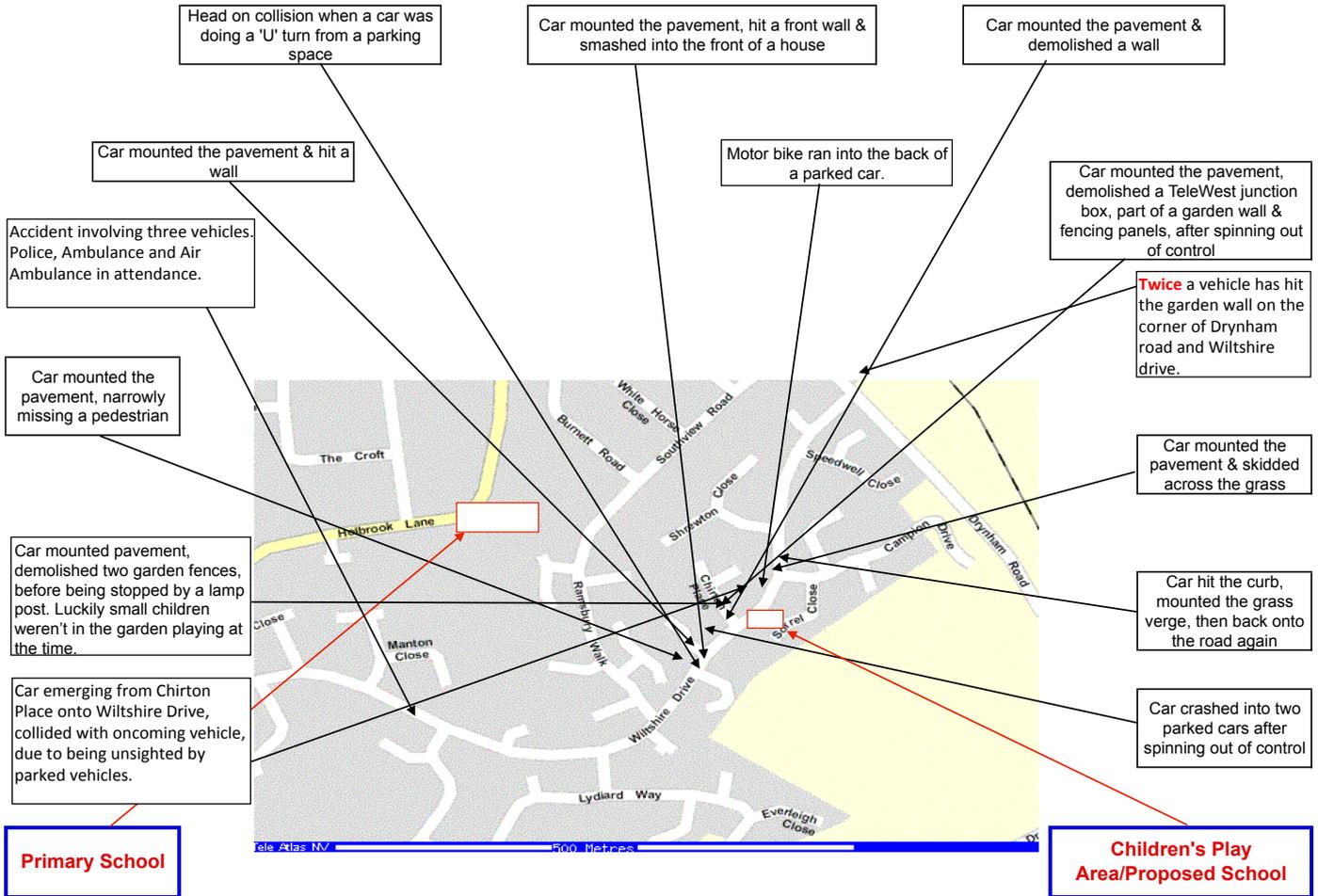
NO double yellow lines, to stop cars from parking where children are crossing to go to the play area.

The police have been in attendance at several of the accidents.

There have also been other accidents, on Wiltshire Drive, that I'm not aware of.

Wiltshire Drive is constantly being used as a through road from the centre of Trowbridge, to gain access to Bradley road, then out of Trowbridge on the Warminster road, thereby increasing the number of vehicles, using the road.

In eight of the accidents, cars mounted the pavement, someone could easily have been **KILLED**.



REQUIREMENTS FOR A SAFER WILTSHIRE DRIVE.

- ➔ Warning signs to say there is a children's play area.
- ➔ Warning signs to say that children are crossing, going to school.
- ➔ Central white line on the road.
- ➔ Warning signs to say there are bends in the road.
- ➔ Double yellow lines, to stop cars from parking where children are crossing to the play area.
- ➔ Speed ramps.
- ➔ Fencing at the entrance to the play area, to stop children running onto the road.

ALL of the above to help prevent further accidents and God forbid a fatality.

