

David Burridge
4 Croft Lane
Letchworth Garden City
Herts
SG6 1AP

FAO:

Planning Director/Chef Executive
Vincent Gorbing

Head of Planning/Chief Executive
Hertfordshire County Council

13 September 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

I have previously set out my absolute objection to the proposed development of the former Norton School Playing Field in Letchworth Garden City in my letter (attached) dated 27 November 2016 to Herts County Council, North Herts County Council, and The Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation.

Having attended the open day on 13 September 2017, my objection remains and in particular is alarmed even further on safety grounds with the proposal for access to be granted off Croft Lane and within the Conservation Area.

In summary, my objections are as follows:

- The very considerable harm/damage to the Croft Lane Conservation Area (this is accepted/acknowledged within the proposed development plans);
- The very significant harm/damage to the setting of Grade II listed buildings in Cashio Lane, Croft Lane & Norton Road;
- The breach of the legal covenant over the proposed land that restricts it's use for recreational use only;
- That Cashio Lane and Croft Lane are narrow lanes which were built for horses and carts not significant volumes of motor vehicles (currently not wide enough for two vehicles to pass each other in many places - with vehicles already having to back up onto Norton Road if a vehicle is coming out of Casio Lane). The lanes are not designed for existing traffic let alone:
 - Increased traffic levels by significantly increasing the level of houses requiring access via Casio Lane or Croft Lane;
 - The very significant safety issues that appear to have been ignored to in particular young children from The Grange (aged 4 to 11) who on a daily basis use Croft Lane as a cut through (there is no path for most of the lane) to and from Norton Infant school in Norton.
- The very significant increase to noise levels and massive disruption to the whole area in particular through the construction build phase (2 years +).

I find it unbelievable that the plan has been put forward with access being off Croft Lane given the above factors. For the proposed plan to have any credibility access should have been solely off Norton Road (compulsory purchasing a house to provide access) rather than from within the Conservation Area, although I would still argue that many of the above points would still apply.

I fear, (and formally put on record to the individuals/organisations responsible for making these decisions), that if the proposed plan is approved and implemented, there is a very significant risk, particularly through the development stage/years, that children/ pedestrians will be seriously injured/killed as the lanes will not be able to safely cope with the heavy construction vehicles/lorries which will have to use these lanes to get access via Croft Lane to the building site/development, as well as irrevocably destroying a conservation area and setting for Grade II listed buildings in Casio Lane & Croft Lane.

For the above reasons the plan to develop the Norton School Playing Fields in Croft Lane Letchworth Garden City should be rejected in full.

Yours faithfully

David Burridge