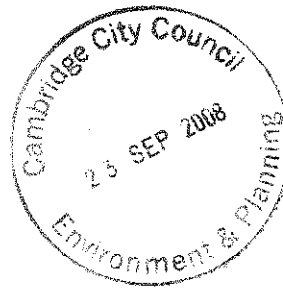


9 Latham Road
Cambridge
CB2 7EG

Mr Tony Collins
Cambridge City Council
Cambridge
CB2 3QJ



18th September 2008

Application 08/1141/FUL Land between Nos 5 and 7 Latham Road, Cambridge
Resurfacing of existing access and parking area with associated landscaping

Dear Mr Collins

We are writing to object to the above application.

Background

The Leys/St Faith's playing field has two access points from Latham Road; one between Nos 11 and 15 which leads to the groundsman's house, the sports pavilion and a car park; and one between Nos 5 and 7 which leads to the machinery store. Both are heavily used by pupils walking from both schools. The access beside no 5 is closer to St Faith's and therefore used by the younger children and the one beside No 11 is closer to the Leys. The existing car park beside No 11 has recently been tarred and parking spaces laid out. Its access lane has also been tarred and new parking places marked on one side and a pedestrian walkway marked on the other. The result is unfortunate, as it is visually intrusive and there is a potential conflict between children and cars on the narrow strip but we assumed this was permissible within the existing use.

The access beside No 5, which is the subject of this application, is different. It was a dirt track bordered by a broad area of grass. (photo 1 attached). There was a 5 bar gate across the road end which was normally locked with a pedestrian access at its side. Very occasionally, and usually with notification to residents about an event, the gate was opened so that the grassed area beside the track could be used for overspill parking by parents for sports day or major school matches. Perhaps once a year, the field itself was also used for parking. The grassed area was also used very occasionally, presumably by arrangement with the school, for a reception at No 5, the University Vice Chancellor's Lodge. There was no regular use.

However, cars parked on the grass when the school began to leave the gate open, shortly before an all weather pitch was built on the field. Planning permission for this pitch was granted with conditions to prevent it being used except by the school, thus there should be no additional parking requirement, and we were promised that any damage caused by the building work would be repaired. However, the gate has not been replaced and the access lane was dug up and laid with hard-core at the beginning of this year. A retrospective planning application was refused but this area has been left as hard standing pending another application. As a result, cars have been parked here much of the time (photo attached), including at times when there is nobody, let alone a match, on the field.