

RT



PLANNING DEPARTMENT 12 SEP 2012 RECEIVED

Sent: 11 September 2012 20:06
To: Planning
Subject: S6/2012/1635/FP

Northfield
 Woodfield Lane
 Near Essendon
 Herts
 AL9 6JJ

11/09/2012

Dear Sir/Madam

One of the reasons for purchasing our property was that it was surrounded by green belt. We find it unbelievable that a huge car park has been built directly opposite our house on green belt without planning consent or prior discussions with the surrounding neighbours. It is a real eye sore and much of the trees/vegetation that banked the new car park has been destroyed. The noise levels over the weekend are tremendous especially as cars enter and exit via one gate.

We have always been extremely accommodating to the Church and to now find they have flouted planning laws without consideration for their community is really very upsetting. Following our numerous requests The Church did arrange a residents meeting some time after after building the car park. In this meeting they dictated what they would do in terms of 'landscaping' as did they dictate when the meeting would be held. Due to the short notice and inflexibility of the Church's representatives our immediate neighbours were unable to attend and I had to take time off work which was extremely disruptive to my schedule.

We have been eagerly awaiting the submission of the request for planning permission and given the long delay my wife called Louis from the Church to ask where they were in the process. They had a long and amiable discussion where he agreed the car park would be better suited on Kentish Lane and said that the Church would be more than happy to do this. He advised that the only reason they had not/could not do this is that land owner won't allow it and has insisted the car park be located on Woodfield Lane. This is ridiculous as there are no houses opposite the preferred site on Kentish Lane. An exit and entrance could easily be created and it would be far safer for people using the car park! The location would make absolutely no difference to the land owner in terms of it's location. It would simply mean that the local residents would retain their green belt view and would benefit from significantly reduced noise levels when people exit and enter the car park. As I'm sure you're aware the Church is well frequented and there are numerous events outside the usual Sunday services. In fact there are large gatherings on most days Saturdays and Sundays sometimes going on into the evening.

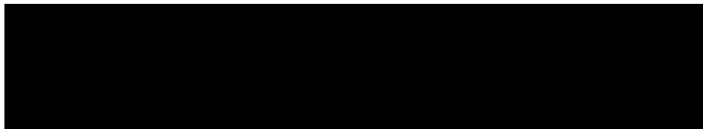
The purpose of extending the car park was to deal with all the weddings that are held at the church and be able to park all the cars that attend the particularly busy Easter celebrations off the busy road. The noise and pollution caused by the cars parking at random places along Woodfield Lane and Kentish lane is creating noise and risk towards members of the public. These lanes are used by many cyclists at the weekend and some of the people frequenting the weddings are elderly and not very mobile. I believe that a Health and safety study should be carried out to asses the risk this poses.

The Car Park was finished before Easter but still only 40 percent of the cars that arrived were able to fit in the new space thereby negating the purpose of the expansion. Have the church carried out a risk assesment on

the volume of people that attend the weekly weddings. What is the safe capacity of the church ? Why do they not provide a Park and Ride service from somewhere more suitable.

We request that a traffic survey be carried out at the busy times compared to normal operation to asses the danger ?

Yours Faithfully



Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.