From: 02 September 2019 20:31
Sent: Planning Comments (HPBC)
To: Re: Comment submitted for Planning application
Subject:

Application Reference No. : HPK/2012/0097
Site Address: Land at Waterswallows Road & Dale Lane Fairfield Buxton Derbyshire
Comments by: Gary Miller
From:

Montpelier Place
Fairfield
Buxton

Submission: Objection
Comments: My first objection is regarding the Health and Safety of the drivers of Fairfield and the fact that this application doing nothing to solve the current issue where drivers are put at risk when attempting to drive north from Fairfield in the direction of Manchester.

It is my opinion that this application 'sneaks in' a small but very significant change to Waterswallows Road by creating a cul-de-sac when driving from the Fairfield direction; a change that is going largely unnoticed due to the many other significant impacts that this development is having.

This application shows there has been absolutely no consideration to improve the exit from Fairfield for the majority of residents; it therefore makes me believe that there is no one on the planning committee/involved with this application that either lives in or visits the area; therefore never having to make such a dangerous right turn themselves.

Currently, the only exits from Fairfield to the A6 are at the junctions of Queens Road and Dakin Avenue. For the benefit of those involved in the decision making process of this application that do not live in or visit the Fairfield area, the junctions can be seen on www.bing.com/maps entering the coordinates:

53.262217, -1.903313 (Queens Road junction)

53.263435, -1.900475 (Dakin Avenue/Waterswallows Road junction)

At each of these junctions consideration has been made in the design to enable traffic flow to continue

north from Buxton town centre by creating a 'right turn refuge' for those wishing to enter Fairfield. The refuge prevents right turning traffic from holding up A6 northbound traffic, although the failing in the design is that there is no allowance for vehicles to safely turn right from either Queens Road or Waterswallows Road. By visiting the Bing Maps website the satellite/aerial image shows two vehicles at Queens Road trying to turn right to head north on the A6. There is also a vehicle shown at the Waterswallows Road junction also trying to turn right to head north. At each of these junctions you can see that right turning vehicles have to cross two lanes of traffic before they can access the north bound lane. Due to the industrial nature of Buxton, the A6 has a regular stream of HGV traffic in addition to local and through traffic; therefore turning right to head north is difficult and extremely dangerous.

By creating the Waterswallows Road cul-de-sac, the planners/designers appear to have no consideration for the health and Safety of the majority of the Fairfield residents as they are not allowing drivers to travel north on Waterswallows road up to the new road, then being able to make a left turn to drive towards the newly proposed roundabout to easily and safely access the A6 to head north. I highlighted this matter to Mr Gary Thompson in a series of emails and requested that they be published ¿ this has unsurprisingly failed to happen and Mr Thompson offered no smart solution within his correspondence should anyone with to be forwarded copies?

In support of paragraph one of Mrs C R Curtis objection, the creation of a roundabout does not support the amount of traffic that is seen daily within this area. By using the website www.google.co.uk/maps/ and entering the coordinates 53.264506, -1.899193 into the search function of the website, you can see a typical days traffic backed up to and beyond the golf driving range.

As a resident of Buxton who has been fortunate enough to drive in many places throughout the UK and the world, never before have I experienced such poor roundabout discipline as that seen in Buxton town centre. This leads me to believe there are either too many cars on the road at busy times for the area to support, the design of the roundabouts and their close proximity to the next roundabout (with a series of pedestrian crossings in-between) is insufficient and blockages are unavoidably caused, or many local drivers follow a bespoke set of unwritten rules that lead them to enter roundabouts regardless of whether their exit is clear or not thus creating the blockages.

My second objection is therefore that a roundabout is not suitable at this location as traffic will undoubtedly enter it from the north during busy periods and block it. When combined with the cul-de-sac option proposed for Waterswallows Road, any drivers trying to enter Buxton using Waterswallows Road (from the direction of Buxton Mineral Water or the Tunstead works into Buxton) will have to make a right turn onto the new road and head to the new roundabout to access Buxton. They will then face a traffic jam of vehicles also trying to enter Buxton on the A6. Drivers who are on the A6 heading south (those who are part of the traffic jam) will therefore probably follow 'normal' Buxton protocol by waving/allowing drivers from Waterswallows road 'one by one' into the traffic flow; a practice that is incorrect, dangerous and likely to be illegal considering the Road Traffic Act 1991.

A more viable solution for what is going to be a busy intersection is the creation of a traffic light controlled junction will yellow diamond markings. This will mean that drivers heading into Buxton using the A6 will not be allowed to enter the junction unless the exit is sighted visibly clear, and drivers entering the A6 from

Waterswallows Road can choose to enter the A6 at the new junction, safely turn right to head north or cross the new road (by making it/Waterswallows Road a cross road/traffic light controlled junction) and enter Fairfield using Cross Street as they do at the moment or continue to the A6 entering it at the end of Dakin Avenue as they do at the moment.

In summary; my objections are not toward the development of the area, they are about the lack of consideration being made toward safer access to the A6 for Fairfield residents wishing to head north.

Mr G Miller

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