

Re: North Lodge Park

Cllr. Nigel Pearce

Tue 22/11/2016 06:50

To: Barry Meadows <Barry.Meadows@live.co.uk>;

Correction Daryl Watson my mistake apologises
Nigel Pearce

Sent from my iPad

On 22 Nov 2016, at 06:49, Cllr. Nigel Pearce <Nigel.Pearce@north-norfolk.gov.uk> wrote:

Good morning Barry,

Once again thank you for your letter /email to which I acknowledge and once again I can inform you that I have passed this already to the relevant planning officer Daryl Wilson for his thoughts , views etc.

As always I would be very pleased to communicate with you I the near future

Regards
Nigel Pearce
NNDC Ward Councillor
Suffield Park

Sent from my iPad

On 21 Nov 2016, at 16:15, Barry Meadows <Barry.Meadows@live.co.uk> wrote:

Thanks for your reply

It would be interesting to know on what basis you think the benefits will be, and whether you have looked at the details of this proposal which we believe to be unsafe:

- spaces much too small
- no safe pedestrian spaces
- no proper signage for the one way route
- surface not appropriate (see NNDC overflow carpark!)
- no pedestrian route to Overstrand Road
- over 6m long entrance height restriction
- ramp to toilets too steep
- congestion spot at pedestrian exit to Park

and that's just in the Park; there are still no details of the impact on traffic flow around Cromer (for example, how will cars move on from here to other car parks?)

It's fine saying these issues will be addressed as part of the planning process, but 10 weeks after they were first raised there is no sign of the officers listening. Why not help us work to a proposal that is fit for purpose rather than this current flawed proposal.

Barry

From: Cllr. Nigel Pearce <Nigel.Pearce@north-norfolk.gov.uk>

Sent: 21 November 2016 13:41:16

To: Barry Meadows

Subject: Re: North Lodge Park

Thank you Barry,

I am pleased that you have received my reply and I reply in the following manner.

All planning requests whether large or small need to be examined fully and this is why we have the development committee. As said previously to you I have indeed passed your letter to the relevant officers, and as soon as I have a reply that will be forwarded to you.

The proposal I feel will bring a long term benefit to the park in the form of financial stability, footfall as a parking site is needed for that end of Cromer, as well as footfall to the park to view the pleasant surroundings of which is vital to Cromer.

The aspects that you outline will be reviewed by officers, but I must certainly inform you that no decisions on planning applications can be predetermined prior to committee and that this application will be dealt with in the same way.

It is entirely for that reason that I cannot comment on your areas that are causing you to contact us at the present time.

I hope that you understand my position at present and I can assure you that all of your correspondence to me will be forwarded as well as this letter to you

Yours sincerely

Nigel Pearce
NNDC Councillor
Suffield Park Ward

Sent from my iPad

On 21 Nov 2016, at 09:36, Barry Meadows <Barry.Meadows@live.co.uk> wrote:

Thank-you for your swift reply; do you share our concerns that the design isn't safe or fit for purpose?

Barry

From: Cllr. Nigel Pearce <Nigel.Pearce@north-norfolk.gov.uk>

Sent: 21 November 2016 09:02:41

To: Barry Meadows

Subject: Re: North Lodge Park

Good morning to you Barry,

Thank you for your letter via email. I do note the points you kindly raise, and I can confirm that I have passed on the email to the relevant officers.

When I am in addition to notify you I will get back in touch.

Regards

Nigel Pearce

Suffield Park Ward

NNDC Councillor

Sent from my iPad

On 21 Nov 2016, at 08:22, Barry Meadows <Barry.Meadows@live.co.uk> wrote:

Hello,

You may be aware that over the past 2 months the Friends have raised numerous concerns regarding the planning application for a car park and new toilet facilities in North Lodge Park. We have provided evidence that suggests due process isn't being followed and the application seems pre-determined. We have highlighted numerous design faults which make the proposed car park unsafe and unfit for its purpose. We have raised our concerns in a constructive non-confrontational way with the officers concerned.

We have publicly supported the possibility of a car park in North Lodge Park, with the caveat it must be fit for purpose and bring something extra to the Park.

Every attempt to bring some sense to the debate has been rejected by NNDC officers who say that only the planning process can be used to raise any concerns, issues and suggestions.

NNDC published a revised planning application this week with some minor amendments to the design, and a few more details on the proposal. We were told that the revision was required because of the number of comments on the proposal and that there would be a consolidation of the issues raised. The promised consolidation of consultation responses seems to have only consolidated responses from a limited selection of inputs with the major issues remaining.

We are thus still very concerned that the proposed car park design remains unsafe and not fit for purpose.

We have taken the advice from officers at NNDC and raised our concerns in the planning process, yet the revised design ignores most of the concerns raised, and pays lip service to many others. NNDC Officers do not seem to be considering the detail in the issues raised as all their responses have been very general. If we can't raise concerns with the officers, if specific concerns raised during the planning process seem to be ignored, if councillors can't discuss the proposal while it is 'in planning' how does Cromer have a sensible dialogue with NNDC to make sure that the final design is safe and fit for purpose?

As our elected representative on the district council we ask you to investigate on behalf of the community whether there is sufficient evidence that due process is being followed and that the current car park design is safe and fit for purpose. We understand that NNDC as the submitting organisation must go beyond what is expected for an external submission – we have seen nothing that suggests this has happened. We also ask you to look carefully at the design to ensure it is of sufficient quality to be in keeping with what is expected in a conservation area and, most importantly, that it will be safe. For example, the proposed cramming in of too many car parking spaces that are too small for modern vehicles with no regard to the safety of car users, particularly young children getting out of cars is likely to cause significant problems and potential injury.

Please can you advise on your views on this proposal and the concerns we have raised, and how we should proceed.

Barry Meadows

Secretary, Friends of North Lodge Park

North Norfolk District Council

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