



Shaw Residents' Association

For the Residents of Peatmoor, Sparcells, Nine Elms, Middleleaze, Shaw,
Ramleaze, the Prinnels, Eastleaze and Westlea (West)

14 April 2018

Dear Miss Adams

**Re: S/18/0461 | Erection of 14no. dwellings and associated works. | Pilgrim Close Play Area
Pilgrim Close Ramleaze Swindon**

Because the application makes an illogical assumption that the demand for parking spaces along Pilgrim Close will decrease rather than increase as a result of the development, the SRA objects to this development based on parking concerns

Having found a significant mistake in the first version of the 'design and access statement' on page 4 paragraph 5.2, we reported the problem to Quattro Design Architects who have subsequently issued version A of the report. Our comments are based on the corrected version.

We note the proposal will see a reduction of the public parking spaces adjacent to the site from 16 down to 9. We also note that the Streetwise parking provisions report submitted with this application states that, at peak times, the parking spaces in question are 81 % utilised. That indicates a need for a minimum of 13 spaces and not 9 even under today's conditions. However, as residents and frequent visitors to Shaw Village centre, we can report that on many occasions, all the parking spaces in question, including the informal gravel spaces AND curb side 'spaces' are often fully occupied.

The design and access statement says on page 4 "a parking survey has proven that the local demand only requires 9 spaces". The 'parking provision' report does not make any conclusions at all. It simply reports the numbers. Therefore we would like to see the rational that resulted in this 'conclusion'.

Once these new homes are built there will occasionally be a need for more visitor spaces than the allotted three (for the 14 dwellings). By the nature of the planned layout of the scheme, and unlike most developments, there is no opportunity for parking in front of any of the new dwellings. Therefore, those additional cars will park along the access road into the area or along Pilgrim Close itself.

As a result, the actual demand for the spaces that exists today along Pilgrim Close must increase, it surely cannot decrease. The design and access statement is therefore reaching an illogical conclusion.

We fear four consequences of this proposal in its current form:

1. Pilgrim Close is the only access road to the retirement housing known as George Tweed Gardens. The probability of inconsiderate parking blocking access to emergency vehicles today (particularly fire appliances) is quite high - this development will increase that likelihood
2. Due to the nature of the facility, the percentage of residents with mobility problems living in George Tweed Gardens is likely to be much higher than average. Any increase in parking along Pilgrim Close could cause unacceptable obstructions to those residents trying to make it on foot or mobility device to the Village Centre



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3. A public footpath runs along the right side of the access road into the new development - cars will park along it causing access problems to pedestrians, particularly those with mobility problems and parents with pushchairs etc.
4. The footpath that runs from Old Shaw Lane to Shaw Village Centre even today is often blocked by inconsiderate motorists who park across the dropped curb at its Pilgrim Close end. The probability of this occurring more frequently will increase

We make three recommendations to resolve these concerns:

1. There is adequate space along the right side of the access road, and just before the first new house on the right, to put in at least six and possibly more parking spaces. We request these are included as part of the application
2. At the point where the footpath from Old Shaw Lane emerges onto Pilgrim Close, we request the path is widened into the middle of the road with bollards either side making it impossible for a vehicle to park across it thereby negating any possibility of the path being blocked
3. A similar solution to '2' above should be implemented where the footpath from the retirement homes reaches Pilgrim Close. There is currently a sign saying 'please do not park in front of the footpath', but that is routinely ignored by some

We hope you find our observations useful and we look forward to seeing our proposed changes implemented in the final plans.

Yours Sincerely

Kevin Fisher
Shaw Residents' Association Chair
www.shawresidents.org.uk
shawresidents@outlook.com