

September 2009

Head Of Planning and Policy
Development Management (Northern Office)
Cheshire East Council
Town Hall
Market Place
Macclesfield
Cheshire
SK10 1DP

Dear Sir or Madam

Planning Application 09/2058C OBJECTION.

As a resident living close to the proposed site, I am writing to express my opposition to the recently submitted planning application 09/2058C proposing the development of a football complex on Abbey Fields Sandbach, adjacent to Hind Heath Road.

I do not accept that this is a suitable site for reasons of traffic generation, loss of amenity, and environmental impact.

Traffic

Bearing in mind the multiplying effect of having 10 pitches which could play back to back games and training sessions usually involving children, the inevitable traffic movements will be:-

- Match arrival of players, officials, and spectators
- Many parents leave the site while their children play
- Parents return to collect their children
- All those who participated in the first match leave
- Overlapping arrival of the next group of players, officials, and spectators

The cumulative effect of all these traffic generating events will lead to regular traffic peaks which will combine with the usual significant traffic flow to generate certain congestion and possible safety issues at key junctions, namely the ends of Hind Heath Road, Station Road, and Abbey Road. This practical analysis is the basis of my objection.

References by SUFC to public transport are not realistic due to poor proximity of routes, irregular services (which would need to be aligned with match times to be of any use), and the dark winter evening walk down the Wheelock Railtrail or Hind Heath Road. These points considered, and SUFC having stated that the bulk of their membership are children, it is highly unlikely that parents will allow their offspring to travel to matches other than by car. Evidence to endorse this view can be gathered by attending virtually all sporting events which involve children. Parents usually deliver children by car. Due to typical busy family life schedules it is rare to see parents collaborate to drive multiple children in one vehicle.

Loss of Amenity

The Wheelock Railtrail is a very pleasant country route enjoyed by walkers, runners, and cyclists. The proposed site would significantly detract from the overall aspect of a relatively high proportion of the trail. Instead of seeing natural countryside and arable land the view will become that of fences, football pitches, and buildings. When in use, the noise generated by players and spectators will detract from the natural ambiance of the country environment.

Environmental Impact

- The change of use of this land will remove areas of wild growth, natural hedgerows, and a significant area of good quality agricultural land.
- Even modern well designed floodlighting will still result in the darkness of the countryside being illuminated by radiated and reflected light.
- Noise generated during games will be audible to many adjacent residents.

For the above reasons I ascertain that Abbey Fields is not a suitable site for this development . I feel very strongly that the Planning Committee must therefore refuse permission.

Yours faithfully