

Public Document Pack



Please note that the following documents were published separately from the main agenda for this meeting of the Planning Committee to be held on Wednesday, 2nd December 2020 at 5.30 pm in Committee Rooms 1-2, City Hall.

- (a) Update Sheet Tabled at Meeting (Pages 3 - 4)

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Update Sheet for Planning Committee 2nd December 2020.

2020/0731/RG3

Comments received 30th November 2020

Dear Ms. Mason,

I'm writing to object to the change of use for the site next to the Morning Star near my abode. I am concerned about the environmental impact such a new use would bring to an already congested area, especially throughout mornings and evenings during weekdays. I often take children to school and pick them up at the end of the day. Naturally I walk, and it's been harrowing to say the least: the walkways are unusually narrow and with social distancing I and my grandchildren have literally had to walk in the street to avoid any face to face contact with others, which has put us in danger many times with heavy cross traffic; in fact, crowds of parents and children spill into the streets at rush hour, when cars and trucks are whizzing by. I don't understand how anyone could put such a residential area of many schools in further danger with this new use. It seems to me that having this wash facility would add even more traffic, more people, more disturbance to a family area, not to mention more air pollution. This new use is not a good idea, needless to say. There are other areas much more fit for the purpose.

Sincerely yours,

Terez Barbarossa

Comments received 1st December 2020

Dear Ms. Mason,

I'm writing to object to the change of use for the site next to the Morning Star almost next door to my family abode. My main concerns are over safety and the environmental impact.

First, I am concerned about the safety impact as such a new use would bring additional congestion to an already busy area, especially throughout mornings and evenings during weekdays. I walk with my children to school daily and the area is so congested with other pedestrians that we often have to spill out into the street. The area is also already congested with fast-moving traffic. Some of the larger vehicles that come through the narrow street often clip the pavement, getting dangerously close to anyone walking. Allowing this wash facility would add even more traffic, more people, and more disturbance to a family area. There is an infant school almost across the street and several other schools in the area. Children walk alone and with parents to school and should not be exposed to such a commercial hazard. This is an entirely inappropriate use for the space. This is a residential neighbourhood, and not a place for work vehicles.

Second, I am concerned about the environmental impact such a new use would bring to an already congested area, where so many children live and attend school. This wash facility would add even more traffic and more air pollution. Public Health England published an air

pollution evidence review in 2019, which showed that "[a]ir pollution is the biggest environmental threat to health in the UK, with between 28,000 and 36,000 deaths a year attributed to long-term exposure. There is strong evidence that air pollution causes the development of coronary heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease and lung cancer, and exacerbates asthma." The government review also stated that local authorities should take key interventions such as 'redesigning cities so people aren't so close to highly polluting roads' and they should 'discourage highly polluting vehicles from entering populated areas'. In this case, we are not asking the local authority to redesign the city but to prevent further pollution which is catastrophic to human health, and particularly to children whose lungs are still developing! The young children attending the infant school almost directly across the street from the proposed site, will be exposed to this added pollution all day and especially during their breaks outside--a real luxury after almost a year of being in lockdown due to the pandemic. Importantly, the CDC also clearly states that those "with moderate to severe asthma may be at higher risk of getting very sick from COVID-19. COVID-19 can affect your nose, throat, lungs (respiratory tract); cause an asthma attack; and possibly lead to pneumonia and acute respiratory disease." [see, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/asthma.html>]. The combination of additional pollution exacerbating asthma and the risks around catching Covid-19, especially as Lincoln is said to be in a Tier 3 at the moment, should be material considerations.

The study goes on to state that experts "recommend that at a local level, any **new policy or programme of work** which affects air pollution should aim to deliver an overall **benefit** to the public's health. So transport and urban planners will need to work together, with others involved in air pollution to ensure that new initiatives have a **positive impact**." [see the review at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-health-england-publishes-air-pollution-evidence-review>]. Accepting this planning application would be out of step with national and global efforts to reduce pollution and its effects on our own populations in our very own communities.

While the safety issues and the environmental impacts alone should form the basis for rejecting this planning application, it should also be noted that this area's worth would be diminished with such a planning use that is out of step with the character of the residential neighbourhood. The area is a beautiful conservation area that boasts the main tourist attraction in Lincoln: The Cathedral. The Cathedral is virtually in our back yard and should not be eclipsed by added congestion and pollution resulting from such a planning request. The new use area is directly across the street from a tourist car park and a school. This is not only unfit in terms of the school as outlined above, but for tourists coming to see the historic city centre that do not want to be harassed by works vehicles and additional traffic and pollution. Lincoln has done a beautiful job of designing the city's commercial aspects (while necessary) outside the city centre in order to preserve and conserve the historic centre. Now is not the time to change this approach, which other cities could learn from.

This new use is wholly inappropriate for this site. There are other areas much more fit for such a purpose.

Regards,

Dr. Chloë M. Gilgan

University Lecturer in Law