

Transport Statement

Analysis of traffic considerations in respect of the proposal to build a replacement pavilion and to enlarge the existing car park. R.Yendall 28/10/2023

Existing site and road safety history

The application site is served by a **long-established car park with vehicle access** to the Wolverton Road. It is located within the village boundary and 30mph zone. It is a straight stretch of road providing good visibility, and the speed of oncoming traffic on the near carriageway is moderated by the fact that it is travelling uphill from the centre of the village. Road safety statistics (appendix 1) reveal that there has not been a single incident on this stretch of road in the past 20 years.

Existing vehicular access and usage

This access and car park have been used for many years by visitors to the playing field. Sports matches are held on a regular basis at weekends and some weekday evenings. When the number of cars exceeds the capacity of the car park, we open the vehicle gate to allow overflow parking on the grass between the car park and the play area. By extending the size of the existing car park, we can reduce the number of times we require the field for overflow parking. Hence why an extension of the car park is included in the planning application.

On selected weekends, the field is used for major events such as the village fete, where a **large number of vehicles** (including commercial and agricultural vehicles) will access the site. It has also been used as a parking area for bonfire nights at the nearby Sports Club, with as many as **100 vehicles** accessing the field via the car park.

By contrast, usage of the car park during weekday working hours is extremely light, with typically no more than one or two vehicles parked for a short time – mostly by local residents walking their dogs or taking exercise.

Existing pedestrian access

Pedestrians can access the site at all four corners of the playing field, including this location in the South-east corner. The Monarch's Way public footpath runs along the far (West) side of the field, and connects with Bearley Road within the village boundary. There is also an additional pedestrian access from Hales Close on the south side of the field next to the children's play equipment. This access point can also be reached via a pavement from Wolverton Road just to the south of the playing field car park.

A pavement runs along the near (West) side of the Wolverton Road as far as the car park. There is no pavement on the Wolverton Road north of the car park entrance, and only a small number of dwellings so it is rare that pedestrians would walk past the site.

Public transport

There are no bus stops near to the site, nor any other forms of public transport. Visitors to the playing field who arrive in the village by bus would be most likely to use either the southern access point from Hales Close or the south west access point from Bearley Road along the Monarch's Way.

Impact of proposal on transport

Evening / weekend usage

Peak activity (weekend sports matches and special events) will be unaffected by this proposal, with the level of attendance expected to remain similar to current usage. It is possible that better facilities could attract some more spectators at matches, but we expect to see an increased emphasis on car-sharing and greater use of sustainable transport. The enlargement of the car park will alleviate the parking congestion sometimes experienced during matches, and hence improve public safety.

Weekday usage

The club room in the building is intended to facilitate ancillary use for local community groups. Given the modest size of this room (<50 sqm), we would not expect this to generate any peaks of traffic beyond what is already experienced with weekend sports matches.

As this usage would occur at a time when the car park is lightly used by visitors to the playing field and is below the peak seen at weekends, this additional traffic fits within the current usage levels and does not constitute an intensification of use.

Appendix 1 – Local road safety statistics



