

NEWTON ST LOE PARISH COUNCIL

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13 April 2018

Andy Williams MBIFM, FCIPD
Deputy Head of Estates & Services (Facilities)
Bath Spa University
Newton Park
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Dear Andy

Parking and Traffic Flows in Newton St Loe

Thank you for your email of 8 January which was discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 15 March. The Parish Council's views and resolutions are set out in the rest of this letter and I would stress that there was unanimous agreement on these.

First, the Council wanted to be clear on the issues from their perspective. As a result of the University's recent developments and introduction of parking charges, many of your students/staff now drive through the village and park during weekdays; much of the parking is indiscriminate, obstructs narrow roads and is on pavements. The net result of this is damage to historic pavements, obstruction to delivery/emergency vehicles, danger to children playing, risks to pedestrians walking around parked cars and a significant increased use of the poor access/egress from the village onto Pennyquick. On a number of previous occasions, the University has attempted to blame B&NES Council for the problems as they placed the planning requirements on your applications, but the Council is very clear that you were well aware of the requirements and likely consequences before you started your redevelopment work and yet you still went ahead without any plans to mitigate the obvious problems that would result. To attempt to blame a regulatory body for your decision to continue is not appropriate and you should be accepting full responsibility for the problems that your organisation has caused together with finding/implementing solutions.

Second, the Parish Council believes that a number of conditions/assurances given at the time of your redevelopments have not been fulfilled with probably the most significant being the

effective closure of Newton Drive. Before taking any further action on this point, the Council would be grateful if you would inform them of the status of all outstanding planning conditions (and assurances) associated with your planning approvals granted since 2010 together with details of when these will be honoured.

Third, the Parish Council considered the actions that you have taken and remains of the view that the matter is only being addressed cosmetically. The view was that you could discipline your students, but choose not to; you could make far better use of your security patrols to identify offenders and you could certainly exercise greater influence on your staff. Whether or not you agree with our assessment of the Universities actions, the undeniable fact is that they are not working and the problems are getting worse.

Last, the Parish Council believes that they have been very patient over this matter which has now gone on for over 5 (?) years with an unacceptable and ongoing significant deterioration in the situation. The Parish Council is, therefore, minded to object to any future planning application by the University that may or could result in any increase in traffic or parking in Newton St Loe. In this respect, I have also been asked to approach Priston and Corston parishes with a view to enlisting their support.

I am sorry that we have reached such a position as I had hoped that the University would take a more supportive role in respect of their neighbours, but you have been given a significant amount of time to address the problems that the University has created yet you have singularly failed to resolve the issues. I have copied this letter to the Vice-Chancellor.

The next meeting of Newton St Loe Parish Council will be on Thursday 17 May and I would very much like to report your reply to the Council.

Yours sincerely

Mark Foster
Chairman
Newton St Loe Parish Council

cc. Vice-Chancellor, Bath Spa University