

Elizabeth Centre Benefits & Housing Plan Conflicts with Borough Policies

CURRENTLY THRIVING...

The Elizabeth Centre amenity serves the Bede, Poplar and wider Bedworth community, including a significant local level of relative deprivation.

The basketball court and the green space is constantly used by walkers, players, children and wildlife in an otherwise highly urbanised area.

Bedworth Eagles JFC volunteer charity has operated locally since 1986 (and for long periods of time from the Elizabeth Centre) to improve the health and well-being of local children.

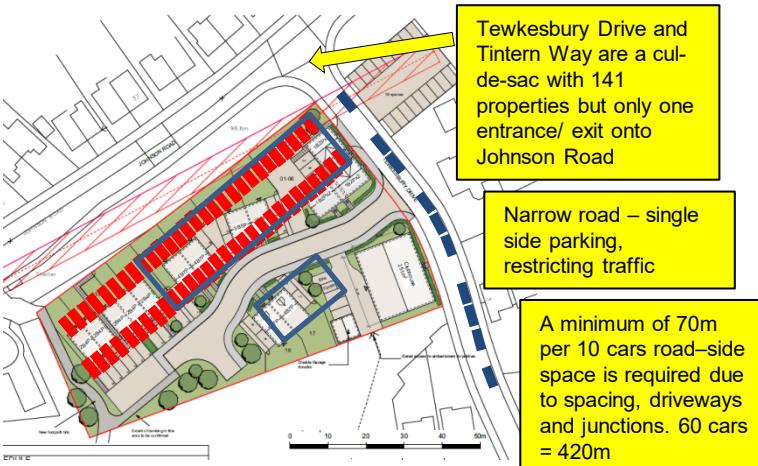


BEJFC operates 4 pitches & 13 teams (U6-U16) from the Johnson Road ground - and a thriving Saturday Minisoccer club for age 4 -11. There are 140+ children in teams, plus 120 registered for Minisoccer since lockdown. Parking is needed every day!

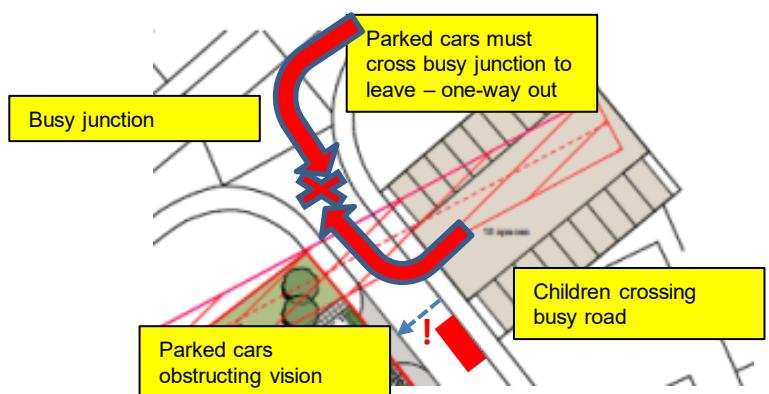


HOUSING PLAN PROBLEMS...

Parking – it takes 350m of roadside space to take 50 cars – we park 60



Alternative parking proposed is unsuitable and under-sized: Planning permission is unlikely to be granted



Policy DS3 – Development principles: the second paragraph of this policy states “New development... will be acceptable subject to there being a positive impact on amenity, the surrounding environment and local infrastructure.”

Community would lose benefits of the basketball court, junior football, wildlife on banking and green space for walkers. The only benefit of the provisional plan is a clubhouse

Management Matters... supplementary planning document. Issue 6 would be relevant, as it states “Whether the proposal will meet acceptable levels of impact on existing highways networks and mitigation measures required to meet this acceptable level.”

There are insufficient mitigation measures in the plan to replace the current community amenities and benefits. The whole area loses the green amenity.

Policy HS1 – Ensuring the delivery of infrastructure: the first paragraph states “Development will be required to provide infrastructure appropriate to the scale and context of the site in order to mitigate any impacts of the development, and address the needs associated with the development.”

Plan only provides parking and infrastructure for new housing – not for activities displaced

Policy HS4 –which sets out the circumstances in which proposals for development which would lead to the loss of community facilities will be permitted, and therefore if this policy can't be met, where proposals will not be permitted

Plan ignores community facilities lost. Centralisation to Bedworth Park is not the answer.

Policy HS2 – Strategic accessibility and sustainable transport: this policy states “Where a development is likely to have transport implications, planning applications are required to clearly demonstrate how the following issues are addressed”, for which two issues would be relevant. Firstly, issue 2 states “Whether the development identifies suitable demand management measures”, which is in reference to parking provision, and relates to the second last paragraph of the policy which states “Proposals must consider how they accord with the Transport Demand”

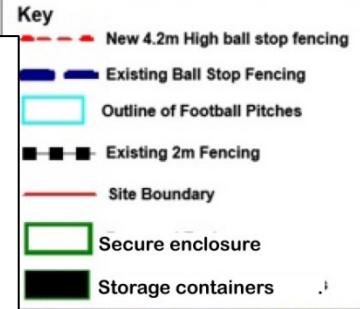
Insufficient parking provision with displaced traffic, increases congested roads and accident risk. Children as young as 4 use the football facility – accidents are probable

Proposals and Options for a Johnson Road community-run amenity

These are proposals put to the council originally by BEJFC but lost in the housing proposal. Our view is that the council cannot make a cohesive community by providing an amenity alone – this is done by people and groups such as Bedworth Eagles JFC and their equivalent. However, removing amenities will stop groups such as ours from providing community benefits.

FUNDING:

BEJFC have already delivered and project managed over £70,000 of club and grant money to restore the pitches, fencing, storage, equipment etc. Delivering this amenity would only require council support, but not investment. We believe we have sufficient support and expertise to deliver these proposals with grant funders



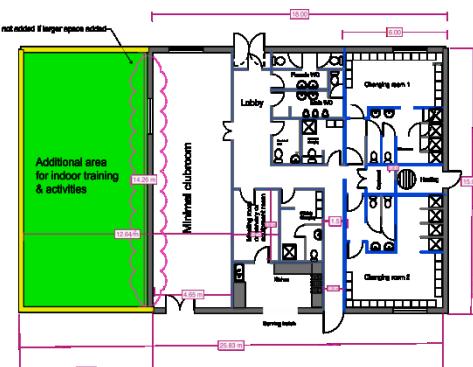
Retain 60 equivalent reserved parking on Elizabeth Centre site

Potential for multi-user games to be retained or improved

Retain natural areas on banking and greenspace for walkers/children and parking overflow

Clubhouse for the JFC and the community, ideally on existing Elizabeth Centre footprint and fenced, but there are options

- Discussions have been ongoing with 4th Bedworth Scouts to have a joint facility here. This would give back many benefits to the local community, and protect the Scout group from loss of their current facility.



Potential for outside 'gym' for adults and juniors, similar to that provided in Bedworth park and many cities, for the health and well-being of local communities. There are alternative positions possible to maximise use and safety – to be discussed with the community

