

Welford Place
Leicester
LE1 6ZG

12th January 2010

Dear Sir

OBJECTION
S73 Highways Act 1980
Proposed Conduit Street Highway Improvement Line

When the Dawn Center was built the local residents were asked their opinion about having this facility on their doorstep. Myself and (as far as I can remember) the large majority of residents were adamantly opposed to the proposition. Nevertheless our objections were overridden by the planning department and it went ahead. With no prior notification, my employees arrived for work on the Monday that construction was to commence to discover that Andover Street had been closed and they could not get into our offices. On enquiry we discovered that the road would be closed for a full year, this would have meant that the company would have had to cease to trade and the staff were facing redundancy!! After a difficult 24 hours I managed to gain agreement with the builders to reluctantly create a small pedestrian access to the building, but no vehicular access to our car park was allowed that normally holds 14 employees cars.

In order to report for work they had to pay for car parking off-site and walk to the offices. The road did stay closed for the year, we suffered a huge loss of business, the builders blamed the Council for not liaising with ourselves and the Council blamed the builders. Apart from a derisory small reduction in our rates we received no compensation what so ever. I have now received the attached correspondence from the Council which clearly shows that planning and building permission was granted for the Dawn Center in violation of their own Highway Improvement Lines. This is not "a minor infringement" but a substantial breach of their own regulations. As you can see from the plan the Highway Improvement Lines have not just been ignored by the planning department once, but on both sides of the Dawn Center and again in respect of the frontage of the Health Center and Government Offices. It appears to me that their request to now change the Lines is because either this serious mistake has just been discovered, or rather more cynically this screamingly obvious planning violation was known from outset and deliberately ignored at a political level to ensure that the Dawn Center was built, come what may!!

On a separate point I also feel that the existing lines allow better and safer junctions for traffic as it will provide improved driver visibility at the junctions, particularly now that the taxis have been given permission to park along the majority of Conduit Street by the Council. This was given again without any consultation that I am aware of with the local residents. I am beginning to wonder if the democratic process still exists where local Government is involved.

In summary, I am therefore writing to object to any proposal to amend the current Highway Improvement line on the following grounds :

1. There has already been a serious violation of these lines by your planning department
2. The proposed amendments would not be in the interests of either pedestrians or motorists traveling via Conduit Street and adjacent roads.

Yours sincerely