
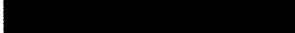


15 January 2019

Community Asset Transfer
Chief Executive's Office
Highland Council
Inverness
IV3 5NX

PAVILION AT MILLBURN ACADEMY, INVERNESS: OBJECTION

I note the Transfer Request made by the Inverness Men's Shed and 
 object on the following grounds:

1. the proposal aims to include a strip of land (termed "the Scrub") bordered on one side by my property's boundary fence to the North, the playing field perimeter fence to the East and Victoria Drive to the West
2. the stated intention is to acquire the Scrub for the purpose of dedicated disabled parking proximal to the Pavilion
3. This implies landscaping the existing mix of grass and trees to accommodate an unspecified number of vehicles by laying tarmac and cabling street lighting, with associated groundworks
4. The proposal makes provision for user parking in the form of 20 assured places on the Diriebuch Road side of Millburn Academy and the casual use of the Inverness Hostel on Victoria Drive
5. Victoria Drive itself is a narrow thoroughfare already carrying a high volume of local and long-distance traffic – tradesmen's vans, HGVs and commuters – and Men's Shed users are usually car-borne
6. changing the use of the Scrub area will diminish the semi-rural quality of the locale in favour of increased urbanisation
7. the Scrub is dominated by mature trees and in a conservation area: the likelihood is that some or all of these may suffer as a consequence of car-park conversion
8. although the trees *may* be the subject of TPO's, these may be rescinded for commercial expediency
9. forward-looking Local Authorities are actively pursuing policies designed to limit car use in built-up areas and planning guidelines should acknowledge this.

In summary, although I identify with the ethos of the Men's Shed movement in principle, I deplore the default proposition that a significant level of parking provision is integral to the viability of the site.

I await your comments.

Yours faithfully

