

DEPUTATION TWO – LOCAL RESIDENTS, THROSTLE NEST VILLA,
HORSFORTH

THE LORD MAYOR: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to today's Council meeting. Please now make your speech to Council, which should not be longer than five minutes, and please begin by introducing your deputation.

MR M BOUCHER: Lord Mayor, Members of Council, may I thank you for the opportunity to present to you today. My name is Martin Boucher and I am presenting on behalf of concerned local residents. I am accompanied by my neighbour Mr Andy Senior and by my wife Mrs Julie Boucher.

As local residents were are concerned that Leeds Planning Services has given insufficient consideration to the impact on highway safety in granting planning permission for the change of the use of Throstle Nest Villa to form six two bedroom flats and two houses (please see document 1).

Our concerns relate to the existing access on to New Road Side Horsforth that I shall refer to as Access A, and a proposed new access road onto Newlay Wood Crescent that I shall refer to as Access B.

Access A (see document 2) is a narrow single-track driveway extending from Throstle Nest Villa through the gardens of Throstle Nest Grange, emerging on to New Road Side at an approximately 45 degree angle, north west. A high retaining stone wall, approximately six feet high, obscures the driveway from both directions and overhanging trees on both sides of New Road Side reduce the ambient light. This is particularly a problem for pedestrians coming down New Road Side, as the driveway is not visible until a few feet away (please see the photographs in document 4). This causes an unseen danger especially to young children, the partially sighted, parents pushing prams and people walking their dogs on leads to the nearby woods and river walks.

There have been a number of instances of "near-misses", with cars emerging too swiftly from the driveway and not stopping until they reach the kerb. Police records confirm a cyclist was recently hit and injured by an exiting vehicle.

The driveway is too narrow for passing vehicles, so if other vehicles are exiting at the same time, vehicles entering have to back up blind across the pavement on to New Road Side. This is very dangerous. Furthermore the driveway is also the only pedestrian access for the residents of and visitors to Throstle Nest Grange and the police have been notified of a number of incidents of vehicles from Throstle Nest Villa being driven too fast for safety along such a narrow driveway.

We believe that the proposed development of Throstle Nest Villa will lead to an increase in the traffic using the driveway and we are very concerned about the consequent increased danger to pedestrians and cyclists in particular, at the exit on to New Road Side.

Access B (see document 2) is a proposed new access road to be built at the rear of Throstle Nest Villa emerging on to Newlay Wood Crescent. At present there is no such access from the Villa and we are concerned about the increased danger to highway safety that this new access road will cause.

In July 2008 West Yorkshire Police issued a letter (see document 3) to residents of Newlay Wood Crescent following complaints about the number of vehicles parked at the roadside and obstructing pavements. We believe the introduction of another driveway for villa residents and visitors will exacerbate what is already a serious problem.

The proposed access road between the boundaries of two other properties is too narrow for emergency vehicles and confronting vehicles will have to back out with difficulty on to Newlay Wood Crescent causing danger.

We ask that you please refer the matter back to the Chief Planning Officer to consider a new separate dedicated access from Throstle Nest Villa on to New Road Side – Access C (see document 2). This will obviate the need for Access B and will reduce the danger from the present Access A driveway.

Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Martin, for addressing the Council today. Can I now call on Councillor Gruen, please.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: Lord Mayor, thank you. I move that the matter of the deputation be referred to the Executive Board for consideration.

COUNCILLOR LOBLEY: I second, my Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Can I call for the vote from member, please? *(A vote was taken)* CARRIED.

Thank you for attending today and for what you have said. You will be kept informed of the consideration which your comments will receive. Good afternoon.
(Applause)