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BY EMAIL

Wednesday 3 April 2019

Dear Ka

My name is [REDACTED]. My partner and I are residents in Northfield, Hatfield and am writing to raise an existing issue with parking outside our home. We had had a letter from you regarding the laying down of yellow lines in a number of surrounding streets and my issue is not so much to do with the lines however they are going to have a knock of effect to the existing issue which will make it worse.

We have enclosed a hand drawn diagram to help you see the problems that we are about to describe. We reside in a block that has twelve dwellings which is set back from the road. To our right there is another block that contains the same if not more flats in it. To our left there is another block and whilst we have not been into it to see how many flats there are the number is going to be around the same. At the front of our block there is a area set aside for parking.

The parking area that we refer to has the capability (subject to people being considerate with how they park) to accommodate nine spaces. Not every dwelling has a vehicle and in some cases there are dwellings with two vehicles. The first issue is that this parking area does not have defined lines and on a daily basis people park in a way that takes up two spaces or they park too closely to another vehicle which causes problems. I am a Police Officer and have on three occasions recently come close to going outside to intervene in disputes between people over parking. There have been incidents of aggressive notes being placed on peoples cars which evidences the building tension. Given there are up to nine spaces serving considerably more dwellings competition for a parking space is very high. As a result of insufficient spaces people are often forced to park on grass areas or put two wheels on a kerb as not to block the road completely.

The question could be asked why people do not park up on the main road. There are two issues here. The first is that people from houses across the road often park on the road. The area of road immediately in front of my block is on a bend and this causes a blind spot and given the speed that some vehicles travel along the road I am surprised that there has not been a serious accident happen. I can only assume that improving road safety is the reason behind putting the yellow lines down. The case is often that there is no space between the front of the block right down to the roundabout. If you drive along that road in the evening you are constantly having to pull in to allow other cars to pass. When yellow lines are added to that section of the road as highlighted in the plans I was sent those cars are going to be pushed from there and the obvious thing to follow is to start parking in the area at the front of my home adding to the problem that we currently experience.

There is a neighbor downstairs who drives a blue VW. He has decided that he has adopted the first space to the left as I look at my window. If anyone but him parks there he challenges them, takes photographs of their cars and has been calling the police. Within the last two weeks I have seen this man and another resident have a full blown argument in

the street as this man parked his vehicle in front of the other residents I assume to prove a point. There was a heated row and the police called (but I don't know if they attended). There was an additional incident involving this male in the last few days that resulted in police attendance where he was shouting and swearing due to someone parking in "his parking space".

At weekends the residents parking is also taken up by people going over to the field at the back of my block to play football. This has resulted in disputes in the street.

There have been a number of incidents of vehicles being damaged and I can only assume that this is down to a angry resident. My wing mirror was kicked off and I have had two suspicious damaged tyres, my dad who resides in this block has had his rear quarter light smashed in, another neighbor has had a tyre slashed and there may well be more.

I appreciate that you may get a number of letters such as this and when I highlight a problem I try where I am able to suggest possible solutions to it.

In my diagram you will see two areas marked 1 and 2 that could very easily be replaced with tarmac and would create a number of additional spaces to ease the situation. This would still leave sufficient room for a footpath. There is another block that is the same as mine further down the road next to the leisure centre and they had their parking area extended in this way. They do not have the issues that we have in this block and I wonder why we cannot be afforded the same as this block.

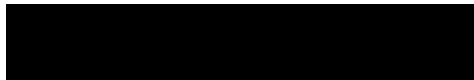
The second option would be to knock down some of the unused/old garages to the left of my block. These garages are hardly used and in fact I think they are used for storage rather than for vehicle storage. There is also the issue of cars gathering in there at times where drug dealing takes place which means there is a crime reduction opportunity.

The third option and this would not be popular in any way shape or form would be a permit system. But even if that was the case with insufficient spaces we are back to square one but with the added anger that people have paid a fee and still cannot park.

I would be grateful if you would take on board the issues that are currently happening. Without the creation of additional spaces this situation is going to continue and will in fact get worse when the people who park on the road are pushed away from it due to yellow lines. The situation is tense and I see on a daily basis residents playing tricks such as purposely parking to obstruct two spaces and then they will move their car and park properly when a partner/friend arrives with their car so that both have a space.

I would be more than happy to discuss this situation further if you wish. I work a shift pattern and do long hours so if you were to call and there was no answer please try again or email me.

Thank you for your time and I hope to hear from you.



HOUSES

① SPACES THAT COULD BE MADE

② ——— || ———>

NORTHFIELD

SPACES USED FOR CARS

SPACES USED FOR CARS

PATH

FLATS

PATH

①

PATH

PATH

②
GRASS

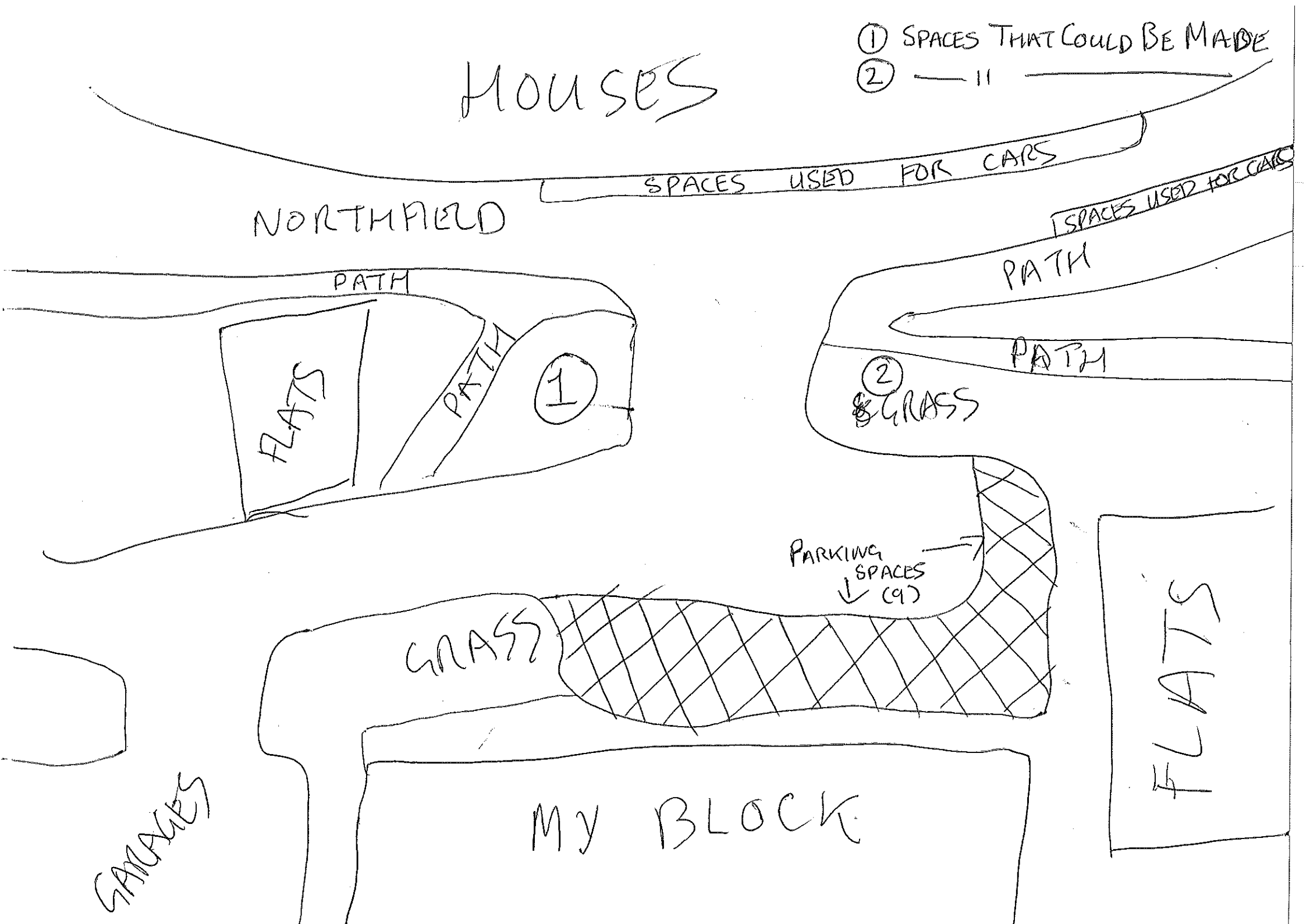
PARKING SPACES
↓
(9)

GRASS

GARAGES

MY BLOCK

FLATS



4.9 There is one objection pertaining to Northfield, and the proposal for double yellow lines in the surrounding roads.

Below is a summary of the grounds for objection.

- a) The parking area does not have defined lines and on a daily basis people park in a way that takes up two spaces or they park too closely to another vehicle
- b) Why people do not park up on the main road.....first is that people from the houses across the road often park on the road.
- c) The case is often that there is no space between the front of the block right down to the roundabout.
- d) When yellow lines are added to that section of road as highlighted in the plans I was sent those cars are going to be pushed from there and the obvious thing is to start parking in the area in front of my home.
- e) In my diagram you will see two areas marked 1 and 2 that could very easily be replaced with tarmac and would create a number of additional spaces to ease the situation.
- f) There is another block that is the same as mine further down the road next to the leisure centre and they had their parking area extended in this way.
- g) The second option would be to knock down some of the unused/old garages to the left of my block. These garages are hardly used and in fact I think they are used for storage rather than for vehicle storage.
- h) The third option would be a permit system.

4.10 The reasons for moving forward with the proposals for double yellow lines are as follows:

4.10.1 Responses to 4.9

- a) Placing bay markings in this location may not resolve parking in an obstructive manner as it is not enforceable, unless an off street order is specifically made. Marking out bays need to be within defined limits and can in some circumstances reduce the number of vehicles able to park when marked out.
- b) The road in question, Longmead, is public highway and available for all to park on. It is not exclusively for a particular set of residents. On visits by officers at various times of the day, spaces are often seen on that section of the highway and does not indicate at 100% capacity of kerbside space available.
- c) On various visits, there is often spaces seen along Longmead and there is often spare capacity near to the Zebra Crossing as well as in Birchwood Leisure Centre car park. Additional parking spaces were created on Cornerfield which is an approximate 5 minute walk from Northfield. Spare capacity is often seen on Chelwood Avenue and Homestead Road, which is also a short walk from these flats.
- d) The double yellow lines are being proposed on junctions to enforce what is in the Highway Code – not to park within 10 metres of a junction. The Council are looking to future proof by introducing double yellow lines at junctions when working in the area as to prevent any future safety concerns. It is not anticipated that large scale vehicle displacement will occur due to installation of lines.
- e) All locations are assessed on an individual basis, and as each site will vary in its capacity to accommodate additional improvement works. In this situation, the area in question had

been investigated previously and it had not been possible to create additional spaces due to various factors including lack of visibility and space.

- f) It is not always possible to construct an equal amount of parking bays at each location. The scope of parking improvements that are constructed are unique to each particular area. The other site was suitable for improvement works.
- g) After checking with the garages team, this block of garages have recently been refurbished and it is not available for demolition. The policy for garage rental allows occupants to use for storage of vehicles or items.
- h) As the objector raises, a permit scheme would not be suitable in this location as it primarily used by residents and would not reduce the number of vehicles seeking to park in this location. In the initial consultation, there was low response rates from residents within Longmead and Northfield for any parking restrictions such as permit schemes.