

## Law, Aileen

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**From:** James Shirazi  
**Sent:** 27 April 2021 10:53  
**To:** Planning  
**Subject:** Planning Application Ref P/21/0029  
**Attachments:** Planning Objection Hamilton College Entrance April 2021[894].docx

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I confirm our objection against the planning application ref P/21/0029 as concerned parents who have children at the school. We attach our formal objection and appreciate that our objection is out with the statutory notice period but note that SLC consider all objections prior to the formal planning hearing. We would also point out that we are affected by the proposal but that to our knowledge there has been no communication from Hamilton College School regarding this planning application.

I would be grateful for confirmation that you have received our formal objection regarding the proposals.

Kind Regards

James Shirazi

**James & Claire Shirazi, Parents of Children at Hamilton College**

**21 Silverbirch Grove**

**Quarter**

**Hamilton**

**ML3 7XZ**

**Planning Application Ref P/21/0029 - Land Off Bothwell Road, Hamilton**

I am formally submitting our objections to the proposed development detailed above.

**Road Safety** – The existing entrance to Hamilton College at peak times of picking up and dropping off the children is very congested. Coming out of the school relies on other motorists co-operation when going onto Bothwell Road and can be difficult if other motorists are not helpful. At the moment the focus for the entrance is only for school activities. We think it would be dangerous and irresponsible to have a dual activity entrance with a School! Our main concern is that if there is another activity using this entrance for residential use it would confuse an already complicated entrance. Unfortunately, there has been no communication from the school to make parents aware that there is a planning application to use the school entrance for a residential development. The other parents we have spoken to are also very concerned about using the school entrance. I think had the School communicated this proposal to parents there would have been a deluge of objections.

The existing entrance to Hamilton College forms a busy junction from Bothwell Road – a dual carriageway and main access route into Hamilton- and is extremely congested at peak times throughout the day. Apart from private vehicles, a number of large executive coaches drop off and collect pupils on a daily basis, and are required to manoeuvre the narrow access road. To even contemplate allowing a secondary access from this road, to facilitate residential development, is a serious threat to, and total disregard for the safety of pedestrians (nursery to secondary age pupils and public), vehicles, and other road users, including cyclists.

Although the application states 2 properties, the scale of each of these, with 6 ensuite bedrooms, and a separate studio flat above the garage, creates the potential for ownership levels of between 7 and 14 cars per property, depending on occupancy and age profile of prospective residents. These would contribute to the traffic flow on the access road. Visitor traffic to/from the proposed properties would be in addition to these figures. This does not show any consideration for Road Safety in this location. In addition, local pedestrians utilise the woodland to access Hamilton College, and some pupils have also used this route to/from school, which would pose further risk to life and limb.

I am not aware of any other housing development being accessed from school grounds.

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**No Environmental Statement** The school hold a number of class events in these woods during school hours concentrating on the nature within the woods. I note that there is no environmental statement that has been submitted, however a Survey

commissioned by the National Trust for Scotland, and verified by the National Biodiversity Network (Scotland), records that a great variety of birds and wildlife use this site and the surrounding area as their natural habitat. They include Buzzards; Goldfinch and Greenfinch (protected under Wildlife Countryside Act 1981); as well as a wide range of common birds such as Rooks; Robins; Blue Tits; Gulls; Swallows; Owls and Woodpeckers. In addition bats, deer, toads, foxes, squirrels, large birds of prey, wild flowers including wild orchids, butterflies, bees, and other unusual species such as brightly coloured damsel/dragonflies and Green Shield bugs (rare in Scotland) also inhabit this particular site. This list is not exhaustive. Any development would devastate this rich and diverse eco system.

**Zoning** - The site is zoned as 'Green Network' in the South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan Settlement Maps, and not Housing. This application is therefore in direct conflict with the Local Plan, at a time when the preservation of green areas is more vital than ever before.