

RE: Childs play area on Brinsworth Road, Catcliffe

Dear Councillors,

As the spokes person for Nunnery Crescent and Surrounding areas, myself and fellow residents have discussed a great length the safety of our children and feel that action needs to be taken.

The play area you have provided is very popular with children of all ages and from other areas of Catcliffe and Brinsworth, however the concerns we that have been voiced by many parents and guardians is the safety of the children.

As I'm sure you are aware the other play areas around Catcliffe, Brinsworth and Canklow are enclosed with sufficient fencing and access, except the one in question. The park it situated next to a 60mph road, to which drivers, young and old exceed this limit each and every day. This is not acceptable by any means as the football net, basketball net and rest area that have been provided isn't enclosed resulting in balls going on the main road; and a child's automatic instinct is to chase the ball. The area is open and this isn't acceptable. An enclosure at sufficient height is needed just like the one at both the parks in Brinsworth.

The play area itself is fantastic and one of the best by far, however the access isn't easy. There are two entrance points but no path and entrance has to be gained over the field or down the embankment making it difficult for an able bodied person, not to mention someone with a disability or requires a wheelchair. A standard size wheelchair cannot fit through the gates that have been placed at the entrance points. If it has rained at any point, the embankment becomes hard to pass and dangerous and the other entrance becomes bogged. This is not safe for anyone. A pathway is needed up to the gates for everyone's safety, and potentially the gate from the embankment needs locating in another section with a path for easy access.

I and the residents have also discussed the way drivers pass through the streets and across the field mentioned above. A minor who is a resident on Nunnery Crescent was in a Road Traffic Accident in this area due to careless drivers, fortunately the child is fine, but what about next time?

There have been many near misses on the streets in this area, not just with children; but with all who reside here from young to old. This is a built up area with many children who all enjoy being outdoors, but again there safety is in jeopardy due to careless drivers. If this continues, a fatal accident is sure to happen and therefore preventative measures need to be put in place in the very near future. We residents feel these measures need to be put in place on Nunnery Crescent, High Hazel Crescent leading on the problem area on High Hazel View around the Play Area. There is a corner at the top of High Hazel View and drivers approach this corner at great speed and many a times there have been near misses with resident's crossing over the road. This corner is dangerous and something needs putting in place. What I would like to add, it's not just the residents that live in the area that drive at great speeds, it's the visitors as well. We residents hope you take this matter seriously as the safety of our children is paramount.

On behalf of the resident I would like to thank you for taking the time to read this letter with our concerns.

Why is it that the other play areas local to us have the same facilities and have an enclosure at sufficient height?

Why have you placed an entrance down an embankment without a path and next to the main road?

Why isn't there disabled access?

Why isn't there sufficient pathway to the gates making the access easier for all that use the area?

Why, in such a built up area with many children is there no preventative measure to stop speeding drivers?