

Planning Committee – 3 September 2014

Public Question 1

Questioner: Eileen Kinnear

Asked of: Councillor Keith Ferry, Chairman of the Planning Committee

Proposed closure of access to Church Fields from Kingsfield Road

A "Polite Notice" posted by Harrow Council at this entrance on 31st July stated that access from the road

"will be closed off to the public by 26th August by installing a gate that is to be locked at all times" (to adhere to terms and conditions in the lease).

Residents were subsequently told that the method of closure would be a 1.5m steel post and wire metal fence with a metal gate.

I think it fair to say that this news about the closure has caused outrage among the local community, many of whom have been protesting it. An extension of time for the closure has now been allowed.

The Open aspect and view into Church Fields as well as the area itself are much valued by residents: the land is an acknowledged asset in the original Conservation Area Policy Statement for Roxborough Park and The Grove.

Policies in The (Draft) SPD for Harrow on the Hill Conservation Areas dated December 2007 indicate that

" the retention of visually important boundary treatments which are characteristic of Harrow on the Hill's Conservation Areas will be required"

" Harrow Council will encourage the retention and improvement of both public and private green spaces including trees and hedgerows"

" Harrow Council will seek to ensure that boundary treatments respect the character of the area, in terms of their appearance and materials"

In which case, could we be told how the intended metal gate and fencing comply with these policies, and further - do not these intended works require planning permission?