

**Kirkstall Labour Councillors**  
**Cllr Elizabeth Minkin,**  
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Your ref

Our ref EM/JI/BA/NP

Date 14<sup>th</sup> February 2008

The Resident(s)

Leeds

Dear Residents

**Re: Abbey Grange School Proposed Development**

We write to alert you to a major development which Abbey Grange School is proposing on the green fields opposite the school on Butcher Hill. The space in question is owned partly by the school and partly by the Council.

The proposal is for a commercial company, Powerleague, to build a full size floodlit hockey pitch 105mx55m; a junior grass pitch; ten floodlit all weather soccer pitches each 20mx30m; two floodlit seven a side pitches each 40m x30m; a 350m square box type pavilion and 168 car park spaces with a new access road off Butcher Hill.

The total investment is in the region of £2.1million and the development is planned to be directly adjacent to Butcher Hill, not located where the present pitch is. The development would take up more than half the area of the current green space and would obviously involve a great deal of high fencing, including along the length of Butcher Hill for security reasons.

The plan is for the school to have free use of the pitches on an exclusive basis during term time until 4.30 pm and the community to have paid access between 4.30 and 6pm. Thereafter the use is commercial with plans to go on operating until 10.30 pm weekdays, 7pm on Saturdays and 9pm on Sundays. The bar will be open in the pavilion from 6pm until 11pm on weekdays, midnight on Saturdays and 9pm on Sundays. The bar takes up more space than the changing rooms.

Abbey Grange School serves a very wide catchment area and we understand few children from the neighbourhood attend the School. Although the Developers say that the scheme will not increase travel levels this is not credible as the provision of 168 car park spaces and new entry road shows.

It is our opinion that this is a proposal of a scale and impact that is totally inappropriate to this site and should be opposed. However, as Councillors we feel that we must represent the views of the residents whom we serve and this development will have an impact on Hawksworth Wood, Moor Grange, West Park and the Spens/Old Oaks, each of which has a very good Residents or Community Association. Those groups are deciding to join forces to protect this open site. We also intend to call a public meeting when a planning application is made or before if that is requested.

If you share these concerns, or conversely you think the scheme is a good one, write to Mrs. Ann Wilson, Chair of Governors, Abbey Grange School, Butcher Hill and express forcibly your views. We would also like to hear from you, whether by phone, letter or email. We also ask that you speak to your neighbours so that every one in the area affected can know of this major development on this important open green site.

Yours sincerely



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