

Mike Taylor
 Town of Chapel Hill
 306 N Columbia Street
 Chapel Hill, NC, 27516

Sept 19, 2004

Sir:

I have lived at 1021 Laurel Hill Road since 1952 - the first occupant of a house in this neighborhood.

For those of us who live on this section of Laurel Hill, the closing of the section that runs through the Botanical Garden would be a disaster.

In bad weather for those of us whose driveways open onto the road there would be no way to exit our homes - We could not make that turn onto Coker and we could not go up the Hill to Kries Mill and exit via that street.

Years ago the Garden requested that this section of the street be closed - Winkley the Council denied this request. At that time it was pointed out that the road was paved because it was a school bus route. I have noticed that even today the school buses go straight down the Hill in bad weather the turn being so dangerous at those times.

Have you come out to look at that

intersection to see the difficulties that
making the turn into Coleridge Ave for those
of us who use Laurel Hill as our exit?
The present road slants at that turn &
there is a steep drop off on the right
hand side of Coleridge into which one
could easily slide when turning.
The expense of redesigning this corner
would be mind boggling and the
Garden has no funds to help finance
this. The offer of extra land at Fordham
and Morning is best needed, there
are never more than 2 or 3 cars at any
one time (more often just one). This is
a neighborhood, not a busy city street
and there is ample room to make a right
hand turn when another car is waiting to
cross the highway or turn left.

There has never been an accident
to visitors to the Garden on this section
of Laurel Hill to my knowledge and how
that it is only one way it is true that
any one other than neighbors use it. We
are all fully aware of pedestrians at
the Garden entrances. There should be no
danger from keeping the street open.
And the Garden has always felt free to close
the road on their own initiative since they
have had events there.

I am vehemently opposed to the
closing of this section of Laurel Hill Road
and I believe you will recommend
against it. I will be out of the country at
the time of the hearing or I would be there.
Mr. David (Payton) Borrett