

Headteacher: Mrs H Latimer



Friday 4th December 2020

Re: 20/01637/FUL

Englefield
CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Street, Englefield, Berks RG7 5ER
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Dear Panel,

As the current Headteacher at Englefield Primary School, I previously wrote to you concerning the urgent need for a suitable, safe parking area in Englefield for the parents and pupils of the school to use. It concerns me greatly that the potential barrier to having this application passed is the perceived lack of need. I question whether the council require an accident to happen outside the school before they see a need for safety measures.

Our position in the conservation area already limits the safety signage and traffic calming measures that we can put in place. With a growing number of pupils from outside of our rural catchment area, the number of cars coming in and out of the village at either end of the day is growing. Surely housing some of these cars in a discreet, off-road parking area would be far preferable to the roads and verges being blocked, both in terms of safety and in terms of preserving the conservation area.

The council has already passed the building of a large primary school on a green field site in Theale which has had a big impact on the look of the local area. The proposed car park in Englefield would be far more discreet and would ease traffic congestion rather than create it, as the new school seems to have done on the Englefield Road.

We are in an extremely fortunate position to have the support of the Englefield Estate who are proposing to provide this car park without any financial burden on the taxpayer. To prevent someone else from contributing to the job of maintaining safety for local children strikes me as ill-considered, particularly when the Estate do such a good job of adhering to conservation guidelines.

I urge you to treat this application sympathetically and put the safety of our children ahead of other issues.

Hilary Latimer

Headteacher
Englefield CE Primary School

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