

Application Number: 20/03074/COND3

I would like to make two points regarding the building of a new Primary School at Mary Hare School:

1. Mary Hare's own "Primary School Project Design and Access Statement April 2018" specifically warns against increased traffic on Arlington Lane for safety reasons.

Introduction: Public Consultation (from 20th Feb 2018):

"A Statement of Community Involvement documents the responses but in summary there was universal support for the proposals subject to being satisfied that any additional traffic would not exacerbate issues already experienced on Arlington Lane."

Site Constraints (p32)

"Potential for any new vehicular access from Arlington Lane directly into the field, or from the existing school access road that runs along the east boundary of the field, is limited due to narrow single lane carriageway of Arlington Lane, poor visibility at the junction."

Design Statement (p37) "avoiding impact of additional traffic to Arlington Lane."

2. In 2017 the National Curriculum was updated to include the Climate Crisis. West Berkshire Council unanimously declared a Climate Emergency on 2nd July 2019. Many school children from the area protested in London over the country's leaders' failure to address emissions.

The Primary School building at Mary Hare school is proposed to be built on a 1 in 5 steeply sloping site. Retaining the slopes alone will require thousands of linear metres of walls made from tens of thousands of tonnes of reinforced concrete. Excavating down three metres across the site is required to remove and transport over a hundred thousand of tonnes of land. The buildings require further amounts of steel and are made up of brick and concrete (Materiality section; Design and Access Statement from the Planning Application).

Whilst the Design and Access Statement on the planning portal celebrates a 39% reduction in CO₂ from reduced energy usage, it specifically mentions that the site prevents it meeting the planning policy requirement for all major developments to achieve Breeam Excellent status. The carbon (CO₂) released from the concrete poured simply to enable a school to be built on such a sloping site dwarfs the benefits made from efficiency gains, for decades.

Since we are in a Climate Emergency, please could West Berkshire Council and The School confirm that, the use of flat and level sites that do not require thousands of tonnes of excavation and concrete retaining for a largely subterranean building have not been overlooked? The school has several flat, brownfield sites available at White Cottages and near the school's main entrance on the Oxford Road.

A large building that requires so much CO₂-emitting concrete on a sloping site, when other flat sites are available, seems to be in direct contradiction to what we are teaching our children and the Emergency declared by West Berkshire Council. There are no calculations around the CO₂ released by choosing this site and if the climate is indeed an "Emergency" (def: a serious and dangerous situation requiring **immediate** action), we would do everything to build timber-based buildings, avoiding concrete as far as possible.

Can the School and

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