

Subject: Therfield First School's Support to Village Planning Application

Date: Wednesday, 11 October 2023 at 09:40:33 British Summer Time

From: Tara McGovern

To: peter@pjbplanning.co.uk, Tom Hanson

Good morning Peter,

I have recently been consulted by Mr Tom Hanson regarding the planning application for new housing within the village, in close proximity to the school. Please accept this letter as my strong support of the application. Therfield First School is exceptionally proud to be a key feature of this wonderful village and we take great joy from being able to serve the families within the immediate local community; we currently have a 5th generation of one local family within the school which is most unique. We want to be able to cater for the future generations of families attending the school.

Small school sustainability is a huge topic of discussion at present and we have to work very hard to ensure that we have our full intake of pupils each year. Typically only about 25% of the pupils attending our school live in the village of Therfield. This means that we need to attract pupils from the local towns of Royston, Buntingford and the various surrounding villages to make up our numbers; all of which have their own nearer, local schools. Additional housing within the village would certainly support the school's current and longer term sustainability. Therfield First School offers outstanding education, nurture and experience to its pupils and we really want as many children to benefit from this as possible, but especially those families wishing to raise their children in such a special close-knit community. The school continues to be an important deciding factor for many families considering relocating to the village and we want this to continue.

We also try to spread the important message of being as environmentally friendly as possible, encouraging our local children to walk, bike or scoot to school. The more children we have travelling into school from outside of the village, brings more car journeys, village traffic, car parking issues and pollution.

I strongly believe that the village of Therifeld is exceptionally special - it has a real sense of community and fellowship. Why would we not want more families to benefit from this way of life and community spirit? I am very happy to discuss this matter further or provide any additional information in support of this application. I can be contacted via email or on the school telephone number listed below.

Kind regards
Tara McGovern

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