

Dear Sir

Ref Planning Application 25/01830/FP Transport Assessment

There are major problems with the analysis contained in this document. In general, it appears to seek 'best case' assumptions and to avoid reasonably expected problems. **The underlying assumption appears to be that travel problems no worse than the current school pupil pick up chaos are an acceptable benchmark on which to operate every hour of the day.** I suggest that analysis shortcomings include:-

- There is no assessment of the impact of proposed competitions and other events, their likely attendance and the likely impact on road congestion, although such events are planned. Past experience demonstrates this to be a major issue.
- as in the school's previous travel plan, no attempt has been made to survey surrounding roads at pupil pick up time when the whole of Sollershott West and Highfield from Hitchin Road to the school and beyond is reduced to one lane. The problem will be that for many pick up users the roadside will be the parking and waiting location of choice, as is currently the case for the parents of pupils. Highfield is the through road to the Westbury estate as well as serving Highfield residents. Verge posts limit the ability to leave the road so inevitably two-way traffic will fight to use a single carriageway. I have damaged a wheel on a verge drain cover similar to that shown in the photo trying to navigate this situation in the past. I'm sure others will suffer worse fates in the future.
- the applicability of the quoted TRICS numbers and other optimistic assumptions to this site is unclear and they are therefore questionable. Surely car share depends on the distance travelled and the affluence of users. My recent experience, as an occasional supporting grandfather, is of professional coaches, not parent coaching and of one car per child except for multi child families. This hasn't changed in this area over many years. Spectator numbers have not been included.
- the assumption that if there is adequate on-site parking there will be no street parking is either naive or misleading. Local experience shows that people will park closest to the entrance and where get away is easiest. With access to the left of the front of the school, the road will be preferred to the main car park.
- the assessment ignores school holiday time. Contrary to the claim in the document, there is a high risk in school holiday periods that refuse vehicles will be hindered. I attach a photo of the concrete post recently hit by a lorry, on its way to the school, passing a responsibly parked van. This is a replacement for a post previously demolished. It attempts to protect a cast iron drain cover. For that reason you will see very few resident vehicles parked on the roadside. Refuse collections in Highfield avoid peak school traffic. Peak traffic will no longer be predictable.
- there is no assessment of the mix of transport expected. An assessment of the likely age group using the site and the type of vehicles is surely important. Motor cycles could be expected to cause a much greater noise problem and a much greater accident risk particularly in cramped road conditions



Nothing in this document indicates that the applicant has fully assessed the impact of their planning application.

Yours faithfully

Rod Emery

43 Highfield

SG6 3PY