



Petersfield School response to amended planning application, in respect of revised provision of coach set-down and car parking space for school use.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Petersfield School's comments on the plans amended to provide for a coach set-down area and parking for the school are as follows;

The School is pleased to see additional provision in the proposed plans for school parking, something that had been asked for previously by the School in its earlier comments on this application.

The School remains concerned that should the development proceed in its current location we will be unable to expand in the future to accommodate this and future housing developments without taking away the current village amenities recreation ground. The school is a five parish community school and therefore the catchment draws from surrounding villages not just Orwell.

With regard the specifics of the amended plan, the School has the following comments to make:

1. Number of parking spaces. The number of car parking spaces (hard to establish from the plans but approximately 20) now more accurately reflects the number of cars that would be displaced from being able to park along Hurdleditch Road by the development. It should be noted therefore the provision for car parking does not provide many, if any, additional capacity from the informal parking arrangement already in place along Hurdleditch Road.
2. Location of parking spaces. The car parking spaces are on the North West side of the road. That means that children will have to cross the road at some point in order to get to the school. This increases risk from the current arrangements as children are now able to walk to the school along the verge without having to cross the road at any point, and in this respect parents have further minimised risk by voluntarily establishing a one-way road traffic system along Hurdleditch Road. With the new proposed parking not only is there a risk to the children in crossing the road to get to the school but a further risk has been introduced by the fact cars will be manoeuvring into and out of the parking spaces. If school parking provision is made as shown on the plans, two things are required to minimise the risk to children:
 - a. Very good street lighting. School drop off and pick up takes place in dark or semi dark for some half of the school year.
 - b. Some form of traffic control measures at the point where the school parking area joins Hurdleditch Road, to allow the children to cross safely from the North West side of the new proposed car parking area

to the school entrance.

3. Coach parking/set-down/pick-up location. This is judged sensible. Children will not have to cross any road between the school and the bus.
4. Alternative arrangement. An alternative arrangement of the parking area, which would go some way to mitigating the issues raised at serial b) above, would be to adjust the location of the bus drop-off/pick-up point to a point closer to Hurdleditch Road and to move all car parking bays to the South side of the area (Eastwards). In that way no child being dropped-off in the parking area would need to cross the road. This might also be preferable to residents as otherwise car headlights will shine into the houses twice each day for six months a year and parents park their cars morning and evening.
5. Make the school parking area one-way at the point that the parking area begins. This should de-risk the area.

If you have any questions in connection with our comments above, or on any other matter concerning the School's views on the proposed development we would be pleased to talk with you.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Wilson
Chair of Governors

Mrs Karen Gwynn and Mrs Laura Penrose
Co-Headteachers