

Shinfield Parish Council planning observations:

F/2014/2633

Proposal

Shinfield C Of E Junior School Chestnut Crescent Shinfield

Proposed erection of additional 860sqm floor space to include 6 new classrooms SEN/group room improved library facilities and studio hall. Also the change of use of 8858sqm of agricultural land to non-residential institution for use by the school with parking and additional features.

Planning Officer

Ashley Smith

Comments by 1 January 2015

Comment

The parish council supports this application provided that officers agree a boundary treatment for the new south eastern perimeter of the site that effectively screens the extension from the flood plain SANG areas.

The parish council has major concerns over the travel plan for the school. The Transport Statement prepared by WSP fails to acknowledge the existence of Shinfield Nursery and Infants School which feeds St Mary's Primary School and therefore many parents/carers. are delivering and collecting children from both schools and park anywhere to enable them to carry out this function. So you have to view the overall parking and traffic in the areas of School Green, Chestnut Crescent and immediate surrounding roads and places.

The nursery and infant school is also undergoing expansion and serious parking issues have been identified at that school and will become worse, therefore it is essential that the two schools work together and develop a combined travel plan, this should be a condition of approval of any planning approval. There is no evidence to suggest that any cooperation has taken place between the two schools and indeed the longer stays indicated at 15.30 are as a direct result of staggered school times and parents/carers collecting children from both schools and forced to wait. The parish council has been working with the Nursery and Infant School to address these parking problems problem and considers the situation to become much worse over the coming year or so especially during the construction of additional accommodation at both schools.

We question the figures produced by WSP which assume that there can be a reduction in travel to school by car from the current percentages using comparisons from other schools. This totally ignores the fact that many parents/carers using this method then go on to another destination, such as employment which cannot be accessed by existing or even improved public transport. The figure of 65% Car/van is roughly equivalent to the the percentages experienced at the Nursery and Infant School.

There should be a condition on approval requiring WBC to introduce one way traffic around Chestnut Crescent and consideration given to enforceable parking restrictions at key points in this road and roads serving the Nursery and Infant School.

The transport statement ignores the proposed changes to the School Green area as a result of development of the Village centre, the sale of Shinfield House and the recent opening of the Coop food store on the site of the former Royal Oak public house which will affect ability to park outside these buildings and the impending sale of the British Legion which again will reduce the number of existing parking spaces.

Overall we consider this report to be a poor reflection of what actually happens in the area given that the two schools combined will have some 660 pupils once expansion has taken place. We suggest that WSP are requested to reconsider their report taking account of the total numbers of pupils being delivered to this general area

