

ITEM 4.8 – (17/04946/FULL1) THE WIDMORE CENTRE, NIGHTINGALE LANE, BROMLEY

REPRESENTATIONS IN OBJECTION TO THE APPLICATION RECEIVED FROM COMMITTEE MEMBER AND WARD MEMBER, COUNCILLOR KATE LYMER

To have 3 primary schools all located in a half mile radius seems bonkers to me, but under current planning policies, it's history as school previously and as an adult education centre means that the principle of having a school here again is proved, and therefore the use of the site is not being considered within the scope of this application. Instead this application focuses solely on building operations.

I am content with the design, and the removal of the large scale modern extension would represent a visual improvement to the appearance of the traditional building. Suitable landscaping is also proposed, and no trees are proposed to be removed. The school starting hours will be staggered with the school next door. There are enough parking spaces for staff onsite. The real problem here however regards highways and the influx of 100s of parents driving cars into the network of surrounding roads.

Sadly, as I have already mentioned current planning rules say that we are assessing this application on building operations only, and this means that the highway impact is not material to the assessment of this application, and according to the National Planning Policy Framework, imposing conditions regarding the submission of a travel plan and cycle parking facilities do not meet the relevant tests for conditions, but it is pleasing to hear that a travel plan will be made.

Over the past few months ward colleagues have been in numerous dialogues with all the affected parties, and just before Christmas the Leader of the Council met with the heads of La Fontaine, Bickley Primary and St. Georges, as well as representatives from local residents groups, the developer, highways and the planning department. This was a positive meeting and all parties are committed to making this scheme work as best as it can. When the school opens, the situation will be monitored and assessed by our highways team and local councillors. If access arrangements to the site need to change, we will work to make them. Tim Horsman has altered one of the recommendations in order to provide more flexibility around the future access arrangements as it is far from ideal for a high number of cars to be exiting onto Nightingale Lane - a heavily parked and congested road. If alterations to the road networks need to change, again, we will work to make them, and we have agreement from the school and the developer to investigate alternative car parking designs and also look into increasing the number of spaces if it turns out when the school opens that the number of drop off parking spaces is

insufficient. So there is goodwill across the board to make this work and long may it continue.

Councillor Kate Lymer