

Application cc/0043/19 Misbourne School

Mr. Simon V. Rhodes per pro Great Missenden Parish Council (GMPC) 2nd December 2019

GMPC object to the Misbourne school proposed 1 TFE expansion

Please see the PC's previous representations to date, in objecting to this Application.

1. Educational need arising from population growth

It is clear school places need to be placed where the need arises and GMPC therefore does not accept the statements made in the Appendix D Green Belt Statement submitted with the application and is aware of a set of lower 'household projections' from the ONS.

Further reasons given in the Planning Committee Report for supporting the Application are (in section 7.4)...

b) Benefits of additional facilities to the local community for use out of school hours.

The school already lets out its existing facilities to local residents. There does not appear to be a sufficient net benefit arising from a larger sports hall.

c) Improvements to traffic congestion and highway safety at pick-up and drop-off times.

The traffic and parking situation in Great Missenden is currently toxic. Combined with hundreds of lorry movements a day arising from HS2, the suggestion that additional movements associated with what in reality would be more than 190 people under these proposals gives rise to traffic congestion improvements and therefore somehow improves amenity for all, is trite and merely serves to reinforce the lack of local 'on the ground knowledge' expressed in the Travel Plan and is overall inadequate. (More on this topic later.)

d) Benefits of improved sports facilities in fighting child obesity

GMPC has over the years tried to maintain the use of adequate green space by formal agreement with the School to use a GMPC allotment area which has been grassed over. AFC Lightning also use this space.

2. Travel Plan

It is clear that when County chiefs reveal that secondary school places in the area at capacity and that a deficit of school places is projected that the problem lies primarily in the Aylesbury Vale area.

The dedicated school bus and public school bus services are failing. The dedicated bus service ignores prior missives to use the A413 and London Road to access and egress the school and uses the inappropriate narrow High Street we are told; in order to make the journey shorter and win substantive fuel cost savings. Large Project Funds to upgrade the path through Angling Spring Wood (GMI/55/4) (which is the responsibility of BCC to maintain) for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders to encourage more sustainable and safe commuting to the school. Funding was refused.

It is fanciful to think that pupils and staff might cycle from areas such as Chesham and Amersham with their luggage given the gradients, absence of lighting and traffic conditions and UK weather on these roads. The targets in the document are meaningless and no clue is given about how bus uptake will be increased given the failing and deteriorating nature of this service.

3. Environmental

As stated the need for school expansion in this location has no merit and is not sustainable. There are therefore no overriding and special circumstances that defeat the planning constraints applicable to the Green Belt and AONB and sensitive habitats.

4. Other

GMPC does not object to replacement of the Sports Hall facility itself but ask the question is it right sized.