

20th March 2011

Head of Environmental Planning
Essex County Council
Minerals and Waste Planning
Environment, Sustainability & Highways
County Hall
Chelmsford
Essex
CM1 1QH

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: CC/UTT/13/11 - Construction of a new 300 place primary school with 21 staff car parking spaces including one parking space for the disabled, hard and soft play areas, habitat area and associated landscaping.

At the suggestion of Councillor Alan Dean, a group of residents from Foresthall Park and Mountfitchet Estate have recently met to discuss various issues associated with our environs, and in particular, the relocation of St Mary's Primary School. As many of us have young children this is a particularly pertinent topic. Amongst the group, there was strong support for the new school, although some concerns have been raised which we have outlined below:

Insufficient car parking

The Travel Plan (<http://dipweb.uttlesford.gov.uk/AnitePublicDocs/03373931.pdf>) states that there are a total of 35 teachers presently working at St Mary's Primary School (full and part time). Of those, 25 presently drive to existing site, and if the school relocates, there will be a predicted net increase of teachers driving from 3 to 28. The scheme indicates that there will be a total of 21 on site car parking spaces including one disabled space which is insufficient for all the staff (without even considering visitors to the school). This will mean that some staff will be forced to park on the nearby streets which are already busy and will lead to parking issues for the local residents.

Congestion

We acknowledge that some degree of congestion is inevitable at the start and end of the school day. Given the parking issues outlined above for staff, we are concerned that the local roads will be heavily congested at these times. We believe that parents picking up/dropping off their children will most likely park on or near Walson Way given the presence of a pedestrian gate to the school on the Walson Way/Reeve Road junction. Walson Way is the main road through Foresthall Park and it is also a bus route (No. 510) and we agree with the suggestions made by Michael Ovenden/Uttlesford County Council (<http://dipweb.uttlesford.gov.uk/AnitePublicDocs/03400250.pdf>) that the pedestrian gate be moved away from the Walson Way/Reeve Road junction to discourage informal

waiting in that location and that the main school entrance be integrated into the large urban area to the east of the school.

Access to/from school from village centre

Whilst we recognise that this is a broader issue, the number of people walking to and from the village from Foresthall Park/Mountfitchet Estate will increase over the next few years. The main routes are via Church Road and Water Lane. We urge the Council to review and improve these routes. The most pressing concerns relate to Church Road – it is narrow, vehicles travel too fast, lighting is inadequate and there is no marked crossing point between Lower Street and the Mountfitchet Mathematics and Computing College. In that regard, Councillor Dean has made suggestions for improvements on his website <http://alandean.mycouncillor.org.uk/2011/03/03/safety-on-foot-along-church-road-stansted/> that we support and that we urge you to consider. The proposal of a pavement on the west side of Church Road from Maitland Road to Walson Way is important for safeguarding the residents of both Foresthall Park and Mountfitchet Estate.

Faithfully,

Dr Graham Neill
Kim Taylor
Stephen Berry
Vanessa Kelly
Jean Winder

Cc: Cllr Alan Dean (cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk)
Mr Jeremy Pine, UDC Planning Department (jpine@uttlesford.gov.uk)
Cllr Geoffrey Sell Chair, Stansted PC (cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk)
Mrs Ruth Clifford Clerk, Stansted PC (ruth.clifford@stansted.net)