

Comment on a planning application

Application Details

Application: 24/2117/VRC

Address: Hampton Pre-Prep And Prep School Gloucester Road Hampton TW12 2UQ

Proposal: Variation of planning approval 13/2102/FUL - Condition Number(s): 13 (U67172) - Restriction on pupil numbers to allow to increase pupil numbers from 144 to 176.

Comments Made By

Name: Dr. Nigel Kingsley

Address: 1 Wensleydale Gardens Hampton TW12 2LU

Comments

Type of comment: Object to the proposal

Comment: I am objecting on the following grounds:

Previous planning decisions:

The issue of balance between the School's wish to expand, and the interests of surrounding neighbours and others travelling through or visiting the area has been with us since the 70s. Denmead and later Hampton Prep have progressively turned a site that was originally a playing field, into a full school complex. Numerous applications during this period reflect council concerns about the impact of expansion, and repeated statements that numbers will not be increased. This application returns us to 2011 when the first application for the new building with up to 176 pupils was rejected on traffic grounds. The original issues remain and the school has not provided convincing evidence to support return to the 2011 proposed limit. Carlisle Road, Scotts Drive are still used for drop-off and pickup despite being deemed unsatisfactory for this purpose by the Council.

Adequacy of parking/loading/turning, Highway safety, Traffic Generation and Noise and disturbance:

All these causes of objection concern effects which depend on pupil numbers. We fully support the arguments presented in other objections. Wensleydale Gardens still shows parking stress, and we believe that at least two staff members are parking in the close throughout school hours, in contradiction of their policy. Traffic flow in surrounding streets is disrupted during drop-off and pickup times - this effect is much less out of term, so it is not plausible to blame it on other causes such as building work.

An increasingly important issue is the effect of school operations on Carlisle Park (already under threat through potential opening of gates at night, and destruction of visual amenity through enlarged cricket nets). It is ironic that a site which was originally the school's playing field is now inadequate for this purpose, forcing activity to the park with consequent disturbance to other park users, and wear to the environment. Clearly, this would worsen with greater numbers.