

Comment for planning application WSCC/055/20

Application number

Name

Address

Type of Comment

Comments

I am a Governor of Woodlands Meed and I write to support this application for the following reasons. I am a Governor of Woodlands Meed and I write to strongly support this application for the following reasons' I am a Governor of Woodlands Meed and I write to strongly support this application for the following reasons. The existing College Building was built for the Newick House Special School around 50 years ago. It is a prefabricated building, intended to have a lifespan of around 20 years. It was given new cladding (which is not fireproof) and redecorated internally after the incorporation of Newick House in to the Woodlands Meed School and College in 2012. These cosmetic measures were completely inadequate to remedy the deficiencies in this substandard building which is not fit for purpose. The building proposed in this planning application represents the culmination of many years of hard work by Parents, Staff and Governors to persuade the County Council to agree to build a College that will give the students, and staff, the building they deserve. It is long overdue. The new building will provide state of the art facilities to support the excellent education and caring environment of the College which, in spite of the deficiencies of the existing building, is universally recognised both locally and in the wider community. I would emphasise that this application simply seeks to replace the existing College. Not to introduce a new one. The numbers of students, staff and visitors will be the same. The building has been designed to blend in with its surroundings. It makes innovative use of this sloping site. The two storey section in the northern part is cut in to the slope greatly reducing its impact there. It respects the amenities of the residential properties on its northern and western sides and retains the trees and shrubs on both these boundaries. These will also be reinforced with additional planting. With regard to the generation of traffic, this, as mentioned above, will not be increased by the new College, It is also relevant to note that a Full College Day Traffic Count carried out in May 2109 clearly showed that the College generates just over one third of the trips at the access and exit points shared with Birchwood Grove Primary School. This application must be assessed against the Objectives and Policies of the Development Plan which comprises the Burgess Hill Neighbourhood Plan and the Mid Sussex District Plan. The relevant Objective of the Neighbourhood Plan is Core Objective 1, which promotes sustainable and well designed development. The most relevant Policies of the District Plan are DP26 - Character and Design, DP28 - Accessibility, DP37 - Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows and DP39 - Sustainable Design and Construction. An examination of the detailed design drawings backed up by the wealth of evidence submitted to support this application demonstrates beyond any doubt that the proposal is in full compliance with all these statutory policies. I request that this application be placed before the County Planning Committee and that permission be granted at the first opportunity to enable construction to begin as soon as possible.

Received

Attachments