

Hauptstrasse 330d  
65760 Eschborn  
Germany/Deutschland  
5 January, 2021

West Sussex County Council  
County Hall  
Chichester PO19 1RQ  
England

Dear Chris Bartlett,

**Planning application number WSCC/055/20**

I would strongly urge West Sussex County Council (WSCC) and all responsible officers to approve planning application number, WSCC/055/20.

The application proposes construction of a new Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) facility at Woodlands Meed College. As I understand, Woodlands Meed College accommodation has been inadequate for some time, poor access disqualifying potential students (who must use specialist wheelchairs), and semi-permanent porta-cabins and outside toilets being present.

Having immensely profited, personally, from the UK state education system, I am sure you will agree that we bear no greater obligation to future generations than the safeguarding of highest possible educational standards.

Inclusiveness is prerequisite for any state education system. But without adequate facilities, at institutions like Woodlands Meed College, it is not possible to ensure the best possible educational opportunities for all our children, irrespective of race, gender, religion, appearance, place of birth, economic background or ability (physical or mental).

My life was shaped not only by the schooling that I received but also by a generational commitment to state education within my family. My father was a university academic, my grandmother a school teacher. She served much of her career supply teaching in the Gorbals, at that time a depressed and very deprived area of Glasgow, where she introduced children, from the poorest and roughest of backgrounds, to the importance, meaning, beauty and wonder of Shakespeare and English literature.

If we are unable, in our modern, industrialised and wealthy societies, to provide the highest quality educational opportunities for our children, as these were provided for us by our forefathers, then we have failed in life's most fundamental contract.

Particularly in the context of the current planning application, where at stake is provision of adequate educational facilities for young people dealt a far less fortunate lot in life than the rest of us, there can be no question of the priority, validity and importance of planning application number WSCC/055/20.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Jonathan Butler