

From:
To: [Planning](#)
Subject: Comments objecting to Chancellor's School expansion (Ref 6/2019/0085/MAJ)
Date: 05 March 2019 16:48:20

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: 6/2019/0085/MAJ

We would like to express our concern regarding the expansion of Chancellor's School. The expansion will have a significant detrimental impact on the lives of the residents of Pine Grove.

Please note our specific concerns:

There is already a significant amount of traffic during school pick up and drop off times along Pine Grove. This already makes it difficult to access our driveway or leave for work in the mornings and a further expansion will cause further significant inconvenience, make traffic unmanageable, increase pollution to dangerous levels and increased the risk of accidents.

1) Heavy traffic: Pine Grove is a quiet residential road and is not designed for heavy traffic use, including many cars and school coaches/buses that use it already each day. An increase in throughput due to expansion is completely unacceptable.

Traffic from the school already causes queues in the morning down Pine Grove, with very slow traffic flow. There is a backlog of traffic turning into Georges Wood Road from Pine Grove and the turning/ junction onto Great North Road. Further traffic from the school will be insufferable and is not sustainable on our road. There has been insufficient thought put into how to resolve this matter and manage the traffic flow on Pine Grove and nearby roads.

2) Access to/from residential driveways: The volume of vehicles travelling to and from the school make access in and out of residential driveways, on Pine Grove, difficult and dangerous. Vehicles block driveways during peak pick-up / drop-off times. In non-peak times, many parents drive at speed down Pine Grove and do not slow down or give way to allow residents to access or exit our driveways and show little regard for local residents trying to access or leave our properties. Further expansion will make these matters much worse and increase the risk of accidents.

3) Heightened risk of accidents and loss of life: The Georges Wood Road / Great North Road junction is already very dangerous (both for pedestrians and cars) and further traffic on the turning will increase the risk of accidents.

Furthermore, parents frequently cut the turning onto Pine Grove from Georges Wood Road, thereby driving on the wrong side of the road. This is made worse by parked vehicles on the roadside at the end of Pine Grove / Georges Wood Road. This has caused numerous near misses in the past, and increased traffic caused by the proposed expansion will only make this risk of accident worse.

In winter, during snowy / icy conditions, the road becomes incredibly dangerous to use, particularly with the heavy traffic. Pine Grove is not gritted in the winter and there have been times that parents from the school have left their cars abandoned outside our house and blocking our driveway. Cars and coaches have slipped on the ice and had to be dug out of the snow outside our home. Further traffic caused by the proposed expansion, together with improper treatment of the road for winter conditions, makes travel (by car or walking) for students and residents highly dangerous.

While a great number of students are driven to school, there are also a large number of local students who walk to/from school. The walk is dangerous particularly on Georges Wood Road and other nearby roads given the

lack of pavements, forcing school children to walk on the road. The increase in vehicles resulting from the proposed expansion will only increase the risk of a serious accident or fatal collision involving these children.

4) Pollution: Increased traffic from the expansion will cause significant and unnecessary further pollution to the residents. Pollution levels will be harmful to both students and local residents.

The expansion plans submitted disregard the concerns of Pine Grove residents and make worse the issues we already face. A better solution is needed to resolve the traffic, pollution and safety concerns of the residents and pupils. Another route / road to the school needs to be opened up or created to ease the poor traffic flow and heavy burden on Pine Grove residents. We strongly object to the proposed expansion as it stands and do not believe our concerns have been adequately addressed.

Regards,

8 Pine Grove, Brookmans Park, Hatfield, AL9 7BS