

I note the aim to relieve the perennial problem of parking and traffic jams in Pine Grove, by creating further parking spaces on a 'temporary' basis of 3 years and an enlarged turning circle on the approach road to the school.

This means yet more erosion of the playing field within the Green Belt. The stretch of road is currently used by buses hired by the school to transport pupils from and to its catchment area, and a single line of cars parked nearer Pine Grove itself.

If a lot more cars are parked diagonally here, are the buses to park and deliver, or later collect pupils in the Drop Off Area? At the meeting between Council, School, MP, and residents' representatives it was proposed that parents could also use this drop-off area. It does not seem feasible to have the current number of buses with many more cars dropping off and parking. By increasing car parking overall this is not likely to motivate a reduction in car usage.

How does this integrate with the School-Council Travel Contract to reduce car use, encourage more walking and cycling and use of the School or other bus services? A bus can accommodate say 50 people against the fact that most cars serve only 1 Staff member or pupil. Up to 600 car movements a day were regularly recorded in 'normal times'.

I watched the buses depart on the afternoon of Monday 2 November to gauge their use by pupils. I was surprised that some buses had many unoccupied places. I do not know if this is due to what I understand is a policy of staggered school hours at the present time, or whether more parents are collecting their pupils by car. Will the school operated bus services be terminated all together? If the Council could encourage the bus operators to run services along the Great North Road between the main catchment areas Hatfield and Potters Bar compatible with the School timetable there could surely be a substantial reduction in car traffic in Pine Grove and locally.

Bearing in mind the further expansion of the school, I forecast that any apparent reduction in parking in Pine Grove can only be short lived. When Covid 19 problems terminate one must assume that the number of cars will expand as it has done consistently in the past. What then? Will this Temporary Car Park become permanent?

Residents have also sought a restriction of movement on Pine Grove through a parking restriction which would automatically lead to less all day of cars, and a safe environment for the buses and the staff parking within the school, residents, and pedestrians. This has unfortunately apparently been flatly refused!