
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 March 2015 20:36
To: Planning
Subject: Support for Planning Application 2014/7847/P

Olivier Nelson
Planning Officer
Camden Town Hall
Judd Street
London - WC1H 9JE

Dear Olivier,

With regard to the planning application 2014/7847/P I would like to express my full support for the applicant, St Anthony's School. Please find below the letter that I have written to my local councillor for Belsize Park. I thank you very much in advance for filing my comments in connection to the consultation process.

Best regards,

Georg Schraut

Dear Claire-Louise,

I am writing you in support of the planning application 2014/7847/P filed by St Anthony's School with the Camden Council.

Please allow me first to give you my view of St Anthony's as a parent of a pupil and why I think you should support the school in its undertaking to extend its activities. In a few objections to the planning application it is insinuated that pecuniary interests are the driving force behind the expansion. Though the school is run by a for-profit organisation the main beneficiaries are the children and the community.

I see my son growing up in a warm and happy environment looking forward to going to school every day. Here children are fostered into honest and caring adults but still being provided with an excellent education. In no other school that I have visited prior to the enrolment of my son have I encountered such a sincere interest in forming upright characters and not career machines.

In spite of being a Catholic institution, for sure the guarantor for the outstanding moral and ethical standards in the school, St Anthony's recruits its pupils from very diverse origins. The school actively promotes the understanding and respect of others and their beliefs. I am proud working for an organisation that promotes diversity in all aspects, I am proud to be part of a city that has no rival in its abundance of ethnical and religious plurality and it makes me proud that my son has the chance to be raised in an environment of understanding and respect towards other individuals whatever way of life they come from.

For all these reasons I strongly believe that St Anthony's makes a tremendous contribution to the community of Camden rather than just being a school and the community should welcome the effort of the school to provide similar education to girls alike.

There are not only immaterial benefits in St Anthony's plan to open a co-educational nursery as well as a school for girls. Apart from the obvious creation of jobs it is an effective measure to moderate the significant imbalance that exists between the demand for school places and the supply in the area, especially from state schools. Further and more importantly, it will allow bigger families to choose one school of their trust without the need to commute big distances. This will take away a lot of stress from the parents as well as from the general traffic in the borough.

On the micro level out of the immediate neighbourhood there have been worries raised that disruptions to the local traffic will surge. For sure the neighbourhood will benefit from the aforementioned effect that families have to make only one stop to bring their children to school. Moreover, the school has already demonstrated its commitment to alleviate any disruptions to the local traffic and as part of the planning application is legally subjecting itself to enforceable targets in order to mitigate the disturbances caused by school runs. The extension of the school will provide for the opportunity to optimise the need of children crossing the dangerous junction of Fitzjohn's Avenue and Arkwright Road. This will not only be for the benefit of the children's safety but also good provision to mitigate traffic congestion.

Dear Claire-Louise, I can only see advantages in the extension of the St Anthony's School and the conversion of 3 Arkwright Road. I hope that you will share my view and support the application of St Anthony's School.

Yours sincerely,

Georg

*Georg Schraut
1 Belsize Park
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