


David Milne  
Church Row and Perrins Walk Neighbourhood Forum  
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Thursday, 15 October 2015

Patrick Marfleet  
Planning Solutions Team  
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Dear Mr Marfleet

**Re Planning Application 2015/5374/P**

I am writing on behalf of the Church Row and Perrins Walk Neighbourhood Forum to object to the above planning application to extend St Christopher's School to provide additional teaching space.

**DP16 and Air Pollution**

There are currently 55 schools in NW3 with more than 11,500 pupils<sup>1</sup>, of which some 4,500 are at schools on or very close to Arkwright Road and Fitzjohn's Avenue. The population of Hampstead Town Ward is just 10,616, of which less than 1,200 are of school age<sup>2</sup>. The number of pupil places is a multiple of the number of local pupils. Whilst there is an over concentration of schools in NW3, there is also no need for additional capacity in the borough as there are "enough school places for every child for at least the next ten years"<sup>3</sup>.

Camden Council's 2010 traffic survey<sup>4</sup> showed that local schools are responsible for thousands of extra car journeys. In 2007 the NO<sub>2</sub> levels<sup>5</sup> were between 40 and 60 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. Whilst for London as a whole, pollution levels have remained relatively flat<sup>6</sup>, in Hampstead the position has grown significantly worse. For 2009 to 2013 NO<sub>2</sub> levels averages<sup>7</sup> were between 58 and 73 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. Individual days are higher. National and European guidelines state that the figures should not exceed 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. A recent parliamentary report<sup>8</sup> highlights that air pollution is an invisible killer, costing the lives of 29,000 per year.

<sup>1</sup> Figures derived from Ofsted and ISI school inspection reports for NW3.

<sup>2</sup> Camden Council 2001 census profile for Hampstead Town

<sup>3</sup> See attached Ham & High Article

<sup>4</sup> Data produced by K & M Traffic Surveys for Camden Council for vehicles travelling northbound and south bound on Fitzjohns Avenue for weeks commencing the 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2010 (169,802 cars) and the holiday periods of 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2010 (145,286 cars) i.e. the impact of the schools on Fitzjohns Avenue in June 2010 was more than 1,200 cars per day.

<sup>5</sup> Source: Submission dated 12 June 2007 to the Culture & Environment Scrutiny Committee "Review of School Run Policy and the Issue of Dispensation Permits".

<sup>6</sup> Professor Alistair Lewis of the National Centre for Atmospheric Science, and Dr Ian Mudway of King's College as per the Sixth Report of Session of the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee and printed 26 November 2014.

<sup>7</sup> Source 2013 Air Quality Progress Report to the London Borough of Camden dated 10 July 2013

<sup>8</sup> Sixth Report of Session of the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee and printed 26 November 2014.

Camden Council recognises that the over concentration of schools in NW3 is responsible for serious congestion just before and after school, and that the extra cars are adding to NO<sub>2</sub> pollution. DP16 states "...it is unlikely that the Council will grant planning permission for education facilities that are likely to exacerbate the problem [of traffic congestion]"

**Planning Application 2015/5374/P**

The above application to provide additional teaching space will inevitably result in additional traffic to Fitzjohn's Avenue and accordingly under planning policy DP16, the application should be refused.

Yours sincerely



David Milnc  
cc Frances Wheat  
cc Councillor Siobhan Baillie

## All children have place for next 10 years

Camden will have enough school places for every child for at least the next 10 years, according to a council forecast.

The planned expansion of several primary schools and one secondary over the next year has led council officers to predict that the borough will have enough places until the 2024/2025 academic year.

The forecast takes into account new housing developments due to be built in the borough, as well as Camden's rising population.

The data was published in a report discussed at a children, schools and families scrutiny meeting last Wednesday.

Cllr Angela Mason, cabinet member for children, said: "Applying for a school place is one of the most crucial decisions that any parent or carer has to make for their child. It is an important role of the local authority to provide sufficient school places in the borough. I am therefore pleased to say that our current projections show that, although we have a rising school population in Camden, our plans mean that we will have sufficient school places to meet the need until 2024/25."

"We will keep this under review through our annual review of our school place planning."

Until last year there were not enough primary school places for the equivalent of two classrooms of children. In response, the council opened two bulge classes at Kingsgate Primary School in West Hampstead. From 2016/2017, the school will have two more permanent classes when a new development is built in Liddell Road.

The newly-opened King's Cross Academy in King's Cross has also provided two new primary school classes for this year's cohort.

At secondary level, Regent High School in Somers Town is due to expand by two classes to ensure there are enough places.