

Attn : Zenab Haji-Ismail .
Planning application : 2016 /1590/P
Case officer, planning solutions team.
London borough of Camden.

I object most strenuously to the proposed school in the Hampstead police station.

I have lived in Hampstead for almost 30 years and during this time the traffic has increased to such a degree that there is a log jam of cars twice a day as children are ferried to and from local schools.

The worst point is the junction between Rosslyn Hill, Downshire Hill and Thurlow Road where the cars are at a standstill with their engines running morning and afternoon.

This junction is the proposed site of a new school for 420 pupils !

As a parent I would be reluctant to send my child to an area where the pollution is already twice the legal limit and that's before the new school run, deliveries and other comings and goings.

The suggestion that most of the 420 children would arrive on foot fills me with further concern and anxiety.. The pavements in hampstead are already very dangerous as children scoot and bicycle, out of control and at great speed, up and particularly down the hill.

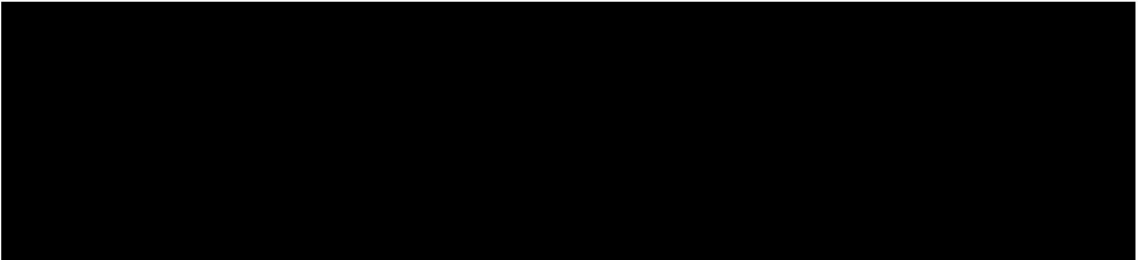
My elderly mother has already been knocked over and badly hurt and further congestion on the pavements will only make this situation worse.

We embrace and support our local schools, our children went to them, on foot, but Hampstead already has 37 schools which equates to around 10,000 pupils and the proposed new school is for Belsize Park with a catchment that extends to Kilburn, Swiss Cottage and Kentish Town and not Hampstead.

I think the proposal is deeply flawed and hope that my reservations will be taken into account before any decision is made.

Kind regards

Josephine van Praag
22. Rosslyn Hill
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I strenuously oppose the proposed conversion of the Hampstead Police Station to a school for Belsize Park pupils. I have lived in Rosslyn Hill for more than 25 years, and over that time, I have watched the traffic, noise and pollution increase to the current point where it is hardly bearable. The idea of positioning a school for Belsize Park Pupils in the most remote location in the the cachement area, to the pupil requirement beggars belief, and makes a mockery of the ambition to have 420 pupils and their parents arrive on foot.

Not only does this proposal clearly not meet the need, because of its remoteness, it's position at one of the busiest and most congested junctions in Hampstead Village, guarantees further rush hour chaos to that already existing. The implications of this further traffic congestion, must be seen in relation to the proximity of one of the busiest ambulance and A and E services in London, at the Royal Free Hospital, and its inevitable impact on emergency services.

Hampstead already has 37 schools with over 10,000 pupils. Thirteen of these schools are Local Authority, Voluntary Aided, or Community schools. Abacus is a Belsize Park school with a proposed location in Hampstead Village, a community which self evidently does not require another school.

The argument that the Hampstead Police Station should be used because no other site could be found in Belsize Park where the requirement exists, is clearly flawed, and overlooks the potential other uses of the building, from a Day care centre to relieve pressure on the Royal Free, to accommodation for nurses.

I fell very strongly that this proposal is not just deeply flawed, but taking into account the pedestrian congestion which will be caused by an additional six or seven hundred children and adults on already crowded pavements, that it is dangerously flawed. I hope that you will consider these observations carefully before coming to any conclusion.

Yours sincerely

John Spearman

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