

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Consultees Addr:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2016/6345/P	Elaine Wright	14 Cannon Place London	22/12/2016 11:38:24	OBJ	<p>I must reluctantly object to the proposals to allow the White Bear site to also be used as an educational facility.</p> <p>As a pedestrian who regularly uses this route, I am extremely concerned about ANY additional school traffic on this narrow stretch of road where four roads join. It is already dangerous with three primary schools nearby and an abnormally high level of school run traffic. The proposed new rear entrance opens onto a very narrow stretch of road and there is no pavement on that side! I believe this is a safety risk which has not been properly addressed.</p> <p>As detailed in the recent failed planning applications for St Anthony's, Devonshire House and the Abacus School in Hampstead, there is no shortage of local school places either in the state or private sector in Hampstead and the community is under strain with the high levels of resulting traffic and pollution. The Heath and Hampstead Society has called for a cap on primary school places and Hampstead is at saturation point with school run traffic. I therefore do not agree with the arguments put forward by the applicant's planning consultants which state that school expansions should only be turned down in extreme circumstances.</p> <p>Although the planning application states that the school does not intend to increase its net intake, it will increase the net school numbers in this congested part of Hampstead - currently it appears that older children are transported from Heathside by coach outside of the immediate area. Judging from OFSTED reports, Heathside's school roll numbers have more than doubled over the last 10 years from 109 to 249 pupils. This is a very large expansion in an area already saturated by schools. Heathside has received planning permission for shared use of retail space in Heath Street (number 76 and very recently 82) and there is a significant cumulative effect to these apparently small increases in educational space. It is also important that the pub space can never be compromised by the school - the front of the old Maxwell's restaurant at 76 Heath Street appears to be used as school storage and has never been leased to a shop again since its use became shared.</p> <p>At the very least, there needs to be a detailed travel plan, a disclosure of intended pupil numbers at this site and a trial period.</p> <p>I am a reluctant objector as I know Heathside School and I would love the White Bear to reopen. I am also sympathetic to the proposals to reduce the rent burden, ideally by enabling this space to be used by the community. However, allowing another increase in primary school places brings significant issues for local residents and safety and should never be overlooked or ignored.</p>