

Application 2017/2288/P

Submitted by 54 Russell Square as part of their objection

## **Appendix 1 – Results of a traffic survey on the actual situation in front of the school in Bedford Square**



Above :Morning drop off May 15<sup>th</sup> Road is blocked at some points back to Gower Street

Below : Evening pick up - parents wait in cars illegally parked with engines running.



The existing travel drop-off arrangements for the school in Bedford Square were witnessed on the 12<sup>th</sup> May and repeated on 15<sup>th</sup> May. Further observations were made by The Bloomsbury Association of after school pick up and food deliveries during the day.

On drop off, it was observed that teachers started arriving at 7-50 and at that time there were half a dozen children and parents waiting on the footpath for the official opening of the school. At 8-00 a member of staff opened the door for the children to enter, no one entered at that time as the students were perhaps waiting for their friends.

Parents and children continued to arrive until 8-30 and a crowd of approximately 18 parents stood on the footpath during this period restricting access. Children arrived in three small 20 seater coaches which stopped on the single carriage roadway completely blocking the road while the children dismounted from the coaches. After the coaches were emptied they drove around to the west side of Bedford Square and parked on the pavement adjacent to two double yellow lines. Blocking the road and illegal parking are clearly traffic offences.

The children also arrived in a continuous stream by taxi, parental car and zip car, the majority double parked in the single carriageway blocking access for the other commercial traffic. In some cases, 3 or 4 cars at a time but at least 1 per minute. In the case where children were escorted into the building the car owner in some cases parked on the pavement adjacent to double yellow lines, again clearly a traffic offence.

The arrival of the cars at the school clearly involved traffic violations and did cause inconvenience to other road users by completely blocking the road. It should be considered in the case of Russell Square there are double yellow lines and a bus stop at the side of 52 Russell Square in Bedford Place, therefore double parking of coaches and drop-off cars would cause greater problems due to the higher intensity of traffic circulation within Russell Square. The amount of traffic using Russell Square involves 10 traffic access points entering or leaving the Square while Bedford Square only has 5.

A large crowd of parents also standing on the corner of Russell Square and Bedford Place would limit visibility for turning traffic and make the junction dangerous for pedestrians which we know is a concern to the elderly resident living in 51 Russell Square.

### **Catering arrangements**

The application is silent on catering arrangements for the school. But at Bedford Square large lorries deliver in the morning and park off the highway or block the road while food is taken into the building for pupils. In the evening rubbish is taken away at 10pm by a private contractor – at Russell Square there is no rubbish storage indicated on the plan so presumably this will have to be deposited on the pavement for the whole of the evening until the rubbish is collected.

### **Further detailed notes on the Gower Street entrance drop off**

This record is only of the Gower Street entrance to the side of the Square it does not include the traffic coming in on West side – dropping off around the corner nor the coaches parked on West side with engines running on the pavement area of the Square for a minimum of ten minutes during this period.

0800 - Ecole Express Ltd small coach (NOT a minibus) blocking access -. dropped off small number of children- they remained outside the building.

More staff arriving on foot to door 45

0807 – car dropping off – and taxi - parent and two children arrived on scooters

Children now blocking the pavement.

Car – drop off from direction of Gower St.

Mini-bus – drop off engine running BV66 BG 12 children

6 children on pavement waiting for mates

silver car dropped off from Gower St direction.

0810 ten people on the pavement blocking it.

0812 Enterprise Car Club sitting in car with engines parked waiting

Westway Coach YN66 EMX small coach – 15 – 17 drop off

Enterprise Cars – double parked 3 children dropped off – mother on phone then in car 4 mins minimum

1 bike – parent cyclist 1 child

0815 pavement blocked – 2 children arrived walking (maybe dropped off around West Corner).

V8FDN – mini bus parking there 4 mins engines

DR11 –TAT 4 x 4 drop off engines running

FN16FGM – drop off

EA13 KH – double parked blocking square causing a queue – 1 child

PO12CZT small coach double parked queue formed

Another car double parked engines – queue

White van man in queue – blocked from moving along the Square

Small coach engine running – as above still there

LY61MVC – pulling up – 1 child dropped off

LA62 TGK – 1 child dropped off

LT13YRD – pulled up – 1 child dropped off

BNO3 – Transit van held up not part of school traffic

All the above group running engines

V6 FDN – parking along from school – 1 child

LT13 YRD at same time

Queue

LM64 XNC – double parked – engines

Pavement packed with parents chatting and blocking pedestrian usage

LB61 X(?) DL 4 x 4 3 children – on street

CF11 –CXX – parked and then dropped off

LD15OTK parked

V6FDN- left – simultaneously

XN11 HXM Comfort on Move small coach – double parked blocking route dropping off

LB52 YHC taxi dropping off - 1 parent 1 child

All above with engines running

LR59KOF - dropped off (coaches too)

18 parents standing chatting on the pavement

0830 - drop off 1 parent 1 child

16 parents still on pavement

LM64 XNC – parked drop off

RK66 KVM stayed at least ten minutes parent in car mother and 2 children into school

GM15 HZT 2 children on pavement

KM53 WCP double parked 0835 1 child engines running

Door to 44 closed

LP66GKX Taxi – 2 adult females and 1 male 1 child

PN54 AOP –

NB cars pulling in on pavement next to double yellow lines.

As a member of Camden Idling Engines Team I was not impressed by the above incidents which must be happening on a daily basis and only cover one entrance to the Square and immediate vicinity of the school. Idling engines are a huge particulate contribution to the pollution of the area. The evening pickup is more problematic with parents waiting for their children to leave.

Traffic Information 15th April 2017 – pm 1510 – 1545 Bedford Square Ecole Manuel

Outside 44 – 45 - 30 – 40 parents plus children obstructing the pavements.

Coaches were parked on the gravel paths on both sides of the Square from Bayley Street. These later caused the obstruction of any vehicles out of the Square turning left to the traffic lights on the corner with Tottenham Crt Rd. This created a build-up of ten plus vehicles trying to turn right into TCR. All had their engines running and only two were non-school vehicles. This queue continued into the Square itself. Gail's Bakery and My Hotel terraces line this street within the pollution zone.

Vehicles illegally parked LT15 XTN – LX03 XUX mini bus parked up HIG 782 Highway coach – parked up EE buses THZ 8360 Comfort on Move YN11 HXM- YN66 EMX coach S52 XHO Airports/Schl Runs 16 – 33 seater, Zip Car KE66TNY

Parental Cars obstructing – BV66 GVG/ BN17 – JB) Turismo also on gravel border by double yellow lines Taxi GN46 HO mini bus; double parked car preventing entry to the Square from Bloomsbury St. Enterprise Car Club parked on gravel LY14 HXH M/ Mini bus double parked / mini bus left parked/car left parked/ LX03 XUX Mini bus parked up waiting, 4 Taxis driving around LY14 HXH plus one other car double parked WM10 EXF double parked behind others double parked 2 more taxis. All involved loading schoolchildren etc.

Leaving Square to Bayley Street blocked by coach and YN66 EMX and one other all with engines running PO12 CZT loading KE66 Zip Car. Exit to Tottenham Court Road completely blocked. Only max of five vehicles can go across the lights (ten were in rapidly building queue). Queue included PO12 CZT coach.

Ambulance in the queue, also included coaches from school and others queuing to exit Square 1530 Highway coach still parked on grave adjacent to Bayley St exit.

Quite obviously, the school traffic is causing severe congestion for anyone wanting to drive into out of Bedford Square. I did not monitor Adeline Street exit.

Again, as Member of Camden Idling Engines Action Group/Team it appears that no thought has been given to the traffic management resulting from Ecole Manuel in Bedford Square and what was an oasis of calm with modest through traffic has been turned into a chaotic parking lot and traffic jam