

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2019/0730/P	Nicholas Aleksander	01/03/2019 09:13:02	OBJ	<p>I object to this change of use - primarily because of the likely increase in motor traffic, and secondly because of the unsuitability of the premises for school use.</p> <p>First, traffic. The proposed traffic plan and traffic management plan are incorrect and unachievable. The school currently uses premises on West Heath Road illegally (Barnet is seeking an injunction to prevent school use of these premises). One of the problems with the West Heath Road site is relates to coaches (it does not use minibuses) being used to shuttle pupils between the school's premises and parents using cars to collect and drop of pupils, resulting in traffic jams, cracked paving (where vehicles park on the pavement) and blocked access. These problems will also occur at Jack Straws, where the traffic densities are even greater. Once the injunction is granted, the classrooms vacated in Heath St and New End will have to be brought back into use for the pupils turfed out of West Heath Road - so the promise of traffic abatement in Heath St will never be realised. The Whitestone Pond is already badly congested during the "school run" (a major problem in Hampstead), and this will make the existing problems far worse. The statement that pupils will walk between the school's sites is unachievable - these are young children and the distances are too great for them to manage (for example in the rain). I have no confidence in the school's proposed mitigation measures, as there is a long history of the school making promises it has no intention of keeping (such as the promise to return the White Bear Pub, also owned by Mr & Ms Remus, to use as a pub).</p> <p>Second, the premises are unsuitable for school use. The front door opens onto a narrow pavement, with heavy traffic on the road outside. This will not be safe for young pupils. There is no outside play area. The children would have to be escorted onto the Heath, and the grassed areas by Whitestone Walk are unsuitable for children to play as they are unfenced and are bounded by busy roads. The tutorial rooms in the basement have no natural light, and one of the classrooms at the rear will have very little natural light. I note that the proposal is to "limit" weekend use to over 30 weekends each year - which is hardly a limit. And there is proposal to extend school use into the evening, during holidays, as well as the school day. The residents living in the flats above will be badly disturbed by the school use.</p>
