

From: Pattie Carvis [REDACTED]  
Sent: 14 July 2019 11:14  
To: Fowler, David [REDACTED]  
Subject: Objection to Planning Application 2019/2375/P

Dear Mr Fowler

I would like to register my opposition to the redevelopment of the former Hampstead Police Station as a 420 pupil school for Abacus Belsize Primary School for the following reasons:

The proposed school is a considerable distance for a primary from its catchment area inevitably involving the transportation of young children whose health would usually benefit from a short walk to school. The consequent increase in car use and public transport would have a negative effect on air quality and exacerbate already serious problems associated with congestion and parking in the vicinity of the school. Taking into consideration the high numbers of visitors to the Keats Group Surgery opposite, there would be real road safety concerns. I'm sure these concerns were amongst those that lead to CfBT already assessing the site as inappropriate.

Schools are noisy places and it is quite right that young children should have the opportunity to play outside and express themselves which is why most schools have been designed with appropriate spaces for this. This does not appear to be the case with the proposed building and the plan to erect a 4 metre high noise screen will only dampen the noise slightly, will be unsightly and may restrict light to neighbouring homes.

The former Police Station is a grade 11 listed building yet the proposed design is not consonant with good heritage design practices. The building could be put to much better use as a nurses' hostel for the Royal Free or as an NHS Patient Convalescent Care Home to mitigate the problems associated with hospital 'bed blocking'.

No sound justification has been made for the numbers of pupils Abacus predicts. There is no local need in Belsize or Hampstead, where there is an over density of schools, which can only mean pupils coming from very far afield. Surely a more appropriate site could be found where these children live and with which they can identify?

Yours sincerely  
Pattie Carvis

[REDACTED]