

(as emailed)

**SIR JEFFREY JOWELL QC AND LADY (FRANCES) JOWELL**



20 July 2019

Objection to Abacus Belsize Park's School Application no.2019/23785/P

To: Mr David Fowler, Principal Planner, Camden.

Dear Sir,

We have been residents of Hampstead since 1972 and have lived at the above address since 1984.

Our children attended local Hampstead Schools and two of our grandchildren now attend New End Primary and The Academy School in Hampstead High Street respectively. As such we have a very direct interest in the educational needs of Hampstead and surrounding areas. And a very direct interest generally in preserving and enhancing the environment, health and amenity of this area.

In respect of the educational case for the school, it has been clearly established by Camden, and confirmed by such as the Head of New End Primary School, that schools in the area have falling rolls at present. There is simply no need for another school in the vicinity.

Even if the argument from falling rolls does not apply to Belsize Park (which we do not admit), it would be wrong to export their problem into Hampstead on environmental grounds. This is because the commuter school would generate substantial additional traffic into Hampstead High and surrounding streets when children were dropped off in the morning and again in the afternoon for pick-ups. Anyone who has any local knowledge will confirm that:

- i. it is impossible to prevent parents driving their children to school, despite the best intentions;
- ii. the traffic at those particular hours is already highly congested, and
- iii. the pollution outside the police station is already a 'hotspot', creating a danger to everyone's health, and particularly to children travelling by one means or another to the existing schools.

We do hope that this misconceived proposal will be rejected.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature area]