

**North East Division – Liberal Democrat County Councillor Ian Chittenden,  
2 Blakeney Close, Maidstone.**

Mid Kent Planning Support  
Maidstone Borough Council  
Maidstone House  
King Street  
Maidstone ME15 6JQ

Dear Sir

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019

**18/506656/FULL Erection of a two-story Primary School and School for special Educational needs at Popes field, Bearsted Road, Weaving, Kent.**

Having been briefed on the proposals for this School development I write to express my concern on a number of issues.

While I had been aware that the KIM site was being investigated, I had absolutely no expectation that the site chosen would be the one remaining green area on the whole site which has been designated as a 'Woodland Nature Reserve', which was recently confirmed by a Government Inspector when approving the new Maidstone Local Plan.

Whilst I fully understand the need for an additional local school, I object to this application:

1. I believe that the wrong site has been chosen and believe there is a more suitable site within the KIM complex to the left hand side between the main entrance road and the Newnham Court complex. I have written separately in more detail outlining why the site should not be used and why the alternative site for the nature reserve is not acceptable.
2. I have very serious concerns that the access onto the Bearsted Road is totally unacceptable for the following reasons:
  - Bearsted road is a narrow road which already has serious congestion problems particularly coming into Maidstone with tailbacks going back to the Bell Inn and the Bridge.
  - The proposal for three major hold-up points will seriously affect the flow of traffic in both directions. Firstly, at the main entrance onto Bearsted Road, where there for parts of the day will have a constant flow of traffic both entering and leaving the School. The additional pedestrian crossing for children and parents for access from Grove Green will also be in constant use twice a day. Lastly, I understand a width restriction is needed and crated by footpath widening close to the roundabout. This will not only extend traffic back to Bearsted but will create congestion back to and round the KIMS roundabout creating even further problems on all approaches to that roundabout.
  - The need for children and parents crossing close to the KIMS Roundabout when walking from Vinters Park and beyond (where the

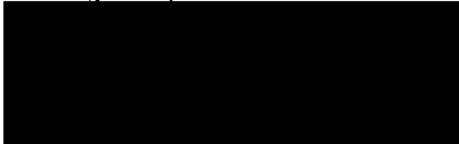
majority of the children will come from) without fully controlled crossing will be dangerous. The walk to the school along a path adjacent to a narrowed 2 lane country road and the need to cross twice to use existing footpaths will require even more controlled crossing points not shown on current plans.

- Internally the length of area allocated for loading and unloading children is totally inadequate and will result in constant turnaround and movement through the main entrance. Hold ups are inevitable resulting and the need for parking along the Bearsted Road causing even more havoc.

Overall, I cannot see any reason why the access should not be through the KIMS road recently extended for the adjacent mental hospital with additional parking if required along that section of the road.

Whilst I fully understand the need for an additional local school I strongly object to the application on this site when better positions exist within the unbuilt areas of the KIMS site.

Kind regards,



**Ian Chittenden**  
**Kent County Councillor for Maidstone North East**