

# Comments for Planning Application 18/506656/FULL

## Application Summary

Application Number: 18/506656/FULL

Address: Popesfield Bearsted Road Weaving Kent

Proposal: Erection of a new two-storey primary school and special educational needs secondary school with formation of new access onto Bearsted Road, together with associated car parking and drop off area, pedestrian access, drainage, areas for formal and informal outdoor play and landscaping works.

Case Officer: Richard Timms

## Customer Details

Name: . Cllr Valerie Springett

Address: Cherrybank, Roundwell, Bearsted Maidstone, Kent ME14 4HN

## Comment Details

Commenter Type: Councillor

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: The site proposed is currently allocated within the Local Plan as Woodland Nature Reserve under Policy RMX1(1) to mitigate the loss of countryside for the Kent Medical Campus by providing a net gain in biodiversity and at the same time creating ecological connectivity between the areas of ancient woodland in the vicinity. This allocation was accepted by the Inspector of the Local Plan and should be upheld. The new woodland will help improve existing poor air quality in this area which is immediately adjacent to an existing AQMA.

Whilst I accept the need for schools, this site is unsuitable as it is isolated from its anticipated catchment area, and this will generate a large amount of vehicle movements. The proposed access will exacerbate existing congestion which occurs on the Bearsted Road, which although a narrow village road, is used as a commuter route to the M20 by traffic avoiding queues at the Willington St junction on the A20. The expectation that 59.3% of pupils will walk to school is vastly over estimated. Pedestrian access is poor and there are no safe cycle routes that will serve the schools. Parking provision is insufficient and the schools are not served by a bus route. The proposal to remove the parking bays at Gidds Pond Cottages will lead to vehicles speeding and will require further traffic calming measures to be introduced for pedestrian and cyclist safety. I ask that this application is refused.