

RE: Erection of a new two-storey primary school and special educational needs secondary school - Comments for Planning Application 18/506656/FULL

Angela.Evans@kent.gov.uk

on behalf of

Paul.Carter@kent.gov.uk

Mon 25/02/2019 12:25

To: MCCF Maidstone Cycle Campaign Forum <info@maidstonecycling.uk>

Dear Mr. Chidwick,

Thank you for your email received on 24 January 2019 regarding the planning application for two new schools at Bearsted Road, Maidstone.

I agree whole-heartedly that the new schools should be planned with the need to encourage walking and cycling firmly in mind. This requires the provision of safe and attractive routes of access that connect to the wider networks.

I share your view that the proposals in their current form do not maximise the opportunities available. As part of the ongoing discussions with the applicants' consultants, we have highlighted how a route of access taken via the Kent Medical Campus (KMC) would offer considerable advantages to all road users. These include the scope to achieve direct connectivity to the dedicated pedestrian/cycle provision that already exists within KMC and that which will form part of the County Council's planned road improvements.

The applicant has indicated their willingness to amend the proposals in line with our advice. This is welcome news in how it raises the prospect of improved access arrangements.

My expectation is that the County Council, as Local Highway Authority, will submit its formal consultation comments on the planning application once the amended details have been the subject of careful and rigorous review.

I trust that the above provides a helpful update.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Carter, CBE
Leader of Kent County Council

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From: MCCF Maidstone Cycle Campaign Forum <info@maidstonecycling.uk>

Sent: 24 January 2019 19:46

To: Carter, Paul - LEADER <Paul.Carter@kent.gov.uk>

Subject: Erection of a new two-storey primary school and special educational needs secondary school - Comments for Planning Application 18/506656/FULL

Good Evening Paul

Please can we have your views on our response:

Ref Planning Application: 18/506656/FULL

Having examined the Planning application, and in particular, the Transport Assessment dated Dec 2018 ref SM/JY/12539, we consider that there is a missed opportunity within the current proposals.

The Transport Assessment makes a very low prediction of the numbers of journeys by cycle, to and from the new facilities, that might be made by pupils, parents and staff. Further, it does not acknowledge the Maidstone Borough Council Walking and cycling Strategy 2011 -2013. Objectives of this strategy are to create new links, encourage modal shift and to create a safer environment for walking and cycling.

Given the improved shared cycleway / footway provision that will be made by the impending KCC A249 / Bearstead Road scheme, it would appear to be a simple and logical next step for that this proposal should include similar provision for shared cycleway / footways both external to and within the site. Ideally this provision would connect with the KCC scheme to provide facilities that would encourage cycling and a modal shift from other means of transport.

The shared cycleway / footways should comply with Sustrans guidance and be a minimum of 3 metres in width.

Response compiled by: John Caves

A J Caves I Eng FICE MCIQB MILT FCMI

Infrastructure Consultant

on behalf of Maidstone Cycle Campaign Forum (Registered Charity Number 1172691)

Best regards

Russell

Russell Chidwick

Communications and Membership Secretary

07773 324774

Maidstone Cycle Campaign Forum

(Registered Charity Number 1172691)



www.maidstonecycling.uk

