



Notes of the Planning and Development Committee Meeting

Held on - 8th December 2012 in the sub-committee room at 19:00

Committee Members **Bob Tyrell, Chris Stevenson (Chair), Andrew Savage, John Gili-Ross (PC Chairman normally would not attend the Planning Committee)** Next meeting: 18th January 2012 in sub-committee room, Orpen Hall at 19:30

As the application for an extension to the Heathlands School formed the substantive item on the agenda, Cllr Chris Stevenson declared an interest at the start of the meeting, being a senior officer employed by the County Council which was making the application. He took no further part in the meeting and Cllr Bob Tyrrell took the Chair. Cllr Gili-Ross joined the meeting as a direct result of the declaration of interest by Cllr Stevenson.

CURRENT APPLICATIONS

Application No.	Proposal	Applicant/Location	Object / Support / Observations	Comments
112223	An application to Essex County Council for a single storey class base extension providing two class bases and ancillary accommodation, a remodelling of the existing school to provide a hall extension and an outdoor canopy and teaching area on the eastern elevation.	Essex County Council, Heathlands Primary School New Church Road, West Bergholt, Colchester, Colchester, CO6 3JF	Object	<p>The village is rightly proud of Heathlands Primary School achievements in the education of its pupils. It is therefore with regret that the Parish Council's view is that, the current proposals will be detrimental to the pupils, parents and the village as a whole, and proposals are unsustainable and against the recently adopted Village Design Guide which is now approved by CBC as SPG. Our other concerns are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would appear that the provision for additional places is related to increased numbers of children not necessarily living within the village or immediate surrounding area who are able to attend as a result of the current admissions policy. This will result in a disproportionate increase in traffic movements which not only cannot be considered sustainable but will, without addressing the fundamental problem, increase the danger to pedestrians around the vicinity of the school at the beginning and end of the school day. • The School Travel Plan accompanying the planning submission already acknowledges the above problem and it is therefore disappointing that this matter has not been addressed in the planning proposal in an imaginative way. The current proposals will result in a substantial increase in disorganised on-street parking

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				<p>thus exacerbating the existing problem already identified. The problems resulting from the high number of cars and pedestrian movement, to and from the school has been a concern raised with ECC Highways over a number of years. Various schemes to help reduce traffic congestion were formulated and discussed with ECC officers but cost of implementation has been stated as a reason for ECC Highways failure to implement any scheme. A solution to the known traffic and pedestrian movement problems should therefore be part of this planning scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent extensions to the prominently positioned school have, visually, complemented the complex with brick walls and pitched roofs. The proposal is considered to be out of keeping with the existing buildings which appear not to have been considered. The extended school would not only reduce the external play area but increase the visual effect of a congested, overdeveloped site. It should be noted that the school currently makes use of the Poor's Field for sports fields and play activities. This is charity land and not in the ownership of ECC/CBC and is used with the permission of the Trustees.

PLANNING DECISIONS

Application No.	Applicant/Location/Proposal	Decision
	None to report.	

OTHER CORRESPONDENCE/MATTERS

- The Parish Council adopted Village Design Statement was approved by Colchester Borough Council on 12 December 2011 and is now a material document to against which any new planning applications should be considered. It is hoped that in making any proposed alterations to this application that the Parish Council Planning Committee is consulted prior to any formal public release or consultation.