



Leckhampton with Warden Hill Parish Council

Warden Hill Primary School new build proposal – 17th February 2021

Leckhampton with Warden Hill Parish Council recognises the importance of having a high-quality learning environment that contributes to the overall educational experience for all pupils at school and, as such, welcomes the significant investment from Gloucestershire County Council being made in updating Warden Hill Primary School (the buildings/facilities and overall school site).

Given the importance that the Parish Council places on sustainability and doing what it can to tackle climate change, we recognise the steps being taken within the design to align to the County Council's commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and welcome the inclusion of solar panels, air source heat pumps and the use of natural ventilation throughout. However, when landscaping the area in front of the new buildings, serious consideration should be given to using porous materials to reduce water run-off and also to the planting of suitable trees.

Noting that the school roll will remain at its current level, the Parish Council acknowledges that there is no anticipated increase in traffic in the local area, but remains very concerned about the current volume of traffic and unsafe parking in the immediate road vicinity around the school site and welcomes any steps being taken to encourage pupils and parents to walk or cycle to school. Given the Parish Council are already intrinsically involved in these issues for the local area, we strongly insist that the 'Think Travel Team' and all involved in the ongoing 'School Street Trial' be fully consulted and included in the consideration and approval of the plans going forward.

With this in mind, specific attention should be drawn to the significant pedestrian footfall approaching the school via the footpath linking Lichfield Drive and Durham Close, as the current proposed highways layout design does not include safe, direct pedestrian access to the school site from that direction needed to avoid necessitating unsafe crossing of the main school vehicular entrance/exit points. There needs to be an additional footpath entrance to the school site at the top end of Durham Close, and the vehicular entrance/exit point moved further back down the road as a result.

In addition, due to the proposal to build the new building behind the existing buildings, this means that the new, double storey main school building will be sited further back onto the school site and actually situated considerably closer to the residential boundaries than the existing buildings. Therefore, both the proximity and height of the proposed new buildings will block the current view for local residents in Lichfield Drive of the surrounding hills and vista. Consideration should be made to situating the proposed building more centrally on the school site at a greater distance away from the Lichfield Drive boundary to mitigate these issues for local residents.

Whilst the current proposal has been drawn up to avoid the need to house parts of the school in temporary buildings whilst the project is undertaken, the vast majority of the existing school site could still remain in place with only a small proportion of the current Infant building needing to be removed to allow re-situating of the proposed new building more centrally on the plot.

The Parish Council warmly supports significant investment being made for the good of the young people in our local area. However, the current plans will require significant amendment so as to achieve the goal of enhancing the local community rather than having a detrimental effect on it. For this reason the Parish Council strongly objects to the proposed plans in their current form.

Penny Henty

Chairman

On behalf of the Parish Council of Leckhampton with Warden Hill

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Penny Henty'.