

FAO

Kate Brocklebank
Senior Planning Officer
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Brighton and Hove City Council

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Re Windlesham School Planning Application BH2011/01463.

I understand that this planning application is due to be determined at Planning Committee on the 20th July 2011.

I am writing in support of local residents who have previously raised concerns about the impact of building developments at Windlesham School and who are now objecting to this latest planning application.

Having visited Port Hall Street and viewed the site from a resident's home I find myself in agreement with their objections. You already have a copy of these but I would like to add my own comments.

I am particularly concerned about the footprint and height of the new gymnasium. On the basis of my visit today I do not think the architectural drawings adequately convey the real height, mass and visual impact of this building once constructed and viewed from houses in Port Hall Street. Also I am unclear as to why the gymnasium is planned to be so high? It will significantly alter the existing roofline and visual impact of the rear of the school.

The new gymnasium will bring the structure of the school much closer to the gardens and homes of local residents. The playground area of the school is to be reduced yet again, affecting both pupils and residents in terms of reducing outdoor play area and potentially increasing already problematic noise levels and ball damage to windows of nearby properties.

Port Hall Street is sited on lower ground than the school so the visual and light impact of the planned development will be much more noticeable than might be expected from the drawings. Furthermore the metal clad roof is not in keeping with local buildings and will be very visible. I am interested to know if alternative plans were explored by the architects both in terms of the sustainability and overall size of this structure.



Windlesham School Planning Application

I am aware that this school requires some improved facilities but I think this site is already overdeveloped and the plans need revisiting. Local residents feel that the school has a history of not consulting with or talking to them about new developments and this has caused ill feeling. Previous developments have, in their experience, almost always had a bigger impact on their environment and lives than predicted by the school. They would very much welcome a dialogue with the school to find some common ground and mutual compromise when new buildings are at an early stage of planning.

If a site visit has not yet been agreed can I strongly request that no decision is taken until the planning committee has inspected this site.

With kind regards

Yours Sincerely

Mike Jones

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(Sent Via Email)