



The Westbury-on-Trym Society

Proud of our past.... shaping our future

37 Westbury Hill
Westbury on Trym
Bristol BS9 3AG
February 2nd 2017

Reference Planning Application No 16/06846 Redmaids' School classroom additions

Bristol City Council Development Management and Chairman of the Planning Committee
Dear Sirs

On behalf of local residents in this part of Westbury and members who will be affected by new traffic conditions resulting from this latest application, I would like to draw your attention to all the connected problems we are already experiencing – if you have not had time to notice what is happening in this part of north Bristol yet.

In the last three or so years the area surrounding The Redmaids School and the new St Ursula's Academy has become a traffic and parking nightmare for all those who live in this square half mile. These conditions have been worsening bit by bit – culminating in the now impossible situation since car parking has been restricted on the Downs, and all commuter parking has thus been decanted to Westbury and Henleaze. The local words are now “we have become the Park and Ride for north Bristol”!

So we have:-

1 Increased 'showcase bus services' using Westbury as a bus centre and thus attracting commuters coming into Bristol daily, who leave their cars in side roads from the bus routes. In this neighbourhood, these run up and down Westbury Hill every five minutes, creating noise, dirt, particulates and diesel smells for all those who live next to the route.

2 There are frequent 'near misses' as buses and cars nearly collide and refuse to give way to each other or squeeze through in attempts to 'get there first' before the oncoming traffic. Bus drivers do not observe the 20 mph signs any more than the other drivers do and when there is space ahead they accelerate and charge up and down the hill at very dangerous speeds.

3 Staff from the schools all use the adjacent side roads to park their own cars during the day as this is not facilitated in either of the schools' grounds.

4 This has already used up what space is left by and for residents themselves, but now we have the addition of commuters into Bristol who use cycles, or the buses from here, (and this is not just restricted to the area in question either, but has spread throughout the village and surrounding roads).



The Westbury-on-Trym Society

Proud of our past.... shaping our future

5 Parents from both schools wait on double yellow lines during the morning and afternoon runs, delivering and collecting children. They are often abusive if asked to move on because of blocking sight lines.

6 Some park across driveways so that residents cannot move in or out and much dangerous reversing takes place in Grange Court Road particularly.

In light of the above, any further additions to the numbers of pupils at both schools is only going to make the situation even worse for everyone and more dangerous for the many girls and boys of all ages crossing the local roads.

Recognizing that decisions have already been made for the expansion of both schools on the existing sites, that have no parking facilities of their own, we would hope that the development management officers and planning committee would at the very least require some amelioration to be offered in the form of school buses and travel plans – which include the facility for both parents and bus companies involved, to enter school grounds to deliver pupils or to be required to park some distance away (like short term on the Downs), when waiting at the end of the afternoon. Installation of some RPZ bays in side roads might at least help residents and/or restricted time slots would deter many all-day commuters from using every convenient space.

Until some discussions have taken place between both Schools and in this instance, Redmaids', with the City Council Planning and Traffic and Highways departments on how these problems will be managed in the future, this application should be rejected.

We also object to the manner in which 'space' is being created for the reception of over 400 more girls at Redmaids School, by making it seem that the 'pod' in which the new art and music facilities will be housed, is a convenient extra. It is, but clearly masks the fact that the present space used for these activities will be remodelled for new and needed classrooms! This circumvents the real cause of overspill-namely the huge expansion of the school without regard to the effects on the surrounding neighbourhood.

We therefore wish to register an objection to the form of this application and ask for its rejection until the whole redevelopment plan and its implications have been re – examined by both development management officers and the present planning committee and advice given to both school management committees.

Sincerely Hilary Long (Chairman)