

To: Richard Eatough <richard.eatough@reading.gov.uk>

Dear Richard

Please see below the CADRA comments which I have also submitted on line.

171023

Site Address: Mapledurham Playing Fields Upper Woodcote Road Caversham Reading

Description: Erection of 2FE primary school (350 pupils) with associated landscaping, multi-use games area (MUGA), car and cycle parking, and servicing.

CADRA comments on amended plans March 2018

CADRA submitted comments on the original plans. The association has remained neutral on the choice of site for the school but wishes to comment further on this application, particularly in relation to vehicle and pedestrian access to the site.

As previously stated, Upper Woodcote Road, the A 4074, is a heavily trafficked major route, frequently used by heavy vehicles. It is always very busy between 8.30 and 9 am with traffic travelling both into and out of Reading. There is a significant bend in the road to the north of, and quite close to, the entrance to Mapledurham Playing Fields, and there are two cul de sac entrances near to the site, one on each side of the road. Crossing the road requires great care at any time and there would be particular concern for the safety of children.

We note the proposed changes to the access road and to the A 4074 but remain concerned about safety for parents, children and other road users. We believe further measures should include:

- Additional street lighting on the A4074 by the access road. This area is currently not well lit
- No overtaking on the A4074 by the access road. If cars are delayed by a vehicle turning left into the entrance, there will be attempts to drive round them, conflicting with the crossing island.
- 20 mph limit on either side of the access road.

- Further consideration of the new refuge island in the middle of the road north of the access. As we commented before these islands are not wide enough for young children to wait safely in the middle of the carriageway and require mature road sense to be used safely on such a busy road.
- A pelican crossing, where the traffic has definitely stopped before anyone attempts to cross the road, would be safer than a zebra crossing, which depends on drivers being aware and responsive to people waiting to cross the road. Between 8 and 9 in the morning in particular the traffic is heavy and drivers are eager to get into Reading as quickly as possible. If it is to be a zebra crossing a lollipop person would be needed.
- More detailed design of the footpath on the access road to facilitate safe passage for families with wide buggies and children on scooters or bikes.
- Measures for monitoring traffic congestion and parking in both Hewett Avenue and Chazey Road, which are very likely to be used by parents driving to and from the school, especially if the entrance on Upper Woodcote Road becomes very busy.
- We note the detailed plans and procedures for dropping off and collecting children at the school. These could be described as an optimistic scenario and there are many concerns being expressed as to whether these will be achievable. If the procedures fail, the impact on the heavy traffic on the A4074 will be considerable.

In addition, we are concerned that:

- The design and layout MUST facilitate and not inhibit or restrict the redevelopment of the pavilion
- We very much regret the loss of oak tree T216. We would like to see details of a larger replacement and exploration of opportunities for chainsaw sculpture or other features using the felled tree
- We believe further consideration is needed of the area at the north of the school site. It is unclear what purpose it would serve and how it would be maintained. There seems no logic in the proposed arrangement and we urge a review.

Caversham and District Residents Association

www.cadra.org.uk

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