11 Ger-y-llan

St Nicholas

CF5 6SY

Mrs Emma Watkins

Planning Department

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Dock Office, Barry CF63 4RT

29 October 2020

Dear Mrs Watkins

**Planning Application 2020/00874/RG3 : Vale of Glamorgan Council (VOGC): expansion of St Nicholas Primary School**

I wish to object to the above planning application on the following grounds

1. **It is not necessary to expand the school by the amount proposed to meet the needs of Vale of Glamorgan residents.** **Children are already transported in large numbers from the City of Cardiff to make up sufficient numbers to make the school viable.** Expansion of the St Fagan’s Church in Wales primary school or others nearer their homes would be a far more practical and environmentally friendly solution, and would reduce the number of short car and bus journeys required to transport children living in the City of Cardiff to attend school. The Council estimated in June 2020 that 87% of the additional children would travel over 2 miles (TA paragraphs 5.3.4, Tables 5.1 & 5.4) but the TAA in Sept 2020 estimates this as only 15% (TAA paragraph 2.25, Table 2.4). **No evidence is presented to justify this new estimate, which seems to be a deliberate underestimate. This proposed expansion is contrary to the environmental policies of the Welsh government and the Vale of Glamorgan Council (VOGC).**
2. The residents of St Nicholas have not been appropriately consulted by not being included in early consultations about this proposal. **The entire application has been carried out in a confrontational, adversarial manner** rather than a consensual one by fostering and growing local community support. Earlier representations made by many residents were not taken into account in the preparation of the initial Oct 2019/Jun 2020 Transport Assessment **(TA)**. **The further Transport Assessment Addendum (TAA) is an inaccurate, unreliable document.**
3. The TAA contends that 22 pupils living near Bonvilston will walk 2Km to and from school along the A48 to St Nicholas school, and that another 7 pupils will walk even greater distances to school. **This is nonsense. A parent would never contemplate walking young children this distance to school and back in all weathers in this day and age.**
4. The TA estimated vastly increased number of traffic movements (130 in the morning, 119 in the evening) **The village constitutes a conservation area and has very narrow roads that cannot be widened, so extra parking spaces for this traffic will not exist.** Village roads are all gridlocked at school opening and closing times with cars and pedestrians, with illegal parking at & around junctions. Residents driving to and from their homes at these times find it very difficult to negotiate a safe passage through. Parents and children crossing and appearing from in-between cars are a danger to themselves and others. **There is already an accident waiting to happen – and this would be much more likely with the exponential increase in congestion.**
5. **The TAA proposes a treacherous traffic flow system.** Junction B next to the post box is a blind junction with only 5 yards visibility of the A48 towards Cowbridge, and A48 traffic heading towards Cardiff usually travel above 40mph at that point. **Directing all traffic exiting the village to exit at Junction B is thus dangerous.** Junction C has much better visibility (more than 50 yards along the A48 in both directions) and is thus by far the safest junction to use to exit St Nicholas to the East or the West. **Pedestrianising Junction C and forcing traffic to exit via Junction B is thus ludicrous.**
6. The TA estimates that the number of **pupil-generated vehicles in the afternoon would increase by 133% from 51 to 119** (tables 5-2, 5-5 and 5-6) and the TAA does not contain any convincing evidence to alter this reasonable estimate.This would gridlock the village. Moreover, the proposed 1-way system would force parents looking for non-existent parking spaces to circle the church and then exit via the dangerous Junction B to reapproach the school via the A48 and Junction A (in case their children are now waiting in school) and thus do an A48 circuit. **School expansion would thus completely gridlock the village, and the one-way system would expand the gridlock out onto the A48.**
7. It is already very difficult for residents to access their properties for an hour at school opening and an hour at school closing times each day. The proposed school expansion would make such access almost impossible. **Emergency vehicles would be unable to gain access to residential properties, the school, or pupils, and** t**his may seriously endanger life.** I have not seen written reports from the police, fire and ambulance services about these increased dangers to residents, parents and pupils. **The VOGC planning committee should not approve these proposals and create the above dangers.**

Could you please ensure that the full copy of this letter will be made available to all members of the planning committee well before its meeting?

Yours faithfully

Dr Sian Williams