

Watkins, Emma (Agency)

From: Robinson, Victoria L
Sent: 20 January 2021 18:29
To: Watkins, Emma (Agency)
Subject: FW: St Nicholas CIW School

See below. Please ensure this is published on the Planning Register – it is too late for the Matters Arising report.

Thanks,

Victoria Robinson
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Correspondence is welcomed in Welsh or English / Croesewir Gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg neu yn Saesneg

From: Cllr Ian Perry <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 20 January 2021 17:49
To: Planning <Planning@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk>; Burnett, Lis (Cllr) <LBurnett@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk>; Thomas, Rob <DRThomas@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk>; Moore, Neil (Cllr) <NMoore@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk>; Ham, Paula <pham@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk>; Bird, Jonathan (Cllr) <JBird@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk>; Goldsworthy, Marcus J <MJGoldsworthy@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk>; Robinson, Victoria L <VLRobinson@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk>
Cc: Clerk@StNicholasBonvilston-cc.Wales; Bowring, Tom <TBowring@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk>
Subject: St Nicholas CIW School

Dear All,

Residents have raised with me a letter submitted to the Vale of Glamorgan Council by the Chair of Governors of St Nicholas CIW School. *This response to that letter may also be published on the Planning Register.* I am writing as Chair of the Community Council, on behalf of these residents.

In the letter to the Vale Council from the Chair of Governors (16 December 2020), it is alleged that there is an *"atmosphere of hostility from some of the schools neighbours"* towards the school. I am not aware of any hostility towards the school, and there is strong community support for a new school building, within

our community, however, this needs to be on **a site that is fit-for-purpose**. The present site, with its very small frontage, and poor accessibility along old and narrow lanes, with tight corners that provide little space for parking, would not be considered had a small school not been on the site for 60 years. The lack of parking around the school results in poor decisions and conflict – frequently reported by frustrated residents in the village Facebook group.

During the period of consultation, residents have merely (and politely) pointed out the problems that the present site has increasingly caused their daily lives as we have moved from low car ownership when the present school was built, into the 21st century, where car ownership is high. Most of the children arrive at this school, situated in a minor rural community, by car.

The police have informed me that the school has complained to them about residents taking photographs of the street scene around the school. The police have assured me that residents are entitled to take these photographs, and these photographs have been submitted to the planning consultation. There is no evidence that any resident has behaved inappropriately, or confrontationally, with a camera.

Residents are disappointed that the Village Field is no longer accessible to the community. The site of the present school was used by the community for many generations prior to the school expanding to this site 60 years ago and unobstructed access continued until very recently. The Village Field continues to be marked on the LDP map as Public Open Space. I hope that access is restored without delay. There are concerns that the S106 money, legally designated for providing a 'community facility', is all going to the school and that the facility provided will be entirely controlled by the school, and at the whim of the Head or Governors, this much needed facility may be withdrawn from community use.

The school has not approached the Community Council to discuss the new school proposal, nor their failing relationship with their neighbours.

Officers and the relevant Cabinet Member of the Vale of Glamorgan Council have been invited to Community Council meetings to discuss the proposed new school, to the extent that the Vale of Glamorgan Council was included on an agenda, but have failed to attend. It's obviously disappointing that the contract that is the Charter between the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Town and Community Councils appears to have been broken.

21 members of the public attended a recent Community Council meeting - such is the public interest in the proposed new school for St Nicholas.

A strongly held view of residents is that the current proposal needs to be scrapped – not even the proponents of the present proposal are particularly excited by it. We need proper engagement between all parties, with residents and the Community Council becoming **partners** with the Vale Council and Governors to work towards providing a new school for our community on a site that is fit-for-purpose, and creating a positive legacy for future generations. It's extremely disappointing that we are still fighting over a site that isn't fit-for-purpose in the 21st century. **We should be working together to provide an exciting new school, on a new, fit-for-purpose site that benefits everyone.**

Please consider carefully the submissions to the consultation by the Community Council.

Cllr Ian Perry

Chair – St Nicholas with Bonvilston Community Council