

Headley Way Residents

122 – 138 Headley Way

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES

26 MAY 2013

To Ms Diane Cameron

Re Proposed Expansion to St Joseph's Catholic School Headley Way.

We the undersigned residents directly affected by the proposed expansion to St Joseph's School have the following concerns.

1/ Traffic problems occur on a daily basis with the very high volumes of traffic using Headley Way, backing up to the JR hospital roundabout this has got significantly worse in recent years as the hospital has expanded. The traffic levels are likely to get worse in the future.

2/ Increase to school capacity is approximately 25%. Most of the new intake will be coming from the surrounding villages (re school consultation meeting) How many children come to the school by car at present? And what is the estimated number of parents coming by car if the expansion goes ahead? Can the School/Council guarantee children's safety if the expansion goes ahead?

3/ Lack of parking for vehicles already using the school.

4/ Cars park on double yellow lines and Zig Zag lines outside the school and continually block our drives

5/ Ambulances on emergency calls, speed being the main concern.

6/ Young children running out between parked cars.

7/ Car drivers and Luxicars bus doing U turns in Headley Way. Parents do not seem to be concerned by their actions.

8/ Bus stop regularly blocked by cars. (Passenger's boarding the bus in the road and traffic then trying to get pass the bus. (Photo's attached illustrating the current parking problems).

Suggestions to help decrease the danger to children and stop illegal and nuisance parking.

1/ The school to provide a proper drop off and collection point in front of the school. Staff could take children directly off parents to improve the time taken and increase the safety of the children.

2/ Parking in the side roads around the school are mainly resident only parking. Suggest the school issue permits which allow parents to park for 10 minutes approximately at 9am and 3pm in the 'Residents Only' areas. This would make it much safer than unloading several small children on a very busy Road.

3/ Look at the current parking restrictions currently 2 hours outside our houses and Eden Drive. These spaces are mainly used by people going to the Hospital and often staying over the 2 hour time limit. We the residents have been monitoring this for a while.

4/ Provide a traffic warden on a daily basis between 8.45 and 9.15 and 14.50 and 15.20 to clamp down on dangerous and illegal parking.

5/ The school provide a reasonable size car park in the extension or have two gates one for entry and one for exit so that parents can drive through drop their children off/pick up and drive out. This will help reduce the number of cars parked in the street.

6/ A school bus to be provided for older children, with a commitment from the school that this would not be withdrawn in tough financial times.

For those who are not familiar with Headley Way and the current traffic problems it already has. The road is now one of the busiest in Oxford with high levels of traffic using the John Radcliffe Hospital.

St Joseph's School is approximately one hundred metres from the JR roundabout and situated at a point of a significant narrowing in the road including bus stops on both sides of the road. Headley Way has a very high number of ambulances going to and from the JR on emergency calls.

In conclusion we the residents do understand the need for the expansion of the school however we feel the safety of the children is paramount and if the expansion does go ahead we strongly urge the school and council to make proper provision for traffic management and parking. Residents have witnessed children running into the road and vehicles having to do emergency stops. We believe one day there will be an accident involving a child and we hope that the school and planners will take our safety concerns seriously.

Yours sincerely,

R. Massey, L. Massey, Gillian T. Ane, J. Star
A. [unclear], [unclear], Virginia Menoglio
Teen Hudd, [unclear], Rose Tranter
Headley Way residents. [unclear], Dianna Aine
[unclear], I. Cunningham, Karen Kohl
[unclear]



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