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Nottingham
City Council

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Dear

Re: Middleton Primary and Nursery School – proposed expansion

I write following receipt of your letter dated 24th July, objecting to the proposal to increase the capacity at Middleton Primary & Nursery School from September 2018.

We appreciate that some local residents may have concerns about the impact of an expansion on the volume of traffic and parked cars. Traffic related concerns are very often raised in relation to school expansion proposals. Therefore, we work closely with the Council's Traffic & Safety team, local Councillors and other relevant colleagues to identify potential problems and possible solutions. The impact on traffic is also assessed as part of the design feasibility and planning permission process.

We encourage parents to use local schools and to walk their children to school whenever possible. As this expansion is required to meet the needs of children who are already living in the local community, we hope that many will be close enough to walk to school where possible. In terms of the city-wide picture, if children are not able to attend a local school, this actually adds to the traffic problems in transporting children further afield.

The school are also reviewing and updating their Travel Plan to give further focus to any areas of concern and consider how parents/carers and staff are encouraged and enabled to minimise vehicle usage.

Additional restrictions were implemented on Harrow Road around two years ago consisting of extended School Entrance Clearways (zigzags), a limited waiting option during peak school hours (single yellow line) and extended junction protection. The Council is working hard to focus on the needs of our citizens through a cleaner more sustainable transport vision. Alongside this, our colleagues in Road Safety continue to offer the school sustainable travel options of walking and cycling initiatives.

However, if residents are experiencing any illegal parking, they should report this to the City Council Enforcement team, who will then follow up appropriately. Their contact details are as follows: Tel. 8761499; email: parking@nottinghamcity.gov.uk.

We are working closely with Middleton Primary School, to continue to make every effort to encourage staff to park considerately and provide alternative options. It is likely that the staff car park will be increased with the expansion of the school. We are still in the early design stage of the plans, therefore any design for the car park is yet to be finalised; our Planning Department and Highways Team will be fully involved in such plans. You will note from the planning policies that you refer to that the emphasis is on promoting sustainable transport and limiting the number of car parking spaces to be provided. There is no standard for the number of spaces for a primary school but rather the requirements for each are assessed on their own particular merits and context. As mentioned above, this is something that we will be looking at closely as the plans for this scheme develops. Impact on neighbours' amenities will certainly be a focus for our considerations in this regard.

The school and local Councillors have already fought hard for the Harrow Road Community Centre car park to be available for use during school drop off and pick up times, to reduce the traffic on the local roads and to provide a safer drop off / pick up zone. It may be that further publicity is required to encourage even more parents/carers to take up this option, as it provides an ideal alternative to parking on the road.

With regards to the concern you raise about ice cream vans parking on the junction of Harrow Road and Eton Grove, this has been raised with the Council's Markets and Fairs team, who are currently investigating on a city-wide basis, the potential issue of street vending outside schools.

Legislation allows the City Council to designate streets for the purposes of street trading. This means that ice creams vans (or any other street vendors) would not be able to trade on any of the designated streets without the consent of the Council. At present, if a street is neither consented nor prohibited, vendors can set up and sell goods in an uncontrolled manner. The City Council are planning to consult with schools and are assessing whether to designate relevant streets in the immediate vicinity of schools as 'consent streets' which would enable greater control by requiring vendors to apply for a consent to sell their goods on those streets.

Yours sincerely,

Lucy Juby
Project Manager