

## **20/0208/FUL – Acklam Grange School. Application Reference**

### **Appendix 1 - Expanded summary of comments received**

#### **Comment of Support**

I am writing in support of the application. The base will provide a much needed resource within Middlesbrough and is ideally situated within Acklam Grange as the ARC is suitable to be expanded to meet the needs of this very small cohort of pupils. It also addresses the commitment made by MBC to develop an effective local offer, which includes educational provision. Traffic on Lodore Grove is an issue at peak times, however this is exacerbated by the traffic light sequence where it joins Acklam Road.

#### **Comments of Objection**

This is a ridiculous idea, it is bad enough as it is sometimes I can't get on or off my drive because of all the traffic and we definitely don't need any more kids walking up and down the street screaming for no reason whilst littering at the same time. This school should be closed and moved somewhere else rather than being expanded.

I have significant concerns over current car access to Acklam Grange site. For between 30 and 60 mins around the start and finish of the school day, all residents of the 'Lodore triangle' are unable to access or leave their houses by car, due to excessive traffic related to Acklam Grange School.

Vehicle access to school be evenly split between the 2 access roads; Lodore Grove and Heythrop Drive.

For the long standing residents we have had to put up with back to back traffic from 7am till 8:45 and 14:45 to 15:30 as parents bring and collect their children from the school. Myself and residents of Lodore Grove, Keswick Grove and Ruskin Avenue, have had to put up with many issues caused by parents dropping children at the school and these issues will be increased if the planning is allowed to go ahead,

Cars blocking our drives, poor quality of air due to pollution from cars waiting to get out onto Acklam Road, having to leave home earlier than we should for hospital appointments as we have to wait ten to 15 minutes at times just to get off our drives or out of the junction and another 5-10 minutes to get onto Acklam Road.

Parents cars, Taxis parking up on Lodore / Keswick Grove and dropping children off blocking incoming traffic and causing jams on Acklam rd.

There are 100's of children walking through, and groups of children hanging around my front staring through my window, throwing their rubbish into my garden, and giving verbal abuse when challenged about their behaviour. ( I am an ex ASB officer and will always challenge unacceptable behaviour) other elderly residents are too afraid to do this.

I have had windows broken, soft drinks thrown over my windows, children running into my garden, stealing pebbles and throwing them at cars and windows, and other children, to name but a few incidents. Unless you have plans to open both access roads to the school and ease the congestion and related issues (air pollution, traffic jams etc) we already suffer from then this application should not be given any serious consideration.

Although I have no wish to stand in the way of any child's education, I feel any increase in traffic on Lodore Grove as a consequence of increasing pupil numbers is not acceptable. An increase in traffic is going to be detrimental to myself and other residents. At present, I find it impossible to drive out of my home on a morning as the traffic is backed up all the way from the school to the traffic lights on Acklam Road and it takes at least 20 minutes to half an hour to move 100 yards. I need to leave my home 40 minutes early in a morning to avoid getting trapped in. I feel a more even access to the site from both ends of the school in order to mitigate traffic is needed before this application should be allowed and the reopening of the other school gates entrance and entry roads would alleviate a massive traffic bottleneck and inconvenience for residents in the Lodore and Ruskin area.

Every day I see parents driving their children to school, either dropping them off in the school car park or on Lodore Grove and turning their cars causing a blockage. The amount of traffic we have to deal with is horrendous, I have been sat in my car trying to turn out of Keswick Grove onto Lodore for 15 to 20 minutes on many occasions. It is ridiculous and how are they going to cope with a higher volume of traffic when it is obvious we are not coping now. Something needs to be done, why can't parents be told not to drive into Lodore and have drop off points maybe on Acklam Road or Trimdon Avenue, or the other entrance to Acklam Grange. As a resident I feel strongly about this and the volume of traffic and the amount of CO 2 emissions emitted from the cars.

We personally have taken 30 minutes to travel from the school entrance to the Lodore/Acklam road lights. Given this level of congestion there is also the potentially serious issue of blocked access/ egress to the area for emergency vehicles.

Given the social challenges associated with autism, I can see each pupil accessing the school by car in addition to the three extra staff.

We appreciate the success of the school and understand why it may want to include the unit but important issues must be addressed which were ignored or exacerbated when the new school was built.

Why was the site allowed to be constructed with only one point of vehicular access and egress?

Why was the perimeter road removed/ covered which would have given two points of entry?

In the morning this single entrance causes massive congestion and delays on Acklam and Mandale Road, proposed new- build residential developments would make this and the increased resultant pollution even worse. Is this being taken into consideration?

While at "peak times" leaving the estate can be very fraught there is a straightforward and inexpensive solution to this problem. There is a second entry to the school site that could easily and inexpensively be brought back into use with a turning circle for use as a dropping off or picking up point. This second entry off Heythrop Drive has points of exit onto Mandale Road and the town's road system.

I feel that the council has not looked into the amount of houses off Lodore Grove and the amount of cars the residence have per household. A solution to this could be to open up the Heythrop Drive exit/entrance to alleviate some of the congestion at school times.

The above proposed extension to Acklam Grange School should not be allowed if it results in increased traffic. Lodore Grove and connecting roads are already blocked twice a day when the pupils arrive or leave school. The residents in this area are predominantly elderly and the current levels of traffic already cause problems for emergency vehicles. We strongly object to any extension to the school until an alternate access route can be introduced to reduce the traffic on Lodore Grove,

Increase in litter that is strewn about by the children attending the school. I believe that more development on the site would increase this traffic and litter problem and I vehemently object to this application. There used to be an entrance to the school at Lodore Grove and an exit at Heythrop Drive along with the temporary road for the haulage of building materials when building the new school which should have been kept and I believe this should be resurrected. I have regular difficulty leaving my drive with my car due to non stop stationary traffic in both directions and believe this will get far worse if this application is granted.

I already come home from work to a barrage of neighbours complaining that the current students take the pebbles from my front garden and throw them at each other with no regard for the damage they cause to others peoples houses and cars from 'stray' shots, that I could really do without more students adding to the mix.

I received a letter hand posted by Cllr Ron Arundale requesting the surrounding area of Lodore grove in particular Acklam grange school that planning permission for the extension To take place should be strongly objected to I am in the belief that this Application should not go ahead due to the heavy traffic that already exist And will increase ten fold if this request is allowed to go forward

I work in Breckon Hill Primary School, Middlesbrough. My journey from home can take me around 30 minutes to work. 15 of which can be spent waiting in traffic on Lodore Grove. RIDICULOUS! Creating space for more pupils to attend Acklam Grange without any thought for increased traffic is crazy and inconsiderate to local residents. Acklam Grange should be preventing parents from being able to drive into school grounds unless without a prior appointment. It is but a short walk from Acklam Road to Acklam Grange School. I do not see any issue with secondary age children walking to school this short distance on their own. Traffic consists of teachers, taxis and parents and children. Please ease this problem instead of adding to it.

I would object to this application on the grounds that as Ruskin Avenue residents we, in this household already have serious concerns over the problems of access to the Main Entrance of Acklam Grange School our only possible exit being via Lodore Grove. Both at the start and end of the school day there are on most days serious traffic congestion problems due to the volume of children and cars entering and leaving the Acklam Grange site. This will often mean a solid queue of vehicles from the school gate all the way to the Lodore Grove / Acklam Road junction / traffic lights, which can last from 15 minutes on a very good day up to an hour at its worst, often completely blocking access to the surrounding residential roads. On many occasions it is a mass of cars in the road, together with an extremely large number of young pedestrians both on the footpaths and road. Lodore Grove is narrow at the junction with Acklam Road and copes very badly at these times - a potentially serious accident waiting to happen. It is the only access to this small estate of 11 roads with just under 300 homes. It serves not just these homes but is the main entrance for Acklam Grange with its over 1400 pupils and well over 150 staff. The Design and Access Statement para 6.0 of this application clearly states that all construction and labour traffic will be via Lodore Grove. This would result in a further increase to an already serious traffic / road safety problem and possibly even an overspill of parking into surrounding roads at peak times. A major concern, locally, has always been that were emergency vehicle access to be needed they could encounter life threatening delay. I feel that before any consideration is given to this application, these already very serious problems, need to be resolved. Any proposal leading to additional traffic on Lodore Grove would be totally unacceptable.

The children crossing the road in front of vehicles also means at times the waiting traffic can not move forward and therefore the under-road sensors do not get triggered as the traffic is standing still. As a result, the lights do not change causing mayhem. I have waited for almost an hour to leave Lodore Grove when this has happened.

Another option may be to have a parent drop off point on either Acklam or Mandale Road and only special permit holders could drop-off at the school gates?

Attendance at this school 3 times a day activities, trying to access Lodore Grove from Ruskin and thus also from Wordsworth at these times is very difficult due to the traffic from and to the school.

The amount of traffic now is very problematic, the junction Lodore to Acklam Road is traffic light controlled. Lodore is jammed traffic wise to exits from Ruskin Ave and Keswick Grove. Most drivers using this section of road, are very reluctant to even give way, the traffic control at the junction allows often maybe only 3 to 4 cars exiting, thus exacerbating the problems. Add into that the huge numbers of pedestrian children at the junction makes the problem that much worse.

The Acklam Road junction is complicated by the shops on the East side of Acklam Road, vehicles entering and leaving, causing blockages at the lights, the other side now have similar as a result of the Tesco supermarket, plus of course immediately South of the lights yet another...uncontrolled egress and ingress activity of Church Lane!

Relief is desperately needed at this junction, especially school times. Some form of relief route to the A1130 is really required without impacting on the Heythrop area housing!

During a public consultation a number of years ago regarding the construction of the IT block, the then MBC transport dept manager advised that as a development Lodore Grove already exceeded current planning legislation with regard to the number of residencies from a single access. Since then we have had to endure further increase in school capacity, school rebuilding and now potentially more traffic due to this application.

Now, is the time to provide additional access and parking to other side of Acklam Grange School. This will relieve the traffic congestion at the Acklam/Lodore Grove entrance and should be made a condition of this application.

Very concerned about the increased traffic it may cause. I have 2 small children who go to St Clare's nursery and some morning when I do need to use my car it's unbelievable hard to get my car off the drive due to traffic already caused by the school. If this was to go ahead myself and my husband probably would have to move.

The school is currently very large and granting permission for further development leaves it open to more extensions in the future.

---

**End of Public Comments**