

Dear Ann

I am contacting to voice my concerns about the proposal to upgrade Cheswick Green school to two form entry. I did voice my concerns at the meeting to discuss the implication of their being no school provided on the Blythe Valley site which has a housing development in the process of being built at the moment.

Cheswick Green village has been blighted around the school for a number of years particularly around school start and closure times. Many families from Monkspath bring their children to the school due to the limitations at the Monkspath school site which mean that that school cannot be expanded.

A recent development over the last couple of years has been the growth of parking throughout school hours on Cheswick Way outside the school. I presume this is due to the changing agenda for the provision of more teaching assistants and other ancillary support staff. I am a local authority governor at Woodlands Infants so am well aware of the reasons for significant increases in staff number. The bus services serving Cheswick Green have changed in the recent past to Landflight. Initially all the services were all to have been routed through the village via Cheswick Way past the school. Landflight found this untenable due to the all day parking and now some of their services travel directly along Creynolds Lane bypassing the village centre altogether.

Upgrading the school to two form entry will effectively double the number of school staff, doubling the staff parking problem. One has to ask where will school park all day if the proposal goes ahead. It is not tenable for double the number of cars to park in the roads around the school all day. The only alternative would be to provide sufficient parking space to be provided for all staff in the school carilage. This would probably only be achieved by taking up a significant amount of the school playing fields which I also think is not tenable as it would have a significant detrimental effect on the pupils school life.

Doubling the number of vehicles visiting the area around the school four times a school day is not a tenable option either. Pollution around the school would have a serious impact on the recently introduced 'young lungs' initiative.

In conclusion I just cannot see this proposal being a viable option.

Yours sincerely  
Councillor Andy Hodgson