

Radley C of E Primary School
Radley
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Mrs J Dymock
Radley Parish Clerk
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5 February 2017

Dear Mrs Dymock,

I write as Chair of the Governors of Radley C of E Primary School, and on behalf of the Governing Body, in response to the Radley Neighbourhood Consultation Plan (RNCP) dated December 2016. In short we are very disappointed with the almost total lack of inclusion of the needs of the Primary School in the plan. Our issues are as follows:

1. **Limited consultation with key village stakeholder.** There has been limited engagement with Radley Primary School. I understand a representative of RPC met with the headteacher, and the then Chair of Governors, to explore the school's views on what a major housing development might mean for the school, as well as having a tour of the school building. However, this was in September 2015 and there has been no involvement with the parent body, or the governing body as a whole. This is despite the Primary School being identified as an Infrastructure Priority on Page 10 of the RNCP.

It seems unusual that a draft Plan could be published without more prior engagement with stakeholder groups, rather than individual residents. For example the school is not represented on the RNCP steering group and is conspicuous in its absence on the 'Stakeholder meeting notes and statements' on your website.

2. **Current site is inappropriate for expansion.** As Radley Primary School has approx 100 pupils, plus the Foundation Stage, and schooling is a key consideration when people choose to move to a location, more thought could have been given to this. It would seem clear that the school should expand to be a one Form per year school and the current facilities are not appropriate for this. The classrooms for Key Stage 2 are already too small, buildings are in need of repair and the Hall will not be big enough to either cater for the pupils or be able to hold whole school assemblies. Car parking is already inadequate.

It is difficult to see how funding for extending the Primary School will be achievable as a result of the RNCP. This plan could potentially endanger the long term viability of our village school considerably diminishing the appeal of Radley. Surely the RNCP should go further in terms of lobbying for a new build (not simply extended) Primary School of at least one form entry and with potential for future expansion.

While it is pleasing that the RNCP is supportive of a larger Primary School it is not clear how the RNCP will facilitate the delivery of one. The Primary School is striving to have the best possible facilities and that will surely benefit the village as a vibrant and attractive place to live. To achieve this, it is important that real thought be given to how to deliver something above the minimum by working together. For example, the school's opinion has not been sought on the proposal to relocate the Village Hall. However, there is great merit for the school and village hall and appropriate playing facilities to be co-located. This could create a real hub for the Village and may help address wider pinch points such as parking.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,

Dan Pullen

Dan Pullen
Chair of Governors

Copied to:
Governing Body