

**East Malling &
Larkfield**
East Malling

569770 157490

13.07.2005

TM/05/02174/CR3

Proposal: Details of school travel plan submitted pursuant to condition 23 of planning permission TM/04/03357/CR3: Demolition of existing school buildings and provision of new school buildings together with car parking areas, landscaping and temporary mobile classrooms

Location: The Malling School Beech Road East Malling West Malling Kent ME19 6DQ

Applicant: Kent County Council And Kent Education Partnership

1. Description:

1.1 These details relate to the School Travel Plan for Malling School. The report sets out the steps that the school is intending to carry out to reduce the reliance on motorcars. The report indicates that a Travel Plan has been identified at the new school and it is the intention to set up a Travel Plan Action Team. The report sets out the objectives and targets of the travel plan, such as reducing the number of staff driving to school and the number of students driven to school by 5%, along with increasing the number of pupils cycling to school by 5%. The report also proposes a number of initiatives, promotion and links to the national curriculum, along with an action plan and timetable.

2. The Site:

- 2.1 The application site lies within an ALLI and the Strategic Gap. The site lies outside the built confines of East Malling and adjacent to the Clare Park & Blacklands CA and the Mill Street CA. The site separates the 1960s housing estates of East Malling and the more historic parts of East Malling, along Mill Street and Clare Lane. The Blacklands footpath lies to the north of the main school site and provides a pedestrian link between these two parts of East Malling. To the northwest of this footpath lies the millpond, the school's playing fields and Clare Park House. To the southeast of the site lies Millstream Primary School.
- 2.2 Vehicular and pedestrian access into the site is gained via Beech Road. A one way system operates at the entrance, which allows for dropping off and staff parking. A second pedestrian access point is available off Blacklands footpath, close to a vehicular dropping off point along Clare Lane.
- 2.3 The site contains an ad-hoc collection of two storey and single storey structures, constructed from a variety of materials and in various state's of repair. The East Malling & Larkfield No.2 Tree Preservation Order 2004 protect a number of the trees within the site.

3. Planning History:

- 3.1 TM/04/03357/FL Approved 13.01.2005
Demolition of existing school buildings and provision of new school buildings together with car parking areas, landscaping and temporary mobile classrooms.

4. Consultees:

- 4.1 PC: PC is sceptical of these travel plans, there are lots of good ideas but notes do not set out how they are put into practice. We note there is a capital spending grant of £8,450 to be possibly spent on, new signing, improved lighting, CCTV. The PC has previously drawn attention to the need to improve the Blacklands footpath and Clare Lane path the school, what is being proposed.

5. Determining Issues:

- 5.1 The main issue to be considered is whether the School Travel Plan is sufficient to encourage the use of other modes of transport, in order to reduce dependence on the private car in the interests of highway safety.
- 5.2 The submitted School Travel Plan is fairly extensive and was drawn up in collaboration with the Kent County Council Travel Plan Co-ordinator. Much of the report relates to encouraging the reduction in the use the private car and sets a number of targets with annual monitoring. It aims to achieve this by:
- Setting up a School Travel Plan working group;
 - Annual student and staff surveys;
 - Promote and raise awareness to Travel Plan through newsletter, website and noticeboards;
 - Encourage parents to walk or cycle with their children, by use of promotional material;
 - Investigate becoming a member of 'eco schools' (which involves pupils in the enhancement of the sustainability of the school);
 - Looking into setting up cycle club, developing links to local cycle shops and participate in annual National Cycle to School Days;
 - Build new cycle stores;
 - Investigate taking part in the RAC Grass Routes challenge. (An RAC initiative for using teaching aids to promote greater safety in access to school);

- Implement a bus code of conduct;
- Incorporate survey results and the Travel Plan and effects into curriculum.

5.3 All of the actions have been set a target date, the majority of which are to be carried out by Summer 2006. The report is comprehensive and provides a practical plan to achieve a lower reliance of private cars. However, there should be a greater emphasis given to developing the existing occasional staff car sharing arrangements. This matter can be flagged up with KCC in our recommendation.

5.4 The PC make reference to improvements to public footpaths around Blacklands, this is not a matter for the School Travel Plan, as these lay outside of the application site area. Notwithstanding this, KCC should be reminded of the need to carry out improvements of the footpaths.

5.5 In light of the above considerations, I find these details acceptable and should assist to encouraging staff and students to rely less upon the private car for trips to School.

6. Recommendation:

6.1 **KCC be advised that TMBC Raise No Objection** as detailed in letter dated the 6 July 2005 and the School Travel Plan received on the 8 July 2005 subject to:

- The occasional staff car sharing arrangements being developed further.

Informative:

1 KCC is strongly requested to carry out improvements to the public footpaths linking to the school entrance from Clare Lane.

Contact: Aaron Hill