

St. Mary's C. E. Primary School

Brookpit Lane, Clymping, Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5QU

• www.stmarysclymping.org.uk



Headteacher: Justin Murray

Monday, 10th November 2025

Planning Department
Arun District Council
Arun Civic Centre
Maltravers Road
Littlehampton

Re: Planning Application No. CM/34/25/PL

Dear Sir or Madam,

We write to comment on planning application CM/34/25/PL (the relocation of visitor facilities on land southeast of our school). While St Mary's CE Primary School does not object in principle to the proposed development, a more detailed transport and access strategy is required to ensure that the school community does not experience any negative impacts. The school wishes to make the following comments:

- **Road safety and traffic management:** Our primary concern is road safety and the management of traffic on Brookpit Lane and Crookthorn Lane. To the extent that the proposed car park improves pedestrian safety by reducing the need for school families to walk on narrow, congested lanes with no pavement, this would be a welcome improvement. The current situation is less than ideal.
- **Increased volume of traffic and the need for additional safety measures:** The proposal is very likely to increase the number of vehicles and bicycles travelling on Brookpit Lane and Crookthorn Lane, and safety measures for children and their families should be considered. These include clear safety signage, road markings, and the potential introduction of a one-way traffic system. In addition, a pedestrian pavement on all or part of these roads should be considered. This will be particularly important as a large housing estate is planned to be built to the north of the school, and this, combined with a planned new pedestrian crossing over the A259, will likely increase the number of families accessing the school on foot via Crookthorn Lane.
- **Relationship with the A259 development:** A broader view should be taken regarding the relationship with the A259 development works. The relocation of the Church Lane roundabout, combined with an expected increase in traffic volume, will require careful consideration to ensure the safety of school pupils and their families.
- **School-related parking provision:** While there is mention of school-related parking provision, greater clarity is required on how this will operate in practice. Parking provision should be organised in conversation with the school and established with a written agreement or covenant. It is essential that free parking is maintained for visitors to the school throughout the day. This should include not only drop-off and pick-up times but also access for a range of activities such as before- and after-school clubs, wraparound care, assemblies, performances, reading events, visits from the local authority and diocese,

phased starts for Reception pupils, school volunteers, governor monitoring visits, early pick-ups for medical appointments, and seasonal events such as Nativity plays.

- **Access management:** A system will be needed to ensure that the school retains access to parking at all times. This could involve allocated parking spaces, number plate recognition, or a permit system, particularly if parking restrictions are ever introduced on Brookpit Lane or Crookthorn Lane.
- **Disabled access:** The lane in front of the school must accommodate disabled access. This must not be blocked because the school needs access for disabled visitors at all times.
- **Surface quality:** The current road surface on the lane in front of the school is unsuitable for both vehicular and pedestrian use and should therefore be considered as part of the development works.

We appreciate the proposed provision of parking for the school during term time. The new car park has the potential to alleviate current road safety concerns, particularly if it provides well-organised, safe and reliable access to free off-road parking for the school community.

However, being reliant on private parking provision without a written agreement or covenant would be imprudent for the school, and so we ask that such a measure is required as a condition of any approval of this planning application. Also, to avoid a situation in which the car park is for some reason unavailable to the school community at any particular time, the present parking capacity on Brookpit and Crookthorn Lanes should be maintained. Given the likely increase in traffic that the proposed development will attract, the Council should in addition consider road safety measures, such as those discussed above, to ensure the safety of school pupils and their families.

We ask that all the points discussed above are given appropriate consideration.

Yours faithfully,
The Governing Body
St Mary's CE Primary School

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Please let me know if any questions arise regarding this comment.

Many thanks,
Lisa Eyre