

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATIONS 17/02100/FUL AND 17/02101/VAR

PLANNING COMMITTEE DATE- 23 JUNE 2020

AGENDA ITEMS 5A AND 5B

FROM:

GUY FRENCH OF FOXES RURAL CONSULTANTS

ON BEHALF THE APPLICANT – SARAH ROWLEDGE, PRINCIPAL OF SOARING HIGH MONTESSORI SCHOOL

2 minute statement below

This statement has been prepared on behalf of the applicant in SUPPORT of agenda items 5a and 5b.

The applicant is the principal and owner of Soaring High Montessori School which achieved planning permission at Purley Farm in 2009. The applicant rents Purley Barn A from the Marks Hall Estate. It provides an additional storage building and car parking to the school which is located to the north of the immediate school site. The landlords are in full support of the school and these proposals.

These applications relate to the variation of the approved car parking layout annexed to the original 2009 planning permission. The relocation of car parking is from within the immediate curtilage of the school grounds as the applicants have been legally required by Ofsted and the Department of Education to implement safeguarding measures for pupils since the original 2009 permission. Furthermore, the movement of traffic internally within the school site between the two complexes of buildings would create a significant health and safety risk for staff and pupils.

The applicant has repaired an area of hardstanding that is annexed as car parking to the building to the north of the site. This area is used during the 36 weeks of term time for the parking of staff vehicles and the safe 'off road' drop off and collection of children. An 'off road' woodland pedestrian path has been installed to enable parents to park their cars and walk their children to the school gates. Without the provision of car parking, pupils would have to be dropped off and collected from school on the highway which creates an unsafe highway risk to both motorists, the pupils and their families.

The applications have been reviewed by the Rt. Hon. Priti Patel, who has written in respect of this application and given her full support to the proposals.

The applicant proposes conditions to the committee to limit the school numbers to a maximum of 70 (x10 per year group) at any one time and to limit the hours for school drop off and collections to 8am to 9.30am and 3pm to 4.30pm.