ST PATRICK’S PRIMARY SCHOOL

 

10, Annaghmore Coalisland, Co. Tyrone. N.I. BT71 4QZ

Principal: Anne Mc Guinness

Web Site: www.stpatricksannaghmore.com

Telephone :(028) 87740661

Email: info@stpatricksps.coalisland.ni.sch.uk

Wednesday 11th May 2022.

**RE: Proposed Planning Application:**

**Residential Development, landscaping, open space and associated works.**

Dear Parents and Friend of St Patrick’s PS,

A public consultation by JPE Planning took place Thursday 5th May from 3:00pm – 7:00pm regarding the development proposal to build 48 residential homes in the ground directly adjacent to the school football pitch and extending to the rear of all 3 double classroom modular units. I, staff and PTA representatives along with some individual parents attended. The following points of concern were raised with the architect and the planning officer present at the open consultation: -

1. Health and welfare of all children
2. Child Protection concerns
3. Increasing volume of traffic from 48 homes in the proposal onto the Annaghmore Road.

The proximity of the housing to the rear of all 6 modular classrooms if alarming; in some instances, the referred to ‘buffer zone’ will be 3 meters from our classroom windows as our perimeter fencing clearly shows. Putting in trees and bushes/hedges to fill this 3m buffer zone raises its own questions as over time this will create a light issue into the rooms when the bushes and trees begin to grow considering how close they will be to our classrooms.

What will children be able to view into 2 storey homes from the school and indeed, what will occupants be viewing from their vantage points into the school?

We all are fully aware of the congestion of traffic outside the school on a daily basis from 8:45am – 9:15am and again from 1:45pm – 3:10pm. I have gone onto the road numerous times to try and clear traffic jams and move vehicles along as speedily as possible. It is a miracle that no child or parent has not been seriously injured or killed at this stage; added to this already is the heavy haulage vehicles that traverse up and down past the school to access the M1 and return again from dropping off their loads. I cannot begin to envisage putting multiple vehicles into this already congested situation and cannot allow it to go unchallenged. Our children and the welfare of their families must come first and putting in speed ramps will not do anything to reduce the proposed increase in traffic from residents who will occupy the proposed development – not to mention the traffic and noise generated by construction work over an extensive period of time while the site is developed and the disruption this will cause to teaching and learning at the school.

We have always prided our location and identity as a small rural primary school who serves their local community, working in partnership with all to create the generation of tomorrow. We will lose this identity if such an extensive development is allowed to proceed without due regard to concerns of St Patrick’s PS, Annaghmore and the school community. Our rural environment is one we cherish and value and it is disappearing rapidly in front of our eyes.

In consultation with parents, staff and Governors, this is a petition of concern based on all the above raised points.

We ask all of you who agree with our concerns to please come to the school entrance Thursday 12th and Friday 13th May and sign the petition at any time as it will be situated just at the front entrance without any need for you to enter the main school building.

The signatures and letter will then be copied and forwarded to all relevant authorities and parties concerned including local MLAs newly elected by the community on the same day that the consultation was scheduled.

Thank you, in advance, for all your support – we seek only a fair hearing and due regard to be paid to the concerns we have for the future of our school and community.

Kind regards,

Anne McGuinness (Principal)

On behalf of concerned Governors, Staff and parent body.

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**Plans can be viewed online at:** [**www.jpeplanning.com**](http://www.jpeplanning.com)