



**Abbots Bromley Parish Neighbourhood
Development Plan**

Ray Mansell – Vice Custos
Abbots Bromley School
High Street
Abbots Bromley
Staffordshire
WS15 3BW

12th June 2017

Dear Ray,

Abbots Bromley Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan

It has recently come to my attention within the community that staff and parents are being briefed by the school with regards to an authority to proceed with the proposal to develop the Equestrian Centre and Anglesey field.

As you are aware the Neighbourhood Development Plan group, working on behalf of the Parish Council, have undergone a study of a number of potential sites. Through a rigorous scoring process the school site is now being looked at in regard to its suitability for potential development in relation to the school's proposal.

Other sites also scored positively, and could well be considered for proposed development should the school site not meet on-going community support.

The March site selection feedback evening held in the village hall, where you were in attendance, showed that the community have concerns regarding the proposed school development, particularly in relation to highways and access. We are therefore increasingly concerned as to the school's rhetoric whilst reporting on the progress of this proposed development.

Following the March event members of the NDP group met with you to reaffirm its commitment as representatives of the community, and to talk through the concerns in order to find a way forward. Since this meeting the group have given you the space to try and find solutions, and on 26th April you indicated in an e-mail that work on the highways aspect was progressing. To date we have not received assurances from Staffordshire County Council highways, or a highway scheme to demonstrate acceptability of the proposal. This was clearly set out as an "in principal matter" that needs to be satisfactorily resolved before any further, more detailed work is to continue or be briefed about. The meeting with the NDP group also sought written assurances from you as to the basis of our continued work on this matter, including written confirmation that any funds raised from the scheme would be ring-fenced for re-investment and enhancement of the existing school estate. We still await correspondence in this regard.

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Given this, we are surprised to learn that the school is talking openly about housing numbers and configuration, whilst giving the firm impression that the scheme is somehow a “done deal” in planning terms.

This is clearly a misrepresentation of where we are in the process given the outstanding matters and risks undermining the entire Neighbourhood Plan process, thereby destroying the hard won goodwill that we as a group have built with the local community over a considerable period of time.

It's worth reiterating that the Neighbourhood Plan process is 'community-led' and the community has the ultimate say over whether the plan is acceptable or not through referendum at the end of the process.

We understand that the school is due to hold a Vision Evening on 15th June. If you are intending to present information in relation to your proposal we would ask that you refer only to the on-going work in its broadest terms for the reasons previously set out.

We look forward to hearing from you with regards to the outstanding matters.

Yours Sincerely,

Cllr Bryn Walters – Chair of the Abbots Bromley Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group

C.C

Mrs Maggie Shackleton – Executive Head

Mr Rick Van Driel – Bursar

Mrs Sarah Meads – Clerk, Abbots Bromley Parish Council

ABNDP Web Site