

About the application

Application number: 2020/92657	
What is the application for?:	Erection of 10 classroom teaching block and formation of car parking area with a
Address of the site or building:	King James School, St Helen's Gate, Almondbury, Huddersfield, HD4 6SG
Postcode:	HD4 6SG

User comments

Type of comment: An objection
continued... iii. A one way traffic system should be implemented from the junction of Arkenley to top of St Helen's Gate as well as Dark Lane with access times only for residents. iv. Restricted parking that benefits the residents needs to be implemented. v. Double yellow lines need to be done from Arkenley to the Dark Lane with some resident only parking spaces. vi. Traffic calming measures put in place. e. CCTV needs to be installed to assist on any highways incidents. f. Dark Lane is used as a rat run by parents. It currently is reduced to single track as the council does not maintain the verges. There is no pavement for students and is poorly lit. What is the council proposing to do to improve this route for pedestrians and drivers? g. Birks Lane is a single lane from the junction with Dark Lane to Arkenley Lane with blind bends and no pedestrian pavement. As an increase in traffic as well as students arriving on foot, what plans are there to protect pedestrians? h. The footpath from St Helens Gate to Longcroft currently used by students is not maintained by the council and is in a poor state. More students will use this route. 14. Safety a. Students i. Over 180 students currently use St Helen's Gate to walk to and from school as it is now. This is with two year groups currently being educated at the old ACS site. The change of school catchment area will lead to more students arriving on foot. There is only a single narrow path and the volume of students means they end up walking on the road to pass slower walkers, regardless of the teachers stationed outside school and at the first corner by Dark Lane asking them back onto the pavement. The left hand bend on St Helens Gate directly opposite Dark Lane is a tight bend with no central white lines due to its width. The high volume of children on the path this causes cars to drift into the centre of the road as they go round the poorly illuminated blind bend due to trees with children in the road. Currently students walk all over the road on blind bends as they exit school. This is not being properly controlled or managed by school and we live in fear of an accident/ fatality. What plans are there in place to manage student safety? ii. Currently parents drop children at school unsafely as it is and to add more cars to this without some form of proper traffic control and monitoring will just increase the risk

of a serious accident. A controlled drop off zone is needed and yellow lines are needed where the road narrows below 51 St Helens Gate through to the staff car park on St Helens Gate.

iii. There is no safe road crossing or safe management of students crossing the road at the top of St Helens Gate. Students stream across the road through rush hour traffic. There is grave danger of death of a child, be warned.

iv. The public footpath that runs by school to Grasscroft is likely to have increased student traffic. This path is not managed by school at start or end of school day regarding student behaviour. Neither is it maintained nor fenced off by the council to protect both landowners and wildlife. Trespass also occurs from this path onto

Students have also been found

lighting fires on the path

The students need to be managed or the

council needs to invest in securing the footpath with fencing.

v. What plans does school or the council have to improve the footpath from school to Grasscroft to make it safer to use?

b. Residents

i. Increasing the number of students is likely to lead to an increase in criminal damage and anti-social behaviour etc impacting the school neighbours and properties on St Helen's Gate and Dark Lane.

ii. We regularly have had criminal damage including vandalism, arson, litter throwing and trespass by students that has been reported to the police and school. by students as well as litter thrown

due to no supervision. An increase in students coming up and down St Helens Gate will only add to this. Why should we have to pay for remedial work where there is inadequate student supervision or facilities for students to dispose of their litter safely? There is no litter bin on the pedestrianised side of St Helens Gate from the top of Fenay Lane/ Westgate until school – this also needs addressing.

iii. To protect all concerned CCTV needs to be installed at various points on St Helen's Gate if more students will be attending the KJS site.

15. Pollution

a. There will be an increase in air pollution due to increased traffic operating in a limited area. What is school or the council planning to do to mitigate this?

b. There will an increase in noise pollution with more students that will impact residents. How is it proposed that this will be managed? The volume level of the school bells can be heard in excess of quarter a mile away as well as screaming students.

c. The school uses the site out of the hours stated for parent evenings/ after school clubs etc. The access road by the side of the current and proposed building is used by traffic for such events and is not well lit. This will also lead to increased out of working hours noise affecting the school's neighbours.

d. Increase in littering i.e. environmental pollution of the residents properties and pavements due to increased footfall on the surrounding area. It is bad enough as it is and it also affects the wildlife.

I object to any expansion plans if the overloading of St Helens Gate at all levels as well as safety issues are not addressed. A robust school travel plan must be implemented and managed – the current proposals are a nonsense.

There has been a clear lack of consideration or comprehensive review of the impact on the area's infrastructure, the residents and student safety with this proposed

on the area's infrastructure, the residents and student safety with this proposed expansion.

I invite members of the planning committee to visit the area before a decision.