



8 November 2021

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Dear Madam

### **Construction Site at Shootersway, Berkhamsted**

We are aware that Elysian Residences, has acquired a site off Shootersway in Berkhamsted and that access to the land is via a track adjacent to Haslam Field.

We are the Headteacher and Chair of Governors at Greenway Primary & Nursery School which is situated off Shootersway at the bottom of Crossways. A parent of children at the school has forwarded to us a communication from Elysian Residences advising that you have been appointed the Community Liaison Manager.

We note from this communication that the company '*...recognises the importance of communicating with the local community....*' and that it also '*.....wants to engage fully with the local community.....*'.

We also understand from this communication that work at the site started on 1 November and that a traffic management plan has been put in place which has been approved by Dacorum Borough Council. As far as we are aware, there has been no consultation with local schools or the community about this and we were not advised of the start date for the work.

We see that you say that traffic marshalls will be used to manage the construction traffic along Shootersway to avoid traffic congestion, especially at peak times.

We have looked on the Dacorum Planning website and noted a Construction Management Plan (CMP) dated 19.7.21 which states the scope of the report is to include traffic management. **Please confirm that this is the traffic management plan to which the communication refers.**

If this is the case, we note from the CMP that a field study was apparently undertaken as part of the assessment methodology by HG Construction. It is not stated when the area was observed ie weekdays/weekends/schools holidays. The report fails to mention that:

- the affected stretch of Shootersway is in fact heavily used by school children during term time and the authorised working hours of 8am-6pm.
- Shootersway is narrow and that large construction vehicles will have difficulties turning into the track.

The CMP refers to the fact that traffic marshalls will be present on site but it is not clear whether this includes the access point to the site from Shootersway, as reference is simply made in the report to the fact that the traffic marshalls will ‘...see in all deliveries to site and hold them at the waiting area/unloading zone after which the sub-contractors Banksman will take them to the desired location’ and that they traffic marshalls must accompany reversing vehicles.

You will appreciate that Shootersway is not a wide road and the pavement running alongside it is very narrow. Some Greenway parents and young children (some from Years 5 & 6 are unaccompanied) walk along this road between 8am-9am and from 3pm-3.45pm to attend/leave school ie during the authorised working hours. Pupils attending other local schools (particularly Ashlyns) also walk along the Shootersway pavement prior to the start of school and at the end of the school day.

The turning circle for construction traffic to enter the site via the track off Shootersway is very tight and so vehicles are having to mount the pavement and verge which after only 5 days is already churned up. This is extremely dangerous for our community who are walking along the pavement. There are no clear warning signs for construction traffic at the entrance to the track that there may be young children and their parents on the pavement and there were no traffic marshalls visible on Shootersway last week.

**Please clarify the procedures in place; what steps you are taking to improve the situation for our community; and as to what information you are providing to all your contractors to warn them of the issues they face when gaining vehicular access to the site.**

**Please also advise us as to when the community liaison meeting will be taking place** – it seems unfortunate that this did not occur before the start of construction.

Regards

Katharine Ellwood

Headteacher -Greenway Primary & Nursery School

Elizabeth O'Reilly MBE

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