



The Kings of Wessex School

A Church of England Foundation School - Specialist Technology College

Station Road, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3AQ Telephone: 01934 742608 Fax: 01934 742757

Email: office@kingsofwessex.somerset.sch.uk Website: www.kowessex.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr Chris Richardson, M.Ed.

"Getting the best out of everyone"

5 February 2008

Mrs L Brimmell
Cheddar Parish Council
The Parish Hall
Church Street
Cheddar BS27 3RA

Dear Mrs Brimmell

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT - Proposed Demolition of the Station Road Public Toilets

As Headteacher of The Kings of Wessex School, and on behalf of our students, staff, parents and Governors, I wish to express my full support to the Parish Council in the strongest terms for the proposed demolition of the toilets on Station Road at the front of the main entrance to our school.

I am increasingly concerned about a number of issues posed by the location of the toilets. Firstly, as an Upper School with 1200 students you will appreciate that we have significant volume of daily traffic coming into school, not least at the start and end of the school day that is limited to a one-way system. The demolition of the toilets would vitally allow us to separate pedestrian and vehicular traffic and greatly improve access to the school entrance.

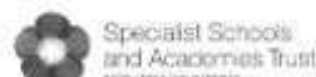
One consequence of the single entrance is the significant risk to the health and safety of our students, staff and bus and car drivers. This is exacerbated when other cars are parked opposite our entrance in Station Road. On some occasions, the school buses have been obliged to mount the pavement and there was one incident of a regrettable injury to a child due to the reduced visibility at the narrow entrance.

In addition, within the community, I am aware that the location of the toilets exacerbates traffic congestion along Station Road especially at peak times. Access into Saxon Way for the various shops and business units is also extremely unsatisfactory due to the single entrance; both of which pose serious health and safety risks.

You will be aware that our student School Council have been working hard to raise awareness of road safety as an essential part of school life. They have successfully devised a School Travel Plan, and are committed to working with national group Sustrans, the sustainable transport charity to devise safer routes to school. Indeed, as a tribute to their enthusiastic and perceptive research and consultations, they were awarded a Government grant of £10,000, which they are intending to use to improve storage of bicycles and to extend the coach loop barriers.

Finally, with my responsibility as Headteacher of Kings, I believe it also important to highlight the problem of the toilets and bench in attracting "undesirables" from our community. Whilst many of these people do not attend Kings, due to their close proximity you will perhaps understand that they are unfortunately, being associated with our school. I know that some of our students also feel uncomfortable and sometimes intimidated when they have to walk past these people. I am concerned that these people are sometimes distracting some of our less disciplined students.

Continued.../





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To conclude, thank you for your consideration on behalf of The Kings of Wessex School and the Cheddar community as a whole. I very much hope that we can work together with the Parish Council on this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

CHRIS RICHARDSON
Headteacher



Specialist Schools
and Academies Trust
ACHIEVING OUR POTENTIAL

