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Horsham Society,
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18th September 2019.

Horsham District Council,
Department of Planning & Economic Development & Property,
Parkside,
Chart Way,
Horsham,
West Sussex,
RH12 1RL.

For the attention of Mr Jason Hawkes.

Dear Mr Hawkes,

Re: Land North of Horsham - Planning Application DC/19/1730.

The Horsham Society Planning Sub Committee have taken the opportunity to review Planning Application DC/19/1730, which deals with elevational treatments and landscaping for the proposed Bohunt school. Whilst we acknowledge that construction of the school will proceed in accordance with Planning Application DC/16/1697, we do have various concerns regarding the proposals, as detailed below.

- 1) The orientation of the buildings as designed indicates that the external courtyards, which are fairly narrow in appearance will be North facing, and as such could appear cold and uninviting, being devoid of sunlight. We believe that consideration should be given to positioning the building so the courtyards can face either West or South, thus bringing light and warmth into these areas.
- 2) We are pleased to see the introduction of colour to the elevations of the sports hall. However, the remaining buildings remain relatively dull and dreary. To make education more enjoyable, the colours should be warm, welcoming and dynamic - the proposals have an unconsidered corporate cream style. Please extend the pallet of colours to the remainder of the buildings, thus lifting their appearance?
- 3) The entire building has an 'industrial feel', not helped by a choice of uninspiring materials. With the positioning of the proposed school, adjacent to a roundabout on the A264, the building should be a landmark feature and materials selected accordingly.
- 4) Whilst we are pleased to see the introduction of sustainable measures, including the provision of photo voltaic panels to certain of the roofs, the commitment to sustainability could be greatly increased by introducing them to the remaining roofs.

- 5) We understand that there are concerns regarding the sizing of the proposed car park for staff vehicles, which we believe will be inadequate. From experience staff will come from many parts of Sussex, making any prospect of car sharing impractical. Consideration should be given to increasing the area of available parking.

- 6) Many of the pupils will be transported to the school from surrounding areas. However, it is not apparent from the drawings which have been tabled that adequate provision has been made for the safe parking/unloading and loading of the coaches/buses which will be used, without disruption to traffic in the surrounding areas. We believe that dedicated 'off road' parking of sufficient size to accommodate the buses/coaches is required. A good example of this requirement is the Weald School in Billingshurst.

- 7) The proposed link between Horsham town and the school site is a Toucan crossing, situated on the A264. We consider that the provision of such a crossing to be totally inadequate, and would be a hazard to both pedestrians and vehicle users on the A264 - already a busy road. Whilst more costly, consideration should be given to either a pedestrian/cycle bridge or underpass, both of which would be inherently safer than risking a crossing on the A264.

We would be pleased to discuss any of the above points with yourselves.

Yours faithfully,

David Griffiths. (Secretary to Horsham Society Planning Sub Committee)