

Brinkworth, Emma (Planning Officer)

From: Drewett, Pat (Elected Member)
Sent: 02 October 2025 09:55
To: Brinkworth, Emma (Planning Officer)
Subject: 25/0744 - St. Mary's School, Queens Hill

25/0744

St Marys Roman Catholic Primary School Queens Hill Newport NP20 5HJ
S73 APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF CONDITIONS 1 (APPROVED PLANS), 14 (GATES), 15 (VISIBILITY SPLAYS) AND 16 (FENCING OF 24/0121 FOR DEMOLITION OF EXISTING BUILDINGS, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW MULTI-USE CANTEEN/HALL BUILDING, NEW GAMES COURT, LANDSCAPING, CYCLE AND CAR PARK RECONFIGURATION

Good morning Emma,

Re: Planning Application – S73 Application for Variation of Conditions (St Mary’s Roman Catholic Primary School, Queens Hill, Newport NP20 5HJ)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my **strong support** for the above planning application submitted in relation to St Mary’s Roman Catholic Primary School, Queens Hill. The proposal seeks variation of conditions relating to approved plans, gates, visibility splays, and fencing associated with the earlier application (24/0121) for the demolition of existing buildings and the construction of a new multi-use canteen/hall building, a new games court, landscaping, and reconfiguration of cycle and car parking facilities. Having reviewed the proposal, I consider the requested variations to be both reasonable and beneficial, and I believe that approval of this application would be consistent with both national and local planning policy. I fully support this application for the following reasons:

1. Consistency with Planning Policy Wales and the Local Development Plan

The development aligns with the objectives of *Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12)* and *Future Wales – The National Plan 2040*, which emphasise the importance of creating sustainable, accessible, and well-designed educational facilities. The Newport Local Development Plan (LDP) 2011–2026 also supports development which improves community infrastructure, particularly in policies relating to CF1 (Community Facilities) and SP9 (Health and Wellbeing).

2. Enhancement of Educational Provision

The new canteen/hall represents a significant qualitative improvement in school facilities. The creation of a new multi-use canteen and hall building is of clear benefit to the pupils, staff, and wider school community. Such a facility will provide a modern, flexible space that can be used not only for school meals and assemblies, but also for extracurricular activities, sports, performances, and community events. This represents a significant enhancement of the school’s educational and social provision. By providing a flexible multi-use space, the school will be able to deliver educational, recreational, and cultural activities that extend beyond the statutory curriculum. This meets the LDP’s objective of supporting sustainable communities and will contribute positively to local social infrastructure. The inclusion of a new games court is a vital investment in the health and wellbeing of pupils. In a time when children’s physical activity levels are a national concern, access to safe, high-quality play and sports facilities within the school grounds will encourage participation in sport and help instil healthy habits from an early age.

3. Safety, Accessibility, and Active Travel Improvements

The proposed variations to gates, visibility splays, and fencing are clearly directed at improving site safety, particularly in terms of safeguarding pupils and ensuring appropriate traffic management at drop-off and pick-up times which is both sensible and proportionate. This directly supports *TAN 18: Transport* and Newport's own policies encouraging safe movement networks. Adjustments to cycle and car parking layouts will also encourage more sustainable transport choices, supporting both parents and staff who cycle to school while easing existing parking pressures. The reconfigured cycle and car parking areas will also support Policy T4 (Active Travel Routes) by promoting sustainable modes of transport, consistent with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 duty to reduce reliance on the private car.

4. Design and Environmental Considerations

The landscaping works proposed will improve the visual appeal of the site and create a more welcoming and environmentally conscious school environment. Green areas and planting schemes also contribute to biodiversity and improve air quality, both of which benefit the local community. The landscaping element of the scheme accords with Policy GP6 (Quality of Design), ensuring a visually attractive school environment that also contributes to biodiversity, microclimate regulation, and pupil wellbeing. The introduction of green infrastructure is a positive step towards meeting environmental sustainability objectives set out in *PPW* and the Council's Green Infrastructure Strategy.

5. Positive Community Benefit

St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School is a valued part of the local community, and this development will help ensure that it continues to thrive for many years to come. The new facilities will not only support the education of local children but also provide opportunities for wider community engagement through shared use of the hall and recreational spaces. The provision of new facilities, particularly the multi-use hall, will support community cohesion by enabling wider use outside school hours. This is fully in line with Policy CF1, which seeks to protect and enhance community facilities for the benefit of the wider population.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I believe this proposal represents a well-considered and necessary improvement to the school's infrastructure. The variations requested under this application are practical and in the best interests of pupil safety, accessibility, and community benefit. I therefore respectfully urge you to grant approval of this application.

Yours faithfully,

Pat

Councillor Pat Drewett

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