



Whittingham Parish Council

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20th August 2025

Lancashire County Council
By Email – Devman@lancashire.gov.uk

Dear Sir,

LCC/2025/0019 Erection of a new, single storey, primary school on land situated off Henry Littler Way / Whittingham Lane, Whittingham.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above planning application.

The Parish Council has already commented on application **LCC/2025/0002** which was submitted as a 1-form, 210 place primary school, however, as this application relates to a 2-form, 420 place primary school, plus 16 places for SEN provision, the Parish Council's comments have been amended accordingly.

Need for a new primary school

Whittingham Parish Council acknowledges that Para 3.10 of the Adopted Preston Local Plan identifies a need for an additional primary school in Whittingham to meet the demands of future planned development. The identified need is further supported by the approval of the outline planning application **06/2019/0365**.

As such, the Parish Council accepts the submission of the application and understands that the proposed school is being enlarged, following LCC's decision not to expand Goosnargh Oliverson's school due to highway concerns.

With the above points in mind, it is noted that Page 8, Section 2A para 4 of the Transport Statement states

- *The catchment area for the proposed school **has not yet been finalised**, but it is expected to primarily serve the communities of Whittingham and Goosnargh, **with a possible extension to Longridge**.*

If the catchment area is extended to include Longridge, it is considered naïve to assume those travelling from that area will use existing public transport links and the Parish Council submits that a dedicated school bus service needs to be provided - with a drop off / collection point adjacent to the Aldi store on Whittingham Road.

Page 8, Section 2A para 4 of the Transport Statement also states

- *The proposed school will designate places **specially for children living within the development**, as outlined in Appendix 6 of the Section 106 agreement. (attached to 06/2019/0365)*

Whilst the commitment to designate places for children living within the new housing development is welcomed, concern is expressed that the catchment area has not yet been finalised especially as Page 3 of the Design & Access statement also states

- *The School Planning team has identified a shortage of primary school places in the Goosnargh and Grimsargh planning area.*

Given that the catchment area dictates the mode of transport that will be used by those attending the school, the Parish Council submits that it is erroneous to conclude on Page 21 of the Transport Statement that

- *The site's location within a growing residential area further enhances its accessibility by sustainable modes, reducing the need for car travel*

Travel from Grimsargh would almost certainly require car travel and the Parish Council remains concerned that Brabiner Lane is unsuitable for any increase in traffic.

Whilst the need for a new primary school has been established to serve the need of those living in Whittingham and Goosnargh, the Parish Council does not feel that the catchment area should be extended further afield because the impact of additional traffic has not been adequately addressed.

Travel Plan

It is noted that the proposal includes plans to reduce Henry Littler Way to 20mph but this should be extended to include the Whittingham Lane junction, along with flashing 20mph beacons. To protect the entry / exit of properties on Whititngham Lane, it may also be prudent to include no waiting / parking signs between 8.30 and 9.30 and 2.30 and 3.30.

Page 6 of the Travel Plan submitted with **LCC/2015/0002** included several bullet points highlighting potential issues regarding travel to and from the school – namely

- Narrow / absent footways along Whittingham Lane
- Lack of formal pedestrian crossings
- Need for additional street lighting
- Lack of appropriate traffic calming i.e. speed restrictions and humps

It is noted that these concerns have not been included in the updated Travel Plan and given that they impact on the safety of children walking to school, the Parish Council submits that **planning conditions should be added to ensure the above points are addressed prior to the school being opened as this will minimise local roadworks and will also ensure that children can travel safely to and from the school from day one.**

The Parish Council would also like to take this opportunity to inform LCC that it is intending to create a Woodland Walk between Whittingham Lane and the frontage of Gott Field, which may provide an opportunity to encourage more children to walk safely to school. With this in mind, the Parish Council requests that LCC involves the Parish Council in any future discussions relating to improved pedestrian routes to / from the school

Location / Access to Henry Littler Way

The Parish Council is aware that earlier planning submissions to develop the former hospital site, indicated that the school would be located more centrally within the estate, however, para 7.37 of the Planning Statement attached to **06/2019/0365** confirms that the current location - adjacent to the junction of Whittingham Lane and Henry Littler Way - was identified following a feasibility exercise with the LEA which concludes *it is a highly accessible location for existing and future residents, promoting opportunities to walk and cycle to school rather than travel by private car.*

As stated above, as the catchment area is yet to be finalised, the Parish Council believes that travel by private car will be much higher than LCC predicts.

It is noted that the revised application includes the widening of Henry Littler Way to create a layby to be used for the safe drop off and collection of pupils, however this seems a more appropriate solution for a secondary school as it is highly unlikely that Foundation and Early Year pupils will be dropped off or collected outside the school gates.

In the experience of those who collect children from school, it is not unusual for parents / carers to park their vehicle for up to 30 mins when collecting younger children, which will cause safety issues particularly if children leave the school grounds whilst cars are still manoeuvring.

Whilst it is noted that the layby will include signs indicating designated drop-off and pick-up zones, no-parking areas, cycle routes etc, who is going to enforce the need to move on and create space for other motorists?

Application **LCC/2025/0002** included an option to employ a school crossing warden or attendant to enhance student safety when accessing or leaving the school premises – however this appears to have been omitted from the updated application.

On exiting the proposed drop off zone, the Parish Council remains concerned that vehicles will try to complete a 3 point turn on Henry Littler Way or reverse into Cameron Avenue or the Elan Homes estate opposite the school, which will cause congestion and inhibit residents wishing to enter / exit the estate.

Parking

The Parish Council remains concerned that 23 car parking spaces is inadequate for the number of teaching / support staff, admin, catering staff and visitors.

In addition, Page 9 – of the Transport Statement states

- *the school's core operating hours are expected to follow a typical schedule, running approx. from 08:30 to 15:30. These hours may be extended in the mornings and afternoons to accommodate before- and after-school clubs. Additionally, the school may occasionally operate into the evening to support external, non-school-related activities, such as PTFA meetings, election polling, higher education training sessions, Brownies, and other community events.*

The Parish Council remains of the belief that there are insufficient parking arrangements for staff, visitors and those dropping off / collecting children or those using the school facilities outside the school's opening hours.

School Design

The Parish Council notes that the school will accommodate up to 420 students aged 4 – 11yrs.

The accommodation comprises 15 no classrooms, specialist teaching spaces with associated pupil toilets and staff spaces. An integrated dining hall with kitchen and activity studio are also included along with a dedicated SEN unit for 12-16 pupils. The inclusion of a sick bay / medical room is welcomed.

The building has been orientated so that the school hall is closest to the St John's Drive / Joyce Road junction which restricts opportunities for the classrooms to be overlooked. Whilst trees are proposed along the St John's Drive / Joyce Road boundary, it is suggested that the number is increased, to minimise the impact of the building from the junction.

It is understood that the proposal includes a new pedestrian path to allow access to 2 all-weather MUGAs. It is unclear if these will be solely for use by the school or if they can be used by the public. **If they are to be used outside of school hours, the Parish Council would expect to see a planning condition to determine the hours of use, lighting, security etc.**

Litter bins are provided within the school grounds, however given the intention for students to walk to school, the Parish Council requests that LCC liaise with the Land Management Company responsible for the residential element of the proposed development to **ensure that adequate litter bins are provided on the walking routes to the school.**

Drainage

It is noted that the foul and waste water will drain into the combined public sewer within the site boundary and land drainage is proposed to be connected to the existing watercourse.

As the Parish Council understands that the new residential development will also drain into this existing watercourse, the Parish Council requests confirmation that the capacity of the watercourse has been fully investigated.

Yours faithfully

Julie Buttle

Mrs Julie Buttle
Clerk to Whittingham Parish Council