



Sheddingdean Community Primary School
Where we DISCOVER, LEARN and ACHIEVE TOGETHER!

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16th November 2025

Response to planning app (DM/25/2640)

Dear Planning Officer,

We write as the Governing Body of Sheddingdean Primary School, geographically the nearest Primary School to the proposed Brookleigh Primary School. We are concerned that if this new school is opened without a material increase in the number of Primary School pupils as result of housing development, this has the risk that it will cannibalise numbers from our one form entry school and place it at financial risk.

We note that the target opening date for this two-form entry Primary School is September 2028.

We also note that in planning application DM/18/5114 - Planning Obligation dated 4/10/19, Schedule 12 (Covenants by the Owner to the County Council) Part One: Education Provision Primary School One, Subsection One 1.7(a) states that construction must be by "...the Occupation of more than six hundredth and forty sixth (646th) Dwellings...."

For the following reasons we believe occupation is significantly below this target:

1. We are aware from local knowledge that the construction and occupation of dwellings in the Brookleigh estate is significantly behind initial projections.
2. The WSCC website publishes within the information for parents applying for a reception school place for September 2026, that there are a material number of places currently available at Oak Tree Primary School in Burgess Hill – PAN 90, number on role for September 2025 of 411, giving ample spare capacity here for 219 pupils.
3. As the geographically nearest Primary School to the Northern Arc development, we are aware that we have only 19 pupils living in the Eastbridge Avenue and Isaac's Lane area of the development. This low number would not suggest that there is a material number of additional pupils because of the new development.
4. We are aware that the construction of The Bedelands Secondary Academy has been paused, for reasons of insufficient pupil numbers, and question how this logically sits with the need to open a Primary School.

We would stress that the opening of this new school should only take place to provide school places for additional pupils as a result of housing development. Unless sufficient new numbers emerge, there is capacity within existing local schools.

For the above reasons we would oppose the opening of a new school at this time, unless there is a significant need for additional school places.

On behalf of the Governing Body of Sheddingdean Community Primary School,

Chair of Governors