

Verbal representation by Matt Burgess, Parent Governor and Chair Finance Committee Reigate Priory School

To; Reigate Council, March 3rd 2014

Good afternoon, I am a Parent Governor of Reigate Priory School. I have four children who have or will attend the school. My youngest child will leave the school in 2021. As a consequence I am totally committed to ensure the long term success and wellbeing of the school.

RPS is an outstanding school. I am delighted with the education which my children are getting at the school. However, the primary responsibility of the school is ensuring the safety and wellbeing of my children. The reason I am here this afternoon is that if the RoW is passed by this chamber, then the school will no longer be able to guarantee this safety and wellbeing. You as a council will, in effect, be materially increasing the risk profile of the school.

The thoroughfare is already an accident waiting to happen. Formally approving it will run contrary to every safeguarding responsibility that the Council bears towards the children it is educating. It will be playing fast and loose with the safety of the children and formally placing them in harms way.

For those of you who idly say that there have been no recent incidents around the school, I would respond;

In a post-Saville world whose son or daughter has to be abducted for the council to be held to account? After all the adjacent car park is so close that a child could be snatched and disappeared within seconds. Currently we rely on the fact that we live in leafy Reigate, with its population of warm and goodhearted middle class residents. But that is no way to properly safeguard our children. I would not like to be the Council Director justifying that decision on NewsNight.

.....And all because you are not prepared to ask the good people of Reigate to walk another 300yards extra to do their groceries.

I believe there will be many parents who feel the same way and that this decision will indeed mobilise the passions of this silent majority of vote-casting parents.

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