

BEJSC PROPOSED SWIMMING POOL AT BOURNE END ACADEMY

Comments on proposal.

I was somewhat surprised at the recently distributed leaflet, regarding the proposed BEJSC swimming pool. My first reaction was it is the wrong place for such an ambitious project.

I was doubly surprised to find that Bourne End was not even on the first list of possible locations for the pool. Wooburn Green Park having been being rejected by residents. Bourne End became an afterthought, favoured location.

The BEJSC is not a suitable location on the grounds of ongoing traffic problems, that are well known.

Bourne End Academy seem not to be concerned about the continuing problems concerning parking and traffic. The infrastructure considerations should come first for such a major undertaking. It is to be noted that the land on which the proposed swimming pool is to be built is owned by the council.

In the leaflet it states that the hours of operation for the pool are proposed as between 0700 through to 2200. This does not include opening times and closing times. I would suggest that residents will be subjected to times of between 0600 and 2300, for activities to match the opening times. This would be intolerable for residents close to the Pool.

An amount of unrestricted parking at present does exist. This is currently under review, and has been for a number of years. The likely outcome is there will be yellow lines installed at some stage. The Council does acknowledge there is a problem with parking in New Road.

The parking review was carried out for the proposal, and not, in my view, for the residents. The review was carried out on 20/12/20, which was a Sunday. No school, no Nursery, no office workers, and it was during Lockdown. Between the hours of 0900 through to 2200 Hours.

East Ridge and West Ridge are private roads, so they will not be part of any road survey.

How was this survey carried out? The time it took and the roads covered, suggests that there must have been people walking about. Yet I do not recall seeing a single person carrying clip boards etc.

I think it would have been prudent to have let the residents know what was going on, so they could have been involved.

The loss of the old tennis facility to the school, has been compensated, by BEJSC, who will renovate the existing chicken field. A brand new MUGA facility, to include Basketball, Netball, Tennis, and Football. This will allow the club to increase its community use for such facilities. These additional facilities will put even more strain on the parking.

The architectural impression of the swimming pool, and car park, does not present reality, especially for Gala days. No coaches, kit vans etc.

Also, we must not forget this is a Neil Bailey collaboration, with all their own considerations to take into account.

The total number of people using the pool could be, at any one time, in excess of 300. The BEJSC would have their own activities taking place, as well as MAGU activities for the school, basketball, netball, tennis etc.

The final total of people occupying the complex could easily be in excess of 400 people. How and where are all the cars going to park?

The building of the facility, which is not small, will involve a great deal of construction traffic, and disruption to existing the school and surrounding area. To avoid confrontations with the residents, especially concerning starting times, deliveries etc., that existed with previous ongoing building works, Communications at all levels should be a top priority.

Finally, the proposal to build a swimming pool, in the area is meritorious, but this proposal as it stands is in the wrong place.

Yours sincerely,

Terry Relf (a close resident)