

DEPUTATION 3 – CARR MANOR ROAD SAFETY GROUP

THE LORD MAYOR: Good afternoon and welcome to today's Council meeting. Will you please now make your speech to Council, which should not be longer than five minutes, and please begin by introducing the people in your deputation.

MS L TAYLOR: Good afternoon. We are here from Car Manor Road Safety Group. I am Lucy Taylor and this is Barnaby Rosenthal.

The aim of this presentation is to highlight to all Members the significant road safety risks in the Car Manor Road area.

In response to the Council's proposal to build a new one form entry primary school and attach it to Carr Manor High School, over 500 local residents recently signed a petition, submitted on 27th May, to say that they are concerned about local road safety risks and have requested that the Council address the issues urgently.

We are strongly opposed to the proposal to build a new school on the high school site. We believe that there will be increased staff, parent and school delivery traffic created by the new school without any additional parking facilities and on road that are already dangerously congested at key times of the day.

Whilst educational needs may have been considered as part of the new school proposal, we think that the impact on local residents and increase in road safety risks has not been properly considered. In light of that, we would like Members to make the recommendation to the Executive Board that they reconsider and reject the proposal for a new school in this area.

The existing road risks are as follows. The road that runs directly alongside Carr Manor High School and Carr Manor Primary School (Carr Manor Road) is a busy major bus route with buses passing at ten minute intervals throughout the day.

The road has been narrowed as a traffic calming measure, but this means there is less available parking space for parents and people visiting the school. It also forces buses to squeeze past parked vehicles on one side of the road.

In addition, there is a cycle route on the pavement which means that pupils walking to and from the school have to negotiate buses on one side and bikes on the other.

There is a bus stop at the top end of the road and some Carr Manor residents told us that Carr Manor High School pupils whilst waiting at the bus stop frequently go into their garden and have vandalised their properties.

Carr Manor Primary School Governors have discussed the possibility of a road and community safety project taking place within the school to education children about their responsibility to residents in the area. However, the Carr Manor Road Safety Group think that the Council should be taking proactive measures to ensure that safety is ensured for all.

Local residents have expressed concern about the absence of parking facilities on Carr Manor Road, which means that parents visiting the school frequently park illegally, creating

hazards in the road. This means that pick-up and drop-off times are difficult and dangerous for anyone passing by the school on foot or in a car. This could only be exacerbated by the addition of another school and the traffic that would accompany it.

A concerned resident on Alder Hill Grove, Mr Farooq, reported that his wife is disabled and cannot walk any distance, due to respiratory problems. Mr Farooq has asked that his letter expressing his concerns be included in this presentation, which I will read now.

“Dear Elected Members

I work nights within Leeds. I am a taxi driver and I work for Inner-City cabs. My wife Mrs Farooq is disabled and we have a young son who is in reception at Carr Manor Primary School.

My wife has three degenerative conditions –

Fibromialgia
Nerve debilitating disease
Angina.

My wife is on strong doses of medication to control the pain and symptoms. However, due to the severity of her conditions it is not safe for her to walk any distance. Carr Manor Primary School is at the top of the hill. When the secondary school was developed the road system was changed and the road was narrowed. Parking spaces for residents and visitors were reduced and we were not aware that Carr Manor Primary School has two disabled parking spaces. In future the Headmistress has said to us we can use one of the spaces so that we can pick up and drop off our son to reception.

This is good news for my wife and our family. However, I would like to state in the strongest terms that we are opposed to the proposal to build another school and attach it to Carr Manor High School. We think that there will be far too much disruption to the road system and surrounding areas and it will make travel to and from school even worse for my wife.

As I am sure you can imagine, we need to protect my wife from any unnecessary worry or distress as it may effect (*sic*) her health and cause her symptoms to get worse. I have asked my daughter to help me write this letter and this letter represents the views of my wife, myself, and our friends within the local Asian community.”

That is signed by Mr Farooq and four others.

In conclusion, we believe that the impact on the environment and the health of all local residents should be taken into serious consideration because the increased traffic will inevitably cause more pollution within an already busy area of the city.

It is vital that educational needs are balanced with consideration for the impact on the overall quality of life in the Carr Manor Road area. We urge you to acknowledge and recognise the value concerns raised by local residents. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor James Lewis.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you. I move that the matter be referred to Executive Board for consideration.

COUNCILLOR LOBLEY: I second, my Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: *(A vote was taken)* CARRIED. Thank you for attending and for what you have said. You will be kept informed of the considerations which your comments will receive, so good afternoon and thank you again.