

Planning Committee 5 January 2017

Tabled Paper for Item 2.9 – Lansdowne County Primary School, Gladstone Drive, Sittingbourne

Dear Mr Thomas

Re: New dual use netball/drop off area – Lansdowne Primary School (Ref. No. 16/507289/FULL

I would like to add my full support to the above proposal.

Lansdowne Primary School transferred to The Stour Academy Trust in November, 2014, after being placed in Special Measures in October, 2013. Although an independent review of the school carried out last month judged the school to be 'good', one of our main objectives continues to be improving parental engagement which has been challenging given the poor track record of performance of the school over a number of years. The headteacher regularly receives concerns and complaints relating to the current parking situation. The proposals would undoubtedly improve parking and access around the school.

Due to an increase in pupil numbers a new teaching block, incorporating six classrooms, a computer suite and nurture room, was completed last year. Although a much welcomed addition to the school the build resulted in a decrease of hard playing areas for the pupils, exasperated by the increase in pupil numbers. Although the school has a large expanse of playing fields, due to the British weather the majority of playtimes over the year are spent on hard surface playgrounds. The proposed dual hard surface area would be a significant and much needed addition to the school and replaces some ageing wooden play equipment that has limited use relative to weather conditions and requires constant maintenance.

Kind regards

Simon O'Keefe

CEO

The Stour Academy Trust