

Head of Planning Services
Elmbridge Borough Council
Civic Centre, High Street
Esher, Surrey, KT10 9SD

Portmore Park & District Residents Association
c/o 3 Clinton Close
Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 8NU
11 February 2021

Dear Head of Planning Services

Re: 2020/3495 - Garages to the side of 16-17 Greside Road, Weybridge, Surrey

I am writing on behalf of the Committee of Portmore Park & District Residents Association to object to this application because of loss of existing off-street parking increasing already severe on-street parking stress, and some inaccuracies in the application documents.

Well designed small homes are needed, and would be welcomed if the plans did not have such a negative impact on existing residents of Greside Road.

The development would significantly increase parking stress for existing residents of Greside Road, by removing 22 garages and 6-8 off-street parking spaces used by Greside Road residents for decades.

This application misleadingly states there are no spaces at present, where the application's own photos show parked cars, and that it would be creating four additional parking spaces: 'Existing spaces 0, Proposed spaces 4'. In reality, it would be taking away spaces used by current residents, and giving some of them to the new homes.

The application's Transport Technical Note ignores decades of regular parking in stating that 'the garage site is within private ownership therefore cannot be relied upon for off-street car parking'. It refers to difficulties of parking between garages, but fails to mention the habitually used parking spaces on the access road, where the 'new' spaces are proposed.

The Transport Technical Note shows an inaccurate and enlarged development site location, covering part of the Broadwater Path and a large patch of St George's Junior School land.

We are also puzzled that the CIL document states that the two widely separated blocks of 11 garages are one building.

Greside Road suffers extreme parking stress in non-Covid school term time:

- Greside Road is heavily parked with school staff parking. St George's Junior School has around 100 people who work on site (in non-Covid times). Most drive, but the school has only circa 30 staff parking spaces, so most need to find on-street spaces.
- Greside Road is adjacent to the school and has no significant parking controls. It is narrow, so some of the parking extends onto the pavements.
- Greside Road is also used by around 120 parents as an exit route from dropping off children in the morning, in a very efficient Surrey approved one-way 'kiss and drop' system (entered via the school's private road off Walton Lane).
- In contrast, afternoon school pickup is chaotic. Many parents use Greside Road, and need to find somewhere to wait, and somewhere to turn. This jams Greside Road solid with cars manoeuvring and waiting with engines running. See photos for an example.

Grenside Road residents' lives will become even more difficult if they lose their current off-street parking spaces (in the garage access road and outside garages), unless they are given sufficient on-street Residents-only Parking in Grenside Road.

I attach photos of afternoon parking and traffic chaos around the application site.

For the above reasons we believe EBC should refuse this application, unless and until there is coordination with Surrey Highways to provide on-street Residents-only Parking on at least one side of Grenside Road.

PPDRA meets regularly with St George's Junior School, and we appreciate the positive lengths the school goes to in attempting to moderate any negative impact on the community. We understand that when the school purchased their new land to the north of Grenside Road, they sought pre-application advice from EBC on the possibility of siting a larger staff car park there, and were advised that this would be very unlikely to receive planning consent.

We wonder if that position still holds, even for a potential new staff car park situated for example adjacent to the existing Weybridge Club car park.

Yours sincerely

Miles Macleod
Chair, Portmore Park & District Residents Association



Grenside Road garages 2020/3495 application site during pre-covid school afternoon pickup



Grenside Road pre-covid school parking