

STATEMENT A28 – Margaret Blake

Objection to Planning Application 20/03286/F: Swift House Albert Crescent Bristol BS2 0UD

I would like to make a written public forum statement to state my opposition to this planning application.

It is well documented that pollution/toxic air can damage children's growth and leave them with lasting health problems. It poses a particularly severe risk to those children and young people already suffering from heart conditions or respiratory problems, such as asthma and cystic fibrosis. We currently have children attending the nursery school who are classed by the NHS as 'CEV' (clinically extremely vulnerable) for these very reasons. The increase in traffic will exacerbate the pollution in the area and therefore have a detrimental effect on all children's health, but in particular, those children who are already extremely vulnerable. The increase in toxic air not only violates a child's right to health, but also their future - it could impact their right to education, their right to play and ultimately, their right to life (a right protected by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child). Do the Council really want this?

The school is situated in Lawrence Hill ward (one of the most deprived wards in the country) and many of the children who attend live in low-income households, often in high rise flats without a garden. Therefore, their time in the nursery garden is often their only access to a stimulating, enriching outside environment. But at what cost to their health?

Research has found that children from low-income households also have lower aspirations and attitudes. What impression do you think it gives the children that attend the school that a rubbish dump is on the doorstep of where they are cared for and educated – are they not worthy/important/good enough?

It is galling that we are again in this position of having to protest at a polluting proposal – when will the Council start putting the health and wellbeing of our young people at the forefront – they are after all the future.