

**Bladon Village Sir Winston Churchill Memorial Hall  
(known as Bladon Village Hall and Recreation BVHRC)**

**Reg. Charity no. 304269**

18th July 2025

**Botley West Solar Planning inspectorate**

Dear Inspector,

**ENO 10147 Q1.16.21 Educational Facility Building**

I am responding on behalf of BVHRC which owns the Recreation Ground in the village of Bladon. The Recreation Ground provides a playing field and MUGA for children and the pupils of the nearby primary school, a children's play area and an outdoor gym and boules court. There is also a community orchard and a wildflower meadow.

We have serious reservations about this proposal to site the facility at the top of School Lane. The Lane is very narrow, there are no passing places and access and egress at the bottom of the lane is narrow and dangerous, with limited sight lines and often involving vehicles having to reverse back on to the busy A4095. Vehicular traffic is currently limited to the school, the church ( for access to the graveyard and cemetery) ) and the four residencies along its length. There is limited vehicular access for the allotment holders,

With the planned increase in vehicular traffic up School Lane to access the site, we are concerned about the safety of the pupils at Bladon Primary school. This school has a high proportion of SEND pupils who are at risk of wandering away, and already there is a high risk of collision between children and vehicles at dropping off and collection times.

The creation of an educational centre at the top of the lane will also impact on the access for the residents of the properties , one of whom needs access at all times in an emergency medical role.

It would also impact on the access of villagers to the Recreation Ground. This is the only such facility in the area, and it is pedestrian access only, with many villagers of all ages using the facilities provided. Vehicles passing this to reach the educational centre would pose a hazard to unaccompanied children, parents with toddlers and buggies and generally impair the social function of the Ground, a facility which is unavailable elsewhere. Any impairment of access to the Recreation ground would have a negative impact on the mental and physical health of all those who currently use it.

**Q1: 16.8 Community Food growing area**

The same reservations apply to vehicular access to the proposed Food growing area at the top of School Lane. The Bladon Allotments group have not been consulted about the possible provision of more allotments .

Your sincerely,

 **Chair, BVHRC**

