Please read below my concerns regarding the following planning application APP/23/00996.

Re: Public Response by 1st May 2024 Drop Off and Pick Up Management Plan and a Travel Plan

February 2024 Hampshire Highways outlines their objections/concerns to the Acorn Travel Plan.

April 2024 Solution proposed: Acorn's consultant, Paul Basham Associates, Drop Off and Pick Up Management Plan.

Summary of proposal:
Paul Basham Associates state that from 8am to 9.30am Pupil transport vehicles will drive onto the site and park at the southern end of the car park. Two members of staff will be on duty and will be in radio contact. One will be at the entrance to the site adjacent to The Spring, the other member of staff will be in the southern end of the car park. The member of staff at the entrance will communicate, by radio, when it is advisable, for a vehicle/car/taxi/mini bus, to return back to the top main entrance and drop off pupils. This will be repeated at the end of the school day (3pm-4.30pm?).

Potentially, there are 70 pupils arriving, maybe 2 pupils per vehicle = 35 vehicles. Or, 3 pupils per vehicle = 23 vehicles. This is on top of 30 full time members of staff already parked in the south end of the McCormack House car park. Cars turning, reversing, parking and dropping off pupils. Vehicle engines idling at the beginning and end of the school day.

Potential issues:
The original plan of the Live Link site which was submitted as part of the planning application submitted does not show the owner responsible for the central strip of land which is locally known as The Billy Trail. This central strip which runs from north to south on the plan is a roadway, footway, a cycleway and a place for pedestrians and dog walkers. Although it can get quite busy it generally seems to flow without problems. If Acorn acquire the site and use it as a school, the strip will be blocked/obstructed by the number of vehicles arriving for school 'Drop Off and Pick Up'.

There is a historical context for previous applications made on the site, and these have been overlooked and not addressed in this application, despite being submitted with the application, please see below:

In the application, there is a pdf (dated 1981) from HCC regarding this site which states:

1. (iii) ..provision will be made for parking, loading, unloading and turning of vehicles, the storage / disposal of refuse. The approved scheme for the parking, loading, unloading and manoeuvring of vehicles shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the County Surveyor, and shall be implemented before any of the uses commence'

There is another pdf (dated 1987) forming part of the application and the history of the site.

'Conditions:
(i)..'car park to allow continued public access on foot and bicycle through the former railway cutting...'
(vi)..formation of a delivery parking area...and appropriately marked out to the satisfaction os..
(vii)..a route for pedestrians and cyclists shall be made available through the railway cutting provided it is feasible and safe so to do.'

My concerns:
The pdf from Paul Basham Associates April 2024 Drop Off and Pick Up Management Plan, mentions on three occasions 'once the school is operational' adjustments will be made. This will be too late!

Highways have already outlined the difficulties with the original Travel plan.

Paul Basham Associates have come up with a formula but myself and others, foresee the additional difficulties which this will create. We know the area well and regularly experience the chaos on East Street when there is a problem on the A27, and the grid lock when the Langstone roundabout becomes blocked, with vehicles regularly trying to reroute through the town centre. This can be in addition to the usual amount of traffic in the area at morning rush hour when several schools and a nursery are transporting the pupils to school and similarly at the end of the school day.

The Spring, which shares the entrance to both of the carparks, runs events and classes throughout the day with members of the public trying to drive in and park, arriving for classes and events. Imagine a queue of frustrated drivers waiting impatiently while taxis nudge out to join the main road. This will have quite an impact. Outside of the Spring, we have a school crossing 'lolly pop man' who works at the beginning and end of the school day, and is always at risk from the traffic along East Street. The extra traffic will add to the dangers which he faces, trying to protect the children as cars rush over the old railway bridge and whilst other vehicles are trying to exit the car park. The extra vehicles, added at busy school times, could be an accident waiting to happen.

I do not think the Drop Off and Pick Up plan is safe, sustainable, feasible or viable. In fact, I predict that it will regularly be chaotic, and so for Health and Safety reasons alone, it should not go ahead.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns.

[redacted]