

## STATEMENT FOR THE PLANNING INQUIRY

I am working full time so have requested my neighbor to read out my statement to this Inquiry.

I have lived in Colney Heath for 15 years. There are many benefits of living here, especially the sense of being in a village, the local community, the open spaces and woods. I am a keen horse rider and enjoy riding on the bridleways across the fields and on the Heath.

I have two children who went to the village school. When I did not need to be at work, and they were younger, we would walk to the school – it's about a mile - when it was not raining or too cold. Otherwise I drove them which was much of the time.

My daughter went to secondary school in 2022 and my son this year 2023.

The families in the 100 houses Bullens Green Lane development are going to add to the difficulties I had in getting school places for my children.

I would have liked the nearest secondary school which is co-ed but I know children in the village never get a place there and we would not qualify. 14 of my daughter's friends in her leaving year did not get their first choice of secondary school, in fact 13 out of 14 did not get any of their choices and were allocated Onslow St. Audrey. Being on the far edge of St Albans people don't use their real first choice. At least 3 of my daughters close friends went to appeal. I know 2 children got Townsend CofE school on the opposite side of St Albans. I believe the rest got a satisfactory choice on Continued Interest.

My daughters Priority Schools were Stanborough, Monks Walk and Ridgeway in Welwyn Garden City, all more than 7 miles away, and Onslow St Audrey and Bishops Girls School, both in Hatfield. There is no bus at all to any of the schools offered. Onslow is co-ed but has a very poor standard. I chose Bishops Girls School. I drive my daughter to and from school. I would not dream of letting my daughter cycle to school with the dangers from traffic and having looked at the crime reports for South Hatfield.

Based on the above we chose Verulam Boys school in St. Albans for my son. . He is driven to school. He could use the 305 bus but the timetable means an extra hour per day (7.30 out 4.01 back) hanging about, and walking half a mile in the dark to and from the bus stop in winter. Cycling to school is not a safe option for him. The roads on the route to Verulam are narrow and busy with no cycle lanes.

I hope this gives you an understanding of a problem that is a major concern for families in the village.

Mrs Kate Day,  
Bullens Green Lane, Colney Heath