In preparing the planning application we have carefully considered the physical context of the local area, character of the existing landscape and the social context of how people in the locality will be affected by the development.

We wrote to the neighbours who will be directly affected by the development regarding our planning application in March 2011 and invited them to contact us to discuss the project if they wished to do so. (See Attachment 1)

The application is for a 1.8m high security fence to be erected along the boundary of the site linking the existing gates as marked in red on attachment 2.

The application is made in order to ensure the safety of the children at Bozeat Community Primary School during school hours. The safety of the children whilst within the school grounds has been a concern for a long period of time. Specifically, it is currently impossible to stop children leaving the playground area and running into the road (for instance, in pursuit of a ball or should they decide that they wish to leave school for any reason).

In addition we are unable to stop members of the public entering the site along the Harrold Road boundary through the gaps in the vegetation. We are aware that should anyone wish to abduct a child our site is a relatively easy target.

During our recent Ofsted inspection December 2010 security was mentioned through the elements of safeguarding. Ofsted stated that improved security was needed. This planning application is part of our efforts to do so.
The security fence along the length of Harrold Road will replace the existing wooden picket style fence which is in need of repair. This fence will link up the side pedestrian gate and the gated entrance onto the playground. The new fence will provide a continuous barrier between the school and the road.

Attachment 3 provides a picture of the fencing type that will be used. This decision was made partly due to cost but primarily to ensure that the fence matches the gates and small amount of fencing already erected.

The positioning of the fence has been discussed at some length with the decision made to maintain the existing hedgerow. The existing picket fence and posts will be removed and the new fence will run in front of the existing bushes etc. Our contractors have confirmed that only some cutting back of shrubs will be necessary. The new fence follows the line of the existing picket fence.

Our contractor has confirmed that he post holes for the fence will use the existing ones format the picket fence so avoiding the destruction of any roots. We are aware of the Council’s requirements to provide method statements and risk assessments regarding the potential damage for the existing trees and hedgerows in accordance with "British Standard 5837:2005 Trees in relation to construction - Recommendations" and we confirm that these will be completed prior to any work being commenced.

We appreciate the necessity of protecting the biodiversity of the existing hedgerows and trees. We will abide by the Council’s requirements not to remove vegetation between March and August without having first completed a survey for the presence of nesting birds, which is to be submitted and approved to the Local Authority.
Bozeat Community Primary School.
Harrold Road
Bozeat
Northants NN29 7LP
Telephone 01933 663840

Headteacher: Mrs E O’Brien

17th March, 2011

Dear Resident,

We feel that it is very important to keep residents informed of major work projects that the school is planning to carry out and out of courtesy I am writing to inform you of a proposed plan.

As many of you will have noticed the current boundary fence is inadequate in both height and the security it provides. We have had recent incidents where children have run out through the holes in the hedge/fence whilst playing games. Fortunately no accidents have occurred. There are also some occasions when after the school has closed children and young adults have been found playing on the school site.

In order to remedy this situation and in light of our recent Ofsted inspection in which measures for safeguarding both the children and adults within the school were scrutinized, it is vital that we improve the boundary of the school.

The proposal is to have a new fence erected in the same colour and style as the existing double gates and side gate. The fence will be approximately 2m high and will be placed behind the existing bushes and hedges with the old picket style fence being removed. It will link up the existing gates and run down the length of the school to the side gate entrance. The car park entrance will not be altered in any way. We will be applying for planning permission for this project in line with Northamptonshire County Council guidelines.

In the meantime if you have any queries at all please contact either myself or the bursar Kerry McAllister and we will endeavour to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your support in the matter

Yours sincerely

Emma O’Brien
Headteacher
2m high 3D mesh panels. Two sections shown in red
Design:  

Use - the proposed fencing will provide improved security to the existing school site.

Layout - the layout of the proposed fencing is outlined on the Bozeat school Plan

Scale - the scale of the proposed fencing is in keeping with the surrounding area.

Appearance - see attached specification

Landscaping - no new landscaping will result from these works

Access - access to the site for pupils, staff and visitors will not be affected.