

Head Teacher: E. England B.Ed (Hons)
Deputy: A.M. Kenyon BA (Hons) PGCE



Holly Mount RC Primary School

Holcombe Road, Greenmount, Bury, BL84HS
Tel: 01204 882770 Email: hollymount@bury.gov.uk

9th July 2025

Re: Planning Application for Refuse Bin Store at Holy Mount RC Primary School

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing as Headteacher of Holly Mount in response to objections about our planning application for the construction of a refuse bin store on the school premises, located away from the main school building.

We are aware that some local residents have raised concerns regarding the proposed location, specifically in relation to a nearby fire hydrant, a perceived increase in vermin activity in the area, access to stop taps, a telegraph pole and the relocation of our bins.

In response to the first concern, the local fire brigade has conducted a site inspection on Friday 4th July 2025 and confirmed that the proposed bin store does **not** obstruct or cover any fire hydrant. Whilst the 'H' symbol is located on a post, the actual hydrant is in the middle of Holly Mount Lane. We are grateful for their assessment and remain committed to ensuring that emergency access is never compromised.

With regard to the concerns about rats and vermin, we would like to clarify that the school does **not** store any food waste in the bins that are housed in the bin store. The bins are used solely for general waste and recyclables, and we have strict procedures in place to ensure they are regularly emptied and maintained in a hygienic condition. The brown bins have remained outside the school kitchen. We are confident that the refuse arrangements at the school are not contributing to any increase in vermin in the area.

The relocation of the bin store is part of our broader efforts to improve site safety, cleanliness, and maintain a safe and pleasant environment for our pupils, staff, and neighbours.

The fire brigade also looked at the stop taps, which we were unaware were situated on our land as they were under gravel that was laid many years ago. We were advised that each of the properties in the Chapel has its own stop tap within their property and these other taps are only ever used if the main tap fails. It was obvious from inspecting these that they have not been used in many years. However, it remains important that the residents or emergency services could access them if ever needed and so we suggest we provide a coded padlock on the bin store with details of how to gain access for the Chapel residents.

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BT/Openreach have visited twice during the time the bin store has been in use and had no issue with it being inside the fencing as their ladder would be outside, in fact they joked that we could claim rent from them as the post is on our land!

The original purpose of moving the bins was to keep them away from the school building and be able to lock them away, which actually makes them far less unsightly than their original position on the opposite side of the lane. Some of the objections suggest school uses alternative parts of our grounds on Whipney Lane to store the bins. This is not possible or practical to expect staff to walk over 250 metres to empty the bins and then pull industrial sized bins out for emptying. I would expect Trade Union objections if I requested this.

We trust that the Planning Department will consider the findings of the fire brigade and the school's proactive approach to waste management and community concerns when reviewing this application.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Eleanor England
Headteacher

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