

[REDACTED]

Learning Estate Team,
Roysvale Park Common Good,
Room 209,
Moray Council Office,
High Street,
Elgin, IV30 1BX.

Dear Sir, Madam,

4th November 2024

Veterans' Housing Scotland, Orchard Road, Forres.

As [REDACTED] I am not in a position to state my views on which is the most suitable site for the new Forres Academy. However I do have concerns for the veterans and their families living in the 8 Veterans Housing Scotland (VHS) cottages on Orchard Road and thus bordering on the proposed Roysvale site. It is my understanding that some of them have physical and mental health issues including PTSD. The Roysvale option is already a source of stress to some of them.

Currently the veterans look out onto playing fields. The proposals indicate that they will in future be looking towards a 2 to 3 storey building, blocking their view to the hills and woodland beyond. Furthermore there will be a car park just over their boundary fences. They are perhaps the worst affected of those neighbouring this proposed development.

Should this proposal progress, then I ask that some mitigation is included in the plans which allows for a reasonable gap and cover between the veterans' garden fences and the new Academy's perimeter fence.

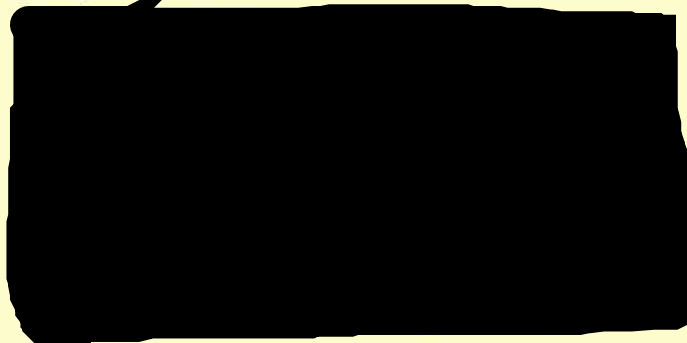
Currently there are 3 fairly mature trees behind the cottages apparently scheduled for felling as per Table 2 in the Consultation Document. May I suggest that they are not felled and that the line they are on could be the line of the Academy's new perimeter fence? That would give a 'buffer zone' of about 12-15 meters between the garden fences and the perimeter fence.

Such a new perimeter fence could be erected prior to the beginning of construction work thus shielding the veterans to a degree from the inevitable dust and noise of the works. This would also give some relief from the inevitable increase in vehicle and student noise once the Academy is in operation. More trees could be planted in the buffer zone.

I know the area well but I have only consulted one veteran personally. I ask that the veterans' situation is taken into account and that they are consulted as a discrete group by those making the detailed plans when the time is right.


I have also been in touch with the Property Manager of Veterans' Housing Scotland.

Moray Council has a history of looking after its Armed Forces and veterans. Indeed it has signed the Armed Forces Covenant. I trust that these veterans will be treated with the respect and understanding they deserve.



Copy to:

 Leader the Moray Council.

 Property Manager, Veterans' Housing Scotland.