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Plan for new school thrown out

By **Duncan Eaton**

Comment

A plan by a religious group to build a new school at Botley does not have the blessing of Eastleigh councillors.

The Brethren wanted to build a new campus for 90 youngsters in countryside between Botley and Horton Heath to reduce the strain on its current Allbrook School, near Eastleigh and lessen overcrowding.

The conversion of Ashberry House, in Winchester Road, Botley would have provided more classrooms, a canteen, a library and an extended play area.

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But the proposal caused a storm of protest among locals. There were about 60 names on a petition against the plan.

They feared that the sheer size and scale of the building - eight times the existing Ashberry House floor space - would scar the landscape and cause huge traffic congestion in the area.

The Hedge End local area committee kicked out the school plan after unanimously agreeing that it was in the wrong location.

Councillor David Goodall said: "It seems a very good school which is doing a very good job. But this site does not meet planning guidelines."

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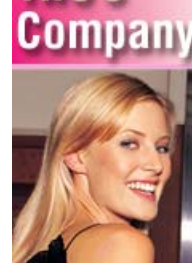
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