

Name _____

Date _____

Old school fields

*In his letter below, Mr Rudge is understandably upset that new houses are going to be built nearby, but his letter of complaint is full of **bias**, **hearsay** and **deliberate misrepresentations of fact**.*

- Use different coloured pens to highlight all the examples of these that you can find in the letter.
- Write a reply to Mr Rudge from the council's point of view.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to protest about the plans for the new dwelling units in Old School Fields. Ten houses are far too many for such a tiny field. There will be terrible problems with road access. As you can see from the plan, the road will be very narrow. This will mean that it will be congested with traffic, and this will cause many accidents. It will be the children who suffer most.

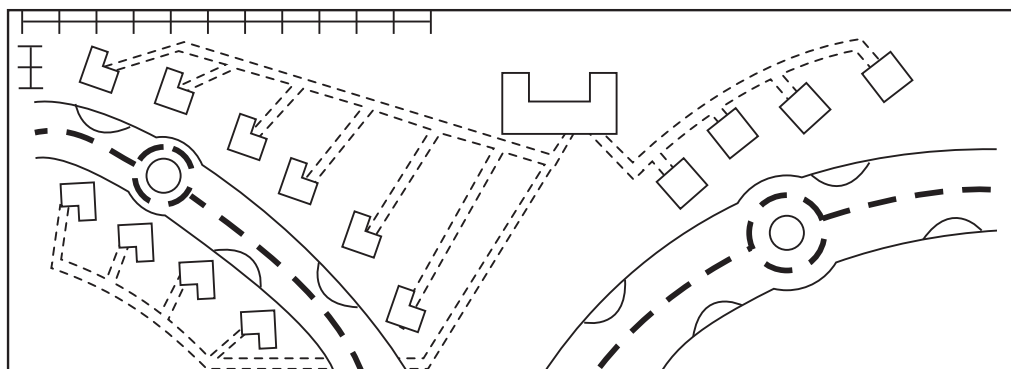
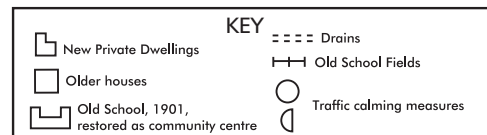
A friend of mine, who is a builder, says that there is no main drain anywhere near the Old School Field, and that these houses will have to have cess tanks. That will cause a terrible smell in summer, and my wife suffers from hay fever.

Another thing is that the old school will be knocked down. The keystone over the front door says 1881. Surely this is a historic building that should be preserved? I think this is just another example of profiteering by builders. They want to knock it down so that they can squeeze in another two houses.

Also, I have heard a rumour that these houses will be used to accommodate people who have caused problems on other estates. This is a nice quiet area and we can do without those kinds of problems. If these plans go ahead, it will ruin our quality of life.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Ivor G. Rudge



Dear helper

Objective: To recognise bias.

Task: Help your child to compare the opinions stated in the letter with the facts shown on the plan. Discuss how a council official from the planning department might reply.