

Consultation on the proposal to enlarge Bishops Waltham Infant & Bishop's Waltham Junior Schools

Hampshire County Council would like to hear your views about the proposal to enlarge Bishops Waltham Infant & Bishop's Waltham Junior Schools

We are running a consultation from 7 September until 7 October 2016.

Why do you need to enlarge the school?

Throughout Hampshire the birth rate has risen in recent years which, has created a pressure on pupil places. This equally applies to the Bishop's Waltham area. This existing pressure combined with local developments has resulted in an increase in pupil numbers.

Hampshire County Council anticipates that this level of demand will continue and therefore is proposing to enlarge Bishops Waltham Infant & Bishop's Waltham Junior Schools to meet this need.

The proposed enlargement will allow Bishops Waltham Infant School to offer 90 places in Year R (age 4+) and Bishop's Waltham Junior School to offer 90 places for Year 3 (age 7+). This expansion will allow Bishops Waltham Infant School to cater for 270 pupils and Bishop's Waltham Junior School to cater for 360 pupils.

The proposed building works to create the permanent facilities will consist of both an extension to the current school buildings, as well as internal alterations. These works will provide the additional classrooms needed to meet the increase in pupil numbers.

It is planned that the building works will be completed by August 2019.

What building works will be taking place?

The building works to enlarge Bishops Waltham Infant School is anticipated for completion in 2018, and the building works to enlarge Bishop's Waltham Junior School is anticipated for completion by 2019 at the latest.

The proposed building works will consist of an extension to the current school buildings, together with some internal alterations. These works will provide the additional classrooms needed to meet the increase in pupil numbers.

The current proposed building plans are being developed with both the Headteachers and Governing Bodies. They will be shared with you at the pre-planning consultation which will take place early next year.

When will the building works start and how will you ensure the health and safety of pupils attending the school whilst the works are taking place?

It is planned that the building works to create the permanent facilities will commence in 2017 and Bishops Waltham Infant School is anticipated for completion in 2018, and the building works to enlarge Bishop's Waltham Junior School is anticipated for

completion by 2019 at the latest. We will provide the schools with further details as the design work for the project progresses so the schools can keep you informed of progress and inform you of key dates.

Health and safety of children, staff and visitors is paramount. The County Council works with construction partners who have significant experience of working on school sites. A detailed health and safety plan will be drawn up with the schools to include items such as restricting delivery times for materials to avoid the beginning and end of the school day, maintaining safe access routes for pupils, staff and visitors etc.

What will be the impact on pupils within the school?

Both schools will continue to operate as normal during the building works. Everything will be done to minimise the impact on pupils teaching and learning but we do acknowledge there may be some disruption. The County Council is liaising fully with the headteachers and governors on the project to ensure that the planning for the building works runs as smoothly as possible.

What about the impact on traffic due to the school taking more pupils?

Hampshire County Council appreciates that local residents will be concerned about potential traffic implications around the expansion of the schools. By planning to create school places as close as possible to where children live we create the best chance for those children will make their way to school other than by car.

A School Travel Plan is a document produced by the whole school community and any other interested parties. It looks at how children, staff and visitors travel to and from school, and sets out measures to;

1. Encourage and enable pupils, parents, guardians and staff to walk and cycle to school.
2. Encourage and provide educational programmes relating to child travel and how this links to the environment, safety and health.
3. Improve safety.

The key stages involved in developing a travel plan are;

- Surveying pupils, parents and staff as to how they travel, the barriers that they may encounter, and suggestions as to improvements.
- Consult with residents through the statutory drop-in sessions to identify issues, relating to the school run, that are felt by the wider community, along with possible solutions
- Work with the various key stakeholders to develop an action plan to target the issues that are preventing pupils, parents and staff from using alternatives to the car. The initiatives identified will be a combination of physical measures such as scooter storage or crossing points, and 'soft' measures relating to education, promotion and enforcement. For those who have no alternative but to use the car, other options will be considered such as 'Park and Stride' sites.

The travel plan will link to a Transport Statement, undertaken by consultants, and will clearly define between measures that are essential to mitigate against the travel impact of the increase in numbers, and desirable measures that will provide a general improvement to routes to school, long term.

The School Travel Plan will be reviewed as part of the process associated with the enlargement of the schools.

There will be an opportunity to discuss potential impact on school travel issues, at the initial consultation and again at the pre-planning consultation which will happen later in the year.

Will the school receive additional funding due to the numbers increasing?

The funding of schools is based around the number of pupils on roll, so as numbers increase so will the funding.

What happens after this consultation?

This consultation will run until 7 October 2016. Officers will then take into consideration all the consultation responses before deciding whether the proposal should continue to the formal publication stage.

If so, a statutory Public Notice will be published, setting out Hampshire County Council's intent to enlarge the school. It is anticipated that this will be published on 01 August 2016.

After the date of publication there will be a four week period in which any representations can be made. After the conclusion of this period the County Council will decide whether or not to proceed with the proposal. It is anticipated that a decision will be made in November 2016.

Will I have the opportunity to discuss the proposal and ask questions?

A drop-in session where you will be able to discuss both the Infant and Junior School proposals with County Council officers is planned for **22 September 2016 from 3pm to 6pm at Bishop's Waltham Junior School.**

If you are unable to attend this session and wish to make a comment then please write to Gemma Bowry, Strategic Development Officer, Children's Services Department, E11 Court North, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG or e-mail strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk by **7 October 2016.**

How can my views be heard?

We will listen to views at the drop-in session.

We will also consider all responses received via e-mail or letter.

The closing date for responses is 7 October 2016.