

Pre Planning Consultation FAQ – January 2017

Proposal to Enlarge Pilgrim's Cross CE (VA) Primary School

Hampshire County Council would like to hear your views about the proposal to enlarge Pilgrim's Cross CE (VA) Primary School.

We are running a consultation from Friday 6 January until Friday 3 February 2017.

A drop-in session for you to be able to see the proposed plans and discuss with officers is being held on Tuesday 24 January at Pilgrim's Cross CE (VA) Primary School between 3pm and 6pm.

Why do you need to enlarge the school?

Throughout Hampshire the number of births has risen in recent years which has created a pressure on pupil places. This equally applies to the Andover area and has resulted in an increase in pupil numbers. In addition, new housing developments within Andover are also driving the need for additional primary school places. In order to meet the County Council's statutory duty to ensure sufficiency of school places, this school requires expansion.

The proposed expansion would allow the capacity of the school to be increased to allow Pilgrim's Cross (VA) Primary School to offer 60 places for Year R (age 4+) from September 2019. This expansion would enable Pilgrim's Cross (VA) Primary School to increase its numbers from 315 to 420.

What building works will be taking place?

The proposed building works will consist of new buildings containing teaching and ancillary accommodation to provide the additional facilities required for the school to admit the additional pupils.

Plans are available on the website and will be presented at the drop-in session to be held on Tuesday 24 January 2017.

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 anticipated that the main building works will commence in 2017 and be completed by summer 2019 ready for the school to occupy. Based on the current project programme and assuming delays do not significantly impact progress there is no expectation that the project will require separate enabling works.

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 schools?

The 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 that there may be some disruption. The County Council is liaising fully with the headteacher 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 schools taking more pupils?

The County Council appreciates that local residents will be concerned about potential traffic implications due to the schools being expanded. By planning to create school places as close as possible to where children live, we create the best chance for those children to travel to school using means of travel other than the car. This is supported through the production of a School Travel Plan, to be submitted as part of the planning application.

Officers from Hampshire County Council will be at the consultation drop-in session to explain the process in developing a School Travel Plan, and to answer any questions you have.

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

1. Encourage and enable pupils, parents, guardians and staff to walk, scoot and cycle to school. Where this is not possible, consider public transport, car sharing or 'Park and Stride' 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 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.

Travel initiatives already underway with the school

Pilgrim's Cross CE (VA) Primary School currently has above county and national average levels of walking at 73% and is working with the County Council's School Travel Planning team to improve on this and reduce the impact of the journey to school on the local community through a number of measures, including;

- Reminders to parents about parking respectfully, legally and safely.
- Promote parking, for those who have to drive, in community car park.
- Provide scooter training and promote scooting to school through an annual challenge.
- Participate in the annual Walk to School Week in May.
- Promoted cycling to school to mums through a 'School Run Mums' programme.
- Educate children in road safety through Streets Ahead pedestrian training programme.
- Provided a travel to school page on their website for parents:
<http://www.pilgrimscross.co.uk/travel-to-school/>
- Provide the County Council's 'How could you travel to school?' booklets for new parents to encourage them to consider the alternatives to the car.

An officer working on the Transport Statement for the planning application has been out to observe, in wet conditions, the pick-up and drop-off on Quicksilver Crescent, both the morning and afternoon. Recommendations will be taken forward using this and other data, including a travel survey for pupils, parents and staff, as well as the comments made at the consultation events.

The local Police have been made aware of the issues in regard to inconsiderate parking.

Both schools are already being proactive in encouraging pupils and parents to walk, cycle and scoot through a range of initiatives and curriculum activities. This seeks to embed a positive culture around cycling and scooting within the schools. They are also participating in a number of activities that promote health, wellbeing and road safety, such as Walk to School Week.

The school promotes Park and Stride from Hoe Road Recreation ground, Jubilee Hall and the village car parks along with an informal one way system around the Ridgemedede Estate. The schools offer a breakfast and after school club facility to ease the congestion at peak times and help working parents and also have safety talks from the Local PCSO. The Junior School participate in the Living Streets WoW (Walk once a Week Scheme) and the aspiration is for the Infant School to participate in this too. The Junior School offers Bikeability training and has Junior Road Safety Officers, who help educate the children in road Safety and promote active travel. The Infants do Streets Ahead Pedestrian Training and conduct Scooter training.

Will there be enough space on local roads for drop-off and pick-up by car?

It is not anticipated that new trips by car will exceed capacity available on local roads. The approved planning application for Picket 20 included a 2 Form Entry Primary school.

Where will the additional staff park?

In line with HCC's on-site school parking guidelines, parking for additional staff associated with the expansion will be catered for within the School site.

How will construction traffic be managed?

A construction traffic management plan will be developed to ensure safe and considerate movement of vehicles around the site during the construction period.

Who can I contact for more information?

Please send enquiries to Martin Shefferd, Strategic Development Officer, Children's Services Department, The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8UG or by email to strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk