

## **Pre planning consultation on the proposal to enlarge Whitchurch CE Primary School**

### **Frequently asked questions – March 2017**

#### **Proposal to Enlarge Whitchurch CE Primary School**

Hampshire County Council would like to hear your views about the proposal to enlarge Whitchurch CE Primary School.

We are running a consultation from Friday 17 March 2017 until Friday 14 April 2017.

A drop-in session for you to be able to see the proposed plans and discuss with officers is being held on 27 March 2017 at Whitchurch CE Primary School between 3pm and 6pm.

#### ***Why do you need to enlarge the schools?***

Throughout Hampshire the number of births has risen in recent years which have created a pressure on pupil places. This equally applies to the Whitchurch 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 Whitchurch CE Primary School to meet this need.

The proposed expansion would allow the capacity of the school to be increased to allow Whitchurch CE Primary School to offer 75 places for Year R (age 4+) from September 2019. This expansion would enable Whitchurch CE Primary School to increase its numbers from 420 to 525.

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 Whitchurch CE Primary School are anticipated to be completed in 2019 ready for the start of term in September.

The proposed building works will consist of new classroom block and an extension to the current school buildings. These works will provide the additional classrooms needed to meet the increase in pupil numbers.

Plans are available on the website and will be presented at the drop-in session to be held on 27 March 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 2018 and be completed by summer 2019 ready for the school to occupy.

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 school 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 school 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***

The school is 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 as well as promoting health, wellbeing and road safety. This includes participating in initiatives such as Walk to School Week and International Walking Month.

The school have recently had two children in Year 5 trained as Junior Road Safety Officers. They have been provided with a number of materials and information which they can use to educate their peers and improve their road sense and awareness on the way to school.

In addition, the School Travel Planning Team have been working closely with the school to create and promote a Park and Stride map which not only stresses the importance of walking, scooting and cycling to school but suggests other initiatives such as parking further away and walking, lift sharing and parking on a friend's drive and walking with them to try to cut down on the number of vehicles accessing the school at peak times. The team have recently input to the work of Hampshire County Council transport engineers who are investigating the possibility of improving pedestrian links through investment across the whole of Whitchurch.

The school have just reached their Bronze level Modeshift STARS accreditation for sustainable travel.

### ***How will the traffic impacts of the expansion be managed?***

A transport statement will be developed for submission alongside the planning application. A transport statement is a process that sets out transport issues relating to a proposed development. It identifies any measures that may need to be taken to deal with the anticipated transport impacts of the scheme and to improve accessibility and safety for all modes of travel, particularly for alternatives to the car such as walking, cycling and public transport.

The STP Team has been in Hampshire since 2001 and has supported 97% of schools to develop their own travel plans. This has resulted in a 12% reduction (or 20,000 fewer journeys every morning) in car use.

### ***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 which does include the area to the front of the school..

### ***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.

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

A drop-in session where you will be able to discuss the proposals with County Council officers is planned for **27 March 2017 from 3pm to 6pm at Whitchurch CE Primary School.**

If you are unable to attend this session and wish to make a comment then please write to Glenn Parkinson, Strategic Development Officer, Children's Services Department, EII Court North, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG or e-mail [strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk](mailto:strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk) by 14 April 2017.

***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 14 April 2017.**

***Who can I contact for more information?***

Please send enquiries to Glenn Parkinson, Strategic Development Officer, Children's Services Department, The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8UG or by email to [strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk](mailto:strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk)