

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Officer Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Peter Colenutt
Title:	Head of Strategic Development
Date:	11 April 2016
Reference:	7432

Tel: 01962 845746

Email: martin.shefferd@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision:

- 1.1. That unconditional approval be given to the following proposal; the publication of a public notice under Section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006:

To make a prescribed alteration to The Butts Primary School, Bolle Road, Alton, Hampshire GU34 1PW (category of school – community) by enlarging the premises of the school with effect from 1 September 2018.

2. Reason(s) for the decision:

- 2.1. Following local consultation, Hampshire County Council received 42 written comments regarding the proposal to enlarge the school. In considering the responses the County Council felt that the provision of the additional places was necessary in order to respond to additional housing developments in the area and that the comments received did not represent sufficient concern to prevent proceeding to the enlargement. The proposal to enlarge The Butts Primary School from 204 places to 420, with effect from 1 September 2018, should proceed to the next stage of the process.

3. Consultation:

- 3.1. Formal consultation took place between 25 January 2016 and 4 March 2016. A letter was sent to consultees and a drop-in session was held at The Butts Primary School on 3 February 2016. The proposal was also included on the County Council's website. A copy of the consultation letter is attached.

3.2. Letters were sent to:

- Parents of children attending The Butts Primary School (via the school)
- Headteacher

- Chair of Governors
- School staff
- Headteachers and Chairs of Governors at all schools within 2 miles
- Chief Executive of Alton Town Council
- Staff union representatives
- MP – Damian Hinds MP
- HCC Elected member – Councillor Andrew Joy
- Local Town Council
- Early Years Development and Childcare – Tracey Sanders

4. Comments on consultation responses received:

- 4.1. Of the 42 written responses received 33 raised concerns about the traffic in the immediate environs of the school and the parking outside of the school during drop-off and pick-up times. The School Travel Plan Team is involved with the development of a new School Travel Plan. This is a long-term document produced by the whole school and community and looks at existing travel to school and how to encourage changes to this pattern and get more pupils travelling to school other than by car. Highways will be undertaking a beat parking survey to understand what is happening in the area at present and what could be put in place to make the situation better for both the short term and long term given that the school population will just about double.
- 4.2. Five comments expressed concern over the loss of the outdoor space. The extension has been designed to make use of that part of the site that has a small number of trees on it and is underutilised. Additional playcourt is to be provided together with a rationalisation of the existing playcourt.
- 4.3. The question of the hall capacity was raised through seven comments received but the existing hall of 159m² is considered to be large enough for a 2FE primary school.
- 4.4. Disruption to the school and the residents during any construction work was raised by three consultees. Clearly there will be some disruption during the building works, particularly at the beginning of the project as earthworks and the metal frame installation takes place but this is no different to other schools within Hampshire.
- 4.5. Two responses raised the issue of organisation for the school. The proposed work will provide a 2FE organisation for the school rather than the organisation that has to be in place to accommodate a Published Admission Number of 34.

- 4.6. At the drop-in session the issue regarding existing road safety was raised and two written response also mentioned that some of the existing roads were unsafe. Highways will look into the issue to better understand the existing position and will make suggestions on how this could be made to work better.
- 4.7. One response raised the security of the children once the school was in session. The proposed project will improve the security of the school by the use of fencing in and around the site and providing one entrance to the school (from Bolle Road) once the school is in session. Other access points will be closed during the school day.

5. Conclusion:

- 5.1. New housing developments within Alton are driving the need for additional primary school places in the area. In order to meet the County Council's statutory duty to ensure sufficiency of school places this school requires expansion.
- 5.2. The comments received during the consultation process will be considered through the development of the new School Travel Plan.

6. Other options considered and rejected:

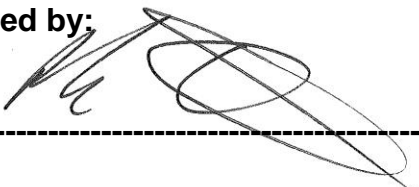
- 6.1. Not to approve the proposal would mean that there are insufficient primary school places available to meet the demand from the new developments.

7. Conflicts of interest:

- 7.1. Conflict of interest declared by an Executive Member who is consulted by the officer which relates to the decision:

None

Approved by:



Date:

11 April 2016

Peter Colenutt, Head of Strategic Development

On behalf of the Director of Children's Services

Appendix I – Consultation Letter



*Children's Services Department
Elizabeth II Court North
Winchester
Hampshire SO23 8UG*

Telephone 01962 841841
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Enquiries to **Martin Shefferd**

My reference

Direct Line **01962 845746**

Your reference

Date **26 January 2016**

E-mail strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk

Dear Consultee

Enlargement of The Butts Primary School – Consultation Update

Further to my previous letter regarding the enlargement of The Butts Primary School, please be aware that the consultation concerns the enlargement of the school on its current site with no plans to relocate the school.

Hampshire County Council is proposing to increase the physical capacity to allow them to offer 60 places for Year R (age 4+). This expansion will allow the school to cater for 420 pupils.

The demand for school places is a result of a rise in the number of births in the area and new housing development. It is intended that permanent facilities will be available from September 2018.

Reason for proposal

Hampshire County Council has a statutory duty to provide school places. Owing to an increase in the number of children in the school's catchment area, and in particular demand for Year R places, there is a need for additional school places to be provided.

Where a Local Authority proposes to permanently enlarge a school's capacity by 25% or more it must follow a procedure set out by the Department for Education. This information and some frequently asked questions are available on the following website;

<http://consultations.hants.gov.uk/active.aspx>

Interim Director of Children's Services
Steve Crocker

The Consultation

The primary purpose of this consultation is to seek the view of consultees on the principle of enlarging the schools to meet the demand for additional school places in the local area. We understand that you may have some questions regarding how the school buildings will be expanded to accommodate additional pupils and whether there will be an impact on travel to and from the school as a result of accommodating additional pupils. Both of these aspects are important but at this stage these details will not be available as we need to obtain approval to the expansion before detailed work commences. It is important to hear your views at this stage so we can consider them as part of the detailed work to be undertaken should approval to the enlargement be obtained.

This consultation will run from 25 January to 4 March 2016. Officers will then take into consideration all the consultation responses received 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 in April 2016.

After the date of publication there will be a four week period in which any representations can be made to the local authority. 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 by the end of the summer.

Further Information

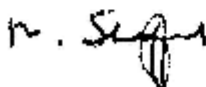
A drop-in session where you will be able to discuss the proposal with County Council officers will take place on Wednesday 3 February at The Butts Primary School between 3pm and 6pm.

A website has also been set up with the details of the consultation which includes some 'Frequently Asked Questions' that may address any queries you have. The link is shown above.

The current proposed building plans are being developed with the Headteacher and governing body. The plans will be posted on the school website once they have been developed and agreed with the school. There will be a further opportunity to discuss the plans in detail at a pre-planning application consultation and we will notify you of the details once arranged.

If you are unable to attend this session or visit the above website and wish to make a comment then please write to Martin Shefferd, Strategic Development Officer, Children's Services Department, Ell Court North, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG or e-mail strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk by Friday 4 March 2016.

Yours sincerely



**Martin Shefferd
Strategic Development Officer
Children's Services Department**