

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Officer Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Peter Colenutt
Title:	Head of Strategic Development
Reference:	7919

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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 BISHOPS WALTHAM INFANT SCHOOL and BISHOP'S WALTHAM JUNIOR SCHOOL, Oak Road, Bishop's Waltham, Southampton, SO32 1EP (category of schools – community) by enlarging the premises of the schools, with effect from 1 September 2018.

2. Reason(s) for the decision:

- 2.1. Following local consultation, the County Council received 15 written comments regarding the proposal to enlarge the schools. In considering the responses received the County Council felt that the provision of additional school places was necessary and that comments received did not represent sufficient concern to prevent proceeding with the enlargement. The proposal to enlarge Bishops Waltham Infant School from 180 to 270 places, and Bishop's Waltham Junior School from 256 to 360 places, with effect from 1 September 2018, should proceed to the next stage of the process.

3. Consultation

- 3.1. Formal consultation took place between 7 September and 7 October 2016. A letter was sent to consultees as detailed below and a consultation meeting was held at Bishop's Waltham Junior School on 22 September 2016. The proposal was also included on the County Council's consultation website. A copy of the consultation letter is attached.
- 3.2. Letters were sent to;
- Parents of children attending Bishops Waltham Infant School and Bishop's Waltham Junior School

- Headteacher, school staff and Governing Body of Bishops Waltham Infant School and Bishop's Waltham Junior Schools
- Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of neighbouring schools
- Winchester District Council – Chief Executive
- Trade union representatives
- Local Dioceses
- MP – Right Honourable George Holligbery MP
- HCC Elected Member – Councillor Rob Humby
- Parish Council
- Tracey Sanders – Manager, Services for Young Children
- Residents in the local area (426 letters sent)

4. Consultation responses received

4.1. A total of 15 written comments were received. The key issues raised by consultees can be summarised as follows;

- More traffic on the locals roads, Free Street is busy - Parents park on the road plus workers from the village. The blind bend and long row of parked cars mean that cars travelling towards Corhampton Road must approach the bend on the wrong side of the road without view of oncoming traffic.
- Junction of Shore Lane with B2177 (Wickham Road). Increased school traffic and more homes which are under construction opposite.
- Pine Road has seen increased traffic at school drop off and pick up. Elderly residents care visitors struggle to park.
- Ridgemedes has seen increased traffic at school drop off and pick up. Suggestion that a traffic scheme should be put in place such as one way system with traffic should enter via Elm road and exit via Oak road.
- Could a park & walk facility be an option not too far from the schools, with incentives for using this.
- Prevent the loss of trees if possible.
- Concerns about the school traffic coming onto the estate in Oak road. Parents parking and driving onto the estate.
- Guarantee that all the places created would go to children who live in Bishops Waltham and not to those who live in hedge end and further afield.
- Suggestion for a new school at the other end of the town due to large amount of new houses in progress.

- Parents should be encouraged to park at Hoe Road recreation ground and walk. Suggest some improved pedestrian links in order to encourage 'park and stride'.
- Keep space for Lilypad Pre-school on the Infant School site.
- St John The Baptist Primary School, a neighbouring Primary School, expressed concern over impact on their admission numbers.
- Residents parking permits suggested.
- Suggestion to convert Infant School to doctor's surgery and the Junior School into a facility for residents and local council offices, allowing for current council offices to be turned into old peoples homes. Suggestion to build new Grammar School away from the area to replace converted Infant and Junior School.
- General messages of support in principle.

5. Comments on consultation responses received

5.1. With respect to the comments received around traffic congestion there is a process that will be followed to identify issues and seek solutions. As part of the consultation process officers from Hampshire County Council attended the consultation meeting to explain the process in developing a School Travel Plan (STP), and to seek the community's views and concerns over parking, travel and transport that exist. These concerns have been captured through a feedback response form whereby consultees categorised their position within the community and the comments that they have.

5.2. The 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;

- 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.
- Encourage and provide educational programmes relating to child travel and how this links to the environment, safety and health.
- Improve safety.

5.3. Once the consultation forms have been collated and summarised, the school with the support of the School Travel Planning Team, will then survey pupils, parents and staff as to how they travel, the barriers that they may encounter, and suggestions as to improvements. Using the results of this along with responses from the principle to expand consultation the issues will be

classified on behalf of the whole school community along with possible solutions.

- 5.4. The school and STP team will subsequently 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.
- 5.5. The travel plan will link to a Transport Statement, undertaken by consultants, using additional data acquired from traffic surveys, accident data, parking beat surveys and so on. The outcomes of the Transport Statement 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.
- 5.6. The suggested proposals will be taken back to the school community at the pre planning consultation event for further discussion, and possible adjustment, prior to submission of the planning application.
- 5.7. A review of the staff car parking numbers will be undertaken against current parking regulations and if additional places are identified as being required then they will be provided as part of the school expansion project.
- 5.8. Discussions will be held with staff from Services for Young Children (SfYC) regarding the demand for pre-school places in the area. The current proposal is to retain the pre-school on the Infant School site.
- 5.9. The organisation of the construction phase of the project will take account of issues of access to the site and the working arrangements on site. A number of measures will be put in place to minimise disruption such as ensuring no deliveries are made to site during the beginning and end of the school day. Health and safety is a key issue for school expansion projects and will be considered at all stages.
- 5.10. With respect to comments received about pupil numbers and the location of the school, forecasts support the expansion of the schools, with existing pressure and local development.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1. Pupil forecasts for Bishops Waltham Infant School and Bishop's Waltham Junior Schools show numbers growing as a result of increased demand for school places from within the school's catchment area. In order to meet the County Council's statutory duty to ensure sufficiency of school places these schools need to be expanded.
- 6.2. The comments received during the consultation will be considered through the development of the school travel plan, the design process for the new

school buildings and as part of the planning application process. In considering the responses received the County Council felt that the provision of additional school places was necessary and that comments received did not represent sufficient concern to prevent proceeding with the enlargement.

7. Other options considered and rejected:

- 7.1. Not to approve the proposal would mean that there are insufficient primary school places available in the school to meet the demand from within the catchment area.

8. Conflicts of interest:

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

None

9. Dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service:

None

Approved by:

Date:



3 November 2016

Peter Colenutt, Head of Strategic Development

On behalf of the Director of Children's Services