

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Officer Decision Record

|                        |                               |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Decision Maker:</b> | Peter Colenutt                |
| <b>Title:</b>          | Head of Strategic Development |
| <b>Reference:</b>      | 8105                          |

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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 CASTLE HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL, ROOKSDOWN CAMPUS, Park Prewett Road, Basingstoke, RG24 9XA (category of school – Community) by enlarging the premises of the school, with effect from 1 September 2019.**

#### 2. Reason(s) for the decision:

- 2.1. Following local consultation, the County Council received ten written comments regarding the proposal to enlarge the school. 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 Castle Hill Primary School, Rooksdown Campus from 210 to 420 places, with effect from 1 September 2019, should proceed to the next stage of the process.

#### 3. Consultation

- 3.1. Formal consultation took place between 26 September and 4 November 2016. A letter was sent to consultees as detailed below and a drop-in session was held at Castle Hill Primary School, Rooksdown Campus on 11 October 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 Castle Hill Primary School, Rooksdown Campus
  - Headteacher, school staff and Governing Body of Castle Hill Primary School

- Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of neighbouring schools
- Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council – Chief Executive
- District Councillor – Cllr Simon Bound
- Trade union representatives
- Local Dioceses
- MP – Right Honourable Maria Miller MP
- HCC Elected Member – Councillor Stephen Reid
- Tracey Sanders – Manager, Services for Young Children
- Residents in the local area (572 letters sent)

#### **4. Consultation responses received**

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

- A number of consultees commented on a school drop off point or turning circle not being present on the plans.
- Consultee advised that the other side of the estate is a half hour walk to the school site.
- Consultees concerned that nearby doctors surgery parking is being used by parents and that the neighbouring Co-Op car park is at capacity at drop off and collection times.
- The local county councillor, Cllr Stephen Reid responded to advise a drop-off facility was included in the original concept and plans for the school, at his request, and is no longer in the plans. Cllr Simon Bound and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council also responded to this affect.
- The Borough Council requested that consideration should also be given to traffic management outside the school and how this is co-ordinated with other uses in the vicinity including the GP surgery and the community centre.
- Consultee advised that parents are unable to make use of the neighbouring Community Centre car park as they are prevented in doing so by the community centre management.
- Comment received regarding parking on Park Prewitt Road and buses not being able to pull up at the bus stops as cars are parked.
- Concerns over the significant congestion on roads around the schools at the beginning and end of the school day raised by multiple consultees.
- Comment received to support expansion but raised a concern over parking.

- Comment received advising hospital staff are parking in Rooksdown which adds to congestion at peak times.
- Consultee advised that residents and hospital visitors park on the streets surrounding the school causing additional congestion, and objected to the enlargement due to this.

## **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 drop-in session 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. The headteacher and governors will be fully involved in the development of the design of the new accommodation and all plans will ensure that pupils are safeguarded both during construction and through the design of the new buildings.
- 5.9. Pupils/parents arriving by car are expected to park off-site. The TS document submitted as part of the original planning application for the school showed that the on-street parking demand for the 1FE school could be around 21 spaces maximum at any given one time. A Travel Plan will be produced for this expansion.
- 5.10. It is important to recognise the initial findings from the analysis of how pupils currently travel to school and other local factors. The school census data from September 2016 shows 93% of pupils are walking (83 children) and 7% are coming by car or van (6 children). This is based on a 99% response rate. In 2014, the national average was 44% and the Hampshire average 56%.
- 5.11. The entire catchment area at Rooksdown is within a 15-20 minute maximum walking distance and this will be reduced with the introduction of a footpath from the south and additional entrances on this side of the site.
- 5.12. According to the travel survey data, 92% of pupils live within a mile's walk of the school with 8% living 1-3 miles' walk away, though this will be reduced for some with the installation of a new pedestrian gate and footpath from the south across the playing fields. The school serves its immediate locality, with additional housing planned immediately to the north of the site all within half a mile's walk.
- 5.13. Local Park & Stride areas exist close to the school and are to be promoted to parents so they park away from school and walk their child into school.
- 5.14. The school is keen to encourage sustainable travel and has a Travel to School page already set up on its website which it has promoted to parents. It has appointed two School Travel Champions who are already trained up and working on the Modeshift STARS (Sustainable Travel Awards and Recognition Scheme for schools).
- 5.15. At present, congestion at the front of the school is exacerbated by the building works happening at the doctor's surgery which is displacing staff

and patients, together with a number of contractor vehicles present in the vicinity.

- 5.16. Indications are that there is adequate drop-off/pick-up capacity on the highway and in local car parks so there are not highway infrastructure inadequacies resulting in the need for on site parking. Additional on street parking will be available once the new housing has been built on the housing site adjacent to the school. However, as part of the development of the STP consideration will be given to whether facilities for a parent drop-off facility is required on the school site.

## **6. Conclusion**

- 6.1. Pupil forecasts for Castle Hill Primary School, Rooksdown Campus 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 the school needs 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:**

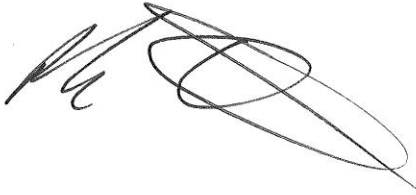
- 8.1. Conflict of interest declared by an Executive Member who is consulted by the officer which relates to the decision:

None

## **9. Dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service:**

None

**Approved by:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and strokes, positioned above a dashed line.

**Date:**

**3 January 2017**

**Peter Colenutt, Head of Strategic Development**

**On behalf of the Director of Children's Services**