

Ian Ramsey Church of England School: Planning Brief Drop-in session

Attendees

23 in total

2 councillors (Terry Laing and Ken Lupton)

7 residents

8 parents

2 school staff

1 parent governor

Comments:

Resident (Gordon Brown, 30 Fairfield Road): Concerns about traffic. Situation regarding parents waiting in cars on Fairfield Road and Leaholme Crescent could worsen. Would it be possible to introduce parking restrictions, e.g. double yellow lines?

Response: Concerns will be passed onto planners.

Parent: Will there be much disruption during the decant? (in terms of moving materials to the new building.)

Response: Decant contractors will assist with this process. They will help to pack but can't move personal items unless instructed to.

Parent: When will the decant happen?

Response: Ideally in either the Easter holidays or Summer holidays but this hasn't been scheduled in as yet.

Parent: Will all the current facilities fit in the new North site building?

Response: Officers and advisors are working with the school to ensure all of the necessary facilities to deliver the curriculum are available at the North site. They are carrying out curriculum analysis and working out suitable clusters within the building for different curriculum areas.

Teacher: Will focusing all of the teaching and learning at one site cause more traffic to be concentrated there?

Response: A parental drop-off point will be created and we are looking into creating a bus loop for the school buses. There will also be 150 fewer pupils than at present. There is also a requirement for a green travel plan to be submitted.

Teacher: Will there be cycle stores?

Response: Yes.

Teacher: Will there be sufficient parking for school events such as theatre productions?

Response: A certain percentage of the land surrounding the school must be a hard surface to allow for fire engine entry so these areas could be used for parking when necessary. By law only 0.5% parking spaces are allocated per member of staff.

Teacher: When will construction start?

Response: Around about April/May 2011.

Teacher: When will the decant into the new building and demolishing the south site buildings start?

Response: About two years after construction starts.

Parent: How big will the sports hall be?

Response: The size of four badminton courts which is the standard Sport England requirement.

Pupil: What will happen to the swimming pool?

Response: BSF doesn't fund swimming pools, however it will be retained.

Pupil: What will happen to the North site gym?

Response: It will be removed.

Parent: The concern raised at the initial consultation meeting last year was that houses would be built on land where school buildings are removed. I can see how these plans would prevent that happening.

Response: Playing fields are protected from housing development by law.

Parent: How will access to the North site be improved?

Response: A drop off zone will be created for buses and cars in front of the school.

Parent: And the hall and music block at south site will be retained for community use?

Response: BSF money can't be used to fund community use facilities, however the school is keen to keep these facilities for community use and are working with the diocese to see if this would be possible.

Parent: What about parking at the south site?

Response: Additional parking is illustrated on the current drawings.

Parent: Will there be as much floor space as there is now?

Response: No, BSF funding is based on a special formula which allocates a certain amount of square metres per pupil. However, there will be sufficient space to allow effective teaching and learning.

Parent: Will there be any disruption to pupil's learning during the construction period?

Response: The school and local authority are determined to ensure that this won't be the case. Regular meetings will be held with the contractor to ensure that they are not carrying out noisy works during exam periods. The new block will be built first, this means that pupils can use the new block and south site while the remaining north site is remodelled. All pupils will then be moved to the new and remodelled north site before the south site buildings are demolished. The need for minimal disruption will also be outlined in the output specification.

Resident (36 Lealholme Grove and 40 Lealholme Grove): Concerned that access adjacent to their homes will be a new road for the school.

Response: It won't be a new access for the school, however it could be used for a construction access. (resident happy with this response.)

Parent: Will the swimming pool get a new roof?

Response: BSF doesn't fund swimming pools, however it will be retained and maintained by the school.

Parent: When will the building work start?

Response: April/May 2011.

Resident: Will the south site be sold?

Response: No, this can't happen because of the regulations in place.

Parent: The drop-off zone should ease near-by traffic congestion.

Resident/parent: How will the new building affect my view?

Response: After being shown the positioning of the new building were satisfied that view would not be affected.

Parent: Not having to move so far between lessons will make it easier for the children.

Parent: How will disruption be avoided during the decant period?

Response: The new block will be built first, this means that pupils can use the new block and south site while the remaining north site is remodelled. All pupils will then be moved to the new and remodelled north site before the south site buildings are demolished.

Parent: Will there be a pedestrian entrance at the south site so pupils can walk to school this way?

Response: There is no reason why this can't be considered along with a cycle route between the sites. There is a requirement for a green travel plan to be submitted and these suggestions could form part of that.

Parent: What are the timescales?

Response: The contractor should be on site by April/May 2011 and should be gone by September 2013.

Resident (Fairfield Road): Between 3pm-4pm I can't get in and out of my drive as parents park outside. How will this be dealt with?

Response: A drop-off zone will be created on the school grounds and pupil numbers will fall by 150 so there should be less traffic than at present.

Resident: Concerned about fence being damaged by young people kicking a ball against it as the south site pitches are behind his house.

Response: Introducing habitat ahead of the fences could stop this happening.

Parent: Will contractors be CRB checked?

Response: Any that will come into contact with children will be.

Parent: Will the site size change?

Response: No land will be lost.

