

Notes of Public Consultation Meeting

Primary School Expansion 2011 – Public Consultation Meeting Grand Avenue Primary School

24 March 2010, 19:00 – 20.50

Officers Present:

Tina Herring - Head of Learning & School Effectiveness
Anne Redparth – Head of Resources and Commissioning
Carol Buchanan – School Improvement Partner
Headteacher

There were 11 people present at the meeting.

Presentation

Tina Herring and Anne Redparth welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a presentation on expansion of Primary Schools 2011. The presentation outlined our statutory responsibility to ensure that there are sufficient school places for all children who need one and Kingston's proposal to meet this demand through school expansion and the building of a new Primary school in the Surbiton area. The presentation is attached as Annex A.

Comments and Questions

The table below outlines the main comments made and questions asked together with the response given by officers.

Comment/Question	Response
How did you make everyone aware that this school was included in the expansion strategy?	Grand Avenue was identified in the Executive report on 1 December 2009 and information was made available on the RBK website. Consultation documents were sent to all parents/carers of current pupils, pre-schools in the area, libraries, GP surgeries and other statutory consultees.
What was the format for the informal consultation in Summer 2009 and how were stakeholders informed?	A consultation document was produced and this was widely circulated borough wide. A public meeting was held at Surbiton library which had a larger attendance than this evenings meeting.
Despite the additional class for 2010 Grand Avenue is still over-subscribed.	Grand Avenue is a popular school and parents make three preferences resulting in more applications than places. There is however a need for more places in the Surbiton area which is why the school is proposed to expand from 2 Form Entry to 3 Form Entry.
Is the balance in church and community places to be made across the Surbiton area?	No, this is across the whole Borough due to the few faith schools in Kingston.
How is expansion of Roman Catholic places being managed?	The Diocese undertook a survey to determine the amount of additional capacity that was required in the Borough. We are aware of the proportion of non Catholics attending RC primary schools and

	plans have been drawn up in partnership with the Diocese to expand Corpus Christi.
I recall when this school used to have 4 football pitches.	Whilst the school has expanded it still has sufficient outdoor space and children increasingly learn outdoors now.
What is the extent of capital investment in the school and why expand to 2FE when more capacity is now required?	There will be a minimum £2.5million investment for the school to deliver a further 1FE expansion although it is likely to be a little more than that. When the original building project was agreed RBK did not have projections to show the need to expand schools to capacity being consulted on now.
My main concern is the implications for the leadership of the school if the Headteacher is focusing her time and attention on a building project. What funding is available for additional staff to oversee the project to allow school staff to focus on teaching?	Support is provided to the school through a project officer and representative from the architects. We recognise that the headteacher will wish to be involved in the project as it is important that she is happy with what is being provided. If additional resources can be identified it will be to backfill to support the Senior Leadership of the school as we recognise that the headteacher will want to ensure that their education vision is enshrined in the completed building.
Will all projects across the Borough be delivered at the same time?	We have been successful in securing capital funding to deliver permanent expansion but recognise the challenge due to the sheer number of projects involved. There are three different architects working with each other and schools to test designs and ideas. We are positive about our ability to deliver accommodation changes for September 2011 as a number of projects will be phased as all the new buildings will not be required immediately at each school,
Which residents will be consulted about development plans? The consultation on the planning application for the temporary accommodation was very limited.	Planning application consultation will be much larger for permanent expansion than for the temporary 'bulge' class.
What about the roads to get pupils here in the first place which are increasingly congested?	The planning application process with a Traffic Impact Assessment will explore this as well as wider issues which affect residents.
What is the planning process and timetable for this school?	There will be pre-application consultation in May/June and the Neighbourhood Committee will get the opportunity to comment on the plans before Development Control Committee considers the application at its September meeting.
Is it possible to obtain information on which children attend each school?	Yes we have use this information to plan numbers of school places needed in each area. For primary schools, most children live within close proximity of the school they attend. Trend patterns differ for each school with cohorts wider in distance than for some than others. Catchment

	for Grand Avenue has widened this year but the vast majority live within 2km by safest walking route.
How many do you need to respond in agreement to go ahead with expansion?	<p>The Executive will decide on whether to issue a public notice based on the results of the consultation on all schools. If the Governing Body disagrees then the matter will go to the Schools Adjudicator to decide – who receives all the comments received under the consultation and comes to a binding decision on all parties.</p> <p>The implementation of expansion will be dependent on securing planning permission as well as successfully concluding the statutory process.</p>
Can you add more 'bulge' classes if permanent expansion is delayed?	Yes if the LA decided that this was required, the school would consider it.
This consultation is for expansion in 2011, but in reality expansion of this school has already started in 2010.	The 'bulge' classes have been a temporary solution to providing sufficient places for pupils. The 'bulges' have no direct correlation with the permanent expansion strategy. Grand Avenue could not take an additional class in 2008/09 due to building works. There are temporary changes that can be made without statutory consultation, but permanent expansion is a different matter.
On your projections you have 250 children who need somewhere to go in 2011. What's the alternative?	<p>If proposals don't go through there will need to be a temporary solution at other schools.</p> <p>We are also starting to formulate plans for expansion of secondary school places from 2015 to accommodate children in the first primary 'bulges'</p>
The overall budget is £70 million- so where is the rest of the money going?	<p>Some schools will cost significantly more to expand and the provision of a new 2FE school is included in this budget.</p> <p>£12,400 per extra pupil is the minimum level of additional funding that will be provided, we know it will be more than this.</p>
Can you specify the consultation that will take place on the planning application.	Pre-planning application consultation will take place in May at the school. Details will go on the school website and residents will be written to.
<p>How do we make representations on the plans? The neighbours have terrible drainage problems since the site was developed.</p> <p>Traffic problems have moved to the side roads since the introduction of 20mph speed limit on Grand Avenue.</p>	<p>At the residents meeting in May, there will be an opportunity to raise all matters relating to site issues that we should be aware of in formulating the planning application.</p> <p>In addition a residents/school working group may be established.</p>
The area is poorly served for bus services and South West Trains have broken the terms of their franchise in terms of frequency of trains stopping	Thankyou for raising these issues they will all be considered.

at Berrylands.	
The number of parents living close to the school and driving is disgusting. More needs to be done to stop unnecessary car use,	
Access to the school site is already heavily restricted with coaches and emergency service vehicles struggling in the area.	

Officers thanked everyone for attending the meeting and encouraged all to complete the expansion consultation.