

Histon & Impington Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 28.02.2017

42 members of community in attendance

Introductions by Cllr Jenkins. Hazel Belchamber (Head of 0-19 Service); Paula Durrant (0-19 Place Planning and Sufficiency Officer) and Ed Stonham (Chair of Parish Council Task and Finish Grp)

Overview to date of project by Hazel Belchamber.

- CCC Statutory duty to respond and meet community basic need provision for education
- 2 villages presently served by separate Infant and Junior Schools
- Increased demand identified, not sufficient places available to be always able to provide for in-catchment children
- 2014 discussions commenced agreement to pursue a two stage approach this being ; Temporary accommodation on Junior School site for Y2 whilst a permanent solution is sought
- 840 education places to be provided, this will meet current need, but will build in flexibility (future proof) to provide for up to 1050 places.
- 2019 date for delivery at the latest
- CCC working closely with school heads/CPET Trust
- Consultation May 2016- 4 options outcome inconclusive- Impington Village College and Histon Early Years Centre also provided feedback
- Alternative suggestion by CPET/Infant & Junior Schools of all children on one site (Junior School). CCC did not feel appropriate, agreement therefore reached to provide 2 x although primary schools
- 2nd phase to relocate Infant school to new site and extend its age range
- Discussion about co-location on Impington Village college, deemed not to be ideal – conclusion reached by IVC Trust
- Conclusions from consultation put forward to Children and Young People's Committee on 17th January 2017 who endorsed proposals
- £16 million investment agreed for the project

Questions raised

1. Has the proposal to build a new school at Buxhall Farm been given the go-ahead?

Yes.

2. Has traffic been considered?

That will be considered during the next phase when detailed plans will be submitted and assessed.

3. Will particular attention be given to secure safe walking and cycling access to the new school?

Yes; please see above answer to Q2.

4. Is there going to be a flood assessment?

Please see above answer to Q2.

5. Why is Council going against Tory manifesto which stated that Greenbelt land would be safe?

There is provision within planning law for 'exception sites'. The County Council will make a planning application and people may object on greenbelt grounds.

6. Where exactly do you mean that the school will be sited on Buxhall Farm, this is a large area?

There are no detailed plans yet so this has not yet been determined.

7. Are there any other development plans for Buxhall Farm?

Not at present.

8. What is currently being surveyed?

Just the school development.

9. Why jump from 600 places to 800 places?

Because the statistics indicate that there is developing demand and we do not want to be surprised in the future.

10. Why was the exploration on Impington Village College not pursued?

Because it would result in over development of the site.

11. What about having another meeting to address the green belt issue?

We need a forward program of what we are going to be doing and this can be a part of that.

12. What happens if intake is less than the PAN? Schools have a price per head, does this mean the catchment area will change?

The PAN simply sets the maximum number which a school can accommodate. The catchment area does not need to change to capture more intake.

13. Why has there been such a surge of demand?

It's evidenced by the NHS birth stats but we also know that lots of families have moved into the community.

14. Why develop the junior school? Why not build one large school at Buxhall Farm?

That would be a very big primary school and it's generally felt better to have smaller schools.

15. What other sites were considered?

There are no other options.

16. Is it possible to deliver by 2019?

Yes but it will be tight. Building new schools is not a new venture for CCC.

17. How will the new school be populated?

We will take account of distance and preference. We will also avoid splitting siblings. There will be a period of transition.

18. Why all-through primary?

There are many reasons why a straight through primary school is preferred on education grounds. Links will be provided to sites where the evidence is presented

19. Will this not create a divide in village like Girton/University of Cambridge example?

Yes that is a risk but remember these will be two schools under one umbrella and not two 'competing' schools as in Girton.

20. How will the catchment areas be set?

There will only be one catchment area covering both schools. Please also see above answer 17.

21. Are you not putting children at risk in an area with busy roads?

We will be addressing this during the detailed planning phase.

22. Why 2 primary schools?

Please refer to answers 14 and 18 above.

23. Can IVC cope?

Yes. Significant numbers of IVC students come from out of catchment.

24. What is happening to the Infant site?

We will look to secure it for community use. The Parish Council is registering it as an 'asset of community value'.

25. What about Early Years?

There are no plans to move the existing provision. We are considering a second provision at Buxhall Farm.

26. Has consideration been given to the impact of Brexit?

Not yet. There are many students at both schools today from other countries but the number which might be affected by Brexit is relatively small

27. Will the new school be one or two storey

That has not yet been decided. It is suggested that there will be two storeys at the existing Junior School site

28. How will the new school be financed?

CCC will fund it from a mix of central government finance and borrowing. There is no section 106 funding in place for this school.

29. Will farmer on current land at Buxhall Farm be given notice?

Yes.

30. Could a footbridge over road be considered?

That's a good idea. Yes.

31. Could consideration be given to the school being an Eco-School?

We would hope so.

ACTION

Provide a forward plan- timeline of next steps and project outline and ensure this is communicated within the local community

Provide research evidence to support rationale for all-through primary schools