



CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE ADDENDUM

4.00PM, TUESDAY, 16 JULY 2013

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

ADDENDUM

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18. CONSULTATION ON PERMANENT EXPANSION OF WEST HOVE JUNIOR SCHOOL	1 - 18

Subject:	Expansion of West Hove Junior School
Date of Meeting:	16 July 2013
Report of:	Director of Children's Services
Contact Officer: Name:	Michael Nix
	Tel: 290732
Email:	michael.nix@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Ward(s) affected:	Bruswick & Adelaide, Central Hove, Goldsmid, Westbourne, Wish

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

Note: The special circumstances for non-compliance with Council Procedure Rule 3, Access to Information Procedure Rule 5 and Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (items not considered unless the agenda is open to inspection at least five days in advance of the meeting) are that the consultation period did not end until 10 July 2013.

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 It is proposed that West Hove Junior School expand to include the additional junior age school provision to be provided at the former police station site in Holland Road, Hove.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to report on the outcome of consultation on this proposal and to seek approval to proceed to the next stage of the statutory process, which is the publication of Statutory Notices.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To note the responses to the consultation undertaken regarding the proposal in 1.1 above.
- 2.2 To agree to the publication of the required Statutory Notices to progress this proposal.
- 2.3 That following the statutory notice period the matter is referred back to the meeting of the Children and Young People Committee on 14 October 2013 for final decision.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 Brighton & Hove City Council has a legal requirement to provide sufficient school places for all school age children in the city. School places should be provided in such a way that parents and pupils can access a local school wherever possible.
- 3.2 The need for additional reception and infant class places in the city over the last three years has been partly addressed by providing permanent additional forms of entry at the Connaught site of West Hove Infant School. Following this change there existed a need to find a site for the additional forms of entry for juniors (school years 3 to 6) in the proximity of the Connaught site.
- 3.3 At its meeting on 12th July 2012 Policy and Resources Committee agreed to the purchasing of Hove police station which was due to be vacated by the Police in January 2013. This purchase has now been concluded and design work has started on converting the building to a four form entry junior school. This would provide a comparable number of places to the year groups that would be moving up from the Connaught site of West Hove Infants.
- 3.4 Discussions were held with two local junior schools regarding the management of the former police station upon its conversion to a junior school. The decision was taken to proceed with a proposal to expand West Hove Junior School onto the site of the former police station.
- 3.5 The governing body of West Hove Junior School have indicated that they are happy to take on this responsibility in principle but would wish to reserve making a final decision until the results of the consultation exercise are known.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Following receipt of Delegated Authority to commence consultation with pupils, parents, carers and staff on 22nd May 2013, a consultation document was issued on 5 June 2013, published online and was circulated to the parents, staff and governors of West Hove Infant and Junior Schools and to Heads of all schools and Colleges in Brighton & Hove. It was also circulated to all Councillors. (attached as Appendix 1 to this report).
- 4.2 As part of the public consultation process a public meeting was held on 17th June 2013 at West Hove Infant School Connaught site. The meeting was noted and a copy of the notes is included as Appendix 2 to this report.
- 4.3 This initial stage of the consultation came to a close on 8 July 2013. The responses to this consultation exercise have been collated and analysed and are shown at Appendix 3 to this report.
- 4.4 In summary 24 responses were received of which 23 were in favour of the proposal and 1 was against the proposal. There was support for the proposal that the new site should be managed as part of West Hove Junior School and that the new site should be a 'linked school' with West Hove Infant School for admissions purposes.
- 4.5 Practical concerns were raised about families and staff travelling between split sites and a shuttle bus was suggested in addition to staggered timetabling. There was concern about child safety with traffic, particularly industrial vehicles

using Holland Road. Several of those supporting the proposal suggested that using the police station site should be a temporary measure while purpose built facilities with playing fields were developed or as a minimum that an external play area was found.

- 4.6 The one response opposed to the proposal preferred a self-managed free school.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The costs of re-modelling the former police station building will be met from the education capital programme for 2013/14 and 2014/2015. The revenue costs of funding the new forms of entry will be met from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) in 2014/15 onwards

Finance Officer Consulted: Name: Andy Moore Date: 04/07/13

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 In order to achieve the proposed expansions it has been necessary to carry out a formal consultation exercise with all interested parties. If the decision is now made to proceed with the proposals following this consultation, statutory notices will need to be published in accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and associated regulations. There will then follow a period of 4 weeks within which any person may make comment or object to the proposal.

At the end of this representation period a decision on the proposals will need to be taken by the Children and Young Persons Committee within 2 months.

Lawyer Consulted: Serena Kynaston Date: 04/07/13

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 Planning and provision of school places is conducted in such a way as to avoid potentially discriminatory admissions priorities or planning processes. The city council and voluntary aided school governing bodies must be mindful of best practice as described in the Admission Code of Practice

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 All new extensions to Brighton and Hove Schools utilise, where ever possible, environmental and sustainable principles such as higher than minimum insulation levels, the use of efficient gas condensing boilers, under floor heating, solar shading and natural ventilation. Materials are sourced from sustainable sources where ever possible

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 There are no implications for crime and disorder arising from this proposal.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 It is important that this opportunity is taken to ensure the future provision of learning and teaching, and continuing improvement in standards of education in the city.

Public Health Implications:

- 5.7 There are no public health implications arising from this report

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.8 These proposals are an essential element in providing additional local school places for children.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 The proposal for the management of this new provision was discussed with the governing bodies of two local schools. West Hove Junior School governing body was willing in principle to accept this role. This has the benefit that West Hove Junior School already works closely and successfully in partnership with West Hove Infant School, and this positive relationship can be extended for the benefit of children transferring from the Connaught site to the Holland Road site.
- 6.2 The site could have been developed as a separate new school. Under current legislation, this would have to be a free school. The Council has not been approached by a potential sponsor group, and given the timescales against which the junior places must be provided, it would not now be feasible to build in the process of seeking a sponsor who would then need to secure DfE approval before developing the school.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 At its meeting on 12th July 2012 Policy and Resources Committee agreed to the purchasing of Hove police station which was due to be vacated by Sussex Police in January 2013 since this was the preferred option for providing the additional forms of entry for junior age children currently at West Hove Infant School Connaught Annex.
- 7.2 Current and projected pupil numbers for the city as a whole show there is an immediate and ongoing need for additional school places in the city as a whole. This need is most acute in the west of the city.
- 7.3 To meet the projected future growth in pupil numbers we need to provide four additional forms of entry for junior age children.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Consultation document
2. Notes from the public meeting
3. Analysis of responses

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. A copy of all responses to the consultation

Background Documents

None



CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

PROPOSAL TO PERMANENTLY EXPAND WEST HOVE JUNIOR SCHOOL, HOVE

- inviting you to have your say -

Why are we consulting you?

The Council is proposing that West Hove Junior School permanently expands by three forms of entry from September 2014, and four forms of entry from September 2015, the additional places to be provided at the old police station building in Holland Road, Hove. This document explains the arrangements for consultation. At the end you will find a reply slip for you to let us know what you think. There is also some information about what happens after consultation.

Some background facts

West Hove Infant School expanded in September 2011 by three forms of entry which are located at the school's Connaught Road site. At that time this added three additional forms of entry for infant age children that were very much needed in this part of the city. It was always known that this would then result in a need for an additional three forms of entry for junior age pupils from September 2014.

In January 2012 the Children and Young People Cabinet Member Meeting of Brighton and Hove City Council agreed that the preferred location for these three additional forms of entry was the Hove police station site in Holland Road. In July of the same year the Council's Policy and Resources Committee agreed to the purchase of the police station. Since then the Council has been working with Sussex Police to secure the sale, which was completed on 22nd May 2013. At the same time the Council has been considering the possible arrangements for managing this additional junior provision.

The proposal now being put forward is that the new junior provision should be managed by West Hove Junior School. This would be

achieved by expanding West Hove Junior School, enlarging the premises by including the Hove police station site as part of West Hove Junior School. The proposal is that West Hove Junior School would expand by three forms of entry from September 2014 and then by four forms of entry from September 2015 onwards. This would provide a comparable number of places to the year groups which would be moving up from West Hove Infant School Connaught site.

We propose that this new provision will be formally 'linked' to the West Hove Infant School Connaught site for school admissions purposes. The published admissions criteria would be applied as in the case of all existing designated linked schools. These give highest priority to children in the care of the local authority, those who have compelling medical or other exceptional reasons, siblings, followed by children transferring between linked infant and junior schools.

The governing body of West Hove Junior School has agreed in principle with this proposal, but will make a final decision following the conclusion of this consultation.

There is a very clear rationale for developing this new provision in partnership with West Hove Junior School, which already has a close working relationship with West Hove Infant School, the 'parent' of the Connaught site. The model of schools working together to ensure the best possible opportunities for all children is well established and increasingly strong in Brighton & Hove, and we believe that building on an existing strong partnership between the two West Hove Schools is the best way of ensuring that the new junior school places in Holland Road match the high standards that children, parents and carers have now at West Hove Infant School Connaught site.

Consultation arrangements

We have arranged a public meeting to give parents, carers and other local people the opportunity to hear more about the proposal and to ask questions. This meeting will be held at West Hove Infant School Connaught site on **Monday 17 June 2013 at 7:00 p.m.** and anyone with an interest in the proposal is welcome to attend.

If, having read this document, you would like to comment on the proposals, there are several ways you may do so:

- You can complete and return (either to West Hove Infant or Junior School or Kings House) the reply slip included in this document.

- You can send a letter to Michael Nix, Head of Education Planning and Contracts, Grand Avenue, Hove BN23 2LS. Please mark your letter for the attention of Michael Nix
- You can complete a form online on the consultation portal of the Council's website at <http://consult.brighton-hove.gov.uk/portal>
- You can email your response: please address your email to Emma Jones at emma.jones@brighton-hove.gov.uk

In the interests of economy, letters and emails will not be acknowledged or responded to.

Replies must be received by Wednesday, 10 July

The next stage

All the views put forward during the consultation stage will be considered and reported to the Chair of the Children and Young People Committee and the Director of Children's Services. This will allow an informed decision to be made regarding progression to the next stage in the process. If it is agreed to proceed, the next stage would be the issuing of a Statutory Notice detailing the proposal, in September. The notice would be in force for a period of four weeks during which time objections to and comments on the proposal may be made by any person or group. Details of how to make an objection or comment will be incorporated within the Statutory Notice.

The following timetable is proposed:

Publication of Consultation Document	Wednesday, 5 June 2013
Last date for responses	Wednesday 10 July 2013
Issue Public Notice	Early September 2013
End of Public Notice period	Late September/early October 2013
Decision by the Children and Young People Committee	14 October 2013

The Councillors for the area are:

Goldsmid

Ruth Buckley, Alex Philips and Rob Jarrett

Westbourne
Central Hove
Brunswick and Adelaide

Denise Cobb and Graham Cox
Christopher Hawtree and Andrew Wealls
Phelim MacCafferty and Ollie Sykes

RESPONSE FORM

**Please return no later than
Wednesday, 10 July 2013**

To: Michael Nix Tel: (01273) 290732
Head of Education Planning and Contracts
Kings House
Grand Avenue
Hove
BN3 2LS

Arrangements for the management of the new junior school places in Hove

Name and Address	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I support the proposal for the new junior places in Hove to be managed by West Hove Junior School
<input type="checkbox"/>	I do not support the proposal for the new junior places in Hove to be managed by West Hove Junior School
<i>Please add any comments here and on the reverse of this slip if needed:</i>	

Signature and date:

Proposal to expand West Hove Junior School Public Meeting Notes

Meeting date 17th June 2013 at 19.00hrs

Attendees Michael Nix, Gillian Churchill,
Head Teacher, Senior staff and Chair of Governors West
Hove Junior School
Head Teacher, Senior staff, and some Governors West
Hove Infant School
Councillor Sue Shanks
Approx 25 members of the public

Michael Nix gave introductions and a synopsis outlining the process and why the LA was making the proposal. The proposal is to expand West Hove Junior School by four forms of entry by making use of the former police station site in Holland Road Hove. The proposal will link the former police station site with the Connaught Road Annexe for the purposes of school admissions. MN outlined the admission priorities and explained the purpose of linking the two schools.

MN also stated that this is a genuine consultation, no decision has yet been made and that the final decision will be made by elected members not by officers. All responses will be seen by members before the decision is made. The decision is made on balance bearing in mind the responses to the consultation and the need to provide additional school places. The decision that the Children and Young People Committee will be asked to make will be whether or not to proceed to the next stage of the process which would be to publish a statutory notice.

If the decision is to proceed to the next stage this will be the final chance for people to make their views known and any representations to the statutory notice will also be reported to the Children and Young People Committee for decision on October 14th 2013.

MN stated that the governors of West Hove Junior School have agreed in principle to the proposal as they recognise the need for additional places. The governors will finalise their views at the end of the consultation period.

The floor was then opened to questions

Could the Cardinal Newman playing field be used for games by pupils attending the school on the former police station site?

The school could approach Cardinal Newman on this matter but the field is already very well used and the distance between the two sites is quite considerable.

When the children start in 2014 which floor will they be on?

There has been no decision about this at the present time. All building work will be complete by then so it will be for the school to decide how to organise themselves within the space.

Will the decision on 14th October 2013 be the final decision?

Yes.

Is there a trigger for the decision to be 'called in' in terms of the number of objections received?

The legislation does not include a trigger point in terms of an automatic referral for a review of the decision. The decision maker (in this instance this will be the CYP committee) has to take all matters into consideration when making the decision and obviously this would include any objections but these would need to be weighed against the need for additional places.

Could the PTA have regular updates on the building project?

Yes of course.

Could the PTA be involved in finer points of the design?

The design is well progressed and a planning application has been submitted. However the head teacher of West Hove Junior School said that she was happy for the Parents Council to be involved in the process, she said that she was also happy for the Parents Council to include parents of pupils at the Connaught at the present time.

Could consideration be given to how parents with children at both the Connaught and the former police station will get between sites at the beginning end of the school day such as staggered start and finish times etc?

Yes, it is understood by both schools that communication is key to this issue.

How do the existing staff at West Hove Junior School feel about the proposal?

All the senior staff at West Hove Junior School are very excited by this proposal and the opportunities it presents for the school and the pupils.

Will the building proposal for the former police station include solar thermal or solar pv provision?

These will be considered but there can be no promises at this stage, it will depend on the budget situation.

Will the proposal for the former police station include a roof top play space?

No this would be cost prohibitive and cannot be justified.

Will there be sports teams at the former police station site

Yes, the provision will as far as possible mirror the provision at the current site of West Hove Junior School. It is important to the school that the philosophy and ethos of the two sites are as far as possible identical.

Have there been many objections to the proposal?

None have been seen to date. All representations received during the consultation period will be reported to the decision maker. It is important therefore that any representation be it negative or positive is made so that a properly informed decision can be reached.

What will happen when the bulge moves into secondary school?

That is being considered and all options will be considered.

Meeting closed at 20.20hrs

Consultation Responses about Proposal to Permanently expand West Hove Junior School

Responses	
Support expansion of West Hove Junior school	83
Do not support expansion of West Hove Junior school	3

Proposal

West Hove Infant School expanded in September 2011 by three forms of entry which are located at the school's Connaught Road site. This has resulted in a need for an additional three forms of entry for junior age pupils from September 2014. The Council is consulting about the proposal to permanently expand West Hove Junior School by three forms of entry and to locate this provision at Hove Police station in Holland Road. In 2015 it is proposed that there will be four forms of entry.

Comments from Parents: in support of expansion

- The Holland Road site should be temporary while a purpose built school is developed with playing fields. (2 responses)
- The Head Teacher and staff team are exceptional and easily able to manage both sites effectively. (7 responses)
- Support for there to be an automatic preference for the sibling priority to exist on all applications to West Hove Infant and Junior Schools. (4 responses)
- Continuity between West Hove Infants and West Hove Junior Schools is positive, particularly with the priority for siblings as long as standards of teaching remain high. (4 responses)
- It is welcome that West Hove Junior School will remain under LA control. (2 responses)
- How will staff cope with working between two sites and will senior managers be distracted from teaching and existing duties by the need to design, plan and recruit to the new site?
- Enrichment opportunities for children are likely to reduce with the expansion of the school.
- What arrangements will the Council put in place to enable parents to take and collect children from a split site school? A staggered start at the two schools is welcome but may not be sufficient. Will a shuttle bus service be provided? A 20 minute walk is a long way for very small children. (12 responses)
- The adult education centre at Connaught Road may need to be reviewed to ensure capacity for 4 forms of entry to West Hove Junior School by September 2015.
- Concern expressed about industrial vehicles using Holland Road. Traffic calming measures need to be put in place if young children will be using the road.
- A split site school means fewer peers for children to play with which may affect their socialisation.

- Practical issues should be addressed from the outset, for example parking, access, play and dinner timings to avoid any health and safety or environmental health concerns arising later.
- Children need a decent sized external play area which should be included in the planning process. (3 responses)

Comments from Parents: against the expansion

- 1 preference stated for a self-managed free school.
- 1 parent was concerned that the Executive Head was already stretched managing Whitehawk Primary and that the burden of expanding West Hove Junior would be too much for the Head and staff to bear. The suggestion was that a primary school with an outstanding Ofsted would be better placed to expand.

Comments from others including schools

- Governors from Davigdor Infants School are concerned about their future pupil numbers because they believe West Hove Junior School site at Holland Road will meet demand from the West Hove Infants School on the Connaught Road site but not the additional shortfall of local places.