

Notes of the Public Consultation Meeting at West Ewell Infant and Nursery School

Tuesday 30 June 2015 6.15 - 8pm

The meeting opened at 6.15pm and closed at 8pm.

It was attended by approximately 30 people, representing parents, residents, staff and the governing bodies of West Ewell and Danetree Schools and staff from GLF Schools.

Joanna Woodward and Melanie Harris attended on behalf of Surrey County Council.

Melanie Harris and the acting Headteacher of West Ewell, Mr Ian Cooke-Abbot, presented to the meeting and then opened the floor to questions. Mrs Mia Bennett (headteacher) was still on maternity leave, and unable to attend.

- Q1 Currently in 2018/19 there is a 0 Y3 PAN in Danetree – will this remain if there is demand for places?
- A1 There is currently a 0 PAN as the Y3 PAN will be removed then. If there is still a demand for Y3s to join siblings we might consider a 1FE cohort for Y3 in 2018. Place planning forecasts currently indicate a shortage of 25 places, so this option will be discussed with Danetree nearer the time and subject to parental preferences.
- Q2 If there are reduced nursery places at West Ewell, does that mean that children not in the West Ewell nursery will not gain admission to West Ewell Infants at Reception?
- A2 Admission into Reception is not currently linked to attending the nursery and this will not change. There will be roughly the same number of Reception places as there are nursery places.
- Q3 When completing the consultation, should we answer for the school our child is attending, or all three schools (i.e. West Ewell, Danetree and Ewell Grove)?
- A3 You can answer questions for all three schools if you wish or, if you prefer, just for the school your child is attending.
- Q4 I am concerned about the traffic at Danetree. Surely the increase in the number of children to at least half again will have a major impact on local residents? Will there be a turning circle provided at the school?
- A4 It is unlikely that we will provide a turning circle. It is the job of Surrey County Council Property team to undertake all aspects of project planning, and they are considering traffic and transport issues now. We have undertaken traffic assessments and also analysed current pupil data. Eg. Pupils admitted to Ewell Grove for the past 2 years live within a radius of 0.7 miles; so for that school the majority of families should be able to walk to school. Traffic

mitigation will be addressed in the planning phase.

- Q5 Will a planning consultation be conducted at West Ewell?
- A5 There is no need for planning permission at West Ewell, as the work will entail internal modifications, and no actual new construction work.
- Q6 As a Ewell Grove parent, I am concerned about the lack of playing field and playground space.
- A6 This point is also relevant for West Ewell. Key Stage 1 PE does not require access to a full sports pitch. For West Ewell we are investigating using facilities at Epsom & Ewell High School. There is also another option of using some land owned by SCC but currently leased to another user. This will be a more costly solution but we are considering it. For Ewell Grove we are investigating the use of a sports facility with Epsom & Ewell Borough Council.
- Q7 Won't there be associated risks taking children off site? Will more staff have to be employed to provide adequate staff to child ratios?
- A7 It will provide a challenge. Not all PE has to be done in the sports field; some can be done in the hall, but competitive sports will be taught off site. Discussions are underway to provide a workable solution.
- Q8 Could the land leased to the church be used?
- A8 We don't know at this stage but we are looking into it.
- Q9 What about the field at the back of the school?
- A9 This is triangular, and not big enough for KS2 PE.
- Q10 Danetree is converting first (2016). This seems a tight timescale – will it be up and running on time?
- A10 Enabling works can be done in advance (Spring 2016) on the SCC site next door (e.g. demolition of existing buildings). An option is to have a new building pre-fabricated off site and assembled quickly and completed on site. There will be a tight timetable, but also pressure to deliver within the timescale. We believe it is achievable and GLF's experience with other new schools has proven this.
- Q11 What was the reason for the delay?
- A11 Last year an informal consultation was conducted, but no statutory notices were published and the planning consultation was not undertaken. However the responses clearly indicated a positive interest in the proposal. The Ewell Grove project presented considerable planning issues, which we are hopeful have now been resolved. This is the formal consultation, and statutory notices have now been published. Therefore we are further advanced than last year.

Q12 What will happen if planning permission isn't obtained?

A12 The education argument is supported in principle by the SCC Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement and by the Leader of the Council. However, the Cabinet member will not make a final decision until she has seen the range of responses to the consultation. This is not a 'done deal'. Transport and traffic proposals will need to encourage traffic dispersal. It is likely that members of the planning committee will visit the sites (probably at drop-off and pick-up times to gauge the impact) to get a full picture of the proposal before coming to a decision; this will probably take place in September.

Q13 Must all three schools have the 'green light' for the proposal to proceed?

A13 Yes.

Q14 Will we have the opportunity to discuss parking problems at West Ewell, if there isn't going to be a planning consultation?

A14 There will be a planning consultation. Local residents will receive letters notifying them when the planning consultation opens. There will be a meeting at school with officers attending. It will probably take place in September (after schools have returned from their summer holidays) and will be arranged by the project manager. Typically these type of meetings take place between 3.30-7pm.

Q15 As the schools expand there will be an actual increase in pupils, this will surely increase the number of cars dropping off and picking up at school?

A15 As students get older and move up the school some will eventually walk to school on their own, and parents are more likely to have a single school drop off/pick up; so numbers on the road should reduce. Also some pupils will have siblings at the same school so this will reduce the number of journeys.

Q16 Where will the new building be located in relation to the existing Danetree site?

A16 As you are facing the front of the school, it will be on the right hand site, at the north of the site. The existing structures house a team that maintains and refurbishes school gymnastics equipment; this facility will be re-located elsewhere on the site and will remain separate and segregated from the school.

Q17 Does Danetree accept children from other schools?

A17 A handful of children every year move to Danetree from The Mead, Ewell grove and Wallace Fields.

Q18 My son attends West Ewell and my daughter attends Danetree. Will drop off

and pick up times be staggered?

A18 Yes, the schools will discuss this amongst themselves.

Q19 Who will be responsible for the building work, given the delays that arose at West Ewell during their last build programme?

A19 Surrey County Council will be responsible. The job will be tendered through our framework. For their previous project West Ewell requested that they manage the project themselves, but Surrey County Council stepped in when there were delivery issues. This was not the fault of the school.

Q20 How will the building programme be funded?

A20 By SCC. The government only provides roughly half the funding Surrey requires (based on the increases in birth rate and need to provide more school places). Over a five year period 2014-2019, SCC plans to deliver a £255 million school expansion programme, of which approximately £100 million has been funded by the government. The remainder of the cost is provided by borrowing (and includes interest repayments which come from the council tax); it is therefore essential that we don't borrow until it is needed. 300,000 school places have been delivered in the last 3 years. The primary expansion programme is now coming to an end in Epsom and Ewell, but the children from the baby boom are now reaching secondary school, so there will be a similar secondary expansion required over the next 5 years.

Q21 Where will the secondary expansion take place?

A21 Of the four Epsom & Ewell secondary schools, Epsom & Ewell High, Blenheim and Rosebery have spare capacity at present. This is only the case up to 2019. At this time a phased expansion is proposed at Epsom & Ewell High School, taking it up to 10FE in due course.

Q22 Was Riverview not considered for expansion (1FE, 'Good' Ofsted)?

A22 Riverview was considered and invited to expand to a 2FE primary. However the school declined this option. It is a voluntary aided (VA) school, and the church owns the land and buildings.

Q23 What will happen if Epsom & Ewell High sells off its playing fields – won't more families need more school places?

A23 We don't know at this stage. The site won't stand a very large development We are keeping an eye on it but nothing has yet been decided.

Q24 What about the NESCOL site, and Old Schools Lane? The land has been sold, and applications are in. Are these numbers included?

A24 When permission is granted by the local planning authority, the numbers are included in our forecasting software system.

