

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 2017/18 there is a 0 PAN in Danetree – will this remain if there is demand for places?
- A1 There is currently a 0 PAN, but if there is sufficient interest we might consider a 1FE cohort for Reception in 2017/18. Place planning forecasts currently indicate a shortage of 25 places, so this option might be discussed with Danetree, and go ahead with their agreement.
- 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 in Reception is not linked to attending the nursery.
- 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 We can't provide a turning circle. It is the job of Surrey County Council property team to undertake planning, and they will consider traffic and transport. For example, we have analysed current pupil data, and 0.7 miles is the furthest distance that families live from Ewell Grove – so the majority of families should be able to walk to school. If any objections are raised, mitigation will be addressed in the planning phase - otherwise permission will not be granted.
- Q5 Will a planning consultation be conducted at West Ewell?

- A5 There is no need for planning at West Ewell, as the work will entail internal modifications, and no actual 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 a full sports pitch. West Ewell is investigating using facilities at Epsom & Ewell High School. Ewell Grove is 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; much can be done in the hall, and there is a swimming pool on site. Discussions are underway to provide a workable solution.
- Q8 Could the land leased to the church be used?
- A8 We don't know.
- Q9 What about the field at the back of the school?
- A9 This is triangular, and not big enough for upper 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). Much of the building will be pre-fabricated off site, and craned on. There will be a tight timetable, but also pressure to deliver within the timescale, as we have already lost time.
- Q11 What was the reason for the delay?
- A11 Last year an informal consultation was conducted, but no notices were published and the planning consultation was not undertaken. However the responses clearly indicated a positive interest in the proposal. Ewell Grove hit 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 has been agreed by the SCC elected Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement and by the Leader of SCC. Transport and traffic proposals will need to ensure that traffic is dispersed. If consent isn't obtained, the planning officer will make recommendations, and

members of the planning committee will visit the site (probably at drop-off and pick-up times to gauge the impact) – 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 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 gone back) and will be arranged by the project manager. Typically meetings take place between 3.30-7pm.

Q15 In 2018 there will be an actual increase in pupils – 90 or 60 pupils – this will surely increase the number of cars dropping off and picking up at school?

A15 Junior children, as they get older and move up the school, 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.

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

A16 As you are looking at 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 refurbishes school gymnastics equipment; this facility will be re-located.

Q17 Does Danetree accept children from other schools?

A17 A handful of children every year move to Danetree from The Mead and Wallace Fields. There is potential for Danetree to continue to accept these children, and Ewell Grove could drop their extra 10 places PAN.

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 go out to tender. In the past, West Ewell requested that they manage the project themselves, but Surrey County Council stepped in when there were delivery issues.

Q20 How will the building programme be funded?

- A20 The government provides roughly half the funding (based on the increases in birth rate and need to provide more school places). During the last five years, SCC has delivered a £255 million school expansion programme, of which approximately £100 million was funded by the government. The remainder of the cost is provided by council tax and borrowing (which is paid by 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 is now coming to an end, but the children from the baby boom are now reaching secondary school, so there will be a similar secondary expansion.
- 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. A phased expansion will be implemented at Epsom & Ewell High, taking it up to 10FE from 2019.
- 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 said, "No". 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 – approximately 100 houses, which should yield 20-25 pupils. We are keeping an eye on it!
- Q24 What about the NESLOT 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.