

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)

DATE: 2 September 2013

LEAD OFFICER: Melanie Harris Schools Commissioning Officer NE Surrey

SUBJECT: School Places and Admissions issues in Elmbridge

DIVISION: Claygate and Oxshott, Cobham, East Molesey and Esher, Hersham, West Molesey, The Dittons, Walton, Walton South and Oatlands, Weybridge



<p><b><u>SUMMARY OF ISSUE:</u></b></p> <p>Annual report to Members on school place planning strategy for Elmbridge Borough; comprising of analysis of the sufficiency of primary and secondary school places and associated admissions issues. The report also includes a summary of the financial and legal context of school place planning in Surrey and a brief explanation of how we use forecast data in our work. <b>This report is for information only.</b></p>
<p><b><u>RECOMMENDATIONS:</u></b></p> <p><b>The Local Committee (Elmbridge) is asked to note :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The legal and financial context and constraints on the County Council that impinge on this area of service</li> <li>(ii) The immediate and medium term strategy for resolving place planning and admissions issues as set out in this report</li> <li>(iii) The longer term strategy for the supply of school places based on forecast data</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:</u></b></p> <p>Surrey County Council (SCC) has a legal duty to ensure there are sufficient school places across the county and within a local area as far as possible. SCC also has a role in the co-ordination of all admissions to schools. When allocating a child a school place SCC must take into consideration the admissions policy and parental preference. Although it is not required in law to offer a preferred school, it always tries to do so wherever possible. SCC must also ensure that the money it spends on supplying school places represents good value. In this way the actions it proposes to take will have benefits for the residents of Surrey.</p>

## **1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

- 1.1 SCC has a duty to ensure that sufficient school places are available for children whose parents wish them to be educated in the public sector. However not all publicly funded school places are now financially maintained by the County Council. Academies and Free Schools are beginning to appear within the public education system and, while places at these schools are free of charge and counted within the overall SCC capacity, the Governing Body of these establishments sets the Admissions policy and criteria and the places are directly funded by The Education Funding Agency (EFA). Voluntary Aided and Foundation Schools also set their own admissions criteria although places at these schools are formula funded by SCC.
- 1.2 Approximately 13,000 Reception pupils (4 and 5 year olds) start school each year in Surrey. In Elmbridge we are expecting approximately 1590 new pupils in Reception classes across the borough in September 2013. 1264 pupils will move into Year 3 (junior transition) and 864 into Year 7, the first year of secondary school.
- 1.3 The recession has had an impact on the numbers of pupils being educated within the public maintained sector and it appears that fewer parents are opting for independent education although we have no hard data on this. However in all parts of the Borough we have seen numbers of applications for places rising and this is especially the case in areas where we have high performing schools.
- 1.4 Births in Elmbridge increased by 28.9 % between 2002 and 2010 and the Borough plan indicates up to 3,375 new homes are to be built between 2011 and 2026. Consequently SCC is planning to provide more state school places where they are likely to be needed based on forecast data which is informed by birth records, borough housing strategy and historical trends. We have an ongoing dialogue with Elmbridge's Borough Planning Officers to facilitate our work.

## **2. SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING ANALYSIS:**

- 2.1 For September 2013 we received 1557 on time applications for Reception class places in Elmbridge. At the start of the year we had 1463 places available so have had to make additional provision in time for admission in September. We have therefore increased the number of school places by 3.75 forms of entry (3.75FE) by adding a mix of temporary and permanent classes. This means that some schools will permanently increase their intake and others will just have one extra class in that year group.
- 2.2 In order to meet the basic need for places in the longer term our forecast data indicates that we will need to increase the capacity in Weybridge by 1 FE (possibly by rebuilding Manby Lodge Infant School 2016); add at least 1FE into the Dittons and Weston Green area (the proposed expansion of Cranmere Primary School 2015 would give us 1 FE extra); expand Hurst Park Primary School (which adds another 1 FE 2015) by rebuilding it on a new site; and we will address the shortage of catholic primary places by expanding St Alban's RC Voluntary Aided Primary School in Molesey (2015). We can achieve this latter proposal because we have attracted additional

funding through a bidding process with the Department for Education on condition that this money is spent on this specific project.

- 2.3 Prior to the completion of these permanent schemes we will increase capacity locally, where there is a need, by adding a form of entry on a temporary basis to other schools (often referred to as a 'bulge' class).
- 2.4 So by 2016 in the primary sector we will have supplied another 4 FE. In addition the Cobham Free School is planning to open a second Reception class of 23 pupils. Our forecast data indicate a need for 1511 infant places by 2015 rising to around 1570 by 2020 (53 Reception classes). We are planning to supply at least 55 classes. There appears to be a continuing upward trend to the end of our forecasting period.
- 2.5 In terms of secondary places we are moving ahead with the expansion of Esher High School in 2015; this school has already increased by 1 FE by adding 'bulge' classes (overall this expansion represents an increase of 2 FE in the combined number of school places in the borough). We also plan to add 1FE to Heathside Secondary School in 2016 and Rydens Academy is to be rebuilt by its Trust to accommodate 8FE and with the capacity to expand further if required (an increase of 1 FE). Finally, Cobham Free School has received approval to open a secondary department which we understand will be 4 FE.
- 2.6 So altogether we have a strategy to meet the demand for places in secondary schools across the borough which should allow for a surplus of places to provide a 'cushion' up to 2020. Our forecast data indicates a maximum of 850 pupils in the Year 7 cohort of 2020 and once all these projects and expansions have been achieved we will have 1030 places available across the borough. (930 if we don't count the Cobham Free School places).

### **3. ADMISSIONS:**

- 3.1 The appendices at the end of this report indicate the Published Admissions Number (PAN) ie the number of places available in each year for each school in Elmbridge, along with the number of first preferences by parents for 2013 admissions from both within Surrey and out of county.
- 3.2 Although these figures show the number of first preferences for each school at the time of allocation, schools will also be oversubscribed by lower preferences which, as a result of the equal preference system are considered equally and not according to their ranking as preferences.
- 3.3 So the schools listed below, which appear as being under subscribed on the annexe, are now full for September 2013, either due to oversubscription by lower preferences or due to late applications/placements.

#### **3.4 Primary:**

Bell Farm Primary  
 Chandlers Field Primary  
 Cranmere Primary  
 Grovelands Infant

Long Ditton Infant  
Manby Lodge Infant  
Walton Oak Primary  
St Andrews CE Primary

**Junior:**  
Bell Farm Primary

#### **4. CONSULTATIONS:**

- 4.1 We will need to go out to public consultation before we seek permission to expand Manby Lodge Infant School. We will also need to open consultation on the expansion of St Alban's RC Primary School.
- 4.2 Similarly the expansion of Heathside will require a public consultation. All other projects have already either been consulted upon and/or obtained permission to go ahead.

#### **5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:**

- 5.1 With the exception of the expansion of Rydens Academy and the Cobham Free School all other projects mentioned above are funded by SCC and, as such, are listed within SCC's Capital programme and its medium term financial plan (MTFP).
- 5.2 The County Council has committed to spend approximately £260 million over the next 5 years on providing additional school places in Surrey. A large percentage is being spent on creating additional primary school places where there is a basic need. In Elmbridge we are planning to spend around £40 million pounds by the end of the MTFP in the primary sector alone.
- 5.3 Surrey receives a capital grant from central government each year; its two year settlement for 2013 -14 is £12 million per year. If we assume that this is the amount we are likely to receive each year over the remaining 5 years of the medium term financial plan then it is clear that there will be a funding gap of £190 million which the County Council will have to fill.
- 5.4 There is therefore significant pressure on the county council, and its School Commissioning Team, to ensure that over this huge programme every project is accurately costed and decisions about how to meet the basic need for places are financially prudent and represent best value.
- 5.5 In most planning areas this will mean adding a single form of entry onto an existing school, where possible. New schools will be considered if the basic need indicates more than a single form of entry is required in the primary sector but the availability and cost of land, coupled with planning restrictions in the Green Belt, make this solution less likely, especially in urban or semi-urban areas.

## **6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:**

6.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising out of the proposal. An Equality Impact Assessment was done when SCC adopted its Admissions arrangements. The increase in provision will be open to all applicants with the highest priority given to Looked After Children and pupils on the SEN register and/or those who would benefit from a statement of educational need, thus supporting provision for our most vulnerable children.

## **7. LOCALISM:**

7.1 By increasing the number of primary school places in specific planning areas where we have identified a basic need we aim to provide parents with the opportunity to place their children in a local school. By encouraging families, through individual school travel plans, to walk or cycle to school we aim to improve the traffic and parking situation for residents living near to schools and also help children become more self reliant and confident pedestrians.

## **8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	No significant implications arising from this report
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	Set out below.
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	Set out above in paragraph 6.1
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	Set out below.
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report

### 8.1 Sustainability implications

The County Council attaches great importance to being environmentally aware and wishes to show leadership in cutting carbon emissions and tackling climate change. In addition to School Travel Plans, (referred to in paragraph 7.1 above) which aim to reduce carbon emissions, the design brief for all building projects takes into account sustainability implications.

### 8.2 Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

See paragraph 6.1

### 8.3 Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications

All schools are required to have a robust Safeguarding Policy which is monitored by the designated Child Protection Lead Officer, is regularly reviewed by the governing body and is subject to OFSTED inspection. Site

access and security, both during building programmes and afterwards, is always considered and addressed in the planning and design of projects.

**9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

9.1 That the content of this report be noted by the Local Committee

**10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

10.1 No further action required from the Local Committee

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**Contact Officer:**

**Melanie Harris**

Schools Commissioning Officer NE Surrey Tel. 020 8541 9556

**Claire Potier** Head of School Admissions Tel. 01483 517689

**Consulted:**

N/a

**Annexes:**

Admissions data for September 2013 – supplied by The Admissions and Transport Team

**Appendix 1.**  
**Schools Offering Reception Class Places September 2013**

School	PAN	Surrey 1st Pref	Out County 1st Pref	Total 1st Pref
<b>Elmbridge</b>				
Ashley C of E (A) Primary School over 32	60	92	0	92
Bell Farm Primary School under 19	60	41	0	41
Burhill Community Infant School over 47	90	136	1	137
Cardinal Newman Catholic Primary School over 1	60	61	0	61
Chandlers Field Primary School under 15	60	45	0	45
Claygate Primary School over 7	60	62	5	67
Cobham Free School over 19	23	42	0	42
Cranmere Primary School under 11	60	49	0	49
Esher C of E (Aided) Primary School over 15	60	84	1	85
Grovelands Infant and Nursery School under 51	90	39	0	39
Hinchley Wood Primary School over 19	60	75	4	79
Hurst Park Primary School over 25	30	55	0	55
Long Ditton Infant and Nursery School under 17	60	37	6	43
Manby Lodge Infant School under 18	60	42	0	42
Oatlands School over 31	90	119	2	121
St Albans Catholic Primary School	30	30	0	30
St Andrew's C of E Primary School under 12	52	40	0	40
St Charles Borromeo Catholic Primary School over 11	30	41	0	41
St James C of E Primary School Weybridge over 21	60	81	0	81
St Matthew's CE (A) Infant School under 13	30	17	0	17
St Paul's Catholic Primary School over 10	60	69	1	70
Thames Ditton Infant School over 24	90	109	5	114
The Orchard School over 26	90	113	3	116
The Royal Kent C of E Primary School over 4	30	33	1	34
Walton Oak School under 17	60	43	0	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>1455</b>	<b>1555</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1584</b>

**Appendix 2.**  
**Schools Offering Junior Places September 2013**

School	PAN	Surrey 1st Pref	Out County 1st Pref	Total 1st Pref
<b>Elmbridge</b>				
Ashley C of E (A) Primary School	0	9	0	9
Bell Farm Primary School under 49	120	71	0	71
Cardinal Newman Catholic Primary School	0	3	0	3
Chandlers Field Primary School	0	0	0	0
Claygate Primary School	0	0	0	0
Cleves School (Academy) over 72	150	222	0	222
Cranmere Primary School	0	1	0	1
Esher C of E (Aided) Primary School	0	2	0	2
Hinchley Wood Primary School	0	3	1	4
Hurst Park Primary School	0	1	0	1
Long Ditton St Mary's C of E (Aided) School under 11	45	27	7	34
St Albans Catholic Primary School	0	2	0	2
St Andrew's C of E Primary School under 6	8	2	0	2
St Charles Borromeo Catholic Primary School	0	1	0	1
St James C of E Primary School Weybridge	0	25	0	25
St Lawrence C of E (A) Junior School	90	91	0	91
St Paul's Catholic Primary School	0	0	0	0
Thames Ditton Junior School over 7	120	120	7	127
The Royal Kent C of E Primary School over 3	2	5	0	5
Walton Oak School	0	3	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>603</b>



**Appendix 3**  
**Secondary Schools**

School	PAN	Surrey 1st Pref	OC 1st Pref	Total 1st Pref
<b>Elmbridge</b>				
Esher Church of England High School over 84	210	291	3	294
Heathside School over 77	210	287	0	287
Hinchley Wood School (Academy) over 86	210	249	47	296
Rydens Enterprise School (Academy) under 86	210	124	0	124
<b>Total</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>1001</b>

## Appendix 4

Reception	PAN	Total number of first preference offers	Total number of other preference offers	Total number of places offered
Ashley C of E (A) Primary School	60	60	0	60
*Bell Farm Primary School	60	33	28	61
Burhill Community Infant School	90	89	1	90
Cardinal Newman Catholic Primary School	60	56	4	60
Chandlers Field Primary School	60	45	8	60
**Claygate Primary School	60	66	24	90
Cobham Free School	23	22	1	23
Cranmere Primary School	60	44	16	60
Esher C of E (Aided) Primary School	60	60	0	60
*Grovelands Infant and Nursery School	90	39	28	98
**Hinchley Wood Primary School	60	72	17	90
**Hurst Park Primary School	30	48	12	60
Long Ditton Infant and Nursery School	60	41	19	60
**Manby Lodge Infant School	60	39	50	90
Oatlands School	90	88	2	90
St Albans Catholic Primary School	30	26	4	30
**St Andrew's C of E Primary School	52	40	6	60
St Charles Borromeo Catholic Primary School	30	30	0	30
St James C of E Primary School Weybridge	60	58	2	60
St Matthew's CE (A) Infant School	30	17	6	26
*St Paul's Catholic Primary School	60	61	0	61
Thames Ditton Infant School	90	88	1	90
The Orchard School	90	85	5	90
The Royal Kent C of E Primary School	30	2	30	30
*Walton Oak School	60	8	60	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>1455</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>1589</b>

## Appendix 5

<b>Junior</b>	<b>PAN</b>	<b>Total number of first preference offers</b>	<b>Total number of other preference offers</b>	<b>Total number of places offered</b>
*Bell Farm Primary School	71	71	43	128
Cleves School (Academy)	146	146	1	150
Cranmere Primary School	1	1	1	7
Long Ditton St Mary's C of E (Aided) Junior School	27	34	4	40
*St Andrew's C of E Primary School	2	2	3	18
**St James C of E Primary School Weybridge	13	13	20	33
St Lawrence C of E (A) Junior School	85	85	4	90
Thames Ditton Junior School	114	119	0	120
The Royal Kent C of E Primary School	1	1	0	2
Walton Oak School	3	3	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>592</b>

**Appendix 6**

<b>Secondary</b>	<b>PAN</b>	<b>Total number of first preference offers</b>	<b>Total number of other preference offers</b>	<b>Total number of places offered</b>
<b>Elmbridge</b>				
Esher Church of England High School	<b>210</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>210</b>
Heathside School	<b>210</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>210</b>
*Hinchley Wood School & Sixth Form Centre	<b>210</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>222</b>
*Rydens Enterprise School & Sixth Form College	<b>210</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>297</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>939</b>

\*Schools intending to drop back to PAN

\*\*Schools intending to stick to PAN