

CABINET MEMBER FOR PROPERTY AND WASTE**PROCEDURAL MATTERS****Item 2(b): Public Questions****Question (1): Jessica Higton**

How can SCC justify moving the only junior school in Reigate to a site where the access point into the school is not in Reigate thereby leaving Reigate with no Junior school and making the commute from the feeder school (Holmesdale) to the junior school 1.8 miles?

Reply:

Woodhatch Place is situated in Reigate. Woodhatch Place and the new school location is 0.8 miles from the existing Priory Park site. Surrey County Council carried out a robust appraisal to compare different options to meet the educational need for a new school building. In doing so, we have balanced technical, environmental, programme and cost considerations.

Woodhatch Place was the only site that met all the criteria required to deliver a 600-place junior school building as well as outdoor school spaces. It is the only site that is available within a reasonable time frame, is at least five acres in size and has the fewest planning constraints.

Other schools in the area with junior provision include Reigate Parish, Wray Common and St John's.

Question (2): Samantha Tesfamariam

I live in North Reigate and have two young children. Myself and my husband both work full time in London and are required to commute from Reigate train station early in the morning. What joint after school care (located in North Reigate) will be provided for both Holmesdale and the new Junior school located at Woodhatch? And how will children be transported to the new school location?

For context - at present there are breakfast and after school clubs that serve both schools and currently walk children to school. The walk to the new site will be too far for children. In an ideal world there would be a breakfast club and after school club for both Holmesdale and Reigate Priory Junior which both children can attend and then a school bus would then take the oldest to the Reigate Priory Junior site (and back from after school care). Commuting to both locations by foot or by car is not an option for working parents given we have to get both children to school, and then back in time for an 8am train.

Reply:

We are working with Reigate Priory Junior School and feeder schools to provide sufficient after school care / activity opportunities that enable pick up and drop off between the sites. There will also be a school Travel Plan which will encourage sustainable modes of transport to and from the school by pupils and staff. Woodhatch Place and the new school location is 0.8 miles from the existing Priory Park site. A child's eligibility for free school transport is subject to specific criteria, which will be reviewed on an individual basis.

Question (3): Fiona Morley

Is Surrey County Council using the PSBP2 funding to build the new school?

Reply:

Yes.

Question (4): Kirsty Glynn

It has been mentioned many times during the public meetings and questions and answers, that 24 sites were considered for the new Priory Site, including Wray Park. But still, after many enquires, why have the 24 sites not been listed and communicated?

Reply:

A detailed site search document will be part of the planning submission and will include the analysis of all the identified sites. This document will be available to view once a planning application has been submitted and validated. The purpose of the public consultation meetings is to obtain feedback on the proposal. The alternative site search document is required for planning purposes to demonstrate the chosen site's suitability.

Additional information is also available via the FAQs on the SCC 'Plans for Reigate Priory Junior School' web page. [Plans for Reigate Priory Junior School - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](http://surreycc.gov.uk)

Question (5): Sharon Sensier

The Council states *"Our policy position is to not allow for the provision of short stay parking for drop-off or collection for education land use classes as this acts as a disincentive to travelling by non-car modes."* The following is your policy but I would ask you to consider the practicality of this policy in regards to the below.

Parents/Carers may want to walk to school but often it is not possible. They often do a mixture of walking and car drop off during the week. This can be due to the following reasons:

- a. To facilitate parents/carers getting to work
- b. To facilitate multiple school drop offs (not just infant but senior schools too – North Reigate students are offered schools in Merstham and Redhill, not Reigate School)
- c. To facilitate driving the children to after school-activities
- d. To have a choice!

Questions:

- I. Regardless of the Council policy, parents will drive if they need to. How does the Woodhatch site proposal account for the parking that will be needed to accommodate parents who need to use a car for drop off or pick up?
- II. Have you asked parents how many of them do a mixture of driving and walking to school?

Reply:

- i. Our first public consultation was designed to ensure that everyone was aware of the key planning policies that we need to consider. However, we are currently going through a data collection exercise in terms of school travel demand, local traffic conditions and highway safety which are informing further discussions with the highway authority regarding the interpretation of local parking standards and associated on-site parking provision.
- ii. We are currently gathering data and conducting catchment analysis to establish the change in mode share and travel patterns. We will use this data to identify opportunities to minimise the number of car trips.

Question (6): Jonathan Higton

On the basis that over 80% of the current pupils at Reigate Priory School live in Reigate, whilst 20% live elsewhere, why are Surrey County Council proposing to exclude 80% of the geographically relevant children for a school? For completeness, this move means Reigate no longer has a junior school.

Reply:

The new school plans do not propose to 'exclude 80% of the geographically relevant children for a school' but instead provide high quality teaching accommodation to the latest DfE design standards.

Woodhatch Place and the new school location is 0.8 miles from the existing Priory Park site, and therefore in Reigate. To ensure current pupil places are not affected, for 2024 and beyond, it is currently Surrey County Council's intention to continue with the same admissions criteria. These arrangements must be determined and confirmed every year, in line with DfE Home-to-school travel and transport statutory guidance. If Surrey County Council did have plans to change the admissions criteria, we would need to run an additional consultation with the community, as per the same guidance.

Other schools in the area with junior provision include Reigate Parish, Wray Common and St John's.

Natalie Bramhall
Cabinet Member for Property and Waste
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