

St Nicholas School – Engagement Meeting 14th March 2017 18:00hrs

Aim of meeting -

to discuss the principle of a further expansion at St Nicholas School.

Attendees

Headteacher: Nick Dry

Croydon Council: Jennifer Wade (JW); Deborah Johnson (DJ), Judith Lunnon (JL), Ayo Olowolagba (AO), Joan Dsouza (JD)

In attendance

12 residents

2 school governors

The head teacher made the introductions:

JW gave a presentation on the expansion proposal for St Nicholas' School - to increase by a further form of entry following the initial proposal last year to increase by only one form of entry JW confirmed that the engagement meeting was being held to discuss the principle of expansion only– there will be further opportunity to explore what the physical expansion would look like, if the decision to expand is made. It was also explained that a cabinet decision regarding this proposal would be made on 2 May. It was confirmed that 29 March was the end of the consultation period.

Question and Answer session

Q. What is the proposal?

A. We propose to have additional forms of entry. Last year's proposal was for an additional one form of entry but after further discussion regarding the site, it was decided to put forward proposals for a further entry expansion.

Q. What is the build going to look like?

A. Options are still being considered. We need to consider the best build for St Nicholas School and whether there are any areas that are not fit for purpose. Modifications and refurbishment of the current buildings are a possibility. The parking area will also need to be carefully considered. In the event that a decision is made for further expansion, there would be an exhibition once the options have been finalised where everyone can offer feedback. This meeting is being held to discuss the principle of further expansion.

Q. There are already issues regarding parking. Will this proposal not make parking worse?

A. We will carefully consider parking space taking into consideration all options.

Q. What about the field? Could that be used for permanent parking?

A. It is highly unlikely that town planners would allow the field to be used permanently. However, it may be used temporarily while the building works are taking place.

Q. There are concerns over parking around the bend at the top of the hill which is preventing residents from parking.

A. We understand these are issues for residents. Parking space will be carefully considered during the design phase. While building works are underway, there will be some interim parking arrangements. These are yet to be discussed.

Q. The buses arrive early to pick the children up in the afternoons – sometimes at 2pm – causing much congestion. This will get worse with the expansion. Who is responsible for the buses? Can they be asked not to arrive too early?

A. DJ to look into this and see if buses can arrive on time and not too early.

ND There is a lot of traffic due to Beaumont School being adjacent to St Nicholas, causing congestion along Old Lodge Lane. This will all need to be considered.

Q. Will the school require additional teachers and additional car space?

A. ND There will be a 40% increase in pupils and equally a 40% increase in staff.

JW. If the proposal is agreed, the first increase will start in 2018 and will be incremental in line with staff recruitment.

ND. Full time staff park in the school car park and part time visitors (such as therapists) park on the street.

Q. Why do some children arrive at school on the school bus while others travel by private taxi?

A. The children who use taxis arrive from other boroughs so it would not be practical to pick them up by the school bus. A few pupils cannot cope with travelling on a bus with a lot of children and need a taxi.

ND. Children living more than two miles from the school are entitled to taxis. Parents can take up this offer although they are all encouraged to use the school bus. Those children with severe autism use a taxi.

Q. The staff park outside residents' homes making it difficult for residents to park. The expansion will make this worse.

A. ND. These cars are legally parked. The full time staff use the car park. The school made a request to the council for a 20mph zone but was refused. There is an option of creating sufficient space for all the buses to park in the car park, which will alleviate the current problem.

Q. How long will the building take to complete?

A. AO. The build usually takes 52 weeks but rain etc can delay the build a little. The new block will be system built and placed on site. The actual build will not take place on site so noise and disruption kept to a minimum. Major works will take place during school holidays.

Q. Is LBC aware that there is another planning application on Reedham Drive for a four storey block of flats? This will create more pressure on parking.

A. JW. This application for less than 100 units should not impact upon the build.

JW confirmed consultation period ended on 29th March and the meeting ended at 19:00hrs

Next Steps:

Consideration of consultation feedback deadline 29 March

Application to expand school submitted to cabinet for approval on 2nd May