

Proposal to expand West Hove Junior School Public Meeting Notes

Meeting date 17th June 2013 at 19.00hrs

Attendees Michael Nix, Gillian Churchill,
Head Teacher, Senior staff and Chair of Governors West
Hove Junior School
Head Teacher, Senior staff, and some Governors West
Hove Infant School
Councillor Sue Shanks
Approx 25 members of the public

Michael Nix gave introductions and a synopsis outlining the process and why the LA was making the proposal. The proposal is to expand West Hove Junior School by four forms of entry by making use of the former police station site in Holland Road Hove. The proposal will link the former police station site with the Connaught Road Annexe for the purposes of school admissions. MN outlined the admission priorities and explained the purpose of linking the two schools.

MN also stated that this is a genuine consultation, no decision has yet been made and that the final decision will be made by elected members not by officers. All responses will be seen by members before the decision is made. The decision is made on balance bearing in mind the responses to the consultation and the need to provide additional school places. The decision that the Children and Young People Committee will be asked to make will be whether or not to proceed to the next stage of the process which would be to publish a statutory notice.

If the decision is to proceed to the next stage this will be the final chance for people to make their views known and any representations to the statutory notice will also be reported to the Children and Young People Committee for decision on October 14th 2013.

MN stated that the governors of West Hove Junior School have agreed in principle to the proposal as they recognise the need for additional places. The governors will finalise their views at the end of the consultation period.

The floor was then opened to questions

Could the Cardinal Newman playing field be used for games by pupils attending the school on the former police station site?

The school could approach Cardinal Newman on this matter but the field is already very well used and the distance between the two sites is quite considerable.

When the children start in 2014 which floor will they be on?

There has been no decision about this at the present time. All building work will be complete by then so it will be for the school to decide how to organise themselves within the space.

Will the decision on 14th October 2013 be the final decision?

Yes.

Is there a trigger for the decision to be 'called in' in terms of the number of objections received?

The legislation does not include a trigger point in terms of an automatic referral for a review of the decision. The decision maker (in this instance this will be the CYP committee) has to take all matters into consideration when making the decision and obviously this would include any objections but these would need to be weighed against the need for additional places.

Could the PTA have regular updates on the building project?

Yes of course.

Could the PTA be involved in finer points of the design?

The design is well progressed and a planning application has been submitted. However the head teacher of West Hove Junior School said that she was happy for the Parents Council to be involved in the process, she said that she was also happy for the Parents Council to include parents of pupils at the Connaught at the present time.

Could consideration be given to how parents with children at both the Connaught and the former police station will get between sites at the beginning end of the school day such as staggered start and finish times etc?

Yes, it is understood by both schools that communication is key to this issue.

How do the existing staff at West Hove Junior School feel about the proposal?

All the senior staff at West Hove Junior School are very excited by this proposal and the opportunities it presents for the school and the pupils.

Will the building proposal for the former police station include solar thermal or solar pv provision?

These will be considered but there can be no promises at this stage, it will depend on the budget situation.

Will the proposal for the former police station include a roof top play space?

No this would be cost prohibitive and cannot be justified.

Will there be sports teams at the former police station site

Yes, the provision will as far as possible mirror the provision at the current site of West Hove Junior School. It is important to the school that the philosophy and ethos of the two sites are as far as possible identical.

Have there been many objections to the proposal?

None have been seen to date. All representations received during the consultation period will be reported to the decision maker. It is important therefore that any representation be it negative or positive is made so that a properly informed decision can be reached.

What will happen when the bulge moves into secondary school?

That is being considered and all options will be considered.

Meeting closed at 20.20hrs

