

Community Learning MINUTES



Website www.yourtestvalley.com

Team:	TestValleyCommunityLearningPartnership– Special Meeting: Consultation on Review of Primary Education in the NorthandEastofAndoverSchoolsReview		
Date:	21 st March2006	Copiesto:	AsListed
Venue:	HarrowWayCommunitySchool,10-12pm		

Present		
JanLefley (RomseySchool-Chair)	TerriSandison(UofW)	CliveGraham(Harrow WayCommunitySchool)
AnneHughes (HeadteacherKnights EnhamJuniorSchool)	SandraHunter (HeadteacherKnights EnhamInfantSchool)	JoyceJohnson (HeadteacherShepherds SpringJuniorSchool)
TrishaCook(Headteacher ShepherdsSpringInfant School)		JeanLannie(Andover FamilyLearning)
DavidGleave (TVBC–Co-ordinator)		
Apologies		
TonyMcGovern, (MountbattenSchool)	MattAtkinson (CrickladeCollege)	SteveEvatt (JohnHansonSchool)
MarionWoods(Test ValleyPartnership)	RoyLawton (Connexions)	WendyMorrish (TestValleySchool)
MaryWhitworth (LearningLinks)	GerryPrice(HCC, School ImprovementOfficer, WesternHampshire)	CouncillorMrsPatWest
SandyCraig(HarrowWay CommunitySchool)	TimKeighley (CrickladeCollege)	SueWilkes (MidHantsPCT)

Agenda		
1.	Apologies	Seeabove
2.	Welcome&Introductionsfollowedbydiscussions	

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Summarised notes of the discussion and action points

Welcome & Introductions

JL welcomed the headteachers to this special meeting on the schools closure consultation and led the introductions. DG described the role and membership of the Test Valley Partnership and, in particular, the role of the Education and Learning action group in responding to Hampshire County Council's consultation.

Following this meeting the action group would seek further information from the LEA before formulating its response.

It was noted that the current consultation raised particularly sensitive issues, in that:-

- the schools are in Alamein ward which is the Borough's most deprived ward
- education/skills/training is particularly prominent in the nature of that deprivation (eg in bottom 6% of wards in England in that "domain" of deprivation).
- The Turnaround Project is the Test Valley Partnership flagship project. It is concerned with improving the wellbeing and circumstances of residents in Alamein ward based on the objective background information and residents expressed views.

TC mentioned the informal consultation in October 2005 followed by a more formal consultation by HCC in January 2006 of the 4 schools under threat.

A number of themes emerged from the discussion.

1. Why are two primary schools needed to serve the East Anton Major Development Area (MDA)

The headteachers held the impression that originally only one primary school plus a new secondary school was needed to serve the MDA but now that had changed to two – which clearly put the existing schools under greater pressure.

Extract from: The Test Valley Borough Local Plan Review Revised Deposit Draft and Proposed Modifications (agreed on 14 March 2006):

allocates a site at East Anton for a new 3 Form Entry Primary School;

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safeguards land for a 2 Form Entry Primary School and secondary school to serve 2,500 dwellings; and

allocates a site for a Primary School at Picket Twenty to serve the 1,200 dwellings proposed.

See Annex 1 for a list of facilities to be provided as part of the MDA.

HCC response: The projected primary numbers lie between 600-800. It is proposed to build one 2 Form school (420 places) initially; this situation will then be kept under review. Even with new pupils generated at East Anton, there will be no demand for a fourth Andover secondary school.

2. The provision of new schools to serve a new community at East Anton is inconsistent and unfair if it is at the expense of the established but disadvantaged and vulnerable communities of King Arthur's Way or Cricketer's Ways.

The provision of new schools at the expense of existing ones will de-stabilise communities which have taken three generations to mature; it has taken the KE and SS schools along with the school to close. a time to build up trust among parents which will be lost if the school has to close.

HCC response: The provision of a new school at East Anton is entirely consistent with what happened when Roman Way, Knights Enham and Shepherds Springs schools were set up to serve their own communities.

3. Disputed Information on surplus places

Both schools reported that they had detailed information that the existing and future numbers on roll are higher than HCC report – and the reason for that is the justification for closure based on surplus places – is incorrect.

KE Junior School is full. KE Infant School is full and 48 pupils from the KE Nursery, which is also full, are known to want to go up to the Infant School.

Headteachers to provide alternative figures.

HCC response: KE Junior is full. KE Infant has 94 pupils (January 2006 NOR) for 135 places. At the beginning of this term schools will be asked to provide the most up to date estimate of the numbers of new children expected in September and these will be built into additional forecasts to go with the 'official' projections based on January figures, as per DfES requirements.

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4. The barriers between the two communities living is attitudinal as well as physical; any schools same reaching consequences.

either side of the Newbury Road
Integration will create longer

The strong sense of territoriality between residents living in Newbury Road will result in tensions and antagonism among children. Roman Way residents attend both KE and SS

gone states east and west of
Newbury Road as well as their schools.

Older children who take youngersiblings to school and they will not cross the Newbury Road: they will either play "carriage way" or will be truant. The prospect of having to parent with children and buggy in the dark, cold and windy one.

Children go to both schools simply
"chicken" crossing the dual
cross the pedestrian bridge for a
time weather will not be an attractive

HCC response: Noted. This has been made clear in consultations.

5. Children's Centres

The school heads would rather that the proposed CC got space at either school. The CC are inadequately funded and after the 2 or 3 years subsidy local parents will be able to pay

for East Anton than take precious
money and it is very doubtful that after
paying the market rate for childcare.

Two "full-core" CCs have to be up and running by end of Council's progress towards identifying suitable locations in Alamein and St. Mary's wards was also questioned.

from March 2008 and the County
Council in Alamein and St. Mary's wards

HCC response: Noted.

6. Timing

Schools closure: Cabinet decision
final decision
actual closure 1 year
after Cabinet decision

July 2006
late 2006/early 2007

July 2007

New school at SS/KE

?

New houses on East Anton
previous assumption

2006/07

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current assumption in the light of Local Plan Inspectors' opposition to Picket Twenty etc and need for Proposed Modifications etc.

2007/08 (50-100 dwellings)

Newschool on East Anton ??

HCC response: We are keeping in close touch with TVBC re the timing of the development.

7. Criticism in the consultation booklet about schools standards is misplaced

KE & SS schools should be judged on the value they add for their pupils and judged against their family of similar schools. 50% of KE pupils are SEN and SS Infant School has managed to reduce its SEN proportion from 80% to 55%.

Both schools are doing a lot on the developmental aspects of children's learning. SS Infant School has for example made significant achievements in terms of improving attendance, reducing exclusions, reducing incidents of violent behaviour on site etc. through its Nurturing group. KE is the County leader in the "Rights, Respects and Responsibilities."

It is not worthy that HCC has included Shepherds Spring Junior School as one of the 12 schools in the Flagship Initiative "Better Chances, Better Lives" in the Hampshire Local Area Agreement. *"The purpose of the project is to look at the needs of the pupils in these schools holistically. This starts with the premise that a child who is struggling to achieve academically may well be disadvantaged in other ways – health, safety, economic deprivation, socially – which are then causing a barrier to full engagement within the classroom."*

HCC response: This should be raised with the Strategic School Improvement Manager. The success of the RRR programme is acknowledged.

8. Catchment Areas

Part of King Arthur's Way falls into KE catchment and part into SS.

Why can't the SS catchment be extended to cover the first phase of houses on East Anton?

HCC response: Extending the SS catchment to include the first phase of the East Anton houses, particularly if they are to the north of the development, is unlikely to have much effect if places are available at Roman Way.

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9. Practical difficulties of extending the remaining school

While additional classrooms can be provided other facilities cannot (e.g. hall, kitchens (SS school serves 4 other schools)).

HCC response: Architects are looking into structural issues.

10. Other scenarios

Why didn't the consultation cover the possibility of:-

- amalgamating the infant and junior schools to create primary schools (as at Romsey)? There is more space on the SS site to do this than perhaps KE.
- re-locating SS to East Anton so that it can pick up both existing catchment and, in time, that of the first phase of houses on East Anton.

HCC response: The initial consultation at Romsey didn't even envisage an amalgamated school. The decision came out of the consultation process. The feasibility of moving SS to East Anton is being looked at along with other suggestions.

11. The Consultation process may be self-defeating

Uncertainty created by the threat of closure is already deterring parents from sending their children to the schools. It is deterring both schools from engaging in the consultation over the implementation of Extended Schools.

HCC response: It is accepted the consultations cause anxiety and uncertainty. There are statutory timescales which must be respected, however.

12. Costs of disruption

KE has the only maintained nursery in Andover (upto 5 free places). If KE closes there will be a massive disruption to pre and school attendance. More generally, if it takes 30 years to create communities in the former overspill estates (3 generations) then those communities, based around their primary schools will be severely disrupted.

HCC response: This issue has been clearly signalled during the consultation period.

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Signed:		Date:	
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Annex 1.

116 Test Valley Borough Local Plan Review: Revised Deposit Draft (January 2004) CHAPTER 10 – PROPOSALS FOR ANDOVER

AND01.4: RECREATIONAL FACILITIES EAST OF FICKNIELD WAY

Open space will be provided in association with the proposed housing development in accordance with Policy ESN21 including:

- a) a new sports ground, pavilion, play area and associated parking on the northern boundary;
- b) an area of parkland on the eastern boundary in addition to the woodland planting (see Policy AND01.3);
- c) informal recreation areas (including 2 multi-use games areas);
- d) children's play spaces;
- e) an indoor sports facility of approximately 1000 square metres; and
- f) provision of a swimming pool.

10.3.6. The proposals will provide for a range of recreation activities within the development. In addition to the formal outdoor provision, which will be provided in a single location, a number of informal areas are proposed. They should be dispersed throughout the development to provide recreation opportunities easily accessible to the areas of housing. The proposed swimming pool and indoor hall will provide the new residents with local facilities, which will compliment the town's existing indoor leisure centre.

AND01.5: COMMUNITY FACILITIES EAST OF FICKNIELD WAY

Community facilities will be provided in association with the proposed housing development including:

- a) a community hall of approximately 400 square metres together with parking;
- b) a 3 Form Entry Primary School, on approximately 2.5 hectares;
- c) a local centre of approximately 3 hectares, south of Smanne Hill Road, to include; a health centre of approximately 400 square metres, a place of worship, a day nursery, retail provision of approximately 2,000 square metres, a public house and employment uses;
- d) a site for a local centre of approximately 1 hectare, in the northern part of the site, to include retail floor space of approximately 500 square metres and employment uses;

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e) a site to be safeguarded for a 2 Form Entry Primary School on approximately 2 hectares;

on approximately 2

f) a site to be safeguarded for a Secondary School on approximately

ly 9 hectares.

10.3.7. The community facilities are proposed to meet the immediate needs of the new residents without the need to travel beyond the development. The local centres could comprise a mix of uses such as retail, employment (Class B1) and residential, including accommodation for the elderly.

10.3.8. A site for a 3 Form Entry Primary School has been identified and a site for an additional 2 Form Entry Primary School is safeguarded should additional development come forward post-2011. In terms of secondary education the development does not require a new school although a significant demand for places is anticipated. However, the proposed development offers an opportunity to consider the merits of meeting the future secondary education needs of the town on a new site, should it continue to develop. A site is safeguarded to enable detailed discussions with the community and Local Education Authority to take place in the knowledge that land could be made available. Were the proposal not to come forward the land would be redesignated for residential development.

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Comparison of Surplus School Places - Schools vs. L EA																				
	Capacity	Pupil Numbers																		
		9.2005	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	9.2010	2010/11	2010/11	11										
Knights Enham Junior School (HCC) (Headteachers (1))	180	177								123										
			160	154	137	136														
(1) Based on 47% participation rate applied to pupils attending K.E.I.S.																				
Knights Enham Infant School (HCC) (Headteachers (2))	150	95													85					
			104	114	121	110														
(2) Assumes 46 pupils for 2006, assumes 47% participation rate rather than the 40% assumed by HCC																				

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1. .

AlexMunro/PeterColenutt
12.4.06