

## **Pre Planning Consultation FAQ – June 2016**

### **Proposal to Enlarge The Butts Primary School**

Hampshire County Council would like to hear your views about the proposal to enlarge The Butts Primary School

We are running a consultation from 6 June 2016 until 1 July 2016.

**A drop-in session for you to be able to see the proposed plans and discuss with officers is being held on Tuesday 14 June at The Butts Primary School between 3pm and 6pm.**

#### ***Why do you need to enlarge the school?***

Throughout Hampshire the number of births has risen in recent years which has created a pressure on pupil places. This equally applies to the Alton area and has resulted in an increase in pupil numbers. Additionally, new housing developments within Alton is also driving the need for additional primary school places. In order to meet the County Council's statutory duty to ensure sufficiency of school places this school requires expansion.

The proposed expansion would allow the capacity to be increased to allow the school to offer 60 places for Year R (age 4+) from September 2018. This will allow the school cater for 420 pupils across seven year groups.

#### ***What building works will be taking place?***

The proposed building works will consist of new build containing teaching and ancillary accommodation to provide the additional facilities required for the school to admit the additional pupils.

Plans are available on the website and will be presented at the drop-in session to be held on Tuesday 14 June.

#### ***When will the building works start and how will you ensure the health and safety of pupils attending the school whilst the works are taking place?***

It is anticipated that the main building works will commence in 2017 and be completed by summer 2018 ready for the school to occupy. Based on the current project programme and assuming delays do not significantly impact progress there is no expectation that the project will require separate enabling works.

Health and safety of children, staff and visitors is paramount. The County Council works with construction partners who have significant experience of working on school sites. A detailed health and safety plan will be drawn up with the schools to include items such as restricting delivery times for materials to avoid the beginning and end of the school day, maintaining safe access routes for pupils, staff and visitors etc.

#### ***What will be the impact on pupils within the school?***

The school will continue to operate as normal during the building works. Everything will be done to minimise the impact on pupils teaching and learning but we do acknowledge that there may be some disruption. The County Council is liaising fully with the headteacher and governors on the project to ensure that the planning for the building works runs as smoothly as possible.

### ***What about the impact on traffic due to the school taking more pupils?***

The County Council appreciates that local residents will be concerned about potential traffic implications due to the schools being expanded. By planning to create school places as close as possible to where children live, we create the best chance for those children to travel to school using means of travel other than the car. This is supported through the production of a School Travel Plan, to be submitted as part of the planning application.

Officers from Hampshire County Council will be at the consultation drop-in session to explain the process in developing a School Travel Plan, and to answer any questions you have.

A School Travel Plan is a long-term document produced by the whole school community and any other interested/affected parties. It looks at how children, parents, staff and visitors travel to and from school, and sets out measures to;

1. Encourage and enable pupils, parents, guardians and staff to walk, scoot and cycle to school. Where this is not possible, consider public transport, car sharing or 'Park and Stride' to school.
2. Encourage and provide educational programmes relating to child travel and how this links to the environment, safety and health.
3. Improve safety.

### **The key stages involved in developing a travel plan are;**

- Surveying pupils, parents and staff as to how they travel, the barriers that they may encounter, and suggestions as to improvements.
- Consult with residents through the statutory drop-in sessions to identify issues, relating to the school run, that are felt by the wider community, along with possible solutions
- Work with the various key stakeholders to develop an action plan to target the issues that are preventing pupils, parents and staff from using alternatives to the car. The initiatives identified will be a combination of physical measures such as scooter storage or crossing points, and 'soft' measures relating to education, promotion and enforcement. For those who have no alternative but to use the car, other options will be considered such as 'Park and Stride' sites.

The travel plan will link to a Transport Statement, undertaken by consultants, and clearly define between measures that are essential to mitigate against the travel impact of the increase in numbers, and desirable measures that will provide a general improvement to routes to school, long term.

### ***Travel initiatives already underway with the school***

As part of the development of the School Travel Plan, the school has identified a Travel Plan Champion. They will be working with the travel planning team to produce a variety of materials to go out to pupils and parents, including walking and 'Park and Stride' maps, Hampshire's Parkwise leaflet, and annually provide new parents with the 'How could you travel to school?' booklet to encourage parents to consider the alternatives to the car. In parallel the school will be working towards a national accreditation scheme, STARS, to seek recognition for the work the school is already undertaking to promote sustainable travel and deterring irresponsible parking.

### ***How many additional drop-off/pick ups are expected?***

A recent school travel survey (December 2015/January 2016) collected current modal split at the school.

With the current mode share applied to the increase in pupils, the following pupil trip generation can be predicted for each mode:

<b>Mode of Transport</b>	<b>Trip generation (pupil travel)</b>
Walk	136
Cycle	6
Scooter	10
Bus / Taxi	0
Train	0
Car Alone	29
Car Share	2
Park and Stride	0
Other	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>214</b>
<i>*errors may occur due to rounding</i>	

#### ***How will congestion be managed in nearby roads?***

The school survey showed that 74.6% of pupils walk to school, 3.17% cycle, 5.56% travel by scooter, 15.87% come by “car alone”, and 0.79% car share.

The predominant mode of travel to school is walking and 136 of the new pupils are also predicted to walk. There will be 60 additional two-way movements associated with the school expansion and an increase in demand for 30 additional parking spaces in the vicinity of the school at the start and end of the school day.

Nine additional cars will be associated with the new staff (consisting of car alone trips). See below for details of provision for staff.

A traffic speed and flow survey has been undertaken on Whitedown Lane/ A339 and results will shortly be analysed.

A parking beat survey has been completed demonstrating that whilst some roads do currently experience a high level of parking in the school peaks (particularly the morning) there is more than sufficient parking capacity within a 350m walk of the school.

#### ***Where will the additional staff park?***

The additional staff will be catered for on site based upon the best practice guidance in Hampshire County Council’s School Parking Guidelines.