

Expansion Meeting – Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Q: Your presentation did not include the educational benefits of expanding. What would these benefits be?

A: There would be more staff which means more expertise and specialist skill set plus a higher budget.

Q: Where is the evidence of this in other schools?

A: There is very little evidence as there are few schools which are 5FE. There are 2 7FE schools in Hounslow which work very well. The most important thing is the group of children in a child's class not that there are potentially 150 children in the year group. The challenges are the surroundings, eg lunch provisions and play space.

Q: Sacred Heart school has previously been oversubscribed, now they are down to 1.5 form entry. 1 form entry schools are no longer financially viable. Statistics show that the birth rate has fallen which suggests that expansion is not necessary. Why are Merton and Kingston councils not working together to fill the spaces in existing schools.

A: They are. Kingston has bucked the London trend and birth rates have remained high.

Q: How will the expansion affect the current children? I am concerned about the building works and children being in portacabins and having reduced play space. What will be done to reduce the stress on the children?

A: We would not need to use Portacabins, we have been involved in lots of school projects and have not used Portacabins at all.

Q: Why is the Cock's Crescent site being used for housing and not school space?

A: The drive for Cock's Crescent is due to the demand for the new leisure centre. Any new schools built would have to be a free school.

Q: You are saying that the plans for expansion are being driven by the overdevelopment of New Malden and you are saying there is no other option, what if we all said no the plans? What is the plan B?

A: Councillors would have to listen to local opinion. We have not got a plan B.

Q: Why don't you look at a plan B now? Surely King's Oak is your plan B?

A: The Cambridge Estate will be going under a huge regeneration project in the future which means at least 800 more units and we need to secure school spaces for potentially more families and the obvious place would be King's Oak.

Q: Surely the Burlington expansion should only be considered as a result of the Cambridge Estate regeneration and after all the spaces in Kings Oak have been filled?

Q: The survey report on the CLASP building shows subsidence, what are you going to do if it subsides further if there is no money?

A: It is a steel frame and it is not the foundations which are subsiding but the concrete panels on the front. There is school maintenance money available to make any fixes but it is unlikely to need it.

Q: It is really hard to form a decision without seeing plans of what the expansion would look like.

A: There is a basic 3D model here to give you an idea but we don't have any visual plans available today.

Q: If we all say no to the expansion, is it just a matter of time before it happens anyway? Also why has the council spent money on a new cycle route if there is no money?

A: The cycle route was funded by Greater London not RBK. RBK is having to respond to private developments which we have no control over as it is not our land. RBK don't own that much land but we have a responsibility to provide school places.

Q: I am a local resident who has been a pupil, parent and governor at this school and I remember the CLASP building being built which was in the 70s not the 50s as stated by the council. The building has always had issues. Would Corpus Christi not have the incentive to expand and include non-faith children as it is a huge site?

A: Corpus Christi always prioritise catholic children, this is the decision of the diocese so it would just mean that other catholic children outside the borough could get the places over local non-faith children.

Q: Is there a risk of spaces not filling?

A: Burlington is a hugely popular school so we are confident there would be no problem filling the spaces but the timing needs to be right.

**Additional questions:**

Can the Children's Centre be used for additional school space?

How can you future proof against the negative impact on other local schools?

How can you ensure that all school places are filled in New Malden?

How will current students be affected?

What provision is being made for secondary school places?

Can we as parents be provided with a clear idea of how our children will cope during the building works and how long works will last?

Could a 'satellite' year group be based at the new Cock's Crescent site, for example year 6, to relieve congestion on the current site?

**Comments:**

Burlington is a great school but I don't think the site is big enough for expansion.

I am not against the expansion per se, my concern is about having enough space to move safely around the school and having enough play space.

We need to see a plan phase by phase as to what order the building works will take place and where each year group will be placed when all the works are going on.

It wasn't made clear if the money would be available to replace the CLASP building without the expansion. My main concern against expansion is the quality of the education and space which will be compromised especially while the building works are taking place.

I feel current pupils will suffer for the sake of future potential pupils. Also where are all these extra children going to go for secondary school?

I think the size would be overwhelming for infant age children.