



Minutes

Name of Meeting	West Wight School Public Consultation Meeting	
Date and Time	Monday 1 st April 2019, 6.00pm – 8.00pm	
Venue	St Saviours Primary School, Summers Lane, Totland, Isle of Wight	
Panel	Richard Vaughan Natalie Smith Martin Goff Mark Saunders Catherine Hobbs Rob Sanders Jade Kennett	Deputy Head of Strategic Development, Hants CC School Improvement Manager IOW, Hants CC Head of Service – Information Transport & Admissions, Hants CC Facilitator Director for Education Deputy Director for Education, Dioceses Strategic Development Officer, Children’s Services, IWC

Introduction

A welcome was given by Mr Looseley (Chair of Governors) followed by introductions made from the Panel and this was preceded by a presentation from Richard Vaughan, Martin Goff and Natalie Smith regarding a review of West Wight school places.

Representatives

- 1) Larry Burgess, Parent –He believes that a pragmatic approach is required and one that takes into account the whole picture which allows for the right decision. It must not be something we revisit again in 5/10 years time. All Saints Primary School site is a good site but parents are choosing not to send their children there. Shalfleet and Yarmouth are under the same governance. Yarmouth Primary has few children and the area has limited amount of development planned. The site is also in a flood risk area.

A good solution would be to take the governance from Yarmouth and use the All Saints site. This would provide confidence to parents and bring back children to the school. The site would also be able to be expanded if required in the future.

- 2) Neighbour - Concerns raised over the access to residents driveways during pick up/drop off times. Also how any works to the school site to accommodate the expansion will affect the view from their properties.
- 3) Alice Bray – Echoed concerns about traffic/congestion within the area. Her son was nearly hit recently.
- 4) Kim Tyrell (West Wight Nursery) – Concerns raised for those 8 children that will be undertaking transition visits to All Saints Primary. St Saviours only currently has 20 spaces on offer for September so therefore of the 26 that has applied. What happens to those 6 children that do not get their 1st preference, could this not be taken into consideration earlier?
- 5) Jan Cave – What sort of environment is being created with children having to get buses or avoid speeding cars. If you close a school in the village you create all of these issues.
- 6) Steve Parsons – If both Brighstone Primary and All Saints Primary are both failing why would you close All Saints and not Brighstone as it is a more remote location.

To move all of the children from Brighstone to All Saints Primary seems the more logical solution.

Questions and Answers

Question: As above why is the option of closing Brighstone Primary and moving all children to All Saints Primary not a listed option?

Answer: Not all options are listed within the paper. There has been a discussion around this option and Home to School Transport would be an issue due to the distances. Brighstone also has housing development within the area and it serves a distinct geographical location.

Question: Daniel James queried around the breakdown of the number of children across areas. Do you consider the ratio of children living in the area the number of places?

Answer: Martin Goff explained that looking at the forecast data of the 60 4 yr olds 57% of them will be in Freshwater and Totland and the remainder will be across other areas. Historical trends going forward mean that children travel to Shalfleet & Yarmouth which reduces the demand for places within their immediate town/village. If this trend did change then yes there would not be sufficient places.

Priority can be given to those of a Catholic faith even if outside of the local area. We have plotted where children are and Freshwater and Totland are the major demographic areas. However, it is vital to note that the forecast only indicates 60 places required going forward and therefore 4 forms of entry per year group (120 places) are still too many.

Question: Carly (Parent) – Could you clarify when the closing date/time is as there is conflicting information on this?

Answer: Yes, it is Midnight on the 15th April and the website will be updated.

Question: Carly (Parent) – Do people need to make a representation again during the 4 week period if they have responded during the current 6 week consultation period?

Answer: No they do not have to, but we would be more than happy to receive any.

Question: Can paper submissions be made?

Answer: Yes there are forms available this evening and also the address to which these should be sent is listed on them.

Question: Is there a SEN review under way and can West Wight provide these places?

Answer: Yes there is an Island-wide SEN review on specialist provision underway around the current arrangements and any potential recommendations required. Until this is concluded we cannot comment on what the outcome may be.

Question: I would have liked to have seen more detailed information about what arrangements are going to be put in place

Answer: We would be pre-empting the decision process if more detailed work was undertaken. We are here to consult with you on the options not the detail.

Question: You mention the reasons why the closure of Brighstone Primary is not an option, but do you have a response as to why Yarmouth would not be an option?

Answer: Yarmouth Primary is part of a federation and that would need to be considered if a final solution involved them.

Question: Is it a done deal? What happens if St Saviours Primary don't wish to change their intake number and the 664 houses are built? Everything should be considered so this isn't repeated in 5/10years time.

Answer: Historical trends show that new housing is only bringing the circulation of some families and not bring over extensive numbers of new families, however this will be carefully monitored. If we had a timetable of the build out rates and a commitment that the developments would be completed this would prove easier but we do not and are unlikely to be able to get this.

Question: Is this a financial exercise for the Isle of Wight Council?

Answer: It is a process whereby the council can manage surplus school places. The number of children directly impacts on school budgets. Therefore, a schools budget if full is far more stable. If we do nothing we will be storing up budget issues for all schools. .

Question: I am concerned over the children starting reception in September 2019. How will this be prioritised?

Answer: The admissions round will happen as normal on the 16th April. This will not be changed.

Question: If parents applied for elsewhere and All Saints Primary didn't close can they then retract applications

Answer: Any parent can choose to apply for any school place and also withdraw applications if they wish.

Question: Will the next report go forward with two or three recommendations?

Answer: It could do but it is more likely to be a single recommendation subject to the outcome of this consultation.

Question: How will you decide on the recommendation?

Answer: Any recommendation will be based on the facts currently available and what has been concluded from the consultation.

Question: As a parent of a child at St Saviours Primary can you tell me how it will be expanded?

Answer: We are aware that two additional classrooms are required as a minimum and these will either be provided in permanent or modular construction.

Question: Option one is to close both schools and reopen one as an academy. Why does it have to be a private school?

Answer: An academy is not a private school. Any new school that is proposed must open as an academy, this is due to legislation.

Question: What is the acceptable level of time that a modular building can remain on site?

Answer: These have a life span of around 25 – 30 years, however the ambition would be to remove them as soon as funding can be secured to build permanent accommodation.

Question: Is using the West Wight Nursery building an option?

Answer: All alternative viable options will be considered.

Question: Why is this not known?

Answer: As previously mentioned this level of work has not been completed as this is a consultation period and we would not wish to pre-empt any decisions.

Question: How big will the mobile be?

Answer: A double classroom would be in the region of 120 m²

Question: How will the year groups be configured?

Answer: This would be for the School to decide; however we would suggest that this would be a year group per class.

Question: Weston Academy closed overnight. Do not waste your opportunity to have your say.

Answer: All alternative viable options will be considered.

Question: What is the safe walking route to St Saviours Primary and how is this defined?

Answer: There is statutory guidance in place to dictate what is a safe walking route and what is not. Routes are assessed by a Road Safety expert.

Question: Why has the timetable been set for September 2019 implementation date, which only allows 4-7 weeks to put everything in place? If the option to move Yarmouth to the All Saints site was proposed could the timeframe be extended?

Answer: If we move away from the preferred option we would review the timetable and how it could be implemented.

Question: Is it correct that an academy cannot be of a Catholic faith and therefore the offer from the Catholic Diocese within the area would be reduced. Is this acceptable?

Answer: No there are lots of other Catholic Academies.