

Date: Fri, 4 Jan 2013 09:10:42 +0000
Subject: Proposed Expansion of Christ Church School Erith

Dear Doreen,

Thank you for your letter of 30 November in respect of our consultation relating to the proposed expansion at Christ Church School.

Your comments concentrated on subject areas which I have provided further details below. I hope that this alleviates some of your concerns. The next steps section at the bottom of the page sets out what will happen next.

The London Borough of Bexley has a statutory duty to provide a school place for every child living in the borough. Over the last few years both the birth rate, new homes built and the number of people with primary aged children moving into the borough has been increasing. This trend is expected to continue and, with Bexley schools at full capacity, the Council needs to increase the number of primary school places available. The six schools that we are currently consulting on and which include Christ Church have been chosen to meet additional local demand and because they have sufficient space available to expand.

The decision to expand Christ Church has not yet been confirmed and so a planning application has not yet been submitted. We are listening to residents' concerns expressed at the recent drop in events and it is clear that further work is required to look into the issues raised and potential solutions before we can proceed. If and when a planning application is submitted households within the immediate vicinity of the School will receive a letter from the Council's Development Control team advising that an application has been submitted. The planning application will include detailed plans of the layout and elevations of the proposed new buildings, the plans which were on show at the drop in event and which I have attached for your information are aimed at showing how we could accommodate such an expansion programme at the school.

As you point out concerns have been made about the level of traffic generated at the start and end of the School day and the impact that higher pupil numbers may have and we will be holding a 'traffic issues workshop' which will be run by independent traffic management consultants who will listen to any traffic related concerns connected with this proposal. Following this workshop they will present the Council with a report together with ideas which could mitigate some of the concerns being raised. Once we have confirmed the date of this workshop we will be inviting local residents and parents/carers of pupils attending the school.

Christ Church School and the Board of Governors fully support the proposal and are confident that the additional pupil numbers will have no adverse effect on the quality of education provided. You have already registered comments in the first consultation period. All the comments submitted during this period will be carefully considered and will inform the decision on whether or not to proceed with the expansion.

Should the decision be taken to go ahead with the expansion of Christ Church a Statutory Notice confirming this intention will be published on the Bexley Council website, a press release will be issued and a letter will be sent out to all parents at the school. A further 4 week period will then start where objections can be lodged with the Council. At the end of this period objections will once again be considered and the final decision will be taken by the Cabinet Member for Education.

Should a planning application be submitted you will be able to make representations to the Development Control team who. Objections will have been taken into consideration when deciding on whether or not to grant planning permission.

With regard to the points you make in relation to Hardwick Court and parents allowing their children to invade residents drives, sometimes using them as a toilet I am in contact with the scheme warden and will be meeting specifically with these residents to discuss their concerns shortly. I have also been talking with colleagues in Neighbourhood Services regarding what targeted work can be done to address any anti social behaviour around the school.

I hope that the content of this e-mail addresses your questions and concerns and gives you sufficient information on the course of action available to you should you wish to register any further objection to these proposals.

Regards

Kevin Taylor

Head of Howbury Stakeholder Engagement & Special Projects

