

Children's Services
County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YQ
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To Staff, Parents/Carers and other interested parties

10 January 2012

Dear Consultee

Proposal to Expand Boston Park Primary School

Lincolnshire County Council are commencing a consultation process on the proposal to expand Boston Park Primary School, Robin Hood's Walk, Boston PE21 9LQ to ensure that there are enough primary school places to accommodate the increasing pupil numbers in Boston.

It is the Local Authority's (LA) statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places to accommodate all pupils of statutory school age in Lincolnshire. The LA believes that this proposal is the best available option to address the expected shortage of Primary Reception school places in Boston. It is important that the LA gather and consider all views on this proposal prior to making a decision on how to proceed.

The additional information accompanying this letter outlines the reasons for the proposal and explains in more detail why there is a need to expand this school and how the expansion can benefit the children and the community.

Following statutory consultation, if the expansion proposal is approved, it is proposed that building work to add additional accommodation will begin during 2012 and will be completed by September 2013. This would be managed to cause minimal disruption to the school during term time making the best use of school holidays.

If you wish to comment on this proposal then after reading the accompanying information please return the response form by 7 February 2012 using the contact details provided. If you would like to discuss this further before responding to the proposal then LA officers will be holding pre-booked consultation drop in sessions at the school on Friday 20 January 2012. Please contact Mrs Lisa Turley, School Administrator, on 01205 368805 to arrange an appointment.

If you have any queries regarding the proposal or the consultation process please do not hesitate to contact the Property and Technology Management team. (contact details are confirmed on the response form).

Yours sincerely

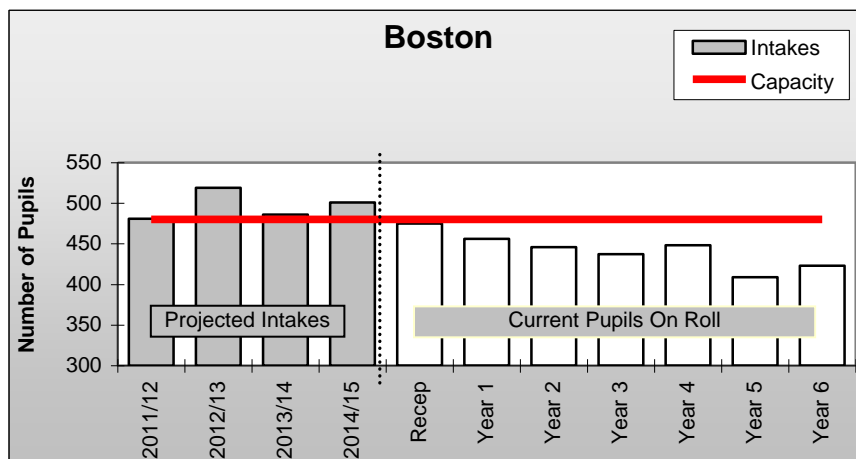


Matt Clayton
School Organisation Planning Manager
Property and Technology Management

Reasons for the Proposal to Expand Boston Park Primary School

National birth rates, mostly concentrated in towns and cities (urban areas), have been steadily rising in recent years. This increased birth rate, combined in some areas with migration and housing development, is now starting to have an impact at primary school age putting significant pressure on schools across the country where there is a shortage of Reception places.

Boston is one of the urban pressure points in Lincolnshire where there will be a shortage of available places if capacity in the town is not increased further in addition to the current expansion of Boston West Primary School and Boston Hawthorn Tree School. The graph below shows the known pupil numbers across all Boston primary schools of children aged 0-3 that will be needing primary places in the current year and years ahead (shaded columns), compared to existing pupil numbers aged 4+ already in Boston schools (non-shaded columns).



Data includes extra places available at Boston West Primary School and Boston Hawthorn Tree School from September 2012.
Data updated at October 2011 School Census

Based on information from the Office of National Statistics, combined with local NHS birth data, there is expected to be a long term requirement of at least 15 additional places per year group in the area. The latest NHS data showing the number of pupils in Boston that will be entering primary education in 2015/2016 indicates even higher numbers than the data for the years shown in the graph above. A permanent sustainable solution is needed to accommodate these extra children. The proposed solution is to expand Boston Park Primary School from its existing capacity of 210 to 315. This will increase the Published Admission Number (PAN) for the Reception intake and each year group from 30 to 45.

The aim is to have the new facilities ready for the September 2013 intake. Due to the pressure on primary school places in Boston the school has admitted over their PAN in the last year with the agreement of the Local Authority (LA) with the number on roll at the start of the January term standing at 259 in a school with an original capacity of 210. This has already required the use of temporary accommodation at the school which will continue to provide additional places while building work takes place. The expansion proposal will enable the correct infrastructure and facilities to be provided for the number of pupils on roll. Currently the school is overcrowded with key facilities (such as hall size) being insufficient for the number of pupils on roll.

The LA understands that an increase in the number of pupils attending a school may have an impact on the local road network and access. However, many of the children that will benefit

from improved facilities and additional accommodation are already attending the school and the majority of additional pupils are likely to come from within a suitable walking or cycling distance from the school. Also the LA would look to mitigate any negative impact by improvement to the infrastructure together with the implementation of a travel plan and would have to meet stringent requirements at the planning application stage. Any planning queries will be dealt with through a separate planning consultation process should the proposal go as far as a planning application. It must also be noted that although the proposal is based on an increased capacity at the school of 105 places, as the number on roll already stands at 259, this proposal would actually only lead to a further 56 additional places.

If you would like further information or would like to comment on this proposal then please return the attached form, email provisionplanning@lincolnshire.gov.uk or write to Property & Technology Management, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Lincoln LN1 1YQ by 7 February 2012.

Copies of all consultation documents including an electronic version of the feedback form, can be found online at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/provisionplanning under "Current Consultations"

Consultation Feedback Form on the expansion of Boston Park Primary School

Please note that if you do not provide your name and address your views will not be counted as legitimate responses to this consultation. Names and contact details will remain confidential.

Name: _____ Email (optional): _____

Postal Address: _____

Parent Carer Teacher/School Staff Governor Employer/Business

Other (please specify) : _____

Which school (if any) do you represent? _____

Having read the proposal please indicate your view below by ticking one of the boxes

I am in favour of proposal I am against proposal I am neither for nor against the proposal

Why have you decided this is your view? Tell us about it below.

Is there anything else you want us to consider?

Please return the completed form by 7 February 2012 to: Property & Technology Management, Children's Services, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YQ or email provisionplanning@lincolnshire.gov.uk or fax 01522 553257