



Complete proposal
to Expand
Sutton Bridge Westmere Community Primary
School

MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 19 OF THE EDUCATION AND
INSPECTIONS ACT 2006 PROPOSALS TO MAKE PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS
TO A SCHOOL

15 November 2012

Contact details

This proposal has been published by Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YQ regarding the expansion of Sutton Bridge Westmere Community Primary School, Anne Road, Sutton Bridge, Spalding PE12 9TB.

Implementation

The proposal is to expand Sutton Bridge Westmere Community Primary School with effect from 1 September 2013. The proposal is being made to ensure that there are sufficient primary school places in Sutton Bridge to accommodate the increasing pupil numbers in the area and to enable the Local Authority (LA) to fulfil its statutory duty of providing school places for all children of statutory school age in Lincolnshire.

Objections and Comments

Any person or organisation may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Provision Planning, Children's Services, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YQ or by emailing provisionplanning@lincolnshire.gov.uk to be received by the deadline of 13 December 2012

Alteration description

The proposal under consideration is to expand Sutton Bridge Westmere Community Primary School from its existing capacity based on the Published Admission Number (PAN) of 210 to 315 with an increase in the PAN from 30 to 45. The PAN will increase initially only for the Reception intake in 2013 with all other year groups remaining at 30. The increased intake to 45 will then be phased in with each subsequent annual intake until the PAN of 45 applies to all year groups.

School Capacity and Site

As a temporary measure reorganisation has taken place within existing accommodation which enabled the school to offer an additional 15 places in September 2012. If the expansion proposal is approved it is proposed that building work to add the additional permanent accommodation will begin during the academic year 2012/2013 (subject to planning permission being granted) and the aim is to have the new facilities ready for the September 2013 intake. This would be managed to cause minimal disruption to the school during term time making best use of the school holidays where possible. The expansion will not require the use of any new or additional site. The number on roll at the time of publication of the Statutory Notice was 214. The necessary planning application process would be dealt with and consulted on separately.

Objectives

The proposal detailed in this document is to expand Sutton Bridge Westmere Community Primary School with effect from 1 September 2013 and the objective is to ensure that there are sufficient primary school places in Sutton Bridge to

accommodate the increasing pupil numbers in the area and to enable the LA to fulfil its statutory duty of providing school places for all children of statutory school age in Lincolnshire.

The LA considers this to be the best available solution to the expected shortage of primary school places in Sutton Bridge and would not be actively participating in this process if it did not see significant advantages for children and young people, their parents/carers and the local community. Other options in Sutton Bridge and the surrounding area have been explored and all primary schools have been considered for potential expansion but none have been found to be as suitable due to reasons such as undersized sites, distance that pupils would have to travel, parental preference, impact on standards and the fact that other schools are of suitable size for their local communities.

The LA believes this proposal to be in the best interests of local children and local parents as well as educational provision in the area and it reinforces the priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). The proposal will ensure that the provision of school places is planned so as to promote high educational standards, enable fair access to educational opportunity for every child and promote the fulfilment of each child's potential. This proposal will both enhance the quality of provision and sustain local provision.

The publication of the Statutory Notice will enable the statutory and legal processes to proceed. This continuation to the next stage of the process will allow a further opportunity for people and organisations to express their views about the proposal and ensure that they will be taken into account by the Executive Councillor.

Consultation

In order for the school to expand the LA must follow the necessary statutory legal processes as required by the Secretary of State in accordance with the Education and Inspections Act (EIA) 2006 and updated by the Education Act 2011 together with the guidance of the Department for Education (DfE) regarding expansion. Under current legislation the LA is the decision maker for the proposal.

Consultation originally began on 10 September 2012 with a letter, incorporating relevant information and reasons for the proposal, being sent to all parents of pupils attending the school informing them of the proposal. Interested parties were also informed as required by guidelines issued by the DfE. In addition, on 19 September 2012, individual drop in sessions were offered to parents to discuss the proposal further with LA officers. These meetings were arranged to allow those having an interest in this proposal to be able to gather information, ask questions and get involved in the debate however no appointments were actually taken up.

All parents/carers and other interested parties were given the opportunity to respond as part of the consultation process by 8 October 2012. Copies of the letter commencing consultation and the response form were also published on the County Council website under the webpage Current Consultations on www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/provisionplanning

An analysis of the written responses to the consultation is detailed in Appendix B but to briefly summarise there were 5 valid responses in total with none against, 4 supporting the proposal and 1 expressing a view neither in favour nor against the proposal. Of these 4 were from parents of current pupils with 3 in favour and 1 neither for nor against.

The Headteacher has consulted with the children currently attending the school through school assemblies to explain the proposal. This has produced a very positive response and the children are generally excited about the proposal.

Evidence of the consultation before the proposal was published -

(a) a list of persons and/or parties who were consulted can be found in Appendix A

(b) the views of the persons consulted are summarised in Appendix B

(c) a copy of the letter confirming the commencement of the consultation process and incorporating relevant information and reasons for the proposal is in Appendix C

(e) a copy of the form to send in responses is in Appendix D.

Following the initial letter all documentation relating to the consultation was published online through the County Council website under Current Consultations at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/provisionplanning

All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposal were complied with.

Project Costs

This proposed expansion will incur a certain amount of capital costs and the LA will fund the necessary costs to implement the project making use of 'basic need' funding.

Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision

Education is continuing on the existing school site and there is therefore likely to be no impact on SEN provision. Consideration of pupils with SEN will take place should there be any relocation of pupils to an alternative part of the existing site and physical access will be assured should a need be presented. The LA will continue to look to make improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the education provision for children with SEN.

Need for places

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

experience a shortage of available places if capacity at the local school is not increased.

NHS birth data for the Sutton Bridge area shows that on average over the next 4 years the number of children that will be requiring a primary school place is up to 15 more each year than it has been for the last 7 years. There is expected to be a long term requirement for more places. A permanent sustainable solution is needed to accommodate these extra children to avoid overcrowding and/or transporting 4 year old children to alternative schools outside of their local community.

The proposed solution in Sutton Bridge is to permanently expand Sutton Bridge Westmere Community Primary School from its existing capacity based on PAN from 210 to 315. This will increase the PAN initially only for the September 2013 Reception intake from 30 to 45 with the PAN for all other years remaining at 30. The increased intake to 45 will then be phased in with each subsequent intake up to 2018 when the PAN of 45 will apply to all year groups. This will allow the school to effectively manage staffing and teaching structures and help ensure that pupil numbers at other local schools are maintained.

Expansion of successful and popular schools

The Government is committed to ensuring that every parent can choose an excellent school for their child with the wishes of parents being taken into account. There is a strong presumption that proposals to expand popular and successful schools should be approved. DfE guidance states that places should be allocated where parents want them and that successful and popular schools be allowed to grow. This proposal will assist in meeting parental preference.

The most recent Ofsted report following an inspection at the school was published in January 2011 and at this time parents were also asked to complete a questionnaire. Most of the parents who completed a questionnaire or spoke with inspectors during the inspection were very positive about the school and were happy with their child's experience at the school.

The school is consistently oversubscribed as indicated by the numbers of first preference applications received (32 in 2010, 34 in 2011 and 47 in 2012) for the 30 available places in the Reception class. The school is evidently popular with parents.

Related Proposals

The proposal to expand Sutton Bridge Westmere Community Primary School is not related to any other statutory proposal.

What will happen now?

Any person may object to or make comments on this proposal by sending them to Provision Planning, Children's Services, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, LN1 1YQ or by emailing provisionplanning@lincolnshire.gov.uk

At the close of the 4 week representation period (statutory formal consultation) on 13 December 2012 responses will be collated and analysed and a final report will be presented to the Executive Councillor in January 2013 for a decision on the expansion of the school. The representation period is the final opportunity for people and organisations to express their views about the proposal and ensure that they will be taken into account by the decision maker.