

Our Ref: New Lakenheath Primary
Date: 22 February 2018
Enquiries to: Carol Barber
Tel: 01473 264608
Email: schools@suffolk.gov.uk

Dear Consultee

Lakenheath: New Primary School Pre-Application Planning Consultation Response

Thank you for responding to the recent pre-planning consultation regarding the proposed new primary school in Lakenheath. A wide range of issues were raised following the consultation and we thought it would be helpful to provide everyone with further information regarding these.

We have received a total of 36 formal responses and the main themes raised are listed below;

- Highways issues
- Noise disturbance
- Building design
- Landscape design
- Noise and disturbance
- Impact on the natural environment.

Highways issues

This was identified early in the process and a traffic impact assessment study was commissioned to investigate potential concerns. The speed limit on Station Road adjacent to the school has already been reduced. Whilst we appreciate that there have been reports of drivers ignoring this new limit this situation is likely to improve as the area is developed. Ongoing issues and enforcement will be an issue for the police to resolve.

The access to the school will have a very wide visibility splay so that vehicles can enter and leave the school site safely. Sufficient parking will be provided for staff and visitors with in/out one-way drop-off arrangement for parents. The school will also have to produce and implement a travel plan encouraging, where possible, alternative means of getting to and from school. Improved footpath access will also be delivered as part of the project together with a new pedestrian crossing.

Noise disturbance

Considerable effort has been made during the design process to mitigate the potential impact of aircraft noise. Sound insulation has been dramatically upgraded by providing composite double glazing, a solid roof structure and lobbies to all external doors. The building will be fully ventilated using a filtered system **which draws and circulates fresh air** throughout the school. Additional internal space has also been designed to facilitate indoor activities if this is necessary.

Clearly it is important that children have daily access to the outdoor play areas therefore structures which have been acoustically designed to reduce the impact of external noise will be provided so that children can, if they would like to, avoid any noise from aircraft. These are not intended to be 'bolt holes' for children to escape to, rather, they provide children with another option.

Whilst these measures will not eliminate all noise the planners are happy that it provides appropriate mitigation in these circumstances.

Building and landscape design

Some concern was raised that the buildings have already been fully designed. The plans and elevations provided for the pre-planning event were simply 'planning drawings'. Full technical designs are yet to be developed and these will be subject to formal statutory consultation once the planning application has been lodged.

The outside areas will be fully landscaped to provide both formal and informal games and play areas. As some existing trees will be lost if the project proceeds a significant number of new trees will be planted.

Impact on the natural environment

We are aware that any building has an impact on the environment and that this is an area with specific environmental sensitivities. A full environmental assessment study has been commissioned and will be submitted together with the planning application. The planning officers will then consider any necessary mitigation and may place conditions relating to these if permission is granted.

Other issues

Some concern has been expressed that this application is out of step with the recent single-issue review. The distribution of housing in Lakenheath and other communities is a matter for West Suffolk to resolve with the planning inspector. Suffolk County Council is making this application to ensure that it can deliver sufficient appropriate school places should these be required in Lakenheath

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Stodart', written over a faint circular stamp.

Joy Stodart
Schools Commissioning Manager

Schools Infrastructure Team
Directorate of Health, Wellbeing and Children's Services
Suffolk County Council
Endeavour House
Ipswich
IP1 2BX