

New secondary school in Cambourne

Newsletter No.2

The public consultation event that took place recently at The Hub was a great success.

In excess of 400 people attended the event and the Project Team received a great deal of feedback on the design proposals. The responses received cover a wide range of topics and the identification of a number of consistent themes will help to shape the final design proposals.

Cambourne residents, and the wider community, are thanked for their attendance and valuable contribution.

Presentation material is still available on display at The Hub for anyone who missed the consultation evening and would like to make a contribution. Any further feedback can be left at The Hub. Alternatively a project email address has been established, KE.CambourneFeedback@Kier.co.uk

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide some early feedback to the community on those key issues and frequently asked questions that are clearly important to many who took the time to respond. Key FAQs are as follows:

Site

- Have alternative sites being considered for the development?

A great deal of research has been undertaken to identify sites within the Cambourne area capable of delivering Secondary School provision and a fourth primary school.

The amount of land required is considerable. This severely limits the options available.

The site identified was the best available and the only one that was not linked to further development.

Traffic

- What are the traffic implications for residents, particularly those living close to the site?

A transport specialist has been appointed to work with the Highways Authority. Key issues currently under consideration include identification of, and possible upgrade to, primary cycle routes and footpaths. Cycle provision on site will be enhanced to actively promote cycle use as the primary means of transport.

The arrangements for vehicle access and drop off within the site are being reviewed and, on neighbouring streets traffic measures are being considered to ensure that vehicle drop off does not take place in these residential areas.

Education

- Will the quality of education match that of neighbouring schools and will catchment areas change.

Comberton Village College (CVC) are committed to the long term success of the scheme and aim to build on their outstanding reputation at the new Cambourne site.

They will work to ensure that all pupils receive the same educational and social experience they would at CVC, with the additional benefits that a new school building will bring.



Comberton will develop strategies to support cross school activities such as school trips, drama productions, team sports as well as more practical issues such as school uniform and school closure days.

Currently the new school is intended to serve the village of Cambourne.

Community

- What additional facilities can be provided and will community use be available?

The Project Team are working closely with the Cambourne, Caxton and Bourn Parish Councils on the issue of community facilities. CVC are keen to ensure that the whole community benefit from the new school. Whilst there are a great many facilities available within Cambourne the team are aware that teaching areas for art and drama can be made available and fulfil a community need that is not currently met. The availability of funding is always a key factor and the focus of the project budget is to meet teaching and learning needs as a priority. Other extra curricula provision such as a synthetic turf pitch or swimming pool would need to be funded separately and would be subject to separate planning applications.

Design & Construction

- Is the building large enough and will it meet the needs of the pupils?

The building size is determined by recommended Government standards (Building Bulletins). The proposals currently exceed national standards reflecting the development of the school project with Comberton Education Trust. CVC are fully engaged in the development of the design to ensure that the type of spaces provided and their relationship with one another meet their teaching requirements. The building will be designed and constructed to the highest standards by an experienced team with a proven track record in the education sector using robust, sustainable materials.

Discussions continue with key stakeholders in respect of the building design to ensure it meets both the functional need and that the appearance responds to, and enhances, the local area.

Sustainability

- Will the teaching environment be suitable and what further enhancements can be provided to the scheme?

The team are currently investigating what further renewable and sustainable solutions are available. Photovoltaics are currently proposed and the building will be designed so that the extent of these can be increased in future years. Other proposals include air source heat pumps and solar water heating all of which will help reduce the school's dependence on mains services.

The internal environment of teaching spaces is controlled by statutory regulation. In addition to Building Regulations, Building Bulletins dictate the standards that must be achieved on a range of issues including solar gain, overheating, ventilation, daylight standards and acoustics.

Summary

The team recognise that there is much work still to be done to address all of the issues that have been raised and this will continue in the coming weeks.

It is hoped that this newsletter has provided those interested in the scheme with a brief summary of how the scheme is progressing and the key issues that the project team are working on.

You will continue to have access to regular updates throughout the design, planning and construction phases of the project through further newsletters, the Parish Council website and the Cambourne Crier.

