

Record of Drop In Sessions:

- Star Hyb (17th September 2019)
- St Alban's RC Primary School (20th September 2019)
- Willows High School (27th September 2019)
- Stacey Primary School (30th September 2019)
- Moorland Primary School (1st October 2019)
- St Alban's RC Church Hall (1st October 2019)
- Central Library (3rd October 2019)
- Tremorfa Nursery (8th October 2019)
- Adamsdown Primary School (14th October 2019)
- Baden Powell Primary School (22nd October 2019)



**Schools Programme
Record of Drop In Session
Star Hyb – 17 Sept 2019
09:30am – 11:00am**



Present: Shirley Karseras (SOP), Rosalie Phillips (SOP), Hibah Iqbal (SOP)

Please note: The following is not a transcript but a contemporaneous note of the meeting.

No	Heading	Action
	<p>Officers were available to discuss the proposed changes from 9:30 – 11am.</p> <p>A parent / governor with children at both Baden Powell Primary and Willows High School attended to find out more about the proposal. Wanted to know where the children would be educated whilst the building works were ongoing. In support of a new building for Willows but concerned that the site on Tremorfa Park would not be big enough to house all three schools and that the pressure for nursery places may exceed the planned provision. Also concerned with the logistics associated with the new location – traffic would increase as it was further for people to get to.</p> <p>Queried whether the land on the existing school sites would be developed for housing.</p> <p>Concerned about the general decline in community facilities in the area and would welcome more play areas or safe community centres.</p> <p>A Local Councillor attended to enquire as to how the Willows High School site would be developed. She wanted to know if the land was in trust and how the proposed appropriation to parkland would work.</p> <p>A local resident attended briefly and requested a link to the document for online viewing.</p> <p>A resident whose house backs onto Tremorfa park attended. Concerned that the two existing play parks would be reduced to one at a time when demand would actually increase. Would like to see vastly improved play park facilities, citing Victoria Park as an example of what can be achieved. Also felt that Tremorfa Park, Splott and Adamsdown were discrete areas and needed their own parks.</p>	

No	Heading	Action
	<p>Queried what would happen to the existing Baden Powell Primary School site. The resident felt that the consultation document omitted details of the traffic issues that would be a consequence of the proposed changes during both the build phase and when operational.</p> <p>The resident felt that the build should incorporate staff parking and a staff entrance.</p> <p>Concerned also that “nursery education would be dumbed down” by merging Tremorfa Nursery which has an excellent Estyn inspection with Flying Start; that the academic outcomes of Willows High and Baden Powell Primary School were not good and that a community approach was needed to improve standards and not just provide a new building. This could be achieved by creating a task group within the community.</p>	



**Schools Programme
Record of Drop In Session
St Alban's RC Primary School 20 September 2019
10:00am – 11:30am**



Present: Rosalie Phillips (SOP), Hibah Iqbal (SOP), Brett Andrewartha (SOP), Rachel Burgess Willis (SOP), Brett Pugh (Catholic Archdiocese)

Please note: The following is not a transcript but a contemporaneous note of the meeting.

No	Heading	Action
	<p>A large number of people attended the session.</p> <p>Officers outlined the rationale behind the proposals and recorded the views expressed.</p> <p>The following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• General disagreement with the position of the Archdiocese; the school should serve children from the local community who want a Catholic education rather than serve Catholic children• The school has been a long standing part of the community and is welcoming to all regardless of faith/non faith.• The school has a strong community feel which would be lost if the school were to close• The size of school is a strength; things get overlooked in larger schools with children slipping through the net• The percentage of Catholic children at the school was disputed. The view of those present was that the percentage of Catholic children at the school is greater than that set out by the Archdiocese• The nearest alternative Catholic school is too far to way. Being offered free transport (if eligible) would not be acceptable as this would still result in peer groups and potentially siblings being separated.• The cost of travel to alternative Catholic schools• Parents have made an active decision to send their children to the school and would not choose to send their children to Baden Powell Primary	

No	Heading	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents want their children to be educated in a school with a Catholic ethos. Families have chosen a Catholic education specifically, and would wish to remain in a Catholic school in the local area. • Why was Splott Park not considered as an option for the new Willows High School build as it is more central • A number of parents from elsewhere who have settled in the area have been welcomed by the school community and would not wish to move their children to an alternative school • A number of parents commented that, regardless of investment, they would not wish to enrol their children at Willows High School as the school's management of behaviour is poor • A number of parents present had attended Willows High School as pupils and Baden Powell Primary School prior to Willows. They perceived behaviour, standards, outcomes, future prospects for Tremorfa children who enrolled at St Albans RC Primary School, St Illtyd's RC High School and St Teilo's CiW High School to be better than those enrolled at Baden Powell Primary School and Willows High School • Concerns regarding primary school pupils sharing a site with Willows High School pupils, and that the behaviour of Willows pupils would not be improved by younger children being on the same site. • Not all parents have access to the internet at home and online information is not easily accessible • Concerns that there is not parity in funding for repairs and maintenance between St Albans RC Primary School, Baden Powell Primary School and Willows High School • View of Governors that the Council, not the Archdiocese, had prevented the Governing Body from advertising the Headteacher post in 2018 • St Albans Rugby Club is growing. Club has been informed that they wouldn't be able to benefit from a stand/ dug outs but they are aware that similar facilities have been provided at Cardiff West and Eastern High 	



**Schools Programme
Record of Drop In Session
Willows High School 27 September 2019
10:00am – 12 noon**



Present: Rosalie Phillips (SOP), Hibah Iqbal (SOP)

Please note: The following is not a transcript but a contemporaneous note of the meeting.

No	Heading	Action
	<p>Seven people from the local area attended the session. Cllr Henshaw who represents the local area also attended.</p> <p>Concerns were raised by residents living close to Tremorfa Park regarding the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The proposed transfer of Willows High School and Baden Powell Primary School to the park• The potential destruction of trees/natural habitat including a number of Lime trees• The impact on wildlife• Increased traffic (existing problems will be exasperated)• Potential disruptions/noise during construction• Potential negative impact on property prices• Increase in anti-social behaviour• Lack of awareness of what is being proposed• The proposed replacement parkland is not acceptable <p>Concerns were also expressed that Willows High School was being expanded to meet demand from areas outside of the Willows catchment and that it would be more appropriate for this demand to be met locally.</p> <p>The need to replace the existing Willows High School accommodation was recognised however it was felt that that this should be progressed on the existing school site.</p> <p>Officers outlined the rationale behind the proposals and recorded the views expressed.</p> <p>A parent of a child currently attending Baden Powell Primary School expressed concerns regarding the proposed increase in size from 2FE to 3FE. The parent felt that the increase would result in the loss of a community feel/ethos and that children would be lost in the system. Concerns were also expressed regarding the co-location of a primary school and secondary school.</p>	

No	Heading	Action
	Cllr Henshaw welcomed the proposed investment; funds were available and she wanted to see this used to benefit children from the local area.	



**Schools Programme
Record of Drop In Session
Stacey Primary School – 30th Sept 2019
3pm – 4pm**



Present: Shirley Karseras (SOP), Rosalie Phillips (SOP)

Please note: The following is not a transcript but a contemporaneous note of the meeting.

No	Heading	Action
	<p>RP and SK spoke to several parents on the playground whilst they were waiting to pick up their children to ensure that they were aware of the proposal and the consultation process.</p> <p>Two mothers of children who currently attend Stacey PS and who are due to move to Willows High School briefly attended the drop-in session. They had no specific questions. An explanation of the timescales and the location of the proposed new school was given. An offer of a summary information in their home language was refused as they said they were satisfied with the English version.</p> <p>A Foundation governor from St Albans RC Primary School attended. He had no questions but was interested to see who attended the drop in and what their concerns were.</p>	



**Schools Programme
Record of Drop In Session
Moorland Primary School – 01 Oct 2019
9:00am – 10:00am**



Present: Rosalie Phillips (SOP), Hibah Iqbal (SOP)

Please note: The following is not a transcript but a contemporaneous note of the meeting.

No	Heading	Action
	Officers were available to discuss the proposals from 9 – 10am. There were no queries regarding the proposed changes.	



**Schools Programme
Record of Drop in Session
St Alban's Church Hall – 01 Oct 2019
10am – 11:30am**



Present: Brett Andrewartha (SOP), Rosalie Phillips (SOP), Hibah Iqbal (SOP), Ann Robinson (Catholic Archdiocese)

Please note: The following is not a transcript but a contemporaneous note of the meeting.

No	Heading
	<p>Officers and a representative from the Catholic Archdiocese attended a drop in session at St Alban's Church Hall</p> <p>The following points were made by those who attended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• don't want to see a catholic school closed• don't want to see children going out of the area• want a school with a Christian ethos• give the school the opportunity to improve• impact on pupils• happy for Willows High School to be replaced but leave St Alban's as it is <p>AR – reduction in the number of catholic children and issues around attracting a substantive head. Across Cardiff there are 13 catholic primary schools; there are places available in other schools with most not full of catholic children. Over 100 children from the area go to St Peter's.</p> <p>Voluntary Aided (VA) schools are maintained by the LA however capital funding does not come from the LA; the Diocese liaises with Welsh Government (WG) for funding for major projects. Limited funding available to make improvements; looking where children can be best educated.</p> <p>Fr – what are the numbers?</p> <p>AR – working on numbers submitted via the annual catholic census which shows 17% of children at the school are catholic.</p> <p>Fr – in the event that the figures are not correct would that matter?</p> <p>AR – would have to consider.</p> <p>Fr - mismanagement has impacted on the school and would not have happened otherwise. All Catholics are taxpayers. Arguments do not stand up.</p> <p>BA – can't say that school would be excluded from rationalisation proposals but would not have prioritised. Council Cabinet bring forward proposals to consult on; report to Cabinet following consultation setting out Council and Archdiocese view. Expect Cabinet to meet in January to consider the proposal with option to proceed,</p>

No	Heading
	<p>withdraw, withdraw elements of the proposal, make minor changes to the proposal. If progressed the proposal would be published (statutory notice) ahead of determination by WG/Council. Seeking views to get clear feedback and determine what goes forward.</p> <p>P – 100 children go the St Peter’s because parents believe children will go to Corpus Christi from St Peter’s. Parents have not chosen against St Alban’s but against the high school. If catchments are realigned, the number of children at the school will increase.</p> <p>AR – catchment areas are kept under review.</p> <p>P – issues are brought up year on year; historical problem.</p> <p>Fr – is there any move to look at the realignment of secondary provision?</p> <p>AR – schools are admissions authorities; aware that consultation on proposed changes to Corpus Christi admissions brought forward.</p> <p>P – 13 Muslim and 11 Christian children at the school. St Alban’s is the only faith school in the area and impacting on these children also; affecting other religions.</p> <p>P – Muslim families have written in support of the school.</p> <p>P – the land is owned by The Rosminian Order; what difference does this make; deed says for benefit of catholic children of the parish.</p> <p>BA – land on which school sits/car park owned by the Diocese; the playing field is owned by LA. If the school closed there would need to be agreement on this.</p> <p>P – Rosminian Charity would have to consent to this.</p> <p>P – if the number of baptised children turned out to be 43%, would the proposal be reconsidered?</p> <p>AR – figures are being reviewed; Catholic Education Service (CES) conduct annual survey.</p> <p>P – have forwarded correct figures to CES/Diocese. Can understand that incorrect figure was given to the Diocese and new figures submitted.</p> <p>BA – need to take the view of CES/Diocese.</p> <p>P – figures have to be checked.</p>

No	Heading
	<p>AR – have asked for figures to be reviewed and expecting outcome in a matter of weeks.</p> <p>P – this is a deprived area. If children have to go to St Peter’s the bus service is not near; how are children going to get to school? Ten years of austerity and lots of families are struggling. Want Council to understand this. The situation in the parish has changed; new impetus. Parish will be minimised if the school is lost; children are the future of the parish. Look at deprivation, children will find it difficult; will not have clothes/shoes to deal with weather and will miss school. Duty to look after the poorest.</p> <p>BA – welcome feedback and would also ask that people respond formally. With regard to children having to travel further, have looked at the number of children who identify as catholic and based on that the majority could transfer to St Peter’s with some having to be transported elsewhere. If figures are not correct, then premise around St Peter’s not correct and a greater number of children would have to travel out. If children choose not to travel there will be places available locally at Baden Powell Primary School. Will have to review in light of updated numbers; look at Equality Impact Assessment including faith. Policy on transport sets out that children living over two miles may be eligible for home to school transport; if less than two miles not eligible. After St Peter’s the next nearest school is St John Lloyd.</p> <p>P – would that be transitional?</p> <p>BA – policy in place at present sets out two mile limit. Would have to look at boundaries going forward to ensure school within safe walking distance.</p> <p>P – forgetting that parents do not want young children on public transport.</p> <p>P – St Peter’s does not have wrap round care. St Peter’s is a failing school at the moment. No guarantee that siblings will get into St Peter’s.</p> <p>P - there is a connection between the School and Church. Children are the future of the parish. Closing the school will split the community; catholic element will be destroyed.</p> <p>P – there is a sense of community at the school.</p> <p>P – the school is part of the structure of the community.</p> <p>P – when did discussions with the LA start. The proposal came as a complete shock in July.</p>

No	Heading
	<p>AR – there have been discussions at clergy level for some time.</p> <p>P – when did the Archdiocese approach the LA?</p> <p>AR – discussions with the LA for up to two years; discussions between Diocese and local clergy.</p> <p>P – glad it's been done through LA who have to follow due process.</p> <p>P – not against development of Willows High School, only against the closure of St Alban's.</p> <p>P – Diocese handed school on a plate by LA. Archdiocese could not close the school and offered to LA.</p> <p>P – opportunistic late decision by the Archdiocese. St Alban's is no different to any other school. What other schools are marked for closure. What next, the church.</p> <p>P – there have been difficulties for eight years with opportunities to correct. The school has been run down with a view to disposing of.</p> <p>P – Mrs Woodward (acting Head) approached the Diocese three years ago.</p> <p>AR – what she said at the time was that she would be happy to help out.</p> <p>P – Mrs Woodward volunteered and has now offered to apply for the headship if advertised. If she had been brought in three years ago, the school would not be in this position. Committed to being a catholic school; children have a great deal of challenges and we care for them.</p> <p>P – respect Archbishop George but cannot agree with him on this. There needs to be a serious look to see if there can be a change of mind. There are new clergy in the parish and at the very least the school needs a chance to improve.</p> <p>P – the Archbishop has invited Oratorians in and needs to provide the opportunity for them to develop and improve.</p> <p>AR – all views will be considered; will be working closely with the Council and looking at all responses carefully.</p> <p>There were presentations from children at the school setting out their feelings and why the school should remain open.</p>

No	Heading
	Officers thanked all those present and the session ended.



**Schools Programme
Record of Drop In Session
Central Library – 03 Oct 2019
5:00pm – 7:00pm**



Present: Rosalie Phillips (SOP), Ian Warburton (SOP)

Please note: The following is not a transcript but a contemporaneous note of the meeting.

No	Heading	Action
	<p>Officers were available to discuss the proposals from 5 – 7pm.</p> <p>A local resident attended the session. The resident was concerned about the ability of the existing infrastructure to support the proposed changes, the loss of public open space and trees.</p> <p>They also queried the timeframe, why the existing Willows High School site was not being considered and whether the proposed new flood defences would make the site viable.</p>	



**Schools Programme
Record of Drop In Session
Tremorfa Nursery – 8th Oct 2019
1pm – 2.30pm**



Present: Shirley Karseras (SOP), Rachel Burgess Willis (SOP)

Please note: The following is not a transcript but a contemporaneous note of the meeting.

No	Heading	Action
	<p>Officers were available to discuss the proposed changes from 1 – 2:30pm.</p> <p>Six people attended the drop in session; three parents and a grandparent of children who attend the nursery and a couple who live in the area.</p> <p>More information was sought and they were keen to see the indicative map of the proposed school building and its proposed location on the Tremorfa site.</p> <p>Questions surrounding what would be done with the Baden Powell Primary School and Willows High School sites were asked. An explanation of the flood plain was given and the land matters in relation to public space as part of a charitable trust was highlighted.</p> <p>One of the parents wanted to know whether there would be a budget for the refurbishment of Tremorfa Nursery and St Albans Primary School to accommodate the proposed increase in services, increased nursery provision, relocation of Flying Start and the introduction of an integrated children's centre.</p> <p>The number of nursery places across the area was queried: would there be enough if those at Baden Powell PS were removed?</p> <p>The proposed establishment of sixth form provision was seen as a huge positive for the area.</p>	



**Schools Programme
Record of Drop In Session
Adamsdown Primary School – 14 Oct 2019
9:00am – 10:00am**



Present: Cerys Richardson (SOP), Shirley Karseras (SOP)

Please note: The following is not a transcript but a contemporaneous note of the meeting.

No	Heading	Action
	<p>Officers were available to discuss the proposals from 9 – 10am.</p> <p>A parent of a child currently attending nursery provision at a different Cardiff school attended.</p> <p>The parent was in the process of looking at primary/secondary school options and wanted to know the details of the proposed changes.</p>	



**Schools Programme
Record of Drop In Session
Baden Powell Primary School – 22 Oct 2019
3:30pm – 5:00pm**



Present: Rosalie Phillips (SOP), Ian Warburton (SOP)

Please note: The following is not a transcript but a contemporaneous note of the meeting.

No	Heading	Action
	<p>Officers were available to discuss the proposed changes from 3:30 – 5pm.</p> <p>Five people attended the session (4 parents and 1 resident).</p> <p>The points raised included:</p> <p>Concerns around congestion on the roads – fears for children’s safety at drop-off and pick-up time. Fears include increased traffic.</p> <p>Traffic management discussed, safe walking routes and liaising with the schools and Transport</p> <p>Concerns around schools sharing a site with older children barging past younger children (if both schools let out at same time) and misbehaviour in general</p> <p>Discussed benefits and risks of this eg the schools having varying start and finish times, controlled access etc.</p> <p>Concerns around sixth form sharing the same site</p> <p>Agreed that having local FE provision would be a plus for the area however</p> <p>3FE is too big for a primary school.</p> <p>Discussed other 3FE schools – eg Ysgol Treganna, Whitchurch Primary</p> <p>School halls need to be large/not shared. Resources need to be schools’ own.</p> <p>Discussed how Baden Powell PS would not have fewer resources of its own in a shared site.</p> <p>Suggested 3 separate buildings. Three schools in a row – Nursery, Primary and Secondary/or Primary, Secondary and FE building</p> <p>Clarity was sought on why it was not feasibility to rebuild Willows on the existing site whilst it was considered viable to build accommodation on the same site.</p> <p>Officers advised that no housing is planned for the current Willows site which is identified in the proposal as being retained as an informal park</p>	

No	Heading	Action
	<p>area. Furthermore, the school cannot be rebuilt on the existing site due to the assessment of the land in terms of flood risk.</p> <p>A request was made for guarantees regarding future use of the Willows site and a wider community access to the new Willows development.</p> <p>Officers advised that the current proposal is as detailed in the consultation document. It is not possible to say what may happen in the future regarding both use of land and school operation as a community resource.</p> <p>Query re whether the environmental impact of removing the trees from Tremorfa park had been considered.</p> <p>Officers advised that a wider impact study would be undertaken including environmental impact if the proposal is to be progressed.</p> <p>Query re whether it is appropriate to co-locate a primary school on the same site as a secondary school?</p> <p>Officers advised that there is evidence that co-locating primary and secondary provision can result in improved behavioural patterns amongst the older children as they perceive themselves as role models for the younger children. Fully understand that there may be concerns regarding behaviour and any influence this may have on the younger pupils.</p> <p>Query re whether there will there be enough room on the proposed site to accommodate both schools</p> <p>Officers advised that the site has been assessed as being able to accommodate the proposed school buildings as put forward in the consultation document.</p> <p>Query re whether all residents had been informed?</p> <p>Officers advised that residents backing on to the proposed site together with a number of stakeholders as indicated in the consultation document had been contacted regarding the proposal</p> <p>Parent Comment</p> <p>I would support the upgrading of both schools as a good ambition subject to the caveats previously pointed out</p>	