

APPENDIX 5

Records of Public Meetings:

- Virtual Public Meeting (24th February 2021)
- Virtual Public Meeting (01st March 2021)
- Virtual Public Meeting (16th March 2021)



**Schools Programme
Record of Virtual Public Meeting
Cathays High School
24th February 2021**



Present: Richard Portas (SOP), Michele Duddridge-Friedl (SOP), Stuart Davies (HT Cathays High School), Jo-Anne Phillips (LA), Hibah Iqbal (SOP), Rosalie Phillips (SOP), Ian Warburton (SOP), Members of the public

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

The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams Live Event

Welcome and Introductions

Richard Portas (RP) opened the meeting, welcomed attendees and introduced Stuart Davies (SD), the Headteacher of Cathays High School.

SD set out the schools position on the proposal. The school viewed, the proposed changes as an exciting opportunity for staff, pupils and for the local community.

Cathays is a 'green' categorised school where teaching is excellent, pupil support is at a high level and pupils have excellent outcomes.

Notwithstanding the success of the school, the facilities available limit the full potential in developing young people in the community. The school feels that this is an excellent opportunity which the school needs and the community deserves

RP provided a brief overview of the proposal being consulted on.

There was a presentation from Michele Duddridge-Friedl setting out details of the proposal:

- Background
- What is being proposed?
- English-medium (EM) pupil secondary forecasts and projections in Cardiff
- EM pupil forecast in Cathays and surrounding area if proposal is implemented
- EM pupil forecast in Cathays and surrounding area if proposal is not implemented
- Cathays High School condition categorisation
- Cathays High School suitability categorisation
- Quality and Standards
- Land considerations
- Transport considerations
- Proposal benefits
- Potential disadvantages and risks
- Alternative options discounted
- Finance
- What happens next?

Questions and Answers

RP invited questions from the public

The questions submitted by those who attended the meetings are set out in *italics* below with the officer response given directly below.

Please note that the questions have been copied as written / translated directly from Teams Live Event meeting log.

Q - What is meant by community space for all, and what are the details of its planned inclusion?

RP - The proposal will look to protect open access space for the community whilst providing enhanced facilities (i.e. sports hall) that will be made available to the community. The Council is also exploring whether some of the facilities could be made available on an open access basis. Designs have not yet been progressed as we are at the early stages of the process, but any plans would be subject to a planning application that would include a full consultation process. Residents and the community would be able to feed into this.

Q - What is meant by enhanced community facilities?

SD - This means that the new school building and facilities would add value to the local community in terms of improved sports facilities, cultural and creative spaces such as performing arts areas, meeting places for community groups etc.

Q - Will this proposal mean that we lose Maindy velodrome as well as the leisure centre?

RP - A replacement velodrome is to be built at the International Sports Village, the leisure centre is expected to be retained as it is.

Q - If the cabinet report for the replacement track is being considered on 18th March, that is only 1 day before the end of the consultation report for this proposal. That does not allow much time to fully consider the cabinet report? Also, is there a guarantee that it would be open before the existing track is redeveloped, is the funding in place?

RP - I appreciate your concerns but the cabinet report will be published before the proposal is debated by Cabinet and hence will be available for your consideration. Yes, the track is proposed to be in place before the school is built.

Q - I understand that the land was bequeathed to the City by Lord Bute and there is a covenant to retain the land as public open space? I also believe it is not possible to build on the site as that the land is the site of an old dump, is that correct?

RP - The Council is committed to public open spaces and we are looking at solutions to enhance facilities for the community. The covenant will be assessed as the scheme progresses. The land has been assessed by qualified surveyors and building work would be compliant.

Q - How will the new school be carbon neutral in both its build and running? Also, why is green space being taken away from the local area given Cardiff's commitment to keeping green areas to support the move to next zero emissions by 2030?

RP/SD - The Council would work with the Welsh Government to achieve a carbon neutral school that considers the operations of the building and embodied carbon through construction. This is an aspiration that would develop as designs are progressed by Welsh Government. Regarding open space, the Council is committing to open access space as part of this proposal.

Q - What proportion of the current site has buildings on it? What proportion of the proposed site at Maindy will be built on? Which part of the Maindy site will be built on? Will there be height restrictions on the buildings?

RP - As we have stated, this is an early stage of the proposal and as such, we have not yet progressed to the design stage. It is therefore not possible to confirm the proportion of the Maindy site that would be used for buildings, building heights etc. Any designs would require planning permission and would consider the local area. We can confirm the proportion of buildings on the existing site in due course.

Q - The increase in mainstream and specialist school places will have a huge impact on traffic congestion. How can local residents comment fully on the proposal when no details of the transport arrangements are provided, e.g maps etc?

RP/MDF - As we have stated, this is an early stage of the proposal. Until the design stage is reached, it is not possible to produce a map as the particular arrangements addressing traffic issues will not be known, but the Council would undertake a full traffic assessment as part of the planning and design process. Furthermore, the school would also have an Active Travel Plan and encourage behavioural change for pupils accessing the facilities. We are required to undertake public consultation as part of the school planning process. If we are able to proceed to the design phase, all designs would be made available for the public to consider and share their views.

Q - You have indicated Crown way may close as part of the transport arrangements but would this not increase congestion and reduce air quality along sections of Whitchurch road? As an alternative, why not close Maindy Road off North Road instead? This would reduce traffic in a residential area. Crown Way only has access to public buildings and will limit access to Companies House, why close it? Will New Zealand Road remain a no through road?

RP - All options are being considered and we welcome your input on this matter. At this stage there are currently no plans to make changes to New Zealand Road.

Q - Why is the proposal to expand the school to 240 pupils per year group when the projections indicate the maximum in-catchment demand to be for 105 pupils? Will there subsequently be proposals to change the catchment area of adjoining areas such as Cardiff High School? If the school was built just to accommodate projected numbers, could it be built on the existing school site?

RP - There is no space on the existing site for permanent expansion, the current site being undersized. The Council has considered the city wide position in developing this proposal. The Council will look to review catchments, and changes made as required, when the capacity is in place.

Q - If there are likely to be insufficient places to serve Fitzalan High School in the future, why not build the proposed replacement Fitzalan School with increased capacity, rather than expect pupils to travel to other catchment areas?

MDF - Fitzalan is already at 10FE. The Council believes that expanding the capacity of Fitzalan beyond 10FE would make the school more difficult to manage effectively especially when one considers the diverse community attending the school.

Q - Why are there question disappearing from the Q&A record, are they being deleted?

Rosalie Phillips - No questions are being removed, there is a limit to how many can be displayed.

Q - Meetings via this platform make it very difficult for members of the public to self-organise. Does this make everything easier for you?

MDF - Regrettably, the current pandemic is placing constraints on how consultations are run and makes it more difficult for us. In Cardiff we consistently seek to provide more interactive methods beyond what is formally required to engage with stakeholders, to gain an insight into key concerns and be made aware of any suggestions regarding how the proposals could potentially be improved.

Q - I think it is really good that Cathays is being rebuilt and am surprise that it is assessed as C in condition terms. I totally support the addition of improved facilities for children, but should not the Council be considering other government buildings (e.g. Companies House, the barracks etc.) when developing its plans?

RP - These sites are not owned by the Council and are working, operational sites not currently for sale. We do look at all sites that may be available.

Q - Why is not a more holistic approach being adopted by the council regarding the two current school proposals in the area, in terms of cumulative impact?

MDF - The proposals are very different. The proposal regarding primary places reflects an under demand for Gladstone and Allensbank, and a growing demand for Ysgol Mynydd Bychan. We are consulting on a temporary measure to address these issues. This proposal for Cathays High School is a permanent change based on forecasts as presented.

Q - Is the proposal being assessed in terms of wellbeing goals and will this be published?

RP - Yes, this will be available as we progress through the stages of the project.

Q - I have a positive view of the proposal, but the lack of detail is an issue. Also the MIM financial model is a very expensive way of funding projects; based on the lack of detail how do you know the Council commitment is for 19% of the overall cost of the proposal?

RP - I understand the concerns but only limited details are available at this early stage of the consultation. With respect to finance, the Mutual Investment Model (MIM) finance model is that adopted by Welsh Government and the budget modelling is part of the original Band B proposals.

MDF - This meeting is part of the engagement process with the community. We are asking for all opinions for us to consider, positive and negative, in order to help inform this process.

RP thanked everyone for attending and expressing their views.

The meeting ended at 18:50



**Schools Programme
Record of Virtual Public Meeting
Cathays High School
1st March 2021**



Present: Richard Portas (SOP)), Michele Duddridge Friedl (SOP), Stuart Davies (HT Cathays High School), Rosalie Phillips (SOP), Ian Warburton (SOP), Members of the public (aprox 28)

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

The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams Live Event

Welcome and Introductions

Richard Portas (RP) opened the meeting, welcomed attendees and introduced Stuart Davies (SD), the Headteacher for Cathays High School.

RP provided a brief overview of the proposal being consulted on.

Owing to the technical difficulties the planned presentation setting out details of the proposed changes was unable to be run. The presentation was based on information contained in the consultation document which set out details of the proposal and Michele Duddridge-Friedl (MDF) provided an oral overview of the presentation which included:

- Background
- What is being proposed?
- English-medium (EM) pupil secondary forecasts and projections in Cardiff
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E-mail/telephone contact details were provided for anyone wishing to request a copy of the presentation.

Attendees were also advised that an additional public meeting had been scheduled for 16 March 2021. Anyone wishing to attend was to e-mail schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk

Stuart Davies set out the schools position on the proposal. The school viewed the proposed changes as an exciting opportunity for staff, pupils and for the local community. Cathays is a 'green' categorised school where teaching is excellent, pupil support is at a high level and pupils have excellent outcomes.

Notwithstanding the success of the school, the facilities available limit the full potential in developing young people in the community. The school feels this is an excellent opportunity which the school needs and the community deserves

Question and Answers

RP invited questions from those attending

The questions submitted by those who attended the meeting are set out in *italics* below with the officer response given directly below.

Please note that the questions have been copied as written / translated directly from Teams Live Event meeting log.

A number of members of the public expressed their frustration at not being able to view the presentation.

Q - I am totally in agreement with the provision of new facilities, but I would like to ensure that there will be no disruption to New Zealand Road, either during the construction or operation phases?

RP - There are no particular plans for any alteration to New Zealand Road. There would be an impact on traffic during the construction phase and this would be mitigated by a construction management plan. This incorporates, delivery scheduling, delivery routes, health and safety measures etc. It is too early in the process to have details of these arrangements.

In terms of the new school facilities, an active travel plan would be developed, encouraging the use of cycle and walking routes. It is too early at this stage to know if there would be pick up/drop off places or how particular roads would be affected. This is an early stage of engagement and details regarding transport arrangements would be made known during the design stage, should the proposal go ahead.

Q - Cathays High is located closer to Marlborough Primary School than our catchment school of Cardiff High. The latter cannot currently accommodate all of our children. For those of us hoping to get into the new Cathays High, will the Council join up the new segregated cycle routes on Wellfield Road and Albany Road by making Crwys Road and Whitchurch Road segregated cycle lanes too?

RP - We are looking at cycle routes, walking routes as well as all travel options. These will be developed if the proposal progresses.

MDF - When we have established patterns of uptake, transport arrangements etc, we review catchments to reflect these patterns. This includes, safe walking routes, cycle routes; all aspects of travel.

Q - I totally agree that the updating and expansion of the school is a good thing, but I have concerns about the loss of the velodrome. There are many users of this facility other than Maindy Flyers but removing from the track current central location and building an, as yet unspecified replacement in the bay is not necessarily the answer in my view?

RP - There is a paper being presented to Cabinet on 18th March which will set out details of consultations with the cycling community. Please pass on any further comments that may inform this paper. If the proposal to relocate the velodrome were to go ahead, this would be expected to be in place before development on the existing site, with no loss of cycling facilities anticipated.

Again we are at early stages so the design and proposed facilities have not been developed, but it is very likely the specification would be as a minimum equal to that of the velodrome in place with the expectation of enhancement.

Q - Having worked at the velodrome, I was given the impression that the land underneath the facility is toxic?

RP. The site was a clay pit. At this stage, no full surveys have been undertaken. This consultation sets out the principals of the proposal; if the proposal progresses, this together with other factors would be considered and any building works would be fully compliant.

Q - Will the pool stay open during the building of the new school?

RP - There is no proposal to change the pool, or access to the pool, and yes, the pool would stay open.

Q - Is there any information regarding what the old school site will be used for? Is the old school building being demolished?

RP - Some of the new school facilities would be on the existing site but the details of the arrangements including the plans for the existing buildings, are not available at this stage.

Q - What about issues with litter?

SD - We have tried to actively manage some of the issues that have been raised regarding litter. The school has restricted use of the entrance on New Zealand Way to Sixth Form pupils only at the beginning and end of the school day, and as supervised access at lunchtimes. A member of the site team now clears litter on New Zealand Road, the lane and Crown Way. These measures were started in October because of historical issues. Whilst it has been difficult to establish a routine due to Covid restrictions, I hope the residents have seen evidence of the benefit of these initiatives.

RP - The new site will be bigger with better catering facilities. There is an expectation that more pupils would remain on site during the day which has a number of potential benefits such as safeguarding and the minimising of littering.

Comments were expressed by attendees supporting the retention of public open space and expressing support for the arrangements to reduce littering.

There were no further questions and RP thanked everyone for attending and expressing their views.

The meeting ended at 15:01



**Schools Programme
Record of Virtual Public Meeting
Cathays High School
16th March 2021**



Present: Richard Portas (SOP), Michele Duddridge-Friedl (SOP), Stuart Davies (HT Cathays High School), Jo-Anne Phillips (LA), Hibah Iqbal (SOP), Rosalie Phillips (SOP), Ian Warburton (SOP), Members of the public

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Questions and Answers

RP invited questions from the public

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Q - What other measures are being considered other than the closure of Crown Way? Whilst I understand the rationale of looking at this, it would cause real problems for traffic flow up Whitchurch Road which is already heavily congested

RP - The proposal is not yet at the point where a full transport assessment would be undertaken. Consideration is being given to active travel links, the cycle superhighway and bus routes. The closure of Crown Way is also being considered with no plans to consider any other arrangements at this point. We are mindful of not creating a worse traffic position.

Q - A large proportion of existing students attend Cathays from outside the Cathays catchment area. Has a scoping exercise been done for this.

RP - The proposal is at the early stage and consulting on the principle not the design. In the event of the proposal being progressed we would come back with the full design as part of pre planning consultation with plenty of opportunities to respond at that point.

MDF - There are insufficient English-medium places, with more children than capacity. Cathays High School is well located to meet demand within the local and wider area. There are schools where increasing the size would not be appropriate and we need to ensure high quality provision in schools like Cathays. We need to ensure there is enough English medium, Welsh-medium and Faith provision across the city. Once there is sufficient capacity in the system, we will be looking at catchment area changes.

Q - Will local primary schools have access to the sports/recreational facilities provided by the new site?

RP - Yes, part of 21st Century Schools Programme is offering facilities at a lower rate for the community and primary schools. The Cathays Headteacher has been unable to join the meeting because of technical issues but supports this and has advised via the chat bar that this is an area that the school wishes to develop more fully with partner primary schools and the community over the coming years.

Q - Ah this question is not so much to do with travel, rather to do with offering places to where children live the residential areas are being expanded in the south, why not increase places in the south?

RP - There is growth across the city, with developments in the north and west outweighing developments in the south e.g. Plasdwr in the NE of the city. Cathays is centrally located and well placed for developments in the north and west. Fitzalan at 10FE covers the south and also developing Willows High School.

MDF - Some of the largest developments are in the north and require their own schools. We need to ensure an equitable distribution of each type of provision, in both the short and long term. Looking at solutions to future proof provision, what can add value, catchment layouts, travel distances. How will this work as a whole and how best to provide. We want children to be able to access schools. It also adds value to the local community and the wider area.

Q - The size increase in Fitzalan and Willows is negligible compared to the 400 places proposed for Cathays.

RP - We do have places available and we do have a wider view. The Cathays Headteacher supports making facilities available for local primaries. We want to make sure primary needs are taken into account.

Q - Whilst this is a schools consultation, what consideration is being given to the loss of the cycle track from the area given, as you say, the centrality of the provision? Can anyone comment on this?

RP - A Cabinet paper has been brought forward setting out proposals to relocate the cycle track to the International Sports Village in co-operation with cycling groups. The proposal is part of the overall improvement of facilities and links to the cycle superhighway. Very important we have links to cycling and help people to access this.

State of the art 3G pitches, sports provision and opportunities to improve arts provision are all part of the Cathays High School proposal with lots of positives.

Q - Maindy is recognised as one of the few green spaces for Gabalfa, Maindy. We are concerned about the downsizing of green space.

RP - We're not at the stage of bringing forward a planning application. When we have solid proposals we can. The cabinet paper has committed to providing access for the local community. We know we need to use the Maindy Centre site and part of the existing school site and will be looking to enhance and maximise community spaces. Understand the sensitivities but do not have design detail at this point.

Q - There are 140+ trees in Maindy - what provisions will be made to preserve i.e. not just replacement with spindly trees?

RP - We would need to undertake a tree assessment, assess for TPOs and take account of ecology. When looking at design we would look to maximise and maintain trees and supplement if needed. We're just not at the design point.

Q - There is a proposal of using half of existing school site - do you have any ideas of what the other half be used? I heard that the council may dispose of the other half?

RP - We haven't issued any plans. There are a number of options but until we have a design partner on board we are not able to progress this. Part of the existing site is needed and have committed to open access space and enhanced facilities but not able to specify at this point.

Q - If Crown Way is closed where will the traffic be redirected?

RP - As said earlier, we're still in the early stages, more design detail is needed and at that point we will take comments from Traffic and Transport colleagues.

Q - The question about half sites is that the information provided talks about retaining the existing site but relocating the main building on the cycle track side of Crown Way. What will the current site be used for if not the main school building?

RP - Not able to build on the cycle track area as that ground won't be suitable. The building would largely be on the Maindy Centre site. We're certain we'll put a 3G pitch but this is very high level and we don't have the design team on board yet.

**Q - Are there any assurances that New Zealand road won't be opened up.
Would Crown way still be open for cycling and pedestrians?**

RP - There are some different solutions but can't say where building would be located without design team to say what shape, size and location would look like. Will be considered by Welsh Government and Meridian. That will be based on survey feedback, feedback from planning process, statutory consultees etc.

**Q - What will happen to the BMX track? It is very much loved and well used.
We don't want it to move to Cardiff Bay**

RP - Guarantee it's not moving to Cardiff bay. Want to make sure it stays in the local area. Could be that design team say if we relocate it, that space can be used for something else or just leave it as is

RP thanked everyone for attending and expressing their views.

The meeting ended at 18:50