



Schools Programme
Record of Drop in Session
Willows High School Engagement
Tesco Pengam Green
22nd June 2021



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

Present: Laura Sampford (LS), Rosalie Phillips (RP)

The local councillors Cllr Huw Thomas (HT) and Cllr Ed Stubbs (ES) also attended.

The following comments were made by those who attended the session.

- Any new uniform would need to be affordable and available at local supermarkets
- Tesco would be happy to support any charity/community activities
- A parent of children attending Ysgol Glan Morfa expressed concerns about the location of a high school in close proximity to a primary school and potential traffic issues. She advised that she would support the closure of Lewis Road.
- A local resident would like to see the promotion of life skills and vocational qualifications. She would also like to see the provision of additional specialist provision to meet demand for ALN places.



**Schools Programme
Record of Drop in Session
Willows High School Engagement
Brewery Field
24th June 2021**



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

Present: Laura Sampford (LS), Rosalie Phillips (RP)

The local councillor Cllr Owen Jones (OJ) and the Headteacher of Willows High School Chris Norman (CN) also attended.

The session was attended by one member of the public who was aware of the previous proposal for the school and wanted information of what was being planned.



**Schools Programme
Record of Drop in Session
Willows High School Engagement
Old Library, Singleton Road
30th June 2021**



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

Present: Laura Sampford (LS), Shirley Karseras (SK)

The local councillors Cllr Ed Stubbs (ES) and Cllr Jane Henshaw (JH), the Willows High School Headteacher Chris Norman (CN), Community Governor Joe Redmond (JR) and Camilla Lovelace (CL) from 'Friends of Willows' also attended.

A parent with a children at Willows High School attended the session and expressed concern at the new location of the school.

The Headteacher advised that he was content with the new location but was mindful of the need for safe and practical walking and travel routes. These need to be, not only for children coming from Adamsdown and Splott but those coming from Butetown and Grangetown too.

JH advised that she liked the new location and hoped that this would help the school really engage with the creative industries in this area. She is stated that she was very pleased that the children in Adamsdown and Splott would be able to benefit from having the best facilities that this new school could bring.

CL advised that she was very keen that parents fed into the engagement process and was actively going to encourage this. She queried whether Year 4 and Year 5 pupils were being engaged with as they will be the ones that inherit the school. She was concerned at how the new build 21st Century Schools will age and thought it would be useful to see one 10 years down the line. She did not like the plastic furniture that is proposed for the new school as she felt that it was not sustainable and would prefer to re-use existing wooden furniture. She also asked what play equipment was planned for the outside space, highlighting that it needs to be inclusive for all children.

She also asked if it would be possible to take the Children's Rights mural at Willows High School to the new building.



**Schools Programme
Record of Drop in Session
Willows High School Engagement
Splott Sports Pavilion
6th July 2021**



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

Present: Laura Sampford (LS), Shirley Karseras (SK)

The local councillors Cllr Ed Stubbs (ES) and Cllr Jane Henshaw (JH), the Willows High School Headteacher Chris Norman (CN) and Willows High School parent governors also attended.

The following comments were made by those who attended the session.

- A father of pupils currently at Willows High School and Baden Powell Primary School was in favour of the plans. He didn't feel that the location to Splott market would be an issue and was very keen for the pupils to have better facilities generated by the new build.
- A man who lived in the area was interested to know what changes were happening with the school. He had not attended Willows High School himself but knew pupils who had and did not hold a good impression of the existing school.

He felt that any small changes would help improve things in terms of education and the behaviour of pupils. He thought that it may benefit pupils to use facilities external to the school such as the library at Star Hyb or other sports facilities. He advised that that pupils at Fitzalan High School were able to use the facilities at the Gol Centre during their lunchtime and felt that it would be good if something similar could be replicated with Willows High School and nearby community links.

- A lady from Keep Splott Tidy advised that she was worried that if more students took up school places at Willows High School, then there would be an increase in rubbish and that there would be a greater need for extra bins in the area.

She also felt that there was a risk that children from Ysgol Glan Morfa would attend Willows High School based on the close proximity of the new building and that this would have a negative impact on those continuing with their Welsh-medium education. She believed that it was important that Welsh-medium education was safeguarded and that one way to ensure this would be to supply a bus for children in Adamsdown and Splott to Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Eder in Penylan.

- One of the Parent Governors also suggested adding a drop-in session at Tremorfa Park on 8th July 2021 as there was a basketball tournament taking place and she felt it would be beneficial to the engagement process.

- Several booklets were handed to Lynne Thomas from Ink Splott for dissemination to members of the community.



**Schools Programme
Record of Drop in Session
Willows High School Engagement
Butetown Hub
12th July 2021**



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

Present: Rosalie Phillips (RP), Jo Phillips (JP)

The local councillor Cllr Saeed Ibrahim and the Headteacher of Willows High School Chris Norman (CN) also attended.

The following comments were made by those who attended the session.

- A resident living close to the current Willows site was in favour of the new school but concerned about what would happen to the site.
- A parent of a child who was attending the school was in favour of the plans for the new school but queried whether there would be sixth form provision available.
- Cllr Ibrahim expressed concern regarding the size of the school and the possibility that the school may be oversubscribed with children from the local area unable to access places. There was pressure on places within the Fitzalan catchment and it was important to ensure the school was built at an appropriate size.
- A local resident expressed concerns around anti-social behaviour and traffic.
- A parent of a child at Willows High School expressed support for the planned changes.
- A parent of a potential pupil would like to see the school made bigger



**Schools Programme
Record of Drop in Session
Willows High School Engagement
Butetown Hub
15th July 2021**



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

Present: Rosalie Phillips (RP), Ian Warburton (IW)

The local councillor Cllr Saeed Ibrahim and the Headteacher of Willows High School Chris Norman (CN) also attended.

The following comments were made by those who attended the session.

- A local resident was supportive of the new school development.
- A Splott resident and former Willows High School pupil was very supportive of the new school development.
- A local resident was supportive of the planned new build. They would like to see a range of activities, school facilities, social areas for children and ALN provision established at the school.
- A local resident advised that parents were expressing concerns about having to send their children to schools other than Fitzalan with the only options available being Willows or Cathays. There was no option for people in the local area to move closer to Fitzalan with choice being taken away from the community. There were postcode problems outside of school and issues with knife crime. There were issues around safeguarding, cultural sensitivity and gang rivalry leading to exploitation. The Headteacher advised that there no issues with knife crime within the school; Willows had a similar pupil population to Fitzalan and was working to break the cycle. The school was providing a bus for children from the local area and invited the resident to visit the school.
- A young gentleman asked that the new school have the same facilities as Fitzalan.
- A local GP expressed the view that the provision of paid music tuition for all pupils would be a great benefit.
- A local resident would like to see a boxing gym including as part of the school facilities as part of supporting safeguarding work.
- Concerns were expressed around the size of school and the lack of sixth form provision.

