

3-16 CONSULTATION MEETING

PUBLIC

Wednesday 5th May 2021

(via Microsoft Teams)

PRESENT:

Mrs Sue Walker - Chief Education Officer, MTCBC
Mr Chris Jones – Building & Property Services Manager, MTCBC
Mrs Jayne Jones - Clerk to the 3-16 Governors, MTCBC
Mr Dan Jones – Bid Manager, Willmott Dixon
Mr Simon Kneafsey - Lead Architect, Atkins
Mrs Fiona Gwilliam - Project Architect, Atkins
Mr Jason Pritchard - Project Manager, Aecom
Mr Gary Mitchell - Consultant Engineer, Cambria Consulting

IN ATTENDANCE:

Members of the Public x 6
Councillor L Davies
Councillor D Isaac
Councillor K Gibbs
Councillor J Davies
Councillor B Smith

NO.	DISCUSSION
1.0	<p><u>Welcome/Background</u></p> <p>CJ welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.</p> <p>CJ explained that the purpose of the meeting was to consult on the revised options for the new 3-16 school. As part of the consultation process there will be targeted stakeholder sessions with Governors, Headteacher, Gurnos Football Club, Residents and the members of the Public.</p> <p>The consultation period follows on from the first consultation which took place in November 2020 and is being undertaken in response to a number of concerns raised which required looking at for the school site.</p> <p>The meeting today is to provide an opportunity to gather your views and answer any questions, raise any concerns on the revised options before completing the individual surveys. The revised options are: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Option 1 - build the school on plateau 1.• Option 2 - build the school on plateau 4.
2.0	<p><u>Presentation</u></p> <p>SK, Lead Architect gave a detailed presentation on the revised options for the site and explained at the end of the presentation there would be an opportunity to ask questions/make comments.</p> <p>The following information was shared: -</p>

NO.	DISCUSSION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background/contextual information. • Site consultation 1 (November 2020). • New consultation, option 1 and option 2. • Pros and cons to each option. • Road Safety and Traffic Management. <p>The meeting was opened for questions/comments: -</p> <p>Q: How many car park spaces will be on site? R: The number of spaces has not yet been determined, we will calculate the number and take into account all factors such as catchment areas, number of staff and the wider highways factors including the Travel Plan and agree a number that is appropriate.</p> <p>Q: So roughly, what is the figure? R: As an estimate it would be in the region of 110/120 car park spaces.</p> <p>Q: So, if there are potentially 1200 students, even if there is a walking bus, is this enough with all the staff that will require spaces? R: We have different ways to calculate the need for car parking spaces and we work with CSS Wales Guidance to determine an appropriate figure. In addition, the Traffic Management Plan and results of the parental survey are taken into consideration within the site, there is a drop-off/pick-up area.</p> <p>Q: Will the drop-off/pick-up area be regulated because currently if you look at schools in the area, parents are parked in their cars at the end of each day waiting for their children. This will be an issue to manage. R: We have experience of building schools and designing appropriate car parking spaces, but we take on board your comments. Our design will include a one-way flow system, narrow roads to prevent parking (to keep traffic flowing), pupils will alight onto a footpath.</p> <p>Q: Has the impact study on potential noise pollution, light pollution been completed? R: We have started to engage, and we have an acoustic engineer onboard to look at these issues, classes will be soundproof. The next phase is to undertake a scoping exercise to look at the other areas. Those reports will be in the public domain and available to you when completed.</p> <p>C: There is a meeting with South Wales Police tomorrow and noise pollution is on the agenda.</p> <p>Q: When will we have sight of the Traffic Survey? R: We are at the start of the process and as we begin to engage with stakeholders and collect data, we will share this via our stakeholder meetings.</p> <p>Q: In relation to your point above pupils alighting and stepping onto a footpath to enter school, this will not be possible for the younger pupils in nursery/primary, they cannot walk in on their own. R: This will be considered as part of the design and will be different for the younger pupils.</p> <p>Q: Will the car park be big enough for the number of pupils/staff? R: Yes, the car park will be determined via a calculation of all the factors and be fit for the size of school and we are also collecting information via surveys to be considered in the Travel Plan.</p> <p>Q: What surveys? As residents we have not had a survey. I understand that parents/schools need to be included, but as residents, we should also be included in the survey.</p>

NO.	DISCUSSION
	<p>R: We have sent the surveys to school, to go to parents to gauge their travel habits.</p> <p>Q: What are Highways doing to support the plans? There needs to be a joined-up approach.</p> <p>R: The Travel Management Plan is a detailed document which considers all factors including historic road data and we work with stakeholders to produce a plan that will support the new 3-16 school.</p> <p>C: Currently around Billingham Crescent there are issues with parking; with a new school, 1200 pupils and staff, this will be a nightmare for residents.</p> <p>R: We will work with Highways and this will be considered in our transport assessment.</p> <p>Q: Can we see copies of the Travel Assessments Reports? We need to have transparency.</p> <p>R: Yes, once the plateau has been agreed and the transport assessment undertaken it will be a public document.</p> <p>C: A meeting has been requested to consider safer routes and to look at the impact study in detail. This information will be shared to keep everyone up to date.</p> <p>Q: You have talked about historical data, what about the impact of the new Heads of the Valley? There will be more traffic and routes will be impacted.</p> <p>R: The wider scheme is considered in the Transport Assessment. The Travel Review has been started and there are many levels to check as we move forward.</p> <p>Q: Will the Travel Plan mean less car parking spaces?</p> <p>R: There can be conflict between the Travel Plan and the amount of car parking spaces, we don't want to encourage everyone to drive to school because there would not be enough spaces, ideally, we want to promote a sustainable approach as a solution.</p> <p>Q: Question about the road again, we have been told previously that road traffic calming measures could not be done because it was an ambulance route, what has changed and what measures are you considering?</p> <p>R: I was not aware that this was an ambulance route, any changes would have to be submitted to Highways.</p> <p>C: Councillor Smith added he was told the route was an ambulance route and there could be no bumps.</p> <p>C: This really concerns me, the safety of the route, there are so many factors to consider.</p> <p>R: The Travel Assessment Plan will consider all factors and will be very thorough to look for sustainable solutions.</p> <p>C: The road is a route to the Hospital and humps would slow down response times and would be an issue.</p> <p>R: There are many forms of traffic calming measures that we can look at and we will work alongside Highways as part of the process.</p> <p>Q: There is a blind entrance at Galon Uchaf Road, a roundabout would be a better option.</p> <p>R: As part of the design process all junctions will be reviewed, at this stage we are consulting on where the school will be and then the detail will be considered with Highways.</p> <p>C: I would imagine that the road in certain parts would need to be widened.</p> <p>R: There are lots of options that will be looked at including, one-way systems, speed limit of 20mph and this is what the Design Team will consider.</p>

NO.	DISCUSSION
	<p>Q: In the past there were mining issues, has a mining report been completed before the site was chosen and can we have copies?</p> <p>R: Again, at this stage we are consulting, all groundwork reports will be part of the ongoing design work. There will be several reports/studies looking at all the issues including site investigations, bore holes to look at the clay quality, gas monitoring, scans which identify changes in consistency of the ground.</p> <p>Q: Why this site? Was a feasibility study done? Can the site change?</p> <p>R: The site is safe and with any site comes some issues which will be dealt with as part of the design. A feasibility study was conducted and there were limited sites large enough within the area.</p> <p>Q: What about Goat Mill Road site?</p> <p>R: This option was looked at and ruled out, this information is in the public domain.</p> <p>Q: Can we see the feasibility study?</p> <p>R: Yes, this can be shared.</p> <p>Q: So, there will be 20-mile speed limit around the school?</p> <p>R: This will be looked at as part of the Travel Management Plan, this is an option and at this stage there are no guarantees, but everything will be considered.</p> <p>C: If you are going to send out large documents/reports to people, it may be better to send a link.</p> <p>Q: There are a number of pitches on the school site, who is in control, is it the school, the council or the clubs using them? Basically, who do I complain to if there is an issue?</p> <p>R: This will be considered by the governing body; the LA will work with school and governors will agree on how the pitches are managed. The school will provide contact emergency numbers for out of hours (when the school is not open).</p> <p>Q: You mentioned on the drainage at Billingham Crescent, there has been issues since I have lived there for the last 2 years. Will there be separate drains for the pitches when it rains, etc? There are streams in the area, they are not shown on your plan.</p> <p>R: As part of our on-going work, we will have to complete a SAB (Sustainable Drainage Approval Body) application, which will look at maximising the natural drainage, relying less on infrastructure to manage surface water. This will need approval from the Sustainable Drainage Approval Body before construction can start.</p> <p>C: There is the wider impact of flooding in the area and in the past Welsh Water has not been helpful and we already have a problem in Billingham Crescent with flooding.</p> <p>R: Currently the water is not managed, there is a strong clay base present. A SAB Application will benefit the current system.</p> <p>Q: On the Pitch Management (Pitch 5) there is a dashed line. If this a fence? Is there a pathway?</p> <p>R: The line defines the boundary site, all the site will be secure and fenced. I will check if there is a pathway. The pitches can be moved within the plan and this will be considered as part of the design.</p> <p>Q: What about floodlights on pitches?</p> <p>R: Only the 3G pitch will have floodlights.</p>

NO.	DISCUSSION
	<p>Q: Could a roundabout be added to ease the traffic at Billingham Crescent because pick-up at the end of the day will have lots of parents parking and waiting for their children.</p> <p>R: The Traffic Management Plan will look at all the factors including drop-off/pick-up times.</p> <p>Q: Last night concerns were expressed about knotweed and we were told that options including digging out or treating the knotweed would be considered. What about the wildlife in the area, how will you protect and manage this?</p> <p>R: We will engage a knotweed specialist on site and consider the best option. An Ecologist will also be on site to ensure wildlife is protected.</p> <p>C: We need to have assurances that the pathway from car park to pitches does not become an area where anti-social behaviour happens.</p> <p>R: The design of the site will have secure fencing and gated access which will be managed during school and out of school hours.</p> <p>C: Drop-off in the morning will be different to pick-up at the end of the day. Parents will park and wait; this need to be considered.</p> <p>R: The primary phase design will be different, and we are working with schools to ensure the design meets the needs of a 3-16 school.</p> <p>Q: Can we see the drainage plans and proposal for the new drainage system?</p> <p>R: The SAB Application will be undertaken, and this will be in the public domain. We will have a transparent process and documents will be available to you.</p> <p>C: Just to say again, anti-social behaviour is a concern and this needs to be factored in when you are looking at the design, particularly around Goetre Lane area.</p> <p>C: Goetre Lane has been an issue, going forward this needs to be managed and included in your discussions/plans when looking at the design of the school.</p> <p>C: A new school, with increased footfall, better lighting, could ease the gatherings and anti-social behaviour, but this will need to be factored into your design.</p> <p>C: As a community, we are working to clear the area of rubbish near St John's Ambulance Site.</p> <p>Q: In the plans there are shrubs/trees etc, will these be mature plants which will add some privacy?</p> <p>R: Yes, part of the decision is to use existing trees and add more to improve privacy for residents.</p> <p>Q: One last thing, there are rumours among residents that there will be compulsory purchase orders on houses, is this true?</p> <p>R: No, there are no compulsory purchase orders planned.</p>
3.0	<p><u>Timescales</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation 2 currently out for feedback until Friday 7th May. • Decision on consultation expected 26th May. • Current plan is to start on site January 2022 and to open the new school in September 2023.