

Telephone: (0114) 273 5380

Email: jackie.drayton@sheffield.gov.uk

Your reference:

Our reference: JD/

Date: 11th April 2016

Response by email

Dear Jason

Thank you very much for attending and submitting your question at Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee on 9 March.

As I explained at the meeting, we cannot defer the commissioning of the new school, because there would not be enough time to complete the construction scheme by the opening date of September 2018. At that point we need to have 180 extra places available in the area and with further growth expected, we will need more in future years. This would simply not be achievable by expanding the other local schools.

The Bannerdale site is in the centre of the area where the school-age population has been growing most, namely the Greytones, Dobcroft and Ecclesall catchment areas. So, compared to the HSBC site, it would be convenient for students to get to and minimise car journeys. I also explained at the meeting that the Council must consider using its own land first because of the prohibitive cost of purchasing privately owned sites.

There are no drawings for the new school at this stage. These will be developed over the next period during the feasibility and design stage of the construction programme, and will in due course be submitted for planning approval. The planning process will include a full consultation.

As I am sure you will understand, we cannot give details of the likely receipt for the Bannerdale housing site as this is commercially sensitive information.

In answer to your final question, there will of course be full consultation on the physical plans for the new school as part of the planning process. However, the Council has been clear that it must meet its commitments to the provision of land for housing and the housing development is expected to go ahead. We will, however, ensure that there is a holistic approach to the planning so as to optimise the wider usage of the site.

All good wishes



**Councillor Jackie Drayton
CABINET MEMBER AND COUNCILLOR
FOR BURNGREAVE WARD**



**Cabinet Member for Children, Young People
and Families, Lifelong and Community
Learning and Councillor for
Burngreave Ward**

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**Cabinet Member for Children, Young People
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Town Hall
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Dear Helena

Thank you very much for attending and submitting your question at Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee on 9 March.

As I explained at the meeting, we did consider very carefully the options for making the extra secondary places available in the South West. The alternative of expanding existing schools was explored but what we found was that even if it were possible to expand all the local schools, it would simply not be enough places in the longer term for the number of children coming through the primary schools.

I understand your concern about catchment areas, but please be reassured that there will be a full consultation on the proposals before anything goes ahead. We will be starting to work on the options once a sponsor for the school is on board, and the consultation will be in the autumn.

Selecting the sponsor is an important first step, because we want parents in the area to know that the school will be an outstanding provision from the start, with an ambitious vision for education and a leadership with a strong track record of success. Our intention is to deliver a school that will meet the aspirations of local parents and be the school of choice alongside others in the area.

All good wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Jackie".

**Councillor Jackie Drayton
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Dear Mike

Thank you very much for attending and submitting your question at Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee on 9 March.

In response I do need to explain that the consultation period in the Autumn was about how the Council should provide more school places to meet the needs of a growing population. As part of that consultation a range of options were considered and the decision the Council took was to commission a new 11-18 secondary school for the South West, naming the Bannerdale car park site as the location.

The implications of development on the Bannerdale site will be considered as part of the planning process which will now go ahead. The design and layout of the school buildings will form part of a holistic plan for the site and will of course be subject to planning permission. As part of that process there will be a full consultation at the pre-application stage.

All good wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jackie'.

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Dear Jen

Thank you very much for attending and submitting your question at Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee on 9 March. As I explained at the meeting, the Council is not proposing any change to arrangements for Clifford Infant to feed to Ecclesall Junior as currently happens.

However, we are working with the Diocese of Sheffield, Clifford Infant and the two Ecclesall Schools to look at the implications of the enlargement of Ecclesall Infant School prior to coming out to consultation in the Summer. There are a number of potential options for the future which may help to support Clifford's vision of becoming a through primary school.

All good wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jackie".

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Dear Dr Habgood

Thank you very much for submitting your petition for Cabinet on Wednesday 9 March requesting that the sale of any part of Bannerdale be stopped prior to consultation on new school site plans.

I welcome the interest that has been generated about how the new school can be developed successfully on the Bannerdale site. We all want to see that the new school provides an outstanding education and that it can inspire families and young people living in the local area. So it is really important that we also get the physical development of the buildings right.

I am sure you will understand that we are at very early stages in that process. Our initial consideration of the site has assured us that the car park space is sufficient to accommodate the footprint of buildings required. However, as with any building scheme, we need to start with assessing the ground conditions and doing the technical exploration of the site. This will enable us to come up with options for the layout of the buildings.

As the Leader explained at the meeting, there is no decision at this point in time for the housing development to go ahead. The preferred developer of the housing site will need time to consider the Council's decision about the location of the school and we will need to work with them to explore how the two developments can work alongside each other. We are committed to a holistic approach to planning these developments so that we can optimise the layout and facilities provided on the wider site for all users. As part of this approach we will consider the access road and drainage elements you highlight.

Thank you for your continued interest in these proposals. I genuinely welcome your involvement and the passion you have shown about getting the right outcome for the new school.

All good wishes



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Dear Ted

Thank you very much for attending and submitting your question at Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee on 9 March.

I would like to explain that the decision that Cabinet took on 17 February was a statutory school organisation one to commission an 11-18 school for the South West of Sheffield. The car park area of the Bannerdale site is named in the recommendation because it is important that we state the location we are intending for the new school. However, no decisions were taken about the layout of the buildings or plans for the site.

I understand that you have concerns about the implications for the open space. I want to reassure you that this will form part of the next stage of the process which will be to work up the layout and design of the buildings as part of a holistic plan for the site. This will include developing plans for optimising the wider site and community usage, sporting and community facilities and access arrangements. These plans will be subject to planning approval during which full consideration will be given to any previous planning advice. The planning process allows for full public consultation on the plans once they are developed, and we are also committed to engaging with key stakeholders in the formative stage over the coming weeks.

So please be assured that you can continue to submit your views as part of this process and that we will be doing all we can to ensure that the development of a school will be an enhancement to the Bannerdale site.

All good wishes



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Dear Neil

Thank you very much for attending and submitting your question at Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee on 9 March.

I understand your concerns about the complexity of the proposals, but I as I explained at the meeting, we have no scope to defer the decision about commissioning a new secondary school for the South West. We need to deliver the additional school places by September 2018, and to delay any further would mean that the construction scheme would not meet that deadline.

However, the proposals for Ecclesall Infant which you are particularly concerned about will be subject to statutory consultation in the Summer Term and you will have the opportunity to put forward your views at that point. The plans for the physical development of the site and the impact on traffic will be assessed during the planning permissions stage which would follow if the proposals were approved.

I explained at the meeting the reason why schools have had to restrict access by the public to their playing fields and sites. I am sure you will understand that the safeguarding of children is the overriding priority and schools have had to introduce measures to manage that safeguarding responsibility in terms of access to their site.

All good wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jackie".

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Dear Umberto

Thank you very much for attending and submitting your question at Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee on 9 March. Your questions cover a number of issues which I will try and cover in turn.

I know there is disappointment that we could not support the Clifford proposal. It was not an issue of whether or not to invest in faith schools. There were two through school proposals put forward and unfortunately the Council could not support both of them. The Council has decided to propose a through school to match the expansion of places at Ecclesall Infant School and in so doing to enable 90 children per year to benefit from continuing their primary education within one school setting. This will be subject to statutory consultation in the Summer.

As we said at the meeting, I would be very happy to ask officers to explain the secondary school allocations to you. There was no scope to discuss the detail of that in the meeting. Silverdale was rebuilt under the BSF programme with 180 places, matching the capacity they had at the time. However, with the growth in pupils now coming through in the area, it is appropriate that we look again at the number of places they offer. The 60 additional places offered at Silverdale in September have been vital to enabling us to offer a local school place to children in the area.

In relation to the point at 6.9 of the report, as I confirmed at the meeting, we received a response to the consultation from the Ecclesall Schools that was quite clear that a through primary school was their preferred option. This view was also confirmed in meetings that I attended. I am therefore clear that the information in the Cabinet report was accurate. The consultation that follows in the Summer will enable everybody to express a view and any concerns about the way forward to be clarified.

All good wishes



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