

From: Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education and Young People's Services

To: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

Subject: Proposal to expand Palmarsh Primary School, initially to 1 FE, by September 2018

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: None

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: Hythe (Martyn Whybrow)

Summary: This report sets out the results of the public consultation on the proposal to expand Palmarsh Primary School for September 2018.

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is asked to endorse the decision to:

- a) Authorise the Corporate Director - Education and Young People's Services to issue Public Notice to expand Palmarsh Primary School to 1FE, with a published admissions number of 30 from September 2018 (subject to planning permission being granted);
- b) Allocate £2.2m from the Education and Young People's Service Capital budget;
- c) Authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support in consultation with the Director of Governance and Law to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council; and
- d) Authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts. Variations to contract value to be no more than 10% above the capital funding agreed by the Cabinet Member without requiring a new Record Of Decision.

Should objections, not already considered by the Cabinet Member when taking this decision, be received during the public notice period a separate decision will be required in order to continue the proposal in order to allow for proper consideration of the points raised.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Martello Lakes development built on the Nickolls Quarry site in Hythe has planning permission for 1050 houses and apartments. As part of the planning agreement for 1050 new homes, the developer is providing a £1.3m financial

contribution to the cost of expanding Palmarsh Primary School on its present site. Martello Lakes is located on Dymchurch Road, the entrance being 700m from the proposed new School entrance.

2. Proposal

2.1 The proposal under consultation is to expand Palmarsh Primary School, initially to 1FE (210 pupils), with the intention that the School will eventually become 2FE (420 pupils). During the consultation the Local Authority explained that the current proposal will be the first phase of a gradual expansion. This Phase will see the construction of three new classrooms, providing provision for an additional 105 pupils, and the infrastructure needed to allow the School to grow in the future. This will include: a small hall, toilets, a new staffroom, offices, reception and the relocation of the entrance to Jubilee Close in order to create a drop off and pick up area within the School site. Phase 1 will provide provision for 210 pupils in total by September 2018. Phase two will be the construction of a further four classrooms, expanding the School to 1.5FE. Forecasts would suggest that this will be no earlier than 2020. The final phase will be the construction of the 3 classrooms needed to allow the School to expand to 2FE. This final phase of construction will be dependent on the rate of house building. Consultations on expanding the School further will be initiated as appropriate.

2.3 This report sets out the results of the public consultation, which took place between 12 September 2016 and 10 October 2016. A public meeting was held on 19 September 2016.

3. Financial Implications

3.1

a. Capital –A feasibility study has been completed and the design has been developed. The estimated cost of the first phase of the expansion is in the region of £2.2m. The developer is contributing £1.3m towards the expansion with KCC providing the residual funding from the Education and Young People’s Services Capital budget.

b. Revenue - The School will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget. The rising roles will be protected in line with KCC Growth Funding Policy. Revenue funding will also be allocated to enable the School to resource each new classroom as they come on line. At present that is at a value of £6,000 per classroom.

c. Human – The School will appoint additional staff as required, as the School size increases and the need arises.

4. Vision and Priorities for Improvement

4.1 These proposals will help to secure our ambition that “Every child and young person should go to a good or outstanding early years setting and school” as set out in Vision and Priorities for Improvement 2016-2019.

4.2 The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2016-20 identified the need to commission the extra provision in the Hythe area. The Plan mentioned a specific need to expand Palmarsh School by up to 1 FE.

5. Consultation Outcomes

5.1 A total of 17 written responses were received. A summary of the comments received is provided at Appendix 1.

- 5.2 A summary of the views and comments given at the public consultation meeting is attached at Appendix 2.
- 5.3 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed as part of the consultation. To date no comments have been received and no changes are required to the Equality Impact Assessment.

6. Views

6.1 The view of the Local Members:

Cllr Martin Whybrow- Member for Hythe and a Palmarsh School Governor

The plan to extend Palmarsh Primary School is sensible, given the clear expected additional demand for school places, largely from the development at Nickolls Quarry/Martello Lakes. There is adequate space to do so within the current School boundaries, while still retaining sufficient open space for the pupils.

The delay to the housing development is a concern, in relation to planning the School expansion, so will need to be monitored.

The change of main entrance also looks sensible, providing adequate adaption of the junction and other road infrastructure is made to accommodate this. Given the problems turning onto and crossing the Dymchurch Road, strong consideration should be given for traffic lights at the junction with Jubilee Close.

Clearly, we also want to encourage as many children as possible to walk, cycle and use public transport to get to and from School. As such, I believe it is now essential to implement a pedestrian crossing at the bus stop on the Dymchurch Road to allow safe crossing of this ever more busy road (with, of course, the new homes further adding to traffic volumes) and this should be an integrated part of the School expansion plans.

In addition, I would like the new development to be as energy efficient and environmentally friendly as possible, ideally to passivhaus standards. There are excellent case studies now from around the Country of passivhaus school developments that are no more expensive than traditional developments but with much lower running costs after construction. The planned extension is sufficiently detached from the existing buildings to make passivhaus viable and Palmarsh Primary School could become a flagship for sustainable development. Refitting of the existing buildings, including LED lighting, as part of the project – as I believe is planned – would also be welcome.

6.2 The view of the Headteacher and Governing Body:

Mrs Sara Wakefield- Headteacher:

As Headteacher of Palmarsh Primary School I welcome the expansion of this good, well respected, community school. We currently have 134 pupils on role and facilities to house these children is inadequate. We use a mobile and have just bought an extra wooden building to run interventions. Children, parents and staff deserve a wonderful new building and look forward to its opening in September 2018.

Mrs Kenza Bowman- Chair of Governors

On behalf of the Governing Body of Palmarsh School I am pleased to say we support the expansion of the School as proposed by Kent County Council.

6.3. The view of the Area Education Officer:

Palmarsh Primary School is an increasingly popular school, currently catering for 134 pupils rather than the 105 it would ordinarily have on roll. This proposal will provide much needed additional primary places as the development at Martello Lakes rolls out. Concerns have been raised around increased traffic due to the expansion and the proposed drop off-pick up facility being served from Jubilee Close. Prior to the consultation KCC Highways colleagues were consulted and agreed that the new entrance through Jubilee Close, with appropriate highways modifications to the Jubilee Close carriageway and junction with the A259, was the best option. Highways colleagues will be consulted when planning consent is sought and we will work with them should any amendments to the proposal be required.

7. Delegation to Officers

7.1 The Officer Scheme of Delegation; under Appendix 2 part 4 of the Council's Constitution, provides a clear and appropriate link between this decision and the actions needed to implement it. For information it is envisaged, if the proposal goes ahead, that the Director of Property & Infrastructure Support will sign contracts on behalf of the County Council.

8. Conclusions

8.1 This expansion will provide additional primary places in Shepway.

9. Recommendation(s)

Recommendation(s): The Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is asked to endorse the decision to:

- e) Authorise the Corporate Director - Education and Young People's Services to issue Public Notice to expand Palmarsh Primary School to 1FE, with a published admissions number of 30 from September 2018 (subject to planning permission being granted);
- f) Allocate £2.2m from the Education and Young People's Service Capital budget;
- g) Authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support in consultation with the Director of Governance and Law to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council; and
- h) Authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts. Variations to contract value to be no more than 10% above the capital funding agreed by the Cabinet Member without requiring a new Record Of Decision.

10. Background Documents

10.1 Vision and Priorities for Improvement

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/vision-and-priorities-for-improvement>

10.2 Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2015-19

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/education-provision-plan>

10.3 Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment.

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-consultations>

11. Contact details

Report Author:

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Relevant Director:

- Keith Abbott
- Director of Education Planning and Access
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Proposal to expand Whitfield Aspen School

Summary of Written Responses

Printed Consultation Documents distributed: 240
 Consultation responses received:

A summary of the responses received showed:

	In Favour	Opposed	Undecided	Totals
Governors	2			2
Staff	2			2
Parents	8		2	10
Pupils				
Resident			1	1
Other	1		1	2
Totals	13		4	17

Comments in favour of the proposal:

- It will benefit the local school which is currently established. It will develop it into a better, newer environment for the present pupils.
- I have worked in the school for 4 years and the growth that I have seen has been vast from 76 pupils to 130. An increase in size is urgently needed as so many families wish to come to our School. When the quarry houses are built there will not be any room for the pupils. The expansion needs to come sooner than later.
- Really positive for the area and new families moving into Hythe.
- I attended Palmarsh School as have my children and my nieces and nephews. I am a huge supporter of Palmarsh and recommend the School to the parents attending the nursery I run.
- I feel that with the growing demand for places in the School due to its excellent reputation and the increase of residents in the area, the expansion will be the best solution.
- Having more classrooms and better parking will ensure the future of our local School. It is a practical and realistic plan for the growing population.

Concerns raised:

- I would like to be assured that the works will not affect the day to day running of the School.
- My children are looking forward to the expansion though they do not want to lose much of their playing field and the trees within the grounds.
- My only concern is whether the same level of pupil care could be kept up with a larger student base. We chose Palmarsh because of the air of friendliness from pupils and teachers alike.
- Is the School ready for expansion? The School has not long been graded Ofsted good, which in education is seen as perfectly acceptable. However, the report did highlight inconsistencies in teaching and clearly states that some leaders and new teachers have not had enough time to fully develop themselves and as a result of that pose a risk to the ability to improving the outcomes of children.
- We chose Palmarsh for our son due to the small class sizes and location. Whilst it is a shame the School is set to become significantly larger by the time his younger sister attends we recognise there is an increased need. My Biggest concern is access. The current situation is busy, hazardous and has a huge impact on

residents. The alternative being suggested is no better. Perhaps the School could use green space to build a single road routing cars through Jubilee Close, behind the School and out of the current route.

- There are a few concerns I feel need to be answered prior to the expansion of Palmmarsh Primary School being given the go-ahead. My seminal concern is for the safety of the children travelling to and from school. St George's Place is a small residential road which leads to Palmmarsh Primary. I do not feel this road is capable of coping with the extra traffic that would pass through if the expansion took place. As a former resident of St George's Place I often found leaving the house at school times impractical due to cars mounting pavements right the way to the top of the road often blocking access to the driveway of the house. With the extra students where would the additional vehicles park? The School already lacks the facilities to cope with pick up times traffic. Additionally, with the parked cars on the pavements it makes it difficult for parents with prams and children to stay on the pavement; they often have to walk in the road. On numerous occasions during my time at the address I witness cars driving inappropriately to and from the School; which obviously poses a danger to the children. Would there be traffic calming measures put into place to alleviate this issue? For example speed bumps? As a former resident I would not have opposed to them.
- The main road near the School is highly dangerous, a disaster waiting to happen. There is an urgent need for a crossing which will be even greater if the planned expansion goes ahead.
- It is acknowledged no traffic study has taken place before the provisional plans have been completed. This prevents any real discussion on the depth of the danger to residents and school children. When discussing the traffic study with the private company (Mouchel) represented at the pre-consultation meeting it was unfortunate that no criteria or methodology had been established. This suggests that a traffic study supporting the changes will be a simple extrapolation based on existing traffic and multiplying by the increase percentage of pupils. Previous experience of traffic studies would suggest that the traffic is likely to be between 3 and 4 times the amount for doubling the number of pupils. If the ultimate aim is to reach 3.5 the number of pupils then the traffic could reach more than 10 times the present number of vehicles presently used.
- Jubilee Close is situated on an outside bend when traffic approaches from the east and a meandering A259 when approached from the West. Therefore the entrance is blind to traffic from the East unless they are within 50m. Jubilee Close is partially blind from the West but generally safer though the speeding traffic from the East necessitates the utmost care and consideration when crossing traffic turning into the close from the West. The expected increase in the numbers of vehicles using Jubilee Close as the main entrance and exit would render it unsafe without several extensive measures. Parking restrictions are totally invalid unless enforced and the worst offenders are busy Mothers and Fathers who are "only taking a few seconds" to drop off their children. Pickup parking would appear to extend for an average of over 5 minutes will further impede the view of Jubilee Close and making it even more dangerous.
- The drop off zone within the School grounds is less than one third of the size required to alleviate the expected numbers of vehicles ensuring three point turns into the drives of residents or five point turns in the road way adding the traffic congestion and rising levels of car rage leading to risk taking on leaving drivers.
- The proposed ending of double yellow lines in Jubilee Close before reaching the school gates will cause congestion though continuing the lines will require strict enforcement. As this is KCC land it is unlikely to be anything other than a "nuisance" civilian offence. It is therefore essential that the road be designated as a public highway and all responsibility accepted by the appropriate bodies including the Police.

- I would recommended that consideration be given to creating an In/Out concept based on Jubilee Close being designated as the "in" and St Georges Place as the "out". This directs the traffic to the safer egress from St Georges as well as the bus stop adjacent to St Georges.

**Consultation on a Proposal to expand Palmarsh Primary School
from 0.5FE to 1FE (210 pupils)**

Monday 19 September 2016

5.00pm at Palmarsh Primary School, St George's Place, Hythe, Kent CT21 6NE

In Attendance:	Mrs Sara Wakefield	SW	Headteacher
	Mrs Kenza Bowman	KB	Chair of Governors
	David Adams	DA	Area Education Officer (SK) - KCC

Purpose of the Meeting

To explain the proposal to expand Palmarsh Primary School from 0.5FE to 1FE. SW welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Kenza Bowman – Chair of Governors and David Adams, Area Education Officer. DA explained the proposal in detail.

Name	Comment	Response
Mike Wallis – Resident Jubilee Close	MW - noted that the plans were comprehensive and understood the difficulties of expansion and the cost of relocation. I agree that it makes sense to expand the School. I am concerned regarding the access. It is not possible to complete a traffic study as Martello Lakes is not complete – you cannot base this on the current flow. The first year will not be so significant, but you have to think about the future – you can't put a plan together without a traffic study and that can't be done currently. It would make sense to have one entrance in and one entrance out – no traffic turning around. The most obvious solution would be Jubilee Close as the way in and St George's Place as the way out and for pedestrian traffic. This could be a compromise, safer for the children and the motorist. It is important to consider the volume of traffic now, future volume and have methodology and plans. You can't make plans/decisions without the traffic study to	DA – Thank you for your comments. This is a proposal and we are consulting to gather views. A route through the School was considered during the feasibility stage but it was decided it may not necessarily be the right solution, partially due to cost and difficulties getting through the site i.e. trees, drains and nurseries. We may revisit that option but it was not our preferred option and not the one we are consulting on. We will work to the requirements of the Highways Authority. We hold information on traffic flow on the main road, traffic around the School, the School's Travel Plan, proportion of youngsters that currently walk to school. There is an intention to have footpath access from Martello Lakes into Hythe and hopefully this will encourage people to walk. This issue will go through the planning process.

	support these.	
	Can you assure me that you won't just do a simple extrapolation on how to manage the traffic?	DA – The design team will have transport consultants who will deal with that.
	Can we as residents have copies of the planning details?	DA – Anything that gets submitted through the planning process is a public document. I am happy to ask the consultants to have a conversation with residents if required.
Peter Ridley – Resident St George's Place	As residents of St George's Place we have had to put up with all the traffic and now there will be more houses. I am happy for the School to expand; it's great for the children. As for the infrastructure it's mind boggling around St George's Place. I rent a garage and there are certain times of the day when I can't get the car in or out. There is no regard for residents. The road is crumbling and the kerbs have all dipped down. You're going to do some road repairs in Jubilee Close it would be nice if you looked at St George's Place. Something has to happen.	DA – KCC recognise there is new housing and the School needs to expand to provide sufficient pupil places. Through the Developer Contribution Agreements we are bound to spend that money here or we give it back. The issue is around the access and we need to try and improve the situation as best we can, we can't avoid more cars – this is a daily problem for most people. We need to get the traffic off the road, deliver pupils to school safely and then get the traffic back on the road. This is the Highways priority. I can't pretend there will not be issues. It is unlikely we will fund road repairs to St George's Place.
Ernie Winter	What about Dymchurch Road? Are there going to be any lights or crossings? It's a dangerous road. There's a bus stop on the other side – it's a major road	
Keith Miles - Councillor	<i>Following on from previous question:</i> As a local councillor we are discussing this at the moment. We have put a bid in for a pedestrian crossing down by the Prince of Wales pub as there are a lot of elderly people who get off the bus there and try to cross. It's the famous saying 'No one has died yet' – that's the reality. I have a submission for a crossing point at Prince of Wales, but we've also said that we need one up by the School for the expansion. This has been flagged up as	DA – From an education perspective we are discussing whether the School should grow but unfortunately we are not sat here with a pot of money that can sort out issues in the locality generally. If there is an existing issue and we can collectively come together, we would try to do that but I can't promise to solve all existing issues or find funding for these. DA – yes. We can keep the School

	<p>a necessity.</p> <p>What route will construction traffic use – will it use Jubilee Close?</p>	<p>contained and functioning around it.</p>
Ernie Winter	<p>How many cars will the new car park cater for?</p> <p>The extra cars will be blocking the main road trying to get in.</p>	<p>DA – I'm not sure but if you leave a name and number we can get back to you.</p> <p>DA – there will be a number of spaces in the middle for visitors etc. The flow of traffic is easier in the morning as parents drop off children, the afternoon presents more of an issue as parents and children all try to get to the same place at the same time. It is however an easier point in the day for Highways to manage as there are not the traffic flows to work. There will be localised pressures and we accept this. There is no easy solution. We try to encourage people to walk, use walking buses, work with the School.</p>
<p>The meeting closed at approximately 17.40pm. Two further people arrived as the meeting wound up. David Adams, Lee Round, Sara Wakefield and Kenza Bowman stayed to discuss the proposal with Nigel Tarry and Jo Giles. DA outlined the proposal. Notes from that meeting are below.</p>		
Joe Giles - Parent	<p>What would trigger the next growth of the School? Would the LA wait for the School to become overloaded?</p>	<p>DA: The market will dictate the rate of house building in Martello Lakes. The LA will work with the School to monitor applications and admission rates into Palmarsh Primary School and when numbers show that a further expansion is needed, we will go out to consultation.</p>
Nigel Tarry – Resident Jubilee Close	<p>I live on the corner of Jubilee Close. There is a lack of visibility along the Dymchurch Road. If the entrance via Jubilee Close goes ahead people will park on the Dymchurch Road and this will stop the flow of traffic.</p>	<p>DA: The consultation will consider if any parking restrictions will help to improve traffic flow. Options to change the Junction at Jubilee Close are being explored.</p>
Nigel Tarry	<p>I have to back out of my property onto the Dymchurch Road so any changes will affect me. The Dymchurch Road will be busier when the new development is on line making the traffic situation worse. Why did the proposal to have the School on the</p>	<p>DA: When the developer contributions were agreed the number of pupils at Palmarsh School was around 49. Therefore there was capacity available in the district. This led to the decision to request developer contributions to be put forward to Palmarsh School.</p> <p>KB: Traffic in the morning will not be as bad due to the staggered times that</p>

	Martello Lakes site get rejected?	pupils arrive at the School.
Nigel Tarry	Money needs to be used to improve the Dymchurch Road.	DA: The LA recognises that all schools have parking issues and the LA needs to manage the expansion in the best possible way. We are guided by Highways and the Design Team will have an ongoing debate with Highways about sightlines and speeds in the area. If Highways have concerns then we may need to look at the options again.
Nigel Tarry	Jubilee Close will get blocked. It will only take 20 or 30 cars using the drop off and pick up to do this and the cars will then be queuing onto the Dymchurch Road.	DA: We recognise that the proposal will impact on the residents of Jubilee Close. The LA Project Manager will speak with you to discuss the way the proposal impacts on you directly.
Nigel Tarry	There is a local school with a drop off and pick up that gets crowded.	DA: The school is St Augustine's PS. It is a Catholic school and traditionally families will travel further to attend a faith school such as this. Therefore there may be more families travelling by car. At Palmarsh, generally the pupils will live closer and be more likely to walk.
Nigel Tarry	If the proposal goes ahead parents will park on the coast side of the Dymchurch Road and cross that busy road to get to the School. This could lead to an accident. The turn into Jubilee Close will be a dangerous junction.	DA: We would appreciate suggestions from residents about how they would see parking restrictions working.

8 people attended the meeting.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,

Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

For publication

Subject: Proposal to expand Palmarsh Primary School, initially to 1 FE, by September 2018

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform I agree to:

- a) Authorise the Corporate Director - Education and Young People's Services to issue Public Notice to expand Palmarsh Primary School to 1FE, with a published admissions number of 30 from September 2018 (subject to planning permission being granted);
- b) Allocate £2.2m from the Education and Young People's Service Capital budget;
- c) Authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support in consultation with the Director of Governance and Law to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council; and
- d) Authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts. Variations to contract value to be no more than 10% above the capital funding agreed by the Cabinet Member without requiring a new Record Of Decision.

Should objections, not already considered by me when taking this decision, be received during the public notice period a separate decision will be required in order to continue the proposal and allow for a proper consideration of the points raised.

Reason(s) for decision:

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent (2016-20) sets out the intention to commission additional school places in the Hythe area of Shepway. The Plan also mentioned a specific need to expand Palmarsh School by up to 1 FE.

In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

- The need for extra school places required in Hythe as the 1050 houses are built in the Martello Lakes development.
- The views expressed by those attending the public consultation meeting on 19 September 2016, and those put in writing in response to the consultation;
- The views of the local County Councillor, Area Education Officer; Headteacher and Governing Body of Palmarsh Primary School;
- The Equalities Impact Assessment and comments received regarding this; and
- the views of the Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee which are set out below

Financial Implications

- a) Capital – The enlargement of the School requires the provision of additional classrooms, as well as ancillary facilities in preparation for further development. The total estimated cost of the expansion is likely to be in the region of £2.2m.
- b) Revenue - The School will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget. The rising roles will be protected in line with KCC Growth Funding Policy. Revenue funding will also be allocated to enable the School to resource each new classroom as they come on line. At present that is at a value of £6,000 per classroom.
- c) Human – The School will appoint additional staff as required, as the School size increases and the need arises.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

To be added after Committee meeting

Any alternatives considered:

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

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Signed

Date