

PROPOSED RELOCATION OF LALEHAM GAP SCHOOL

Summary of the Public Meeting held on 30 November 2009 at Laleham Gap School

Approximately 30 people attended the public meeting including parents, governors and other interested parties.

The key issues raised are summarised below with responses from the Local Authority in italics.

Martyn Doole the Area Children's Services Officer outlined the background to the proposal explaining that since the amalgamation of Laleham School and Gap House School in 2005 the school had continued to operate across both sites. There was now an opportunity to consolidate the school on a single site in new buildings through BSF funding. The site at Pysons Road in Ramsgate had always been intended for up to three schools. The school would be involved in the design for the new building which would provide state-of-the-art facilities for the pupils of Laleham Gap School.

Keith Mileham the headteacher of Laleham Gap School said that the governors and the senior management team of Laleham Gap School along with many others fully supported the proposal. The relocation into new accommodation with excellent facilities would provide the pupils of Laleham Gap School with a much better deal in the future.

The following points were made about the proposal by different members of the public, including parents, staff and residents, some of the points being made more than once.

- Concerns were raised about the amount of traffic that would be generated by the addition of another school on the site at Newlands Lane.
- Assurances were sought that there would be secure fencing and a proper road structure with a box junction.
- Will Kent County Council or Thanet District Council be the planning authority?
- Could a piece of ground be purchased as an overflow car park?
- Please could the Montrose playing field be transferred to Cliftonville Primary School if the proposal goes ahead?
- Could the age range of the school be extended to take 17 year olds?
- There may be transport difficulties for some parents taking their children to the new site.

- *Planners will work on the best way for traffic flow on and off the site and all issues concerning traffic and fencing will be worked through during the design stage.*
- *Kent County Council will be the planning authority and Thanet District Council will be a consultee representing the views of the local community. Anyone can send in comments and views on planning applications.*
- *Financial constraints may prevent the purchase of any additional land, as this would take away money available for the new building.*
- *There will be negotiations over the future of the current site and any development would be carefully considered.*
- *It is not proposed that the age range would change at this stage but there will be a degree of flexibility built into the design.*
- *Transport needs for the new school site would be addressed in the appropriate way.*