

School Expansion Update Newsletter - October 2008

Amalgamation Plan dropped

The Governing Body opposed the amalgamation proposals and these have now been dropped.

Expansion Proposals given approval by City Council's Cabinet

The expansion proposals for Sefton Park form part of the revised Primary Review recommendations which were approved by the City Council's Cabinet on 25th September. We assume that the Local Authority (LA) will therefore proceed with the project, but still subject to feasibility studies. There will also be two statutory consultations associated with the project, one on the proposal to increase school numbers, and the other on the planning application.

Consultation process continues

IRIS continues to lead this process on behalf of the LA, and is currently working through a programme of meetings with all stakeholders. IRIS can be contacted through Stella Mann: iris.1@iris42.freeseve.co.uk labelling the e-mail Sefton Park, or write to Stella at 176 Easton Road, BS5 0ES.

School Governors continue to work for the best outcome for all local children

In its response to the Primary Review consultation the Governing Body indicated that it could not support the proposals as presented. It is important to stress, however, that this did not mean that it is automatically against any expansion. The Governing Body remains very aware that many parents in the immediate area are not able to obtain places for their children at local schools. It will therefore continue to work with the LA in order to deliver the best possible solution for the provision of extra school places locally. It will continue to press for the consideration of all possible sites, and models of provision, that could achieve this.

The governors' role in the consultation is to make constructive and challenging contributions. This is done both through the full governing body, and through a small working group which is meeting regularly with the LA, the Head Teacher and other partners in the project. The final decision on the feasibility of the proposals will be made by the LA. At that point Governors will need to continue to work with the LA to achieve the best outcome for present and future children at the schools, whatever that final decision is.

Key areas of challenge

- Safety
- Quality of provision
- Amount of physical space
- Ability to manage the inevitable disruption brought by the expansion project without detriment to the children
- Feasibility of time scales
- Impact on the local community, including traffic safety and environmental sustainability.
- Quality of consultation by LA with all stakeholders
- Apparent lack of consideration of alternative sites for provision of the required extra places

If you have any queries or comments for governors, please contact me at the e mail address given below, or alternatively you can leave a message for me at the school office.

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