

Rowde Local Community Engagement Event - Q&A 11th November 2020

QUESTION	ANSWER	
Q1	Will Rowdeford continue to take pupils during the build?	Yes
Q2	Will the slides be available?	Yes. The slides are a large file so we are arranging to host them on the Wiltshire Council website. Link to follow.
Q3	Queuing from the main road has caused issues and there have been accidents in the past, will the entrance and/or drive be widened? What is being done to ease vehicle access?	We are very mindful that the entrance and exit of the site has to be safe for school traffic, construction traffic and for the local community. Widening the entrance is something that is being considered as an option. The entrance is listed, which may present some challenges.
Q4	Will the cows still have grazing on the site. I know the children love seeing them.	The field in question is owned by the Council and leased to a local farmer. Unfortunately, the construction works will be occupying this field and therefore there will no longer be cows in it. However, as part of the design we are looking at how we can enhance the farm provision.
Q5	How can you persuade us that bussing rather than taxi-ing children around Wiltshire will be carbon neutral?	Pupils currently travel by minibus to each of the three sites and to support the planning application we will be producing a Travel Plan that will set out how the school will look to reduce car use and promote sustainable ways for the school community to travel to and from school.
Q6	Can the speed limit outside the site be reduced to 30mph especially during the build time?	We understand that there are concerns within the school and local community about the 50mph speed limit along the road outside the school and it has been suggested that it should be reduced to 30mph. This is not something that we can do as part of the planning application process and will require a Traffic Regulation Order to be put in place. We are happy to work with the school and the community to investigate this further. During the building works it is likely that we will use warning signs and possibly temporary traffic lights in an attempt to reduce traffic

		<p>speed in the vicinity of the entrance to the construction site.</p> <p>Willmott Dixon are in the early stages of reviewing access to the site and the initial thoughts are that the majority of traffic will access the site from the Chippenham direction and not through Rowde.</p>
Q7	What ideas do you have to involve the school with the community?	This was the topic of one of the sessions we had with parents/carers, staff and governors recently. Community links have always been an important part of the schools; therefore, it is important to speak with the community and parents at all three sites about what this could look like. We have been exploring how the school could bring in the community as well.
Q8	Do we have some idea of what the new school buildings will look like?	<p>We are still at a very early stage with the design and over the coming weeks will be moving from the concept design stage to the more detailed design stage when we hope to be able to share plans showing what the new buildings will look like.</p> <p>Since the start of September, we have been working with stakeholders through workshops to understand what spaces and facilities we should incorporate into the build project and during the detailed design stage of the project we will work further with stakeholders as the design starts to take shape and becomes a recognisable building and site plan.</p>
Q9	Will you improve the pavement links and footpaths from the school to the village?	The main focus of our budget is of course on improving the education for our pupils so the main focus will be on the site, that said we want to forge strong links with the community and pedestrian access is very important. We will work with highway colleagues to see what works might be able to be done.
Q10	Currently lots of traffic uses this road; will the council be looking at improving the road layout.	<p>We are aware that traffic is a big concern and we will be doing our upmost to manage this safely and properly. We are considering a series of options for managing traffic into and out of the site, working closely with senior traffic highway colleagues at Wiltshire Council.</p> <p>The small bridge on the main road near to the school entrance from the Rowde direction is</p>

		<p>listed which means that we are not able to make the road wider. We are working with a travel consultant that previously did work with us around traffic analysis in this area. We are looking at how we can improve traffic across the site by temporarily segregating construction and school traffic.</p> <p>We will be providing a detailed travel plan and transport assessment as part of the planning application and this will be something that will be discussed in future co-production engagements.</p>
Q11	Can the Headteacher give us an idea of his vision for the new school?	<p>The vision is not only about the school itself but also creating something exceptional and inspiring in the educational system.</p> <p>We are working with parents, carers, staff and children to create what the vision looks like.</p> <p>An aim would be working towards staff feeling as though they are part of one school despite potentially not working with pupils at the other sites.</p>
Q12	I notice that only half of the strip of woodland next to the road is protected. This is ancient woodland and there is very little left.	<p>The landscape team will be working closely with specialists to ensure there is no damage to the trees and we are not proposing to carry out any works in that area. A survey is being undertaken of the trees to understand in more detail how to protect them, for example through root protection zones.</p>
Q13	Rowde has always been very supportive of Rowdeford School, including being a local employer. Moving forward I cannot see that changing.	<p>This is fantastic to hear. Really great to hear support.</p>
Q14	I am very concerned about traffic entering the site opposite Horse Lane Farm. I can see big problems with artic lorries for instance.	<p>We are very mindful of segregating construction and school traffic. We are considering options to create a temporary construction route to the site via the lodge gates opposite the farm. A potential challenge is that the lodge gates are listed so this would need planning permission.</p> <p>We will discuss our initial thoughts further with the owners of the lodge house and Horse Lane Farm.</p>

Q15	<p>In my opinion, the best answer to traffic congestion would be to use the listed northern entrance for ENTRY and the existing entrance for EXIT.</p>	<p>We recognise that traffic flow is a key issue being raised through this webinar. It is important that we ensure whatever is put in place is safe for the learners arriving on site and residents in the local area.</p> <p>We are very happy to take on board the views around this and are open-minded in exploring these.</p>
Q16	<p>How is the new name going to be picked? In just a few weeks?</p>	<p>Each of the campuses were given the opportunity to consult with staff and pupils to submit two names each alongside the governors who did the same. Therefore, eight names in total were part of a survey which was sent to staff, parents, carers and governors to vote. The governing body will be given the results of this survey and a final name will be decided and announced shortly.</p> <p>Update: The new school name is Silverwood School.</p>
Q17	<p>Had you thought about using a one-way system for in & out traffic? So, use the construction entrance and main entrance?</p>	<p>Yes, we will consider this.</p>
Q18	<p>How do you plan to protect the badgers?</p>	<p>We are aware that on the proposed site there are some badger sets. We have marked the location of them on site so that everyone knows where they are and will be working with Natural England to ensure that the badgers and other wildlife are protected and not harmed during the course of the works.</p>
Q19	<p>What facilities are planned for the site?</p> <p>St Nicholas currently have a hydro pool, will the new school have one of these?</p> <p>What facilities will be available to the pupils?</p>	<p>Yes, we are planning to have a hydro pool on-site. We have had some really valuable discussion in the co-production workshops, talking about what people would like to see and we've also heard from pupils themselves who have had the opportunity to think about the things they'd like to see. There have been suggestions such as: sensory rooms, library facilities, drama, music rooms, dining facilities (breakout as well as large spaces), play, sports and recreation equipment. We will be carrying on speaking to these stakeholders as we enter the more detailed design stage.</p>

		We are very conscious of enhancing the natural landscape already at the Rowde site. Ideas suggested included bike trails, animals and outdoor sensory experiences.
Q20	The planning website is notoriously difficult to navigate, would it be possible to share the link when you send it out so that it's easy to find please.	Yes, we will do this and will also let the Parish Council know when we submit our planning application, and perhaps they can publish the link on their website and Facebook page.
Q21	What innovative features will be used in the buildings re sustainability and environmental 'friendliness'?	One of the ambitious targets we are working towards is a carbon neutral development. The starting point is called a 'fabric first' approach - this will be minimising the energy loss as much as possible i.e. 'wrapping up the building in a woolly jumper' to keep it as insulated as we can. The orientation of the building is important when benefitting from solar gain but being cautious not to overheat the building. Options are being explored as to how the building will be heated, such as by air source or ground source heat pumps. The building materials are also being explored including the possible use of cross laminated timber, which is an engineered system that is highly sustainable.
Q22	How many floors are being planned? Will there be several or will it all be ground floor level?	This is something that is not finalised yet but is being considered. It is something that has been brought up at several the workshops. Overall people have fed back to us that because this is a beautiful site with natural features, people are happy to consider two floors if that would mean maximising the outdoor area.
Q23	Are you asking any ex-pupils, what would have made their time better?	We haven't yet, but this is a great idea going forward. We have been engaging with pupils across all three sites through support from staff and asking them the same questions as those discussed in workshops with parents, carers, staff and governors. Pupils have been telling us some great things that they enjoy about their school sites, like their friends, teachers, being part of the community. They spent some time thinking about what they would like more of at the school. We have gained a lot of feedback from current pupils and that will be on-going.

		<p>Wilmott Dixon will be working with pupils throughout the life cycle of the project; getting involved in construction, getting to know the trade, looking at virtual plans.</p> <p>There is a solid programme of making sure children and young people are at the heart of everything we do.</p>
Q24	How will health and social care be integrated? Into the school build?	<p>During the process of the co-production workshops we have been asking health and social care partners on their views of how the future school will work. One idea is that there could be space at the Rowde site which could then work as a hub, with visits to the other sites.</p>
Q25	As I live locally, is there anything else I can do to support the process.	<p>Thank you this is very encouraging. Please do get in touch with us directly SpecialSchools@Wiltshire.gov.uk and we will keep you updated with any future ways to get involved. Thank you for your support.</p>