

APPENDIX 1

Text of Exhibition Leaflet distributed to local residents for October 2006

BARNET: INVESTING IN SCHOOLS

Barnet Council has been successful in securing multi-million pound funding from the Government for two brand new school buildings in the East Barnet area.

The old school buildings on Westbrook Crescent, which are already nearing the end of their useful life, are to be demolished to become the site of a brand new secondary school with first class facilities, which will be open for community use.

Meanwhile, the East Barnet Upper School will move into state-of-the-art buildings at Chestnut Grove together with the rest of the school, improving that school's facilities and its sense of common purpose.

Brand new buildings for East Barnet School at Chestnut Grove

East Barnet is a popular and successful school. But its buildings are increasingly run down and, without a much needed re-build, there is a risk that its physical limitations will hinder its future development.

Last year, Barnet Council made a multi-million pound application to the Department for Education and Skills for funding to relocate the existing Upper School with the rest of the East Barnet School in brand new, state-of-the-art buildings at Chestnut Grove.

The Government has now approved this funding and the move to the new site. The new school is set to be completed in 2009 with up to 1350 pupils on the one site.

A new school at Westbrook Crescent

The grant for relocation comes hand-in-hand with funding to create a brand new secondary school on the existing Upper School site. The new school, for up to 1400 pupils aged 11-18, is to be called JCoSS, the Jewish Community Secondary School.

The new school will be faith-based, in recognition of the increasing demand from parents for this type of education. Its specialist facilities - including for children with severe and complex disabilities - will mean that it will also take non-Jewish pupils, may be up to one quarter if current Government plans are adopted.

The aim is for the school to open within the next 3-4 years with pupils in year seven (11-12 year olds), and gradually to build up to its full size in subsequent years.

New state-of-the-art facilities for the local community

Barnet Council has agreed with JCoSS that the new school must be a resource for the whole community and from the Council's discussions with JCoSS's backers it is clearly their intention to be good and responsible neighbours.

It has already been agreed that school's facilities - which are likely to include a sports hall, all-weather playing fields, state-of the-art IT and facilities for children with severe and complex disabilities - will be widely available

for use by the local community. Indeed, the Council will retain ownership of the sports fields to ensure access for local residents and children and pupils from other Barnet schools.

Your Questions Answered

Q. *Why is this a Jewish school?*

A. Our proposals will improve the facilities available for children of all faiths and of none across Barnet. The creation of a new Jewish school on the Westbrook Crescent site is only one part of our strategy and is part of mixture of provision across the borough including secular community, faith-based schools for a variety of religions, and independent faith and secular schools. These proposals will increasingly see all our children being educated in modern, well-equipped buildings with access to high quality facilities, such as those being created under this two-school plan.

Q. *Why Westbrook Crescent?*

A. The governors, head, teachers and pupils of East Barnet are keen to see their school brought together on a single site and the existing East Barnet school buildings are in serious need of repair. There is a pressing demand from parents for more faith-based schooling in the borough, with the East Barnet site at the heart of North London's Jewish community. Redevelopment of both the Westbrook Crescent and Chestnut Grove sites enables the Council to address all these issues at once.

Q. *Where will JCoSS pupils come from?*

A. From throughout the local area, from across the borough of Barnet and, maybe, beyond.

Q. *Why should East Barnet School have to move?*

A. Only the Upper School will be moving so that the two parts of the same school can be consolidated on a single site. This move is strongly supported by the headteacher and the staff. The school will benefit enormously from the bringing together of their two sites, as well as from the new buildings and facilities that will be provided.

Q. *Won't this increase traffic?*

A. We are working hard to minimise any impact on traffic in both the Chestnut Grove and Westbrook Crescent areas. JCoSS has agreed to operate a comprehensive green transport policy, which will limit the use of private cars to visit the site and is likely to see an increase in public transport in the area, available for pupils and local residents alike. We are committed to consulting widely on the transport strategy for the school to ensure that local residents have a direct input into developing plans.

Q. *How will you cope with increased traffic in Westbrook Crescent?*

A. As we've said, we are already working hard to minimise any increase in traffic caused by our plans. We are well aware of the restricted access that this road offers and will be consulting widely with local residents to consider all options and alternatives for access to the site. It is unlikely that the current access in Westbrook Crescent would be considered suitable by planners and so, if another is developed, the plan may in fact lead to real reduction in traffic in this area.

Further Information

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact the Barnet Education Communications Team:

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For further information about JCoSS call: 020 7618 9194