

Dear Neighbour,

Building schools for the future in East Barnet – Public Exhibition

I am writing to update you on exciting plans that are being developed by Barnet Council to completely re-build East Barnet School and provide an entirely new Jewish Community Secondary School on the Westbrook Crescent Site, currently occupied by East Barnet Upper School. Community facilities will be significantly enhanced at both sites.

Brand new buildings for East Barnet School at Chestnut Grove

East Barnet School is a popular and successful school, but its buildings are dilapidated. Without a much needed re-build there is a risk that its physical limitations will hinder the school's future development. Last year we 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. I am delighted to confirm that the Government has now approved this funding and the move onto one site. The council will retain a playing field on the Westbrook Crescent site for East Barnet School. The new school buildings are set to open in spring 2009 with up to 1350 pupils.

A new school at Westbrook Crescent

The grant for the relocation and re-building of East Barnet School 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. The aim is for the school to open in September 2009 with pupils in year seven (11-12 year olds), and gradually to build up to its full size in subsequent years.

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' backers, it is clearly their intention to be good and responsible neighbours. As a result, the school's brand new buildings, which will include a theatre, large sports hall and fields, cutting edge IT facilities and attractive open space, will be widely available for use by the local community, subject, of course, to the requirements of the school.

Wide Consultation

Obviously, this is a significant development for the local community and one that we hope will be wholly positive. It is therefore very important to us that the community plays a full part in developing the detailed plans. For this reason, we intend to consult widely on the plans for both schools and will keep you fully informed of developments.

Public exhibition at Westbrook Crescent on 19 October

A public exhibition will be held in the current East Barnet Upper School at Westbrook Crescent for you to speak informally with representatives of the council, JCoSS and East Barnet School about the plans. This will, of course, be followed by a more formal consultation later in the year.

In relation to JCOSS, we will particularly look forward to discussing with you the plans for open access to the school and its facilities, the green transport plan which is integral to the proposal, and the centre of excellence to be hosted at the school for children with severe and complex disabilities – a unique facility in Barnet.

In the meantime, if you do have any immediate questions or concerns the contact point is the Education Communications Team:

- 020 8350 7627/7626
- education.mailbox@barnet.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Gillian Palmer
Chief Education Officer
London Borough of Barnet