

6th November 2006

Dear Supporter,

JCoSS PROJECT UPDATE

I am writing to update you on our progress with JCoSS. I apologise that it is sometime since I was last in touch but the past few months have been extremely hectic, generally for the right reasons.

Overall, the good news is that we continue to make progress:

In **April**, as you will almost certainly know by now, the DfES approved funding for the project. This will cover approximately 90% of the core costs of the school, so although we will still need to raise a considerable amount through the community, it is the key watershed achievement for the project.

In **June**, the Trustees appointed a team of professional consultants to work on the project after a rigorous tender process. That team's initial priority has been to secure planning consent for the project and the Trustees have therefore been focusing all our efforts and resources on the planning application to ensure a successful outcome.

In **October**, we held the first of what will be a series of consultation meetings with residents living near the designated site in East Barnet. Over 70 people attended and I am glad to say the reception was overwhelmingly positive, with the majority of questions relating to practical issues, such as building design and traffic management.

Also, earlier last month, our professional team met with Barnet's Planning Department to agree the way forward. As a result of that meeting, we now hope to be in a position to submit a formal planning application in **Spring 2007**.

If all goes to plan we then hope to have planning consent by the end of 2007, which, realistically, means that we can expect to accept our first students in **Sept. 2010**.

PEOPLE NEWS

The JCoSS Trust has been strengthened and expanded over the past few months to include new Trustees who are now bringing to the project much needed skills and experience as we enter this new phase of the project.

I am delighted that Jon Epstein (Chair of the Jewish Community Day School Advisory Board and former head of 6th Form), Alan Goldman (former director of Heron International and close associate of Gerald Ronson), Dr. Helena Miller (Director of Education and Professional Development at Leo Baeck College) and Russell Tenzer (Treasurer and Trustee of Norwood and a Chartered Accountant) have now joined us. I would also like to welcome Ross Fabian, a Manager at the accountants Blick Rothenberg, who is our Acting Treasurer and already proving invaluable in managing the JCoSS finances so adeptly.

Linda Cooke's consultancy contract as our part time Interim Executive Director came to an end in September. The Trustees want to thank her for her hard work and dedication, which has helped to ensure that JCoSS has maintained its core momentum and progressed to this next critical stage.

We expect to begin looking to appoint a full time Executive Director once further progress has been made in achieving planning consent.

Dr. Gaby Meyassed from World ORT continues to provide much needed input with his wealth of expertise and experience in helping to design schools to exacting standards all over the world.

With kind regards,

Jonathan Fingerhut
Chair – The JCoSS Trust

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