

CA12



St Edburg's C. E. (VA) Primary School



Oxford Diocesan Board of Education



Oxfordshire County Council

Informal Consultation Document



Proposed relocation and expansion of St. Edburg's Church of England Primary School, Bicester

1st November-17th December 2010

September 2010

Purpose of this consultation

This informal consultation is about the proposed relocation of the current St Edburg's primary school to the newly identified Kingsmere development.

1. You will know about the plans for 1,585 houses to be built in South West Bicester between the Middleton Stoney and Oxford Roads. It is proposed that this development will include a new school.
2. The Governing Body, The Oxford Diocese and Oxfordshire County Council have been looking at ways of building upon the improvements already taking place at St Edburg's School and developing it further as it is the only Church of England School within the town.
3. It is proposed that St Edburg's School relocates from its current site into the new South West Bicester development called Kingsmere. Therefore, all of the staff and pupils on roll, at the time of the move, would relocate into a brand new building in the new development.
4. This means that the existing staff, governors, pupils and community would have an input into the design to create exciting new buildings which will meet all of the latest requirements, including a nursery and extended school facilities.
5. It is currently proposed that house building would commence in 2011 on the new estate and the aim would be to have the new school constructed for September 2014 or possible earlier.
6. The new school would be expanded to 420 places plus nursery. This will maintain single age class teaching and have the added advantage of including a nursery so that pupils can be admitted from aged 3. The school will maintain its links with St Edburg's Church and its increased size will give it more flexibility to raise standards.
7. St Edburg's School would become the designated school for pupils from the new estate before it moves into its new building. Once the new building is finished pupils would move together onto the new site.
8. All pupils on roll (or who have been offered a place), at the time of the relocation would be entitled to move into the new buildings. The intention is that siblings of those on roll at that time would be able to attend the new school building if they wish to. After this date, the existing catchment area of the school will change and be divided up between Brookside, Kings Meadow and Longfields Schools, which will thereby increase their pupil rolls.
9. All staff will also move into the new building thereby maintaining continuity for themselves and the pupils. The new building would be built to the latest Department for Education and Local authority Standards. It would include, amongst other things, good-sized class bases, group rooms, a nursery, library/ICT, hall, administrative facilities and community facilities.

Why are we consulting again?

The time frame for the last informal consultation has now lapsed. The recession has put the building project on hold for 3 years. Construction on the infrastructure started in April 2010 and the school was identified as relocating to the new Kingsmere development. Consequently it is important to listen to the views of the local community again.

Responses to the 2007 consultation

The consultation in 2007 gave us a good understanding of the views of the local community at that time.

The Key areas of concern were

1. Would there be provision for crossing the Middleton Stoney Road?

There will be a safe place for crossing the Middleton Stoney Road. Consideration is being given to a 30MPH speed limit in the area.

2. What will happen to the St Edburg's current site?

The Trustees of the school are required to get the best price for the site and buildings under the Charities Act. A consultation on the development principles for the site took place in August 2008

3. Will the close connection with St Edburg's Church be lost?

It is still a feasible distance for staff to lead children to St Edburg's Church and the Governors would be keen to maintain this. There is an opportunity for the church clergy to conduct services in the new school building

4. What will happen to the pre-school if St Edburg's moves?

At the time of the move, the children at 1st and 2nd Step pre-school would still be guaranteed a place at St Edburg's school should they so wish it. There will be nursery provision available at the new school.

What is the procedure for changing the size and location?

The proposed re-location is part of a legal process. There is a requirement to consult through this informal consultation. The Governing Body must then consider responses to the consultation and any alternative options. The next stage is to publish the statutory proposal which must be in a prescribed format to meet the legal requirements. Following the publication there is a period of 6 weeks for statutory objections to be lodged. Objections raised during the initial consultation will not necessarily be taken into account unless they are resubmitted during the formal consultation.

What happens next?

This informal consultation will end on 17th December 2010. The Governing body of the school will review the responses and carefully consider all feedback. They will then decide whether to proceed again with the publication of statutory proposals.

How to respond

We want to hear views from as many of you as possible whether you are in favour or against the proposal. It would be great help to the Governors if you could also state briefly the reason for your support or opposition to the proposed relocation. We also need to know your status e.g. if you are replying as an individual, please state whether you are a parent of a pupil (name school) or a member of the local community, Parish Councillor etc. If you are replying on behalf of an organisation we require the name and contact details of the organisation.

Please send written responses by the 17th December to

**Mrs D Wright
Clerk to the Governing Body
St Edburg's CE Primary School
Cemetery Road
Oxford
OX26 6BB**

You will also be able to send a response by email to office.3505@ocnmail.net or log on to the school's website www.st-edburgs.oxon.sch.uk to fill in a response form.

Do you **agree** with the proposal to relocate St Edburg's School to the new South-West development?

I agree	
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Do you **disagree** with the proposal to relocate St Edburg's School to the new South West development?

I disagree	
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What is your main reason for this view?

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What advantages might there be for children in a new school?

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Do you have any concerns about the school re-locating?

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Do you have any further comments to make?

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Please tick the category which applies to you:

- Parent/carer of child at St Edburg's
- Prospective parent
- Member of staff
- Local resident
- Member of St Edburg's Church
- Local Councillor/MP
- Other (please specify)

To be returned to the Chairman of Governors

via the School Office

or by post to:

St Edburg's VA Primary School
Cemetery Road, Bicester OX26 6BB