

Dear Parents and Carers,

13th July 2015

Muswell Hill Primary School and Haringey's School Expansion Project

A huge thank you to all those who attended our update sessions the other week [24/25/26 June]. The questioning and points raised were extremely valuable and have helped to clarify further the choices we have and where you think we go next. As we explained, these meetings are to keep you informed of what is happening on this sensitive and complex project; they are all informal and NOT part of any statutory consultation process. That should happen in the Autumn and Spring terms next school year.

For those who were unable to attend or did not wish to attend the presentation is on the website and the key points were:

- a) This feasibility was initiated by Haringey to supply 60 extra primary school places in Muswell Hill. We are in need of substantial investment in our school and saw this process as a way to achieve that aim. As previously communicated we are happy to consider expansion in order to get the necessary investment.
- b) Haringey have now informed us that the latest projections on primary school places in Muswell Hill suggest that **NO ADDITIONAL** places are required in the short term and so this process is likely to result in no expansion. [This local authority data does not correlate to our own experiences in looking at all the new residential developments in the area. Indeed there are a large number of new residential buildings within our catchment area!]
- c) The implication of this change is that any shortfall of primary places in the Muswell Hill area can be accommodated by Haringey elsewhere in the borough.
- d) The feasibility study, that is underway, will continue but the outcome is likely to result in no expansion. Our aim is investment however and so we will continue to pursue Haringey aggressively for that investment whatever.

What options are we looking at?

In the meetings we presented a number of options reducing them quickly. Your questioning made us realise that it is much simpler to think of it as four options escalating in cost. Broadly, the more investment we get the better the outcome for our school [up to a point] and the better impact on teaching and learning. However the more cost, the more benefit we need to show Haringey and unfortunately given their latest view of primary place provision there may be no compelling reasons for them to invest at all.



Our Options.

In the meetings you asked for some cost guidance. This is provided below but please be aware they are not even an educated guess at this point! But should give a general idea of the scale of money required.

| # | Option | Guess Cost | Our View |
|---|--|------------|--|
| 1 | Basic Infrastructure | £1m | This work is needed but does not change our space needs nor our school environment. Should be rejected in favour of a better outcome. |
| 2 | Basic Infrastructure with cosmetic improvements and some extra space | £2m | Is necessary and would be brilliant but may not fix the fundamental issues with teaching and learning in the medium term. Could be 'good money after bad' and so not economical. |
| 3 | Part redevelopment of the school – improved cohesion and space. | £4m | It would be wonderful if this were considered. But no tangible benefit to Haringey given the level of investment. |
| 4 | School refurbishment and rebuild as <u>three</u> form entry | £6m | Cost v benefit is there but Haringey don't need more places. |

On Wednesday 1st July we met with Haringey to discuss the feasibility study under the current terms of reference [to expand the school to 3 form entry or 4 forms of entry]. The key points from that meeting were:

1. The designs will:
 - a. reflect our values of joy, discovery and diversity
 - b. reflect our commitment to a creative curriculum
 - c. group classrooms and amenities by year group [Reception and Y1 together; Y2 and Y3 together and Y4, Y5 and Y6 together]
 - d. increase overall play space by reducing the footprint of the building
 - e. combine our two current halls into one
 - f. improve the flow of movement around the school
 - g. provide sufficient space for booster groups, break outs and intervention rooms
 - h. facilitate minimal disruption during the building work
 - i. be as green as possible and efficient to run
 - j. operate within latest government school building guidance

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2. We made it clear that the feasibility need to take account of the current condition of our school and the costs of making good will need to be found at some point.
3. Across the summer the architects will draw up plans and costings in line with the original project brief [extra places]. Our next meeting is 20th July and after that the next formal date is September 15th when the Haringey cabinet is due to discuss this topic. Note: this is earlier than previously advised.

The school will re-open on September 7th, we will share and update you on the project early that week. We will have something tangible to show in order to get your input and understand your preferences. At this point it will feel more real and we will all be better able to see the implications of the choices and make better-informed decisions on what is best for the school [we should 'vote' at this point].

Naturally we want your input [positive and negative] at any time and ultimately we need your active support to get the money and then to get to implementation and to deliver well. James and his Senior Leadership Team will no doubt help if you have questions however we would like to stress that this subject is being driven by the Governing Body not by James nor the staff and so please continue to let us know what you think via the school office [office@muswell-hill.haringey.sch.uk].

Many thanks,

Simon Wantman, Chair
Iain Kennedy, Vice Chair

