

16.07.13

50 Cromwell Road
Beeston

Nottingham

NG9 1DP

July 13

Sirs,

Please find enclosed the response of the Round Hill governing body to the previous consultation, which remains our position in response to the "complete proposal" published in June for response by July 17.

We wish to draw the authority's attention once again to this document, particularly as we consider that there is somewhat of an information vacuum around this project, with a lack of specificity around process and timelines.

Please could you study our enclosure in detail and respond substantively to its key themes.

I look forward to hearing from you. Do feel free to correspond via email, to rgjones@hotmail.co.uk.

Yours,
Encs

R.M. Jones

RICHARD JONES, CHAIR, ROUND HILL PRIMARY

The governing body of Round Hill Primary met Tuesday 30 April. 16 members of the FGB were present. The meeting was attended by Jonathan Smith from the LA, whose input was invaluable and to whom we would like to record our thanks.

The governing body agreed with the proposal to provide a further 105 permanent pupil places in newly built premises on the site of Round Hill Primary School.

In reaching agreement a number of key points, themes, observations were recorded which form part of our response to the local authority and which are set out below:

- Our agreement is, in part, made in good faith and on trust that the local authority will continue to be consultative and collaborative in its approach to the expansion project.
- Whilst we have voted to support the proposal, there are elements of anxiety about the current lack of detail: we are being asked to commit with no substantive details provided in writing by the local authority about the facilities that will be provided, nor the amount of funding that will be committed by the authority.
- We would ask that the LA tell us what facilities are going to be built as soon as the information is available and in any event, before the next stage of the consultation process and/or any future statutory notice is published
- We understand that we are committing to certain pre-defined elements in the project and that these are not subject to change:
 - The PAN will become 75 for Foundation stage admission from 2014-15
 - No currently admitted year groups' PAN will be amended
 - All building will be completed in time for admission in September 2014
 - There will be no further expansion on the current site beyond 525 at any point
- We note that some of the building activity will be bound by regulation, whereas other elements may be advisory or guidance: we will actively seek that all development is to the very best standards, to ensure that the learning environment is the best it can be.
- We understand that both some new build will be required and some refurbishment and remodelling of existing premises will take place. We expect and anticipate that plans will need to be developed rapidly: this should be in full consultation with the Head and other stakeholders, including the governing body; and all parties will need to work co-operatively together to reach mutually agreeable solutions.
- We recognise there is a significant need for communication throughout the project, particularly to parents, future parents, staff and pupils: we would look to the local authority to support the head, leadership team and governors in being able to be responsive to any requests for further support in developing communications; governors did note reservations about the quality and breadth of information supplied to date, which has lacked significant detail, as noted above.
- We also would like to note that, subject to any limits of confidentiality, we would like a comprehensive analysis of comments from other respondents to the consultation, so that we can address any concerns raised, should the work progress
- We recognise that there are significant benefits to the Round Hill community in expanding the school: we will seek to embrace these and do all we can to maximise these; equally there are a number of risks, some of which we will look to the LA to manage or co-manage with the school. These include:
 - Risk to the ethos of the school as it grows further in size
 - Safe construction practices, which minimise disruption to "business as usual" and remove any dangers to personnel on site
 - The required speed of decision-making, which may lead to communication challenges and poor appraisal of options

To conclude, we are positive and excited about and fully committed to this project. We go into it expecting and trusting that the authority will want the same outcomes as we do: great facilities to ensure a great learning environment for an increased number of our local pupils. We look forward to working with you in this next stage in the development of our great school.