

Uttlesford Locality Board Meeting – 26th June 2017

Update on Walden School & School Places

The Walden School

Following the Walden School closure, ECC has processed 20 associated primary school applications for state schools (these have not all been for Saffron Walden Schools). We do not know the exact number of secondary school places taken up in state schools (as these applications are not handled by ECC), but the last information received suggested it was in the order of 30 students, primarily taking places at Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport.

The situation regarding school capacity continues to be closely monitored, and as referenced below we have some contingency plans in place in Saffron Walden for additional primary capacity should the need arise.

We are aware of the many enquiries about the future of the school site. We are aware that Walden School has approached the DfE in regard to their site/buildings and we are in discussion with both parties to provide information and guidance around the need for school places.

School Places across Uttlesford

Secondary

Saffron Walden/Newport

The expansion of Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport is on-track, with the Academy due to admit an additional 29 pupils into Year 7 from September 2017. This will enable the school to admit an extra 145 pupils over a 5-year period.

Discussions are continuing with Saffron Walden County High in regard to future demand and how any predicted deficits might be managed within the Town.

Dunmow

Discussions are continuing with Helena Romanes School (HRS) to increase their Published Admission Number for 2018, which will see them take 270 pupils from Sep 2018. In order for this to happen, we will be investing S106 funds in the current buildings to provide extra space.

The longer term vision regarding a potential move to a new site is still being discussed between the school, its consultants a developer, UDC and ECC. We will

be looking for up to another 300 place expansion (2 forms of entry) for HRS by 2021, this is subject to new housing information that will be forthcoming. Work has already been undertaken on a range of options to meet potential levels of need.

Stansted

Forest Hall Academy will take an almost full Published Admission Number for Sep 17 (109 pupils against an offer of 112.) This is the first time in a long while that the school will actually be almost full in a single year group.

Traditionally parents from this catchment area have taken up places in Hertfordshire and elsewhere in Uttlesford, and this pattern is now changing.

Forecasts also indicate that we will need to expand the school by 150 places (1 form of entry) by 2020, and work on options for this is underway.

Primary

Saffron Walden

ECC School Organisation Team is working with the Saffron Trust and the Education, Funding & Skills Agency (EFSA) on a new Free School for Saffron Walden. Discussions have taken place on its location, size and opening date.

The closure of the Walden School will have minimal impact on primary places for the Town from September 2017. We have a contingency plan for a “bulge class” with a local Saffron Walden school should we require extra places once the new academic year starts in September.

Dunmow

A new 420 place Free School for Dunmow at Smiths Farm is planned for September 2019 opening. This is still subject to the Smith’s Farm development proceeding (and the school site becoming available), which has been delayed for some time.

Takeley

We continue to experience high demand for places in Takeley. We are working with both Takeley Primary and Roseacres Primary to look at providing two additional class bases in return for them taking two consecutive bulges in 2018 & 2019. This work is currently ongoing.

Elsenham

ECC is planning to expand Elsenham Primary School by 210 places to a 420 place school (2 form entry) from September 2018. This is because of the high development of new housing in and around Elsenham village.

ECC will start a formal consultation on the proposed expansion, w/c 3rd July 2017, for a four week period. There will be a drop-in session at the school on 12th July, between 2pm-7pm, for any comments.

Update provided by:

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22nd June 2017