

From: Planning
Sent: 29 April 2014 10:06
To: Planning
Subject: Comments on 2014/2712/P - Case Officer Ben Le Mare - Received from Ric Euteneuer at London Borough of Camden Children Schools and Families, Property and Contracts, 2nd Floor, Crowndale Centre, 218-220 Eversholt Street, LONDON, NW1 1BD

Children, Schools and Families (CSF) fully support this reserved matters planning application.

Hawley is the only infants' school in Camden without a linked junior school and has been on its current site for more than 100 years. It is a popular school with a 'good' rating from Ofsted, and is regularly oversubscribed. However, the school and classrooms on the present site are undersized, the play area is cramped and there is no space for children to play team games. There is not enough room on the present site to expand the school and its intake, or create more play space.

As there are no linked junior schools, when pupils reach the age of seven, parents have to look for other primary or junior schools. Pupils from the school are often placed in schools scattered across the borough, or have to find a school outside the borough. This can be very stressful for parents and separates children from their friendship groups at a vulnerable time in their learning life.

In addition, the existing school buildings are in a poor state of repair and would cost a considerable amount of funding to update them.

The redevelopment of the Hawley Wharf area has provided the school and the authority with a once in a lifetime opportunity to move Hawley to a larger, more appropriate site, and to enable a state of the art school fully set up to effectively deliver the national curriculum

The relocation of the school offers a number of clear benefits:

- A brand new school building with improved facilities for teaching and learning and flexible areas for group work;
- Larger and a greater number of areas which would allow the school to teach a wider curriculum to pupils;
- Enhanced, larger and better laid out play and outside learning areas;
- Creation of a fully accessible new school building;
- To increase the opportunity for vulnerable groups of children, such as Special Educational Needs (SEN) pupils, those with English as an additional language (EAL), or those on free school meals, to access Key Stage 2 (junior) education at the school.

- Pupils would be able to stay at the school until they needed to move on to a secondary school;
- Additional pupil places - the number of pupils in the school would gradually increase from 87 to 210 from Reception through to Year 6 - a net gain of over 120 primary school places in Camden;
- The new school would be provided close to the existing school site;
- The school would be able to teach a wider curriculum and there would be a wider range of skills amongst staff;
- Additional employment opportunities and greater career progression for staff;
- There will be opportunities for the local community to use parts of the new school.

Children Schools and Families (CSF) have supported proposals to build a new Hawley primary school since the possibility of a new school first arose. We have worked closely with Stanley Sidings and the Hawley leadership team on the detailed design of the new school which will provide fantastic facilities for Camden's children and the local community. All parties will continue to work closely as the project progresses to ensure that the new school opens on time for September 2016.

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Comment Type is Support and Notify of Committee Date