

NOTES OF THE DENMEAD LIAISON GROUP MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2014
AT 6.00PM IN THE JUBILEE HALL AT DENMEAD SCHOOL, GLOUCESTER ROAD

Present: Cllr Suzette Nicholson
Alison Edwards – Chair of the Denmead Neighbour’s Association & Wensleydale Gardens resident
Elizabeth Hossain – DNA Committee Member and Resident of Wensleydale Road
Paul Johnston – DNA Committee Member and Resident of Gloucester Road
Andrew Munday – Governor of Hampton & Denmead Schools
Mike McKaughan – Denmead Headmaster
Mike King – Hampton and Denmead School Bursar

Andrew Munday welcomed everybody to the meeting, and reminded everyone that following the planning consent for Denmead School Gloucester Road, that the School although not mandated, wished to establish a liaison group. The Governors and Denmead School value their relationship with the neighbours, and hope that the group would ensure effective and useful communication and help solve problems that might arise.

Alison Edwards said the DNA welcomed this constructive approach, and pointed out that the Liaison Group is provided for by the terms of the planning consent under Informative U75118 whose terms are that the Group should “address and discuss, although not limited to, matters of parking and the school travel plan, that may arise from use of the site.”

Andrew Munday again reminded the meeting that this liaison process was not forced upon the School but is entered into by it in order to foster good communication and relations between the School and its neighbours

For ease the points have been put as bullet points as follows:-

- The group was reminded that it was a liaison group and not a decision-making body.
- The School wishes to foster good relations with the neighbours.
- The School would constantly be mindful of the impact of traffic movements at morning drop off and pick up, and try to minimise the effect on local residents. The School reminded the group that it could not control the parking activities of parents, but would do its best to continue to encourage them to have consideration for others.
- The School informed the group that the number of pupils being dropped off by the coach from Hampton School to Denmead Wensleydale Road Carlisle Park entrance had increased to a level of 17 pupils, and instead of the small minibus a coach was now being used to cope with the increased numbers. The size of the coach is dependent upon the route it does as it transports pupils to and from Hampton School in the morning. The increased numbers has had a beneficial effect on reducing the number of vehicle journeys to Denmead School. The DNA said they had noticed large coaches were now being used at the Carlisle Park entrance, that one had been seen parked across a driveway with the engine running, and reminded the School of the problems, including sight lines for vehicles, that had been drawn to the School’s attention last

year. The school noted the observation and had identified, it hoped, a place for the coach to park that didn't block any driveways. Hopefully this spot at the end of Barlow Road could be its usual parking space

- The School informed the group that Mike McKaughan was retiring as Headmaster of Denmead School at Christmas 2014, and that in January 2015 a new headmaster would take up the role and would attend the next meeting.
- The School confirmed that it had written to the Borough Planning Officer confirming that the pupil numbers with effect from 1 September 2014 was 142.
- The School would seek to communicate by whatever sensible and effective means it could to inform neighbours of events, such as open days, which may have an impact on the local area.
- The School informed the group that the start date of the building works was unknown, as it was waiting for the planning pre-conditions to be approved by the Borough which had taken an unnecessarily long time. When the project is under way the School stated that it could not and would not micro-manage the project, and will leave the contractor to the routine day-to-day activities. A contact number will be provided on notices for residents. The contractor will be aware of its obligations, and deal with the issues that may arise in carrying out the build.
- The School would seek to provide, by a suitable means, a build timetable, and give updates as appropriate. The DNA pointed out that the letter from the contractor had referred to a start date in August, and since then there had been no further information from the school, with the result that residents kept asking when work would start. It would be appreciated if residents could be kept informed of changes in plans.
- Andrew Munday agreed to give an email address that could be used if there were serious concerns about the contract or contractor. These would need to be channelled and focused, as a significant number of emails would inhibit the ability of the School to respond.

Other Matters

- It was noted that Lifebuild, who are the appointed contractor for the build at Denmead School, have sent letters to Wensleydale Gardens on two occasions. This was appreciated. The Group agreed that if they received any communication with information updates the DNA would look at forwarding it on to their email group, but could not undertake hard copy drops to the residents. The DNA requested a legible copy of the Construction Method Statement (part of one of the detailed planning applications) as the version on the Council website is illegible, and mentioned that no response had been received to previous requests for this.
- The School said that if residents were taking photographs around the school areas, photographs should not be taken of any children.
- The residents requested that staff and parents were asked not to park in Wensleydale Gardens during the period of the build. The Headmaster informed the group that this had already been done, and that a number of staff had changed the location of where they parked but he would reiterate this.
- The DNA raised the following in relation to Wensleydale Gardens:

- As already raised with the Council, signs should be put up to warn construction traffic of the existence of the Carlisle Park pedestrian gate in Wensleydale Gardens, and also the desirability of a speed limit of 20 or 10 mph. The School said that was a matter for the Council, but the DNA invited them to ask for this to be put in place as a safety measure.
- That the emergency access gate will need to be kept locked and will also need to have a notice making it plain that the gate is only for use by emergency vehicles – the School agreed and commented that the notice should be as for a s.106 agreement.
- No highway survey as provided for in the planning conditions has yet been done. The Bursar told the meeting that a highway survey would be undertaken will be before work begins.
- In relation to the Travel Plan, The DNA pointed out that the surveys to be done in preparation for the Plan will have to be done during the construction period. In view of the DNA considers to be flaws in the surveys (see the DNA's traffic experts' report submitted in the last planning application) the DNA think the surveys should be discussed by the Liaison Group before they are carried out, an as construction has not yet started this should be discussed at a later meeting.
- It was agreed to have a termly meeting, with the next meeting ideally in the latter part of January 2015 to give the new headmaster time to settle in. The School will propose some dates, and the consensus was that a Thursday would be best.

The DNA proposed that the location of meetings could alternate between the School and a DNA resident's house to reflect the balance that the Group was intended to encourage. Alison Edwards also suggested that the Chairmanship of the meeting could alternate. Andrew Munday said that as this was not a decision making body, it was unnecessary to have the formality of a chairman. The School was very happy to host the meetings at Gloucester Road. These points will be reviewed. Andrew Munday thanked everyone for attending, and hoped that the future meetings and liaison would help with the relationship between Denmead School and its neighbours.

Mike King

Bursar

22 September 2014