



**NEWLAND HOUSE SCHOOL
AND LOCAL COMMUNITY MEETING**

Thursday 3rd March 2022 at 5pm

Pre-Prep School Hall

Notes from the meeting

1. Welcome from the Head

Mr Skelton welcomed 5 local residents and introduced Mrs Bell the bursar and Mrs Higgins who was representing the Governing Board.

A resident noted the low attendance and suggested that flyers should be distributed to all residents to ensure a good turnout. Mrs Bell mentioned that all residents received a flyer in September which said that future meetings would be announced on the school website community page and that a notice had been placed on the railings at the front and the back of the school prior to this meeting.

Mr Skelton added that some questions had arrived late but that he would try to answer the under AOB.

2. Matters arising from meeting on Friday October 15th 2021

o School Travel Plan 2021

Mr Skelton informed the meeting that the STP for 2021 – 2022 could be found on the community page of the school website. The target had been agreed with Richmond and included an increase in Park and Stride, Travel initiatives such as school assemblies and an increase in active travel such as cycling, walking and scooters.

A resident asked if the school could find somewhere half a mile away and bus the children in from there. Mr Skelton commented that home to school transport was about changing habits and encouraging parents to try something new. Strawberry Hill House and Majestic Wine had both been approached regarding the use of the car park at drop off and pick up but the requests had been declined.

Mr Skelton remarked that school transport can only help at the margins and does not change the fact that there are too many cars for the number of spaces. He believes that parents across the country will need to change their habits as attitudes towards car travel for school transport change.

A resident suggested that two people are employed by the school to walk up and down the road to monitor parking by parents. He also commented that parents arrive over an hour early and leave their engines running. Mrs Bell informed the meeting that the anti-idling banner had been placed at the front and rear of the school and would shortly move to No11. A resident asked if the school could get more banners.

A resident put forward an opinion that there were too many private schools and they should be out in the countryside.

- School transport routes

Mr Skelton announced that parents were being asked if they would use a school bus if a route ran close to their homes

- Crossing Patrol

Mrs Bell had met with the Richmond crossing patrol advisor and had gathering the necessary information regarding training and costs in order for governors to consider the proposal

- Anti-idling campaign

Please see reference above

Mr Skelton reported that the pupils had drafted a letter that was sent to parents. Pupils care deeply about the environment.

- Acoustic fencing

Mrs Bell and Mr Skelton had looked again at the acoustic survey commissioned by the school in December 2020 and had re examined the data. The report concluded that acoustic fencing at the permitted height would not make a discernible difference to the travel of noise from the school. The data demonstrated that noise was also detected at times when the school was not occupied across weekends and overnight.

A resident said that she would support a planning application for fencing above the permitted height. Another resident expressed scepticism over the survey and said that acoustics was a 'dark art' in his experience from TV studios before he retired about 20 years ago. He therefore suggested a second opinion.

Mr Skelton responded that the survey was in fact very detailed and that higher fencing in such a confined space would create a very enclosed/prison feel for the children who use the space.

A resident commented that Teddington school hockey pitches had issues with noise and light and that Newland House could fit similar fencing. Mr Skelton said that he and Mrs Bell would look at the fencing at this school.

A resident suggested that murals could be painted onto the fencing.

3. CPZ update including Cargo bike cycle bays

Mr Skelton commented that no update had been received following the latest consultation in the Autumn. A local resident suggested that driveway parking initiatives could help alleviate the shortage of spaces for staff when the CPZ is introduced and offered to share the 4 spaces on his drive.

Mr Skelton mentioned that a trial to provide cargo bike parking bays.

A resident expressed a view that Richmond Council was biased towards cycling and walking and did not want to help car users.

A resident expressed a view that students should be permitted to apply for parking permits as they were residents. It was also thought that communications with St Mary's was good. This included a 24 hour emergency number to report problems with students. The students themselves are easy to get on with and they send out flyers to announce their summer party.

4. School travel – pupil initiatives

Mr Skelton said that pupils had run a 3-week incentive project to encourage pupils to travel on foot or by bicycle. They had also trialled a walking bus from Squires Garden centre

5. Tree planting

Mrs Bell explained that two chestnut trees had been removed in the summer as they were in decline. The replanting has been impossible so far as the school's tree company has been unable to source the 3 specified varieties at the required height of three metres. As the planting season is about to close the school has requested that the time limit be extended.

A resident suggested contacting Murray Cook at Fulwell Golf course as they are currently removing trees

6. Upcoming Events

- Teddington Park Road Street Party

The school is lending this event tables as chairs

- School Summer Fair

This event will be on the afternoon of Sunday 26th June and all are welcome.

7. Any other business

The following questions/observations were submitted the previous afternoon

- The resident was concerned that the bulk of the attendees at the previous meeting were parents, pupils and teachers. Mr Skelton responded that they were also part of the community and that the parking issues were relevant to them. Several of the parents were also local residents.
- The school has had no contact from Richmond Environmental Health in respect of noise. Mr Skelton's view is that the level of noise is in keeping with other schools, balanced with the fact that some neighbours have expressed concern.

A resident responded that other schools have done more in terms of protective measures. A nylon screen would improve privacy and dissipate noise as would a taller fence.

- A resident expressed his view that the school should appreciate that there was a displacement of trust as the planning condition to building the wall in the pre prep play area had not been fulfilled. Mrs Bell tried to explain the background to the planning condition and that the school believed in good faith that the approved variation to retain the existing ground level and boundary in 2017 was valid and that specific reference had been made to the wall in that application. A resident recalled that a log play area had been installed by the school without prior planning permission (2009)

- Mr Skelton announced that the school is preparing for the CPZ and will be installing an additional staff shower. A Staff locker room has already been installed and staff are aware of the impact of the proposed CPZ and the need to change their transport arrangements

A resident commented that they might need to change their job

Parking concerns are raised on the parent portal and also at termly parent class reps' meetings. Mr Skelton also has individual conversations with parents where poor behaviour has been brought to his attention.

Mr Skelton considered it difficult to obtain accurate data regarding the impact on traffic from parents as opposed to other road users

Mrs Higgins said that the school tries hard to address these issues and is open to suggestions. A resident said that he thought that the Head should be outside the school as in the time of Dr Ott.

A resident repeated a safety concern that he raised at the previous meeting regarding parents loading from car doors on the road side of the vehicle rather than the pavement. He also repeated

a concern that Waldegrave Park is used as a 'rat run' and residents were concerned about the speed of vehicles.

- Mrs Bell explained that BREEAM excellence certification had been a planning condition for the Pre-Prep building which opened in 2016. BREEAM relates to criteria around sustainability and included factors such as solar panels, timber from properly managed forests and ventilation. The school was working with the planning officer to resolve this outstanding matter.

The meeting closed at 6.30pm

Date and time of next meeting Friday 10th June at 9.30am