



Newland House
School

Minutes: Community Meeting

Newland House School

19th October 2023

Present 2 Staff, 2 Governors, 4 Residents

Apologies Cllr Geisler

The Head extended his thanks to the Gap Year students for distributing 250 invitations to local residents.

Update from previous meeting

The Head reported it had been noticed that the BREEAM Certificate for the Pre-Prep was missing. He extended a thank you to the resident for spotting this and it is now in place.

Following the invitation at last meeting to meet up in garden of one of the residents, three residents, The Head, The Bursar and Cllr Geisler met to discuss noise from the school.

The Head noted that Cllr Geisler has asked if the school could go above and beyond the requirements, in spirit of neighbourly relations.

Noise

One resident quoted Db levels from noise from the school in her report and wanted the levels to be reduced.

A resident said that in 2010 these issues were first raised.

The Bursar shared the quote for erecting acoustic fencing around the site. One resident said that she had also acquired a quote which included her front garden.

One resident thinks that the school is thought of badly in the community.

The Head commented that of 250 invitations, only those with negative views attended the meetings.

One resident stated that he represents other residents who don't come because the school hadn't done anything to address their concerns.

The Head said he couldn't agree that nothing had been done.

The Principal Environmental Health Office (HP) had said that school noise levels were reasonable and in line with other schools, and the school had followed their recommendations.

One resident was prepared to contribute towards the cost of fencing on their boundary and thinks a piecemeal approach could be taken.

The Head asked if the other resident who was present at the meeting and who bordered the school would make a similar contribution, to which he responded that he was not prepared to contribute.



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One resident stated that neither school nor council has regard for the concerns of residents.

One resident said that the play area was inadequate and that therefore playtimes were rotated which extended the duration of the noise. This was combined with the intensity of the noise from screaming and shouting. He described it as a day care operation and that the outdoor space was used for five hours per day. HP had not taken measurements to support their opinion. He also said the school hasn't increased the fence height as specified in the Noise Management Plan

A resident mentioned that, in 2022, Collis opened a new nursery which was required to have a noise assessment which specified the erection of a 2.5m Jackson acoustic fence. An opinion was expressed that a 2.5m fence would not reduce noise sufficiently.

The Head said the Collis case is different as it was part of new build and repeated that the noise levels were reasonable for a school.

Traffic Concerns

One resident reported that a father & son were eating a meal in their car whilst parked on double yellow lines. Another resident said that residents didn't want 'pinch points' and were concerned about safety of people crossing road. The resident made a generalised offensive comment about parents.

A resident was concerned about pollution and danger of accidents in Waldegrave Park. A resident asked if the school could patrol the street. The Head was concerned about covering the length of the road. The resident thought that two people would be sufficient and that parents could volunteer.

The Head was concerned that teaching staff were already committed at the start and the end of the school day and that parents are also our customers. The Head agreed that there was a need to reinforce the message regarding the impact on child safety.

A resident commented that parents park on the wrong side of the road with headlights dazzling other drivers and leave engines idling for heating and air con.

A resident commented that the CPZ has made it easier for parents to park as students who are residents are unable to. It was noted that the CPZ is not designed to stop parents and traffic wardens give 5 mins grace.

The resident also stated that people are parking with scratch cards and that he had reported his concerns regarding this to the council. He also said that the school had failed to submit travel plan.

The Head said that the school regularly prepares the STARS travel plan which is submitted to Richmond STARS.

The resident also questioned the number of business parking permits held by the school. The Head responded that the school had only applied for those permits which were offered to them by Richmond when the CLZ was introduced.

AL wants the council to commission a proper survey.

The Head commented that he wants to reduce the number of children who travel by car.



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A resident said that he would like a tougher CPZ 8-5.

The Head responded that the STARS Gold award required a year-on-year shift towards more active travel including school trips which use public transport.

A resident was concerned that children on bikes at too young an age and very wobbly and should be 10/12 before on public roads.

There was a discussion around possible implementation of a 'school road'.