

The Sedgefield Plan

Shaping the future of our area

Community and Environment Topic Group

Education Meeting

Held on Friday 24th January 2014 at 9.15am at the Parish Hall

Minutes of Meeting

Present

Mr. D. Bowles - Chairman of Steering Group

Mr. M. Spalding - Vice Chairman

Mrs A. Cox - Head teacher at Sedgefield Primary

Mr D. Davies - Head teacher at Sedgefield Community College

Mrs. S. Newton – Head teacher at Sedgefield Hardwick Primary

Mrs L. Wade – Assistant HT at St Williams Primary

Mr M. Lodge – Chair of Governors at St Williams Primary

Mr. T Guest – Chairman of Environment and Community Topic Group

Mrs. S Guest – Member of E & C Topic Group

Apologies

Mrs. E. Guest - Sedgefield Youth Worker

Introductions were made

Chairman's remarks

David Bowles provided an explanation of the Sedgefield Plan so far, detailing:

Aims and objectives of The Steering Group

- **To produce a Neighbourhood Plan for the community that is compliant with DCLG guidance and DCC Draft Local Plan, (Strategy**

for land use up to 2030). Draft to be in place by mid to late May and final document by Nov/Dec 2014.

- To survey the views of the local community on the broader impact and implications of the DCC housing development allocation of 470 houses, (3000 surveys distributed, awaiting analysis).
- To gauge opinion and hold discussions with community stakeholders in order to provide details of current provision and any future expansion plans and needs, which will form part of the SP.

Sedgefield Community College:

Mr Davies explained that the current roll is 900pupils and projections increase to 975 by 2017.

The school is currently over- subscribed. In 2013 the intake of Y7 pupils was 195 (DCC limit) and this year 245 parents have selected SCC as their first choice.

The school has already had to refurbish demountable buildings in order to provide extra classrooms.

Although the school has a large open floor space, a high proportion of it is not suitable for classroom teaching.

DCC is aware of the urgency of the problem and is looking to find solutions to increase capacity, possibly through the sale of land off Butterwick Lane which will provide the necessary funding for expansion.

Part of the land on which SCC is built is privately owned by the Public Finance Initiative (PFI) and as such, is not readily accessible for development. There is a 25year lease on the land.

Mr Davies went on to explain that he feels the shortage of teaching space is a huge immediate problem. In the long term, the lack of sixth form facilities is detrimental to the present and future pupils of Sedgefield. He feels that SCC would have the capacity to deliver and

sustain outstanding Sixth Form provision and that it is unfair that all SCC pupils who wish to have to travel a good distance to do this.

Mr Davies went on to add that SCC has a thriving Community Association. The facilities are well used (5.30 pm to 9.30 pm daily) and mostly fully booked by local clubs and groups.

Mr Davies concluded by saying that a 'one site' facility, which included pre-school, nursery, primary, secondary and sixth form establishments could provide extremely effective, cost effective, consistent educational provision for the children of Sedgefield area.

Mrs Newton (Hardwick Primary) explained that the current number on roll is 240. Four classes currently have more than 30 children. There are 35 pupils in Y6.

Numbers for next year are as yet difficult to confirm as parental choices are still being submitted but current numbers stand as 24 requests for 1st choice and 12 as 2nd choice.

Hardwick School already uses land at SCC on a daily basis.

The school offers wrap-around care provision from 8 am to 6 pm.

Hardwick School is the only school establishment which provides nursery education within Sedgefield. The nursery is currently under subscribed, due to the fact that working parents need wrap around child care from 8am to 6pm.

Mrs Newton would like to extend nursery provision by offering more hours to working parents and would also be keen to include capacity for 2 year olds, following the proposed 'Free places for two year olds' Government Scheme due to roll out next year. At the moment, there is not the floor space and/or flexibility to do this, even though the school does qualify for funding under the pre-requisite of being a 'Good'

(OFSTED) school. As Sedgefield is not an area of high deprivation, funds which would allow scope for improvement are not awarded. The nearest school which will provide free places for 2 year olds is at Trimdon Grange. Parents would therefore have to travel out of Sedgefield in order to benefit from the scheme.

Mrs Newton would also be keen to provide family support to parents and carers by facilitating parenting classes, workshops etc.

Mrs. Cox (Sedgefield Primary) explained that they currently have 202 on roll and a capacity for 238. Recent improvement to the school building has improved capacity to 34 pupils per year group.

Mrs Cox went on to mention that the children who start school present with wide ranging levels of ability and attainment, as a result of coming from several different nursery providers.

After school care, (Fun Club) is over subscribed. The building is leased from DCC but is in poor state of repair.

Child care is an increasingly difficult issue for parents.

Mrs Wade (St Williams) said that their current roll is 112 and that they have the capacity for 142. The school does not have a nursery and 13 children are due to start in Reception Class in September 2014. The school is a Catholic school but will admit children of any faith.

St Williams is an OFSTED graded 'Outstanding' school. It is geographically isolated and a high proportion of children are bussed in, which can be a problem for parents. Approximately 30 to 40 children travel from Sedgefield every day.

The school is hoping to boost numbers and are embarking on a publicity campaign in the near future.

Pupil's Survey

It was agreed that it would be beneficial for the pupils to complete a survey relating to living, learning and growing up in Sedgefield and that

the process should involve the Student Councils/school representatives at each school.

Mrs. Guest agreed to liaise with schools in order to produce a child friendly survey and facilitate access to it by hard copy or on-line. A meeting with pupil representatives from each school will be organised within the next fortnight.

Mr Bowles thanked everyone for attending and contributing to the meeting. He mentioned that the current information, plans for expansion and hopes and ideas for the future expressed were very relevant to the Sedgefield Plan and any future development of Sedgefield.

24th January 2014

S. Guest