

Adur District Council

Item 4 Questions received from members of the public

Question 1

Questions from Alastair Reid Resident of Victoria Road, Shoreham

1) I represent Future Adur Schools Team, a group representing 250 parents who welcome new housing developments in Adur, but are concerned that not enough is being done to meet the resulting education need. With 500 new dwellings in development at this time in Shoreham alone, and several thousand more in Adur planned, as well as population drift from Brighton and London, we are seeing extreme pressure being put on our schools and their infrastructure. Whilst West Sussex County Council has the lead responsibility for the planning and provision of school places, we believe the Adur as the local planning authority can have a major part to play helping reduce the impact of new developments on education. For example in the design of the Adur Local Plan, the use of ALL the levers of the planning process, and in its working relationship with WSCC.

Can you tell us how you will use all your powers and influence to secure timely, and appropriate investment in school infrastructure to meet the demand?

Question 2

2) In Shoreham there is a need for additional infrastructure at Swiss Gardens school, not least directly because of the new development at Ropetackle North, as it is the closest school in the catchment area. Can section 106 money earmarked for education from a particular large development of houses be ring-fenced to provide additional facilities at the most local school to the development?

Question 3

Questions from Mr Coughlin Head of Swiss Gardens Primary School

1) As you know, schools expansion has greatly affected our school, Swiss Gardens. We have a unique set of issues to deal with. High demand and the smallest footprint of any primary school in Shoreham. We have a site that was built for 1 form entry, now having three classes at reception. The new 'temporary classrooms' built this summer to accommodate demand will be there for at least six years. And as a result we have lost precious play areas, an environmental learning area, and parking spaces.

All this in practice means :

- No owned green play/sports area (we have use of some of the Meads, but this is often flooded in winter)
- No school hall large enough - which means : ○ multiple sittings for lunch, meaning less time to eat and stressed kids not eating ○ Difficulty in building school culture as we can't all fit in one hall for assemblies and events
- Library having to double up as a music room
- Year five year group separated from rest of the school
- Reduction of staff car parking, and increased traffic causing chaos around school
- 90 reception class 4 and 5 year olds having play time in a space roughly 200m², leaving an armspan (1.5m²) width of personal space per child

The best thing we could do would be to convert 'our part' of the Meads into an all year round, all weather sports facility. This would be of major benefit to the school not only for facilities but also for play space and could also work as a community facility. It would require significant works and monies and the drainage would need to be resolved before anything else could proceed.

Will the council support the school and help make this happen? Specifically by:

- a) trying either to ring fence the £247k of 106 money from Ropetackle North in the planning process, through writing it into the deeds of variance?
- b) and/or help us lobby WSCC to secure that money for such improvements?
- c) Work with us to improve facilities at the The Meads for school use?

Question 4

Beyond the play space, we have immediate priorities for the school that include :-
- Environmental area - Hall space/ facility - Dedicated music room/meeting room - Kitchen

Will the council support the school in trying either to ring fence the 106 money from Ropetackle North in the planning process, through writing it into the deeds of variance, and/or help us lobby WSCC to secure that money for such improvements?