

Note on Secondary School Places in Warminster for Wiltshire Housing Sites Examination  
April 2019

1. There are currently some surplus places in Kingdown Secondary School, however the school will need to expand by 300 places in order to meet the rising demand for places caused by demographics in the town and new housing (including West Warminster Urban Extension (WWUE 15/01800/OUT – a mixed residential led development with committee endorsement for 1000 houses – which is at s106 drafting stage), Bugley Barton (17/01463/FUL – a housing development with committee endorsement to approve 227 houses - which is also at s106 drafting stage) Redrow (17/11145/VAR – a consented and partially implemented housing development for 202 houses with about 50 houses completed), Damask Way (17/12348/OUT – a consented 28 house scheme) and the proposed housing allocations).
2. The Kingdown Academy school site is quite constrained although they do have some off site playing fields.
3. There are two options to secure an expansion of the secondary school to accommodate 300 additional pupils. The first option comprises expanding the school on its current site. Whilst this was at first considered unachievable, a feasibility study which has just been completed indicates that it may be possible to provide 300 school places and accommodate 43 additional parking spaces on the existing school site. The local education authority has entered discussions with the board of governors and head teacher and are in discussions with the local authority planning team.
4. The second option to secure the additional 300 secondary school places comprises a well advanced plan to provide a secondary school expansion in the form of a satellite provision as part of the committee endorsed mixed use development on land north of Victoria Road under application 15/01800/OUT – which is at a well advanced stage in terms of the necessary s106 preparation. The satellite site would be 1.8ha which would be sufficient for 300 secondary school pupils and the school provision as indicatively included as part of the endorsed outline application, would sit alongside a new primary school facility, which itself would be a 1.8ha site.
5. Options for school organisation would include using the satellite site for the sixth form which would free up places on the main school site, or alternatively an entire year 7 cohort could be located on the WWUE site.