SPECIAL SCHOOLS PROPOSALS (22 May 2019)

APPENDIX 6: (ADDENDUM 2)

LETTERS AND EMAILS RECEIVED

6.4.11 30.04.2019 Parent Governors submission from St Nicholas School (copy of workshop slides)

One school proposal
Extend Consultation

IMPORTANT:
In addition to this meeting please email SpecialSchools@wiltshire.gov.uk with comments and views

How we got to where we are now
Previous consultation process

Dec 2017
WPPC held “consultations”
What would you like to see in a Special School?
↓
Summer 2018
“consultation” with Alan Stubbersfield (WC Interim Director, education and Skills)
Not consultation on closures, but need for more places
↓
November 2018
WC publish cabinet agenda item re closing schools
↓
15th November 2018
Save St. Nicholas Petition setup
↓
27th November 2018
WC Cabinet vote unanimously to proceed on
The “One-School Option”
↓
9th January 2019
Statutory Proposal Published
How we got to where we are now
Legal Action

A collection of interested parties obtained legal advise on the legality of the statutory proposal. The guidance was the proposal was not issued in accordance with closing maintained schools with respect to

1. the statutory notice content
2. the process used to consult prior to publication

Legal guidance also was that simultaneously challenging process and proposal were not possible. While successful legal action against the proposal would result in the proposal being withdrawn.

Legal action on the process breaches was instigated with an Initial hearing accepted 3 grounds as being sufficiently arguable as to be taken to a full hearing, these being

1. Not followed the Statutory process
2. Not fairly consulting prior to publication
3. Not fulfilling Equality requirements including PSED and EIA

How we got to where we are now
Legal Action

15th March 2019 - Court in Cardiff
Wiltshire Council v Friends of Larkrise and St. Nicholas School
↓
25th March 2019
Wiltshire Council out of court settlement has been agreed
↓
WC to pay claimants reasonable costs up to a cap set by the court
Withdrawal of the Statutory Proposal
&
Re-align to Pre-publication and extend consultation on special schools’ provision

While there are protections with regulations related to
Right to a family life, Public Sector Equality Duty and Equality Impact Assessment
These need to be evidence to ensure WC understand why retaining Schools in the principle North Wiltshire settlements and/or Larkrise and St. Nicholas Schools is required
Where we are now  
Extended Consultation - WC

The current consultation is to run until 6th May 2019

WC have realigned the previous representation on statutory proposal to (pre)consultation on the same proposal.

From the attended workshop WC are walking through the process to demonstrate how and why the current closure proposal fulfils their criteria with respect to
- Sufficiency
- Value for money
- Quality
- Outcomes

The whole presentation and discussion appears to have a pre-determined starting point that

- Larkrise and St. Nicholas are too small and overcrowded and must close
- One school is a viable option leading to positioning Rowdeford as the most appropriate site

Where we are now  
Extended Consultation – WC Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sufficient provision</th>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Negative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At least 50 more places for those with special needs, built on time and to DfE guidelines. Expansion possible for a further 100.</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>d</td>
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<tr>
<td>Value for money</td>
<td>Cost effective buildings - getting a great bang for our BMUSD buck.</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality</td>
<td>Transport for all is less than 45 minutes and delivers an outstanding quality experience for the pupils.</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outcomes</td>
<td>Outstanding 14 + Pathways services equip young people with the knowledge and skills they need to live independently (in their community), secure a place at a good university, start an apprenticeship, or find their first job.</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>d</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transition to southwood and 101 pathways are limited.
Where we are now
Extended Consultation - concerns

The consultation fails to outline the merits or otherwise of retaining Schools in the principle North Wiltshire settlements and/or Larkrise and St. Nicholas Schools

The consultation is regarding the new primary and secondary provision

Impact on POST 16 pupils is not reported and may undermine the statistics presented

The gating sequence used puts sufficiency and value for money ahead of quality and outcomes.

For transport assuming Cricklade is in catchment, North Wiltshire geography means a single school can never be better than neutral on quality. And will fail the 45 minute Primary School pupil test.

Therefore if guidance become regulation in the future, the schooling proposal could intrinsically be flawed.

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Where we are now
Extended Consultation - concerns

Rowdeford School:
Some children will have a longer travel time, although most will be between 1 and 9 minutes more.

Change in journey times all currently on transport

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Where we are now
Extended Consultation - concerns

Rowdeford School:
Less students travelling over 60 minutes

**As-Is**
- Larkrise: 11 routes total 188 miles
  - 11 Students over 60 mins
- St Nicks: 13 routes total 204.3 miles
  - 4 Students over 60 mins
- Rowdeford: 27 routes total 629.2 miles
  - 30 Students over 60 mins
- Combined total 51 routes total 1021.5 miles
  - 45 Students over 60 mins

**Proposed**
- Combined into Rowdeford
  - 59 routes: 1043.4 miles
  - 2 Students over 60 mins

Where we are now
Extended Consultation - concerns

Testing impacts and statistical integrity is impaired as the underlying data used has not been made available with respect to omissions or errors related to:

- Inclusion of South Wiltshire in a North Wiltshire plan
- Inclusion of POST 16 in the new Rowdeford travel plan
- Omission of POST 16 travel needs
- Omission of time or distance related to deltas due to private mileage and non transported children
- Errors due to time requirements to unload/load wheelchairs etc.
- Omission or limitations due to children's EHCPs, health, medical or emotional needs
- Errors related to the difference in methodology used for As IS and future transport timing
- Indication on who are the major loser or gainer
- How the 8 additional vehicle used in the proposal would improve the As IS metrics allowing for a fairer comparison.
What we want to do
Obtain views on

- Whether a single combined school at Rowdeford is a good plan for your child?
- Whether a single combined school at Rowdeford is a good plan for ALL children?
- Why the one school option will not work?
- What would need to be in place to make a one school option in Rowde acceptable?