

CABINET - 30 APRIL 2009

PUBLIC FORUM BUSINESS

A. QUESTIONS / ANSWERS RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS

Questions relating to agenda items have been received from:

Re: item 11 - Temporary primary school reception class accommodation

A1. Joel Stokes (these questions relate to the third reception class at Sefton Park School).

The full text of the questions, and answers will be set out in a separate document, which will be available at this meeting.

B. PUBLIC FORUM REPRESENTATIONS RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS

Re: item 12 - New primary school - Bishopston ward

B.12.1 Toni Burrows

B.12.2 Anne White

C. QUESTIONS / ANSWERS NOT RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS

Questions which do not relate to agenda items have been received from:

C1. Steven Norman - subject: Sunnymead Manor care home - questions to the Leader of the Council.

The full text of the question, and answer will be set out in a separate document, which will be available at this meeting.

D. PUBLIC FORUM REPRESENTATIONS NOT RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS

None received.

A. PUBLIC FORUM - QUESTIONS RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS

The following questions have been received for this meeting of the Cabinet in relation to agenda items (*full text of the questions received attached*):

Re: Agenda item 11 - Temporary primary school reception class accommodation

A1. Questions from Joel Stokes

QUESTION A 1

QUESTIONS TO CABINET – 30 APRIL 2009 – JOEL STOKES

With reference to the recently agreed arrangement for a third reception class at Sefton Park School for September 2009, I would like to ask the following questions.

To address the pressure on outside space and resultant overcrowding at the school, the following has been agreed by the LA and school governors (information provided by the governing body):

- a) that remedial works will be carried out on the outdoor area adjacent to the terrapin before the next academic year.
 - b) that plans for the use of the Ashley House site will be implemented in the next two years, with a definite timetable for their implementation, providing the LA can identify funding.
- 1) Please would you confirm that these are the only changes to the outside space which are proposed? If this is not the case please would you advise?
 - 2) Please would you detail the plans to which item b) refers?
 - 3) Please would you explain why all of the grounds of Ashley House have not been released for use by the school for September 2009?
 - 4) Please would you confirm that there are no plans to help the school improve its catering facilities so that meals may be prepared and cooked on site? If this is true please would you explain why? If this is not the case please would you advise?
 - 5) Please would you confirm that there are no plans to use the Ashley House building for the direct benefit of the school? If this is true please would you explain why? If this is not the case please would you detail any plans to use the building?
 - 6) Please would you confirm that there are no plans being seriously considered which include the demolition of Ashley House? If this is not the case please would you advise?
 - 7) In a recent newspaper article it was stated that “*At Sefton Park, the governors have secured a deal with the council and have committed to no further expansion of the school for six years.*” Please would you confirm that this is indeed the case?

Thank you for your time

Joel Stokes

QUESTION A 1

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS TO CABINET – 30 APRIL 2009 – JOEL STOKES

With reference to the recently agreed arrangement for a third reception class at Sefton Park School for September 2009, I would like to ask the following questions.

To address the pressure on outside space and resultant overcrowding at the school, the following has been agreed by the LA and school governors (information provided by the governing body):

- a) that remedial works will be carried out on the outdoor area adjacent to the terrapin before the next academic year.
- b) that plans for the use of the Ashley House site will be implemented in the next two years, with a definite timetable for their implementation, providing the LA can identify funding.

1) Please would you confirm that these are the only changes to the outside space which are proposed? If this is not the case please would you advise?

A. Regarding outside space, certainly the changes will focus on the area around the terrapins, but it may be possible to improve more areas if funding allows.

2) Please would you detail the plans to which item b) refers?

A. At the moment there are no plans, other than current use for Ashley House. The LA have, however, agreed to look at how effectively it uses Ashley House and whether better use of the house and grounds could be found for the school.

3) Please would you explain why all of the grounds of Ashley House have not been released for use by the school for September 2009?

A. The grounds were not asked for by the school. This may be possible, depending on consultation with other users.

4) Please would you confirm that there are no plans to help the school improve its catering facilities so that meals may be prepared and cooked on site? If this is true please would you explain why? If this is not the case please would you advise?

A. The current proposal is for an extra classroom and we have responded to the requests of the school. Improving catering was not a request and is not part of the proposed budget. This would have been addressed if the school was to expand.

5) Please would you confirm that there are no plans to use the Ashley House building for the direct benefit of the school? If this is true please would you explain why? If this is not the case please would you detail any plans to use the building?

A. It is possible that some part of Ashley House will be used by the school. This is currently being explored.

6) Please would you confirm that there are no plans being seriously considered which include the demolition of Ashley House? If this is not the case please would you advise?

A. Currently, no plans to demolish Ashley House are being considered.

7) In a recent newspaper article it was stated that “*At Sefton Park, the governors have secured a deal with the council and have committed to no further expansion of the school for six years.*” Please would you confirm that this is indeed the case?

A. It is agreed that the LA will not return to exploration of expansion of Sefton Park for 6 years.

Thank you for your time

Joel Stokes

STATEMENT B.12.1

I would like to say that I am very happy with the current proposal not to expand Sefton Park Primary school and to revisit plans to build a 1FE school on the nearby Brunel site instead.

For many reasons already documented, expansion was never a good idea and, as we always knew, and even more so now, a new school/schools are desperately needed in the area.

Thank you for taking our concerns/ideas on board and making this proposal.

This would be a great outcome for many children, parents and residents in the area, although, maybe, just a start. If at all possible, securing a bigger site at Brunel for 2FE would be better in the long run (although I understand the difficulties) and of course Sefton Park still needs decent investment.

A very big thank you to all those who have helped to make this happen.

Toni Burrows

STATEMENT B.12.2

5 Richmond Hill

Clifton

Bristol

BS8 1AT

29th April 2009

Dear Cabinet members

New primary school – Bishopston ward

The problem of demand exceeding supply for primary school places in this part of Bristol has been known since the early 1990s when Avon attempted to build a primary school on Redland Court Playing fields now Redland Green Secondary School. The report before you fails to mention a site which the Lib Dem cabinet in 2006 were investigating. Sadly due to a change of administration in May 2007, this site seems have been missed of the list when Labour held the Cabinet.

The alternative site is located at Merton Road, Bishopston. It is more than 2 hectares in size and adequate for a 420 place primary school including a school playing field. In 2006, Store Gap limited had applied for planning permission for a supermarket which was subsequently turned down. The site has three owners who were prepared to sell their sites should the planning application be successful.

The site is therefore a potential site for consideration and is located at the epicentre of the demand for primary school places. This site is still worthy of further investigation and discussion with the existing landowners. The Council has funds within the primary school review to purchase the site. It is rare to find a suitable site of this size in a densely populated area. The Brunel site has appeared to be the only option but this is because this site seems to have fallen off the radar during the period of the previous administration. The Brunel site is not ideal and is a compromise. Surely future generations should have the best that can be provided.

Please will you include further exploration into the purchase of this site? If the site is purchased it is large enough to help contribute to the Council's overall policy of creating balanced and sustainable communities by providing more affordable homes in an area where house prices are unaffordable for many people.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Yours sincerely

Anne White

C. PUBLIC FORUM - QUESTIONS NOT RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS

The following questions have been received for this meeting of the Cabinet, which do not relate specifically to agenda items (*full text of the questions received attached*):

- C1. Steven Norman - subject: Sunnymead Manor care home, Southmead
- questions to Cllr Barbara Janke, Leader of the Council

QUESTION C 1

Question for the Leader of the Council, Barbara Janke

On Tuesday March 10 2009, the leader and her Executive Member for Care and Neighbourhoods, Bev Knott, told us in the Bristol Evening Post that Mimosa's Healthcare Group's Sunnymead Manor Care Home in Southmead, used extensively by Bristol City Council's Social Services to place vulnerable elderly people, was "improving".

Mr Knott even thought the residents seemed "contented enough".

Since the leader also told us she is "taking a personal interest in the quality of service the council gives" at the home and receives from the Mimosa Healthcare Group and in view of recent events involving staff at the home and the Nursing and Midwifery Council does she still have full confidence in Sunnymead Manor and its owners the Mimosa Healthcare Group?

Steven Norman

QUESTION C 1

ANSWER to Question for the Leader of the Council, Barbara Janke

Question:

On Tuesday March 10 2009, the leader and her Executive Member for Care and Neighbourhoods, Bev Knott, told us in the Bristol Evening Post that Mimosa's Healthcare Group's Sunnymead Manor Care Home in Southmead, used extensively by Bristol City Council's Social Services to place vulnerable elderly people, was "improving".

Mr Knott even thought the residents seemed "contented enough".

Since the leader also told us she is "taking a personal interest in the quality of service the council gives" at the home and receives from the Mimosa Healthcare Group and in view of recent events involving staff at the home and the Nursing and Midwifery Council does she still have full confidence in Sunnymead Manor and its owners the Mimosa Healthcare Group?

Steven Norman

Answer:

Sunnymead Manor has recently been the subject of concern regarding care practices.

Safeguarding Adults procedures were initiated in respect of suspected institutional abuse at Sunnymead Manor on 20 October 2008. The investigation revealed neglect of people with dementia living in Poplar Unit at Sunnymead and resulted in Bristol City Council, Bristol PCT and adjoining authorities ceasing placements at Sunnymead and reviewing all residents on Poplar Unit. The issues mainly related to the culture in the home and the quality of the care and the management.

Action plans were immediately put into place by officers within Health and Social Care and NHS Bristol, and monitored via the safeguarding adults process. Meetings to review the action plan are held regularly. Health and Social Care, NHS Bristol, The Care Quality Commission (CQC), South Gloucestershire County Council and the Mimosa Group have worked in close partnership to improve standards at Sunnymead. HSC commissioners have made a total of four quality assurance visits to closely monitor standards of care and the welfare of all residents at Sunnymead. Individual reviews of all individuals on Poplar Unit have been completed. The safeguarding nurse at NHS Bristol, who has provided support and mentoring for the managers at Sunnymead, has also helped staff

access better training and has taken proactive action to improve relationships between Sunnymead and primary care services. CQC continue to attend all safeguarding meetings and monitor via an enforcement action plan. It has not been deemed necessary to move residents from Sunnymead, but to work with all concerned to improve services. Officers are very confident that they have done all we can to secure the protection of residents of this home.

The new manager at Sunnymead and her deputy have worked to improve standards of clinical care, care planning, risk assessment and recording markedly. Fulltime and part activities organisers are in post together with additional lounge staff to promote individuals engagement with daily activities. Staff processes and procedures have been improved and staffing levels increased. Care for residents throughout Sunnymead has significantly improved.

The press have recently covered a hearing at the conduct and confidence committee of the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) on 20 April 2009. The nurse in questions' misconduct occurred in August 2006 after she had been employed at Sunnymead for five months. Mimosa behaved responsibly in dismissing the nurse and referring her to the NMC. As these matters arose almost three years ago I do not believe they have any bearing on the current situation at Sunnymead.

Sunnymead will be the subject of an unannounced inspection by CQC at some time before June 2009. If their rating improves to reflect the positive changes in care now in place, Bristol City Council will recommence placements at Sunnymead.

I have confidence that appropriate actions are being taken by the Mimosa Care Group to ensure improved standards standards of care at Sunnymead Manor.