

13th March 2018

Dear Parent or Carer,

**Proposed Improvements to Hollickwood Primary School
Section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998**

Public Consultation Event Taking Place on: 28 March 2018 (4pm-7pm)

Venue: Main Hall, Hollickwood Primary School, Sydney Road, Muswell Hill, London N10 2NL

Relating to Forthcoming S77 Application: Hollickwood Primary School, Sydney Road, Muswell Hill, London N10 2NL

We are writing to advise you that we are in the process of preparing a Section 77 application to facilitate the partial redevelopment of Hollickwood Primary School.

What is a Section 77 Application?

A Section 77 application is required when a local authority, or a school with the appropriate status, wishes to dispose of playing field land under Section 77 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998. Local authorities and schools require the Secretary of States consent to do so and are expected to have consulted adequately on the proposals before any application for this consent is made.

Why is the School proposing to dispose of part of the schools playing field land?

The disposal of part of the school's playing field land will enable a small parcel of land to be sold for redevelopment. The capital raised as a result of the sale of the land will then be used to fund the proposed improvements to the school.

What are the proposed improvements to the school?

The proposals include the demolition of the existing school dining hall and its relocation to become part of a single-storey extension to the existing main school block(s). The extension will allow the school to operate as one single building, as oppose to three separate blocks. The single storey extension will also include a new extended hall, which will be of a size appropriate for P.E. lessons and whole school events.

In addition to the extension, there will be new all-weather sports courts as part of a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) as well as changes to the school's access and servicing arrangements with a detailed landscaping strategy.

The philosophy for Hollickwood School is that is “*a place where all children can succeed.*” and a “*caring, inclusive community where adults have high expectations of all learners and respect and creativity are nurtured.*”

Hollickwood Primary School and its governors believe that the new facilities will provide the best possible learning environment for all pupils to succeed. These proposals have evolved, working with the London Borough of Barnet Council - and their Officers, Hollickwood School itself, the Education Funding Agency, and a wide range of consultant experts to bring forward the current proposed scheme.

What is a multi-use games area (MUGA)?

A multi-use games area is a hard wearing artificial surface which can be used to play a range of sporting activities such as five-a-side football, netball, basketball, hockey and mini-tennis. Outer fencing may be used to help keep the ball in play and goal post units may be built in for different types of sports. To mitigate the loss of land the school is proposing to provide a multi-use games area to provide benefit to the school and wider community all year round.

Which part of the site do the school wish to dispose of?

The site plan overleaf shows the part of the site that will be disposed of (in red). The site has been chosen for several reasons. Firstly, the existing dining block located on this site is isolated from the rest of the school buildings and is difficult for students to access, particularly on days with poor weather. Its relocation to between the main school buildings will allow the school to operate more efficiently on a day to day basis.

The site itself is largely taken up by the dining block and so the loss of playing field required is minimal. In addition, any redevelopment proposal sought for in the area would form a natural extension to the properties to the north on Pembroke Road.

How much playing field land are we proposing to dispose of?

Hollickwood Primary School currently has c.7,210m² of school playing field. This includes a variety of types of space such as habitat areas, hard surface areas and informal play and social areas in addition to traditional grass pitches.

The proposed disposal of 1,155m² of land (of which 555 m² constitutes playing field) would result in there being approximately 6,655m² of playing field at Hollickwood. The proposed installation of a MUGA at the site (which will allow school and community continued use all year around) means that the school will exceed the minimum requirements set out by the Department for Education of playing field space required for the school.

Are there any proposals to expand Hollickwood Primary School which mean it will need more playing field than it does currently?

No, there are no current proposals to expand Hollickwood however the provision of the proposed multi-use games area will help to future proof the school for any expansion if this was required in the future.

When does the consultation begin?

A six week consultation to seek feedback on the proposals was launched on Wednesday 7th March and will run until 18th April 2018. A public event is also being held during this period for residents and schools who are located in close proximity to the site, and as you are a local councillor for the area we would also like to invite you to this event.

You are welcome to drop into the event in the main school hall on 28th March 2018 at any time between 4pm-7pm. The team will be available to answer any questions and explain the proposals to you. There will be boards displaying images of the schools redevelopment proposal and the area of land being sought for disposal. We would appreciate it if you could provide your feedback to us at the event by completing one of our questionnaires, as your comments will assist us when finalising our S77 application.

We very much hope you can get involved in our consultation event and we look forward to meeting you. In the meantime, if you require any further information about the event, please do not hesitate to contact GL Hearn by email: laura.meyer@glhearn.com

Yours faithfully,



Laura Meyer
Town Planning Consultant
GL Hearn



Above: Draft proposed site plan