

## **Woodlands Secondary School – Proposed Relocation & Expansion**

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Luton Borough Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Woodlands Secondary School (Community Special School), Northwell Drive, Luton, LU3 3SP from 01 September 2013.

It is proposed that the number of places available at Woodlands Secondary School increase from 145 to 210. Woodlands Secondary School currently caters for children with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities and Severe Learning Disabilities with a Statement of Special Educational Needs from Years 7 - 14.

Subject to obtaining planning permission, Woodlands Secondary School will relocate from the current site on Northwell Drive to join Icknield High School on its current site in Riddy Lane, Luton, LU3 2AH. It is proposed that the new building with increased capacity will be available for pupils from 1st September 2013. In addition to providing extra places, it is proposed that the relocated school will have improved facilities.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from Deborah Smith by telephoning 548041 or writing to the Planning & Admissions Team, Children & Learning Department, Luton Borough Council, 4th Floor Unity House, 111 Stuart Street, Luton LU1 5NP. Alternatively, the complete proposal can be viewed at: [www.luton.gov.uk/consultationsoneducation](http://www.luton.gov.uk/consultationsoneducation)

Within six weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to: Mrs Deborah Smith, Planning & Admissions Officer, 4th Floor Unity House, 111 Stuart Street, Luton, LU1 5NP.

Signed: Debbie Jones, Corporate Director – Children & Learning

Publication Date: 13<sup>th</sup> January 2010

### **Explanatory Notes**

The co-location of Woodlands Secondary School onto the Icknield High School site will improve collaboration between mainstream and special school provision and make better use of resources. The proposed additional places are to accommodate the growing number of children living within the Borough who require education in a Special School.

## **Proposals for the Relocation & Expansion of Woodlands Secondary School**

These proposals have been published by Luton Borough Council and relate to Woodlands Secondary School, Northwell Drive, Luton, LU3 3SP. Woodlands Secondary School is a Community Special School maintained by Luton Borough Council.

### **Implementation:**

It is proposed that the number of places available at Woodlands Secondary School increase from 145 to 210. It is proposed that the relocation and rebuild of the school premises should be completed to accommodate existing and additional pupils from 1st September 2013.

### **Objections & Comments:**

Any objections to, or comments on, the proposals should be put in writing and addressed to:

Mrs Deborah Smith  
Planning & Admissions Officer  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Unity House  
111 Stuart Street  
Luton, LU1 5NP

The period for comments on, or objections to, the proposals is six weeks from the date of publication. The closing date for objections is therefore Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

### **Alteration Description:**

Woodlands Secondary School currently caters for children in Years 7-14 with a Statement of Special Educational Needs. Most commonly the children will have learning needs associated with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities and Severe Learning Disabilities. The School is resourced to meet the learning styles of pupils with a wide range of needs including autistic spectrum and communication disorders, hearing impairment, visual impairment and physical disabilities. The School's specialist subject resources are in Art, Food Technology, ICT and Science. The School also provides a warm water therapy pool, multi-sensory room and sensory garden.

Under the proposal to relocate, rebuild and extend the School its current facilities will be enhanced and provided in an inclusive learning environment.

Outline planning permission has been sought for the new, integrated school. The proposals include:

- New classrooms, science, design and technology, arts, performance and sports facilities,
- Central 'street' area to include administration, leadership and dining facilities,
- Community and integrated youth services facilities,
- Respite care for young people aged 11- 19
- Car parking
- Outdoor sports facilities

Some of the facilities will be shared with Icknield, all will be fully accessible.

### **School Capacity:**

With the relocation of the school premises, it is proposed to increase the capacity of the School from 145 to 210 places for pupils in years 7-14. The current level of facilities in the School will be retained, with the opportunity taken to expand and improve these where necessary.

Existing pupils will not be displaced, as the new school building will provide additional pupil places as well as enhanced facilities.

The current number of pupils on roll is 141.

### **Additional Site:**

There is a separate proposal for the rebuilding and expansion of Icknield High School and the relocation of Woodlands Secondary School is dependant on these proposals being approved and implemented.

### **Transfer to new site:**

Subject to obtaining planning permission the new Woodlands Secondary School will be co-located alongside Icknield High School in Riddy Lane, Luton, LU3 2AH. The new site is 1.1 miles as the crow flies from the current site in Northwell Drive. The Riddy Lane site has the land available to provide for a co-located school and is more centrally located in the town than the Northwell Drive site. It is also located just off of the A6, which is one of the main routes through the town and along which there is a regular bus service. The vast majority of pupils attending Woodlands Secondary School are already transported to school by the Council

due to their special educational needs. These children will continue to be transported to the new school site.

### **Objectives:**

The objective of these proposals is to provide additional school places for pupils in Years 7 – 14 who require education in a special school. As the pupil population in Luton rises, so does the requirement for places in special schools. The relocation of Woodlands Secondary School will allow for a new building with improved facilities. The School will also be more centrally located allowing easier access from across the town. It is also anticipated that the co-location with Icknield High School will improve collaboration between mainstream and special school provision and make better use of resources.

### **Consultation:**

All applicable statutory consultation requirements have been complied with.

The following people/organisations were consulted before publication of these proposals:

- Governing Body of Woodlands Secondary School.
- Staff and pupils at the School.
- Parents & prospective parents.
- Trade Union representatives.
- Local residents (of the proposed Riddy Lane site).
- MPs and Ward Councillors.
- Governing bodies and staff at neighbouring schools.
- Main primary feeder schools.

A copy of the consultation document is attached to these proposals (see Appendix A) together with a report setting out responses to the consultation in respect of Woodlands Secondary School (see Appendix B). Public meetings were held at Icknield High School on 11<sup>th</sup> and the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2009 where Council officers and the Headteachers of both Woodlands Secondary School and Icknield High School were available to answer queries on the proposals. All attendees were asked to complete written response forms to document their comments. Copies of the consultation document were available at the public meetings, from the School and Council and available to download on the Council's Website.

### **Project Costs:**

The estimated total cost of the new builds for both Icknield and Woodlands is approximately £53.24 million. Capital Funding allocated to the Council from the

Department for Children, Schools and Families through the Building Schools for the Future programme will fund £51.74m. Luton Borough Council is contributing £1.5m to the project.

### **Need or demand for additional places:**

The pupil projections, set out at Table in Appendix A, demonstrate that the town has a rising pupil population. There is currently pressure on both mainstream and special school places in the primary sector. Pupil projections indicate that the secondary school population will grow by 3,399 pupils between September 2008 and 2018 – this is a 28% growth in pupil numbers within 10 years. It is envisaged that 1% of the secondary school population will require special school provision.

The expansion of places at Woodlands Secondary School is needed to ensure there are sufficient special school places for Luton's children.