



Meeting: USH Phase 2 Expansion Consultation Meeting

Venue: USH Hall

Date/Time: Tuesday 26th March 2019, 6pm

Minutes

Mr Stuart Woods, Headteacher opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance and introducing those representing USH and involved parties.

In attendance were:

Mr John Barfoot, Chair of Governors - USH
Mr James Renfrew, Vice Chair of Governors - USH
Mrs Julie Prince, Business Manager - USH
Ms Kirstie Green, Travel Plan Team
Mr Bradley Smith, Primmer Olds
Mr William Wyley, Primmer Olds
Mr James Fewtrell, Primmer Olds
Nicky Thorne, Hamwic Education Trust

Headteacher's PA was present taking notes to be published on the school website.

Mr Woods introduced four current USH students, the current Year 11 Sports Captains and Year 10 Sports Prefects, Isaac, Josh, Sophie and Molly who offered their view of the proposed new sports hall. They will have already left USH before the project is completed and so will not benefit from the additional facilities, this will be a legacy to Year 7 and 8 students.

- USH is the last school to have a sports hall in the city
- The additional facilities will help us compete and win
- Practical lessons currently have to be changed if the weather is poor because there is limited indoor space
- Taking GCSE sports which include studies in basketball students must practice at home as there is no basketball provision currently
- The additional facilities will help develop skills and ability
- Currently there is limited access to play sports and travelling to off site venues takes valuable lesson time It is difficult to practice during lesson time the practical elements for GCSE
- Sport is a key element at USH and we have talented athletes but currently are unable to provide adequate facilities all year round and are able to offer only a limited number of after school clubs
- Having access to only three indoor spaces when it rains or snows means that it is very difficult to continue with all practical PE lessons and often there is a need to change the lesson to a theory one
- During exam seasons two thirds of the 'sports' space is taken up, meaning more theory lessons for students
- For some students PE lessons can be the only time they exercise
- We have wanted a sports hall for a long time

- Additional facilities would allow the opportunity to offer more after school clubs
- The opportunity is being given to transform the tennis courts to a new sports hall will allow a wide range of activities
- Providing facilities to allow specific requirements will optimise grades

Stuart Woods thanked the students and introduced James who delivered his presentation (a copy of which is available on the website)

This is an ongoing process and we are not at the end point yet so feedback following the meeting tonight is welcome.

Are involved in this project on behalf of the school though Hamwic

The client brief was for a Sports Hall with multi use space:

Sports Hall Requirements

- 4 badminton courts
- 1 Netball court
- 1 Basketball court (4 mini hoops and 2 large hoops at either end)
- 1 Handball Court
- 1 Volleyball court

Additional requirements

- Changing facilities for Girls and Boys
- Toilets for Girls and Boys
- Storage space for equipment (to accommodate trampolines etc)
- Small Gym to replace existing
- Staff Office
- Ancillary Accommodation (circulation, cleaners store etc)

Consultation was held with Sport England and their knowledge to drive the areas for the building have been applied.

Sport England were keen that there should be no loss of any of the sport fields so there is an aim to keep these as they are. The area for the new sports facility is shaded blue on slide in the presentation.

Surveys have been undertaken by various agencies and a tree specialist reviewed and offered advice to ensure existing trees are not damaged.

There were three driving forces to decide the location of the new building:

- try to push as far away as possible from the residential area
- away from trees
- push off the road that tracks behind the school for safety

On the slide the blue block is the sports hall, the green block is the ancillary space. The height of the sports hall will be 7.5 metres for the hall, the full height being 8.5 meters.

There will be one existing netball court retained between the new building and the residents.

The building has been designed to step up from the ancillary accommodation to the sports hall and will have panels for energy on the lower roof.

How will it look? The aim is that the building will not stand out massively and we are proposing to use materials similar to those being used already.

Handmade brick will be used to blend and will be broken up with accents of the school colours. We have selected a mute palette and will clad around the higher level with grey panels.

The floor were then invited to ask any questions:

Q: Will the building be built in a traditional manor with footings etc?

A: There will be digging of foundations. The sports hall will have a steel frame. There will be an investigation of the ground to confirm what foundation will be required and hopefully no piling will be required. The honest answer tonight is that we can't tell at the moment but planners will take a decision and may apply some conditions. Standard pad foundations would be the best case but consideration will be given to ensure a best and practical solution for everyone.

Q: Will there be lighting shining into the gardens?

A: There will have to be provision of some emergency escape lighting but this will be at low level and the light will be on a sensor. There will be no floodlighting to the back site or the netball court.

Q: What is the width of the netball court?

A: The distance from the sports hall to the back wall of the house is 43 metres.

Q: Will there be any replanting of the bushes at the back or will the ones there remain?

A: The existing bushes will remain and there is no requirement for extra planting. There is a requirement to leave dark corridors for bats.

Q: How long will the build take and what access is planned for the construction traffic?

A: The timescale we are looking at is twelve months, shorten if we can. Access during construction will follow the same as for phase 1 and traffic will come through main school entrance at restricted times to avoid drop off and pick up.

Resident thanked school for not opening up additional access during Phase 1.

Q: Will there be a check for disturbance of asbestos in the ground?

A: As part of the ground investigations which will hopefully happen over Easter there will be a check for asbestos. The companies involved in the excavation and disposal of the muck must be asbestos aware and cannot take away contaminated earth. If any is found it will be treated as necessary.

Q: Will the netball court be relined?

A: Yes this has been planned.

Q: Where will the kids play tennis?

A: The netball court will be marked to take tennis and there will be space inside the new facility.

Q: What is happening to the inside space being freed up?

A: The current fitness suite will become a classrooms. The space will be reconfigured to allow more room for the increase in students taking drama.

Q: When will planning application be submitted?

A: There are a number of steps to go through but probably in about a month.

Q: What intention is there to use these facilities out of hours?

A: There is a balancing act with the planners. They would like there to be use but equally there is a significant cap on hours. It is likely that evening use will be permitted until 6pm or 7pm in the evening but this will absolutely form part of the planning application.

Q: Will we provide extra parking for this use?

A: It is unlikely that any extra parking will be necessary as most staff will have left by the time people arrive for early evening use. As part of the planning requirement for Phase 1 additional parking of 12 spaces was completed.

Q: Is there a start date?

A: Currently we would like to get on site as soon as school finishes at the end of the summer term.

One local resident offered their appreciation of the design of the building and the netball court on resident side. He wished the kids all the best in their sporting activities and achievements.

Bradley asked a resident what would be a preference if replanting on the boundary became a requirement. His preference would be low shrubbery. It was confirmed that we would work with an ecologist on anything like this.

Q: We have had Phase 1 and are now talking about Phase 2 so what is phase 3?

A: There is no phase three planned at all. This was only ever a two phase expansion to bring us up to the standard across the rest of Southampton.

Stuart Woods conveyed his hope that the local residents in attendance felt they have had an opportunity to ask any questions. He commented that this was the first viewing of the plans and so this audience have seen it before the staff! He trusted residents felt that Phase 1 went well and is confident that Phase 2 will do so too as we have the same team behind it. It is in the interest of the school to get this done quickly.

Stuart Woods thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting was closed at 6:45pm.