

Minutes of the Morley Resources Committee meeting, Monday 21st October 2013

Present: Andrew Sweasey (AS), Caroline Louth (CL), Emma Linney (EL) (Clerk), Helen Devlin (HD), Michael Catchpool (Head), Philip Colligan (PC) (Chair), Sarah Seed (SS)

Apologies: Becky McInerney (BM), Kate Allan (KA), Lindsay Fournier (LF), Matt Casey (MattC), Tim Fox (TF) (School Business Manager)

Also present: Nicky Odgers (GB Chair), Roger Healey-Dilkes (RHD), Lindsey Webber (LW), Nic Rotton (NR) (Governors)

Main points discussed	Decisions and Action	when	by whom
<p>1. Apologies for absence Apologies were received and accepted from BM, KA, LF, MattC and TF.</p> <p>2. Notice of Any Other Business None.</p> <p>3. Election of the Chair It was agreed that Philip Colligan would chair the Committee.</p> <p>4. Committee Terms of Reference These have been drafted but discussion and finalisation was deferred to the next meeting.</p> <p>5. Proposed site redevelopment It was noted that all governors had been invited to attend the meeting.</p> <p>Prior to the meeting TF circulated a paper which provided GBs with background to the project, the scope of the proposed work and the potential gains to be made. It also highlighted the areas of the school which would not be included in the redevelopment project. Any work required to these areas would need to be funded by the School.</p> <p>SS described the current situation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee needs to give the County Council agreement to proceed in order for the next phase to begin. • The School is very fortunate to be included in this round of capital expenditure, particularly given the current economic climate and the fact that the school does not fit the usual criteria (schools in a deprived area with high numbers of FSM children). • The reason Morley is included in the project is because the current EY building is not fit for purpose. • Approval at this stage is to the overall shape of the proposal. There would still be opportunities to influence the final design, layout and specification of the project. 			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considerable work has been done by TF, AS and the Head to get to this point. Four different options have been explored and they are satisfied that the current option is the best solution. • AS is meeting with a parent who is an architect at the end of this week to review the plans and get a second opinion. • If the Committee is happy this evening, AS will give a verbal go ahead to the Council. <p>The Committee discussed the paper and the Head summarised the reasons why moving to a single site school was important:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To enable the school to provide an early years curriculum that allowed all children the option of self-directed outdoor play (not currently possible with a class upstairs) - To ensure that the classrooms were accessible - To better integrate early years into the rest of the school – both for children and staff - To reduce the frequency of early years children crossing the road, which was time-consuming <p>In addition, the layout of the early years building was inefficient and made teaching difficult.</p> <p>A GB asked what the negatives were, if any. Head: The main issues will be voiced by parents who say they like having a separate EY building which feels secure and cosy, and who feel disappointment at losing the extensive grounds of the current EY building. In addition, the project will not cover the entire school building; for example Y1 and Y2 classrooms. Additional funding will be required to redecorate these and bring them up to the spec of the rest of the school.</p> <p>A GB questioned whether EY children are legally required to have continual access to outside space. Head: EY teaching staff have to plan lessons inside and out, and give children the ability to self-direct their learning. The children in Gold class are unable to do this. Furthermore, the Chief Primary Advisor Phil Garner agreed on a recent visit that the current building is simply not fit for purpose.</p> <p>There was a discussion about how much useable space the current EY classes have, given the awkward configuration of the classrooms. AS noted that one of the initial designs looked at redeveloping the current EY building but it was discounted due to cost.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the size of the proposed new EY classrooms. The current 3 classrooms (two Y3 and the ASC) will be knocked down into 2, both with access to the front playground. The Committee asked AS if he would obtain measurements of the current and proposed classroom sizes, in order to make a comparison.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the new non-classroom spaces which would result from the proposed project, including a resource area and the extended hall. These areas would be available to all children, including EY who don't currently make use of the shared spaces in the main building because of the effort involved in moving the children across the road and back.</p>	<p>Ask CC for measurements.</p>		<p>AS</p>
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<p><u>Phasing</u> AS gave a brief outline of how the project would be phased. This can be discussed in more detail as the project progresses but essentially the work will run from July 2017 – September 2018. Access routes will be challenging but some outdoor space will be retained during the build. Although 2017 is a while off, AS noted that it is worth getting as far ahead as we can at this stage because the more developed the plans are, the less likely the project is to be postponed or cancelled by the Council.</p> <p><u>Next steps: Telling parents and the wider community</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee agreed that this evening’s discussion was a very useful run through of conversations which will need to be had with parents and the wider community in order to get them on board. • The Council is proposing to hold a meeting with stakeholders in early January. • The Committee agreed it would help to meet with parents and the FoM before this happens. • A parental engagement plan will be needed. <p>There was a final discussion of pros and cons before the Committee voted in agreement that it was broadly in favour of to support the plans as they currently stand and that it was happy for the Council to proceed to the next design stage. One member of the committee abstained from the vote.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 9.30pm</p>	<p>Add parental engagement to next FGB agenda</p>		
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Future points to be discussed			
Notes for other committees	Suggested action		
FGB Learning	Parental engagement re: building work Vision for redevelopment of outdoor space		
Abbreviations: FoM Friends of Morley ASC After School Club (Spectrum) EY Early Years			
Dates of future meetings: November TBC	Comments / Agenda Terms of Reference		

All decisions pay due regard to the school's equality policy and the Equality Act 2010.