

## **Wollaton and Lenton Abbey Sub-Committee 5 November 2009**

### **Briefing Note - Planning for the re-development of Fernwood School**

#### What is this about?

The Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme is a major government initiative aimed at rebuilding and renewing school facilities so that every secondary school in England has 21st century facilities. Nottingham City Council was included in Wave 2 of the programme and has received over £90m to rebuild and renew buildings, and provide an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) service for eight secondary schools in Nottingham.

The council is also included in Wave 5 and a further £79 million of funding is expected to complete the transformation of secondary and special needs education in the city. Fernwood School will benefit from this funding. An in-depth, facilitated, visioning process is due to begin at the school in January 2010. This process allows staff and students to share ideas about how they'd like the new school to look and feel which will enable the architects to draw up some detailed designs. Construction work is due to start in September 2011 (subject to planning permission) and the new school will open in April 2013.

#### Why is it being done?

The funding from the BSF programme will be used to transform the appearance of the frontage of the school, replace poor quality teaching and ancillary accommodation with modern state of the art accommodation, radically improve areas of poor circulation (particularly in the four storey block), improve the social space at the heart of the school and provide a greater degree of flexibility for dining, drama and assembly.

The front of the school will be improved by:

- Relocating the boiler room building away from the arrival space.
- Relocating car parking to the perimeter of the site to create a pedestrian only arrival space.
- Screening the existing kitchen and service yard area.
- Adding a new section to existing four storey building to provide modern, uplifting image to School entrance. This will give new focal point to Goodwood Road.

The two existing buildings to the west of the four storey building housing the library, technology and their teaching areas will be demolished and replaced with a new two storey building orientated east-west. The existing tennis courts will be adjusted to sit to the north of the new building. This will lead to better surveillance of the courts.

The existing hall and gym are to be demolished and replaced by a larger hall in the same location. This will allow greater flexibility for inclusion of raked seating and allow the space to be used for dining, drama, extra teaching space and a gym.

A new four storey section extending northwards at the existing four storey building will allow the two staircases to be linked and for a new lift to be inserted. This will improve circulation and give far more efficient use to the existing classrooms. In addition, the ground and first floors could house the library and IT facilities, which could be a new focal point for the school.

The social space to the south of the new four storey building, facing the playing pitches will be better defined by the new buildings, is larger in area and with some structural upgrade to the remaining frontages (particularly dining) this could be a really lively and exciting place to be at the hub of the school. Excellent circulation will be achieved and a future covered atrium could be located between the new hall and the drama area to give added flexibility.

The new school will be designed as a dual-purpose building which will act as a 'community hub' from which a range of services for children, young people and their families can be delivered. The community space could be used to accommodate health services, advice and guidance sessions, training courses or even a business start-up unit. The new school will facilitate partnership working and enable agencies to work together to deliver integrated support to families in a familiar, non-institutionalised environment.

### What are the key issues?

A common problem in projects is failure to communicate. Those involved in some way (stakeholders) may not know what is going on. Therefore, careful planning is required to ensure stakeholders are involved and engaged. Stakeholders need to be reassured that they are part of the development process and can really shape the future of the school.

### How can you help us?

Your input will help us make sure the consultation strategy and communications plan include the most appropriate activities to develop open, productive and mutually beneficial relationships with all of those involved.

The BSF Team wants to inspire commitment and support for the re-development of the school and we are asking you to think about this proposal and give us your views about how we can have effective two-way communication, consultation and feedback with the Committee, local residents and parents.

In particular we want to know about the following things;

- Who are the important groups and individuals that should be consulted with?
- How would you suggest that we set up and keep good relationships with these people? What is the best way to do this?
- What are likely to be the main concerns? What would you suggest the BSF Team takes into account when planning the re-development?

### What are the timescales?

To release the £79 million funding available to the City Council through Wave 5 of the national BSF programme, the council must submit an Outline Business Case (OBC) to Partnerships for Schools (PfS) for approval. The OBC is going to the Council's Executive Board and PfS in December 2009.

### How can I find out more?

Contact: Matthew Neal, Head of Schools for the Future  
Website: [www.nottinghambsf.co.uk](http://www.nottinghambsf.co.uk)  
Phone: 0115 915 0976  
E-mail: [matthew.neal@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.neal@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)