



BROMLEY CIVIC CENTRE, STOCKWELL CLOSE, BROMLEY BRI 3UH

TELEPHONE: 020 8464 3333

CONTACT: Philippa Gibbs  
*philippa.gibbs@bromley.gov.uk*

DIRECT LINE: 020 8461 7638

FAX: 020 8290 0608

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## **CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES PDS COMMITTEE**

**Meeting to be held on Tuesday 9 November 2021**

**Please see the attached papers tabled at the meeting.**

- 6 CALL-IN: HARRIS KENT HOUSE FREE SCHOOL INCLUDING ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TRANSACTION (Pages 3 - 4)**
  
- 9a DORSET ROAD SITE DISPOSAL (PAGES 5 - 6)**

*Copies of the documents referred to above can be obtained from*  
<http://cds.bromley.gov.uk/>

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# Agenda Item 6

Dear members,

Our fellow ward councillor, Cllr Simon Jeal will be speaking on the Kentwood item tonight. We, as the other two councillors in Penge and Cator ward have written this statement to also support his comments.

Firstly, we would like to stress that we are not against having a secondary school in the north of the borough. However, we believe that not enough consideration has been put on where the site should be. There are at least two other local sites which could also be considered.

Residents are very upset as to the process of this application. The north of the borough is already dominated by Harris Academy schools and many parents of school age children have stressed they would prefer a choice. There has been a lack of public engagement in this matter. Indeed, it comes across as a behind the scenes decision directly with the Department of Education. With other sites that could be considered, the option of a fair, open tender would have been much more welcome.

Whilst we appreciate that this is not at planning application stage, we believe that any decision should be deferred to allow the feasibility study to be completed and for a full public consultation to be undertaken. Residents are worried about the potential size of the school, where parking and access routes would be and safety issues with the school being on a busy main road. On such a potentially huge application residents must be able to be consulted.

Another common comment from residents and a potential problem of having a Harris School in the site is that more than likely it will become a feeder school. The precedent has already been set with Beckenham Harris and as we speak Langley Park is undergoing a consultation to alter its admissions policy. Such a policy would be hugely unfair to other primary schools and its parents and pupils.

Our comments are not those of Labour councillors but instead as representatives of all the residents we have spoken to. So please listen to them for as well as considering education provision we must care for peoples' amenities, living conditions and provision of choice. We support a school but it needs to be appropriate to the site. We ask you to support this decision to be deferred and to be referred back to the executive to allow for greater study of the feasibility report and have a greater public consultation. Would you not want to have a comprehensive consultation if it was in your ward or adjoining your street. Surely this is not too much to ask so please support.

Thank you

Councillor Kathy Bance,

Councillor Kevin Kennedy-Brooks

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## **ADDENDUM TO DISPOSAL OF DORSET ROAD INFANT SCHOOL REPORT**

3.2.15 Site searches have confirmed that the Council is freeholder of the site. There are no covenants that reserve the site for education use. In 1996 the Council expanded the school by stopping up and compulsory purchasing a public footpath that ran along the north eastern perimeter of the site. At the time of the compulsory purchase the council gave the Mottingham Residents Association a non-binding undertaking that if the school was to close in the future, the Council would consider reinstating the footpath. This undertaking does not commit the Council to reinstate the footpath. The Council will need to consult with the public as part of the Section 77 application to end the use of the site for statutory education. A site plan including the former footpath is included at Appendix A.

### 8.3.4 Non-binding commitment by London Borough of Bromley to consider the wishes of the Mottingham Residents' Association to reinstate the former public footpath in the event the school closes down

As part of the school extension in 1996, the former public footpath adjacent to the school located between Dorset Road and Portland Road was acquired by way of a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO). At the time of the CPO, the Council agreed with the Mottingham Residents' Association by way of exchange of letters, to be held in the Deeds, to ensure that the Association's request to restore the footpath in the event that the school is closed down is kept on record and brought to the attention of Members should the situation ever arise.

In accordance with this commitment, Members will need to give consideration to the views of the Association in the event that the school ceases to occupy the site.

# APPENDIX A – DORSET ROAD SITE PLAN

