

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
9 JUNE 2014

PRESENTATION OF PETITION – BUILDING OF A PRIMARY SCHOOL
IN THE BIRSTALL AREA OF HALLAM FIELDS

BRIEFING PAPER

Introduction

1. Cllr Simon Sansom, a member of Charnwood Borough Council, will present a petition signed by 192 residents, in the following terms:

“We the undersigned call upon Leicestershire County Council to build a primary school in the Birstall area of Hallam Fields. Currently children have to walk to Riverside Primary School crossing a busy dual carriageway twice a day placing children at risk.”

The Petition

2. There are two issues raised through the Petition as set out below.

- (i) **Call to build a Primary School in the Birstall area of Hallam Fields.**

In 2003 the County Council entered into a S106 planning agreement for Jelsons Homes Limited to provide a site and pay for the construction of a 180 place Primary School. Commencement was delayed and by late 2008 there were surplus places available in other local schools which meant that a new school could not be justified. More recent projections show that by 2018/19 the capacity in other local schools will be at a maximum and there will be a need for 140 places. By early 2015 it is expected that the Lionhearts Multi Academy Trust will have control of all of the Primary and Secondary schools in Birstall and will be well placed to develop further Primary provision. The County Council’s Cabinet will consider a proposal regarding the development of a future Primary School to serve Hallam Fields children at its meeting on 17th June.

- (ii) **Children have to walk to Riverside Primary School crossing a busy dual carriageway twice a day placing children at risk.**

The routes were assessed by the Environment and Transportation Department’s Accident Investigation and Prevention Team in December 2012 and re-assessed by request in August 2013. Both routes passed. The accident data showed that there had been 27 reported injury accidents along one route in the past five years of which 3 involved pedestrians, but none were at locations where pedestrians are required to

cross the highway on the route to school. The accident data for the other route shows 16 reported injury accidents, nine of which involved pedestrians. In terms of any future developments the S106 planning agreement requires Jelson's to install a foot/cycle bridge across the A6 to link with the Park and Ride site.

National legislation currently assumes that Primary school age children are accompanied to school by an adult.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure.

Mr I. Bentley CC

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