

Woodstock Community and Infrastructure Delivery Plan

Appendix 8 – Marlborough School feedback (May 2019)

Roads and Traffic

We believe the entrance to the new provision for under 5 years old may be located near to the Marlborough School. This has the potential to cause added traffic problems and health and safety issues. This could be improved by any or a combination of; Changing the location, Improving the road layout, ensuring a good drop off area that is not on the road itself in the design.

Many pupils and some staff travel to the schools using public transport. It would be helpful if the bus stops for the S3, 7, 500 and 233 for Woodstock East developments have a clear, easy and safe walking/cycling/pushchair/wheelchair route to the school or perhaps get the busses diverted to go past the schools (certainly a possibility for the 500 and 7). This may also require a pelican crossing in Shipton road.

The new primary school we believe is planned for being on the Shipton road. This has the potential to cause added traffic problems and health and safety issues. If the new primary places are going to be part of the Marlborough school then improvements to the road layout for dropping off, busses etc will be needed. If it is separate, then it could be located as far away from the existing two schools to be safer from a safety and traffic point of view.

It is important that access to the schools (walking/cycling/pushchair/wheelchair routes) are provided for all areas of Woodstock including Old Woodstock, Banbury Road as well as Woodstock East. The better the non-car access is the less traffic, less pollution and improved safety.

If a park and ride to Blenheim is situated at the airport (like for the Christmas lights) then could it be used for pupils and staff and could the bus go via the schools? This would alleviate car traffic, could provide a transfer point for S3 and 233 bus users to switch buses to get to school.

The Bladon roundabout is difficult and potentially risky for non-car users to use. Pelican crossings or changing the roundabout to add traffic lights might be a solution.

Main impact of new development

Main impact is the increase in pupil numbers for the schools. The existing schools would need to expand. Currently the Marlborough school would need to expand several areas to accommodate additional pupils.

1. Changing rooms are currently insufficient in size and facilities (i.e. no showers) for current pupils and this will be exacerbated with an increase in year sizes. When new provision is made they could be located close enough to Marlborough school to be used by the children during school hours and close to all the Woodstock playing fields so that the community could use them out of school hours. Marlborough school could manage them and ensure that they are kept in good condition and ensure sustainability for all the local community.

2. Dining hall is too small and needs to be increased. Currently an external covered area provides additional seating.

3. Classrooms. Not for the first couple of years but after that then additional classrooms would need to be built to cope with the expanding numbers.

The increase in the population will mean an increase in school numbers and a corresponding increase in teachers will be required. The challenge is that the cost of housing in Woodstock and its environs is way above the national average. Attracting teachers, particularly the (newly qualified) and science/ maths teachers is challenging. At the moment, teachers do not qualify for affordable housing, it would benefit the Woodstock schools if some affordable rented housing units (say enough for 3 or 4 teachers) were earmarked for NQT teachers who could hold only a tenancy of 1 year.

Community Life and Facilities – what needs improved

There is a lack of a good lecture theatre style of meeting room for around 250 people in Woodstock with good Sound, AV and access with suitable parking nearby. The current venues of St Mary Magdalene, the MEC at Marlborough, the Community Centre all have their own virtues but none of them fit the bill. In any Expansion of Marlborough School to accommodate the larger populations children a lecture theatre.

An all-weather pitch for outdoor sports that is not weather dependent and could be floodlit is needed in Woodstock with proper changing facilities.

Other comments

The Marlborough School is now massively oversubscribed. The current intake for September 2019 there were 54 pupils who wanted to get places but the school could not accommodate them. No pupils managed to get in who were not in the catchment area unless they already had siblings at the school. Additional housing in Yarnton and Long Hanborough coming on stream will feed more to the school. The Marlborough school is well placed at the moment due to the current excellent bus routes and easy access including utilisation of push bikes although it is always a challenge to get more people to use the bus.

To ensure that sport facilities in Woodstock are sustainable and used by the widest number of people and clubs they need to be managed very well, maintained well, kept accessible to protect them for the future. Locating those facilities where there is parking which is currently underused in the evening and at weekends also seems a good use of existing resources. We believe that the Marlborough School should become the hub for sport provision in the area, possibly relocating the football ground, adding an all-weather pitch and coupling that with good changing rooms, fitness room (s) and a coffee shop/ informal meeting place would be best served by being managed by the school and improve the facilities for Woodstock in perpetuity.