

## Summary of meeting with Wheatley Park School

Date 23 May 2016

Sederunt John Fox, Roy Gordon, Kate Curtis (Head, WPS), David Baillieu (Chairman of Board of Governors, WPS)

The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the activities of the WNP to KC/DB and to listen to their views regarding the future of the Brookes U. site if/when it becomes available.

- 1 JF outlined the WNP brief and summarised the activities taken so far. This was well received with the added comment from KC that she hoped that education could have its place within the WNP.
- 2 KC described the activities and current concerns of the school. At present the school has 1019 pupils and has sufficient resources (staff, space, buildings etc) to cope with expansion up to 1200 pupils before these resources come under pressure. When pupil numbers reach 1300 WPS will experience significant problems and then become limited by resources. The biggest crisis for education at WPS (and Oxon in general) is the lack of affordable housing for teaching staff which makes recruitment very difficult. Of similar importance at WPS is the need for some new buildings, in particular a new general purpose building for assembly, kitchens and dining.
- 3 DB advised that WPS and Wheatley CofE Primary School were academies (in different academy trusts). The John Watson School is not (yet) an academy.
- 4 DB explained that WPS had considered some ways whereby the shortage of affordable housing could be alleviated one of which was to self-build suitable accommodation on the WPS site. However under the Academy system WPS has charitable status which precludes it from raising funds (guaranteed against WPS assets) to carry out the building of the houses, infrastructure etc.
- 5 DB enquired about the WHE3 application on the London Road as he would be interested in trying to have some of those houses being available for WPS key teaching staff. RG advised DB that planning permission had been granted and that he should contact SODC directly.
- 6 The WPS interest in the Brookes U. site is twofold:-
  - (a) Potential housing for teaching staff at WPS
  - (b) Establishment of an “educational hub” in coordination with WPS. KC outlined several “blue sky” ideas for such a hub all of which would be subject to decisions on how and when Brookes U. would dispose of the site.
- 7 WPS concluded the meeting by expressing the hope to continue to remain in contact regarding the progress of the WNP and the future of the Bookes U. site.

rg/2 July 2016.