

Post meeting follow-up questions and answers



Education - Alison Cramer & Rachel Pinion

Q: What is the definition of “reasonable distance” within a school catchment?

A: Cambridgeshire County Council follows the DfE statutory guidance for “Travel to school for children of compulsory school age” (link provided below).

Paragraph 98 on page 31 specifies journey times:

“98. As a general guide, the maximum journey time for a child of primary school age should be 45 minutes each way, and 75 minutes each way for a child of secondary school age, including any time taken to walk to a pick-up point, but there will be circumstances in which this is not possible, for example in rural areas where children live in remote locations, where a child needs to travel a long way to the school named in their EHC plan, or when journey times are extended by traffic delays. Wherever possible, a child should not be expected to make several changes on public transport.”

[Travel to school for children of compulsory school age](#)

Q: Why is it taking so long for Darwin Green Primary School to open?

A: The opening of a new Council delivered school is decided on a case-by-case basis between the Council, the DfE and the Trust. The Council will look to support the opening of the first primary on Darwin Green when all the local primary schools are working at or near capacity and there are enough children requiring a place at the new primary to ensure that the school is able to offer a full and broad educational experience.

Q: Could you please be specific about the trigger that will result in action on Darwin Green for secondary provision? And if you can't, is there a possibility of setting up temporary buildings for children to access education?

A: There are triggers in the section 106 agreement around when county can access the site. We haven't met those triggers yet, but we are working closely with Barrett Redrow in South Cambs to foresee when those triggers will be and when we're able to get access to the site. Once we have a clear understanding of when we can access the site, we can start putting together a clear construction programme and will be much more definitive around time scales.

S106 triggers:

Darwin Green Phase 1 S106:

Schedule 5: Education provisions Part 2 (page 97)

“The Covenantee Parties shall by no later than the 450th Dwelling Occupation Date or the issue of the Relevant Permission for the Secondary School whichever is later undertake the steps set out in paragraph 1.2 of this Part 2 of Schedule 5 unless otherwise agreed with the County Council.”

Darwin Green Phase 2/3 S106:

Schedule 12, paragraph 5:

“The County Council covenants not to serve the Secondary School Site Notice on the Owners until the later of:

5.1 The date the County Council (acting reasonably) determines it requires the Secondary School Site in order for it to commence construction of the Secondary School Building to enable the Secondary School Building to open for secondary education purposes on its programmed opening date; and

5.2 the one hundredth (100th) Dwelling Occupation Date.”

The Council is considering a variety of alternative options to manage the demand for places. Currently, the Council is meeting its statutory obligations in providing sufficient places within a reasonable distance of student’s homes.

Q: How will the school(s) be funded considering the total amount of funding allocated by both Section 106 agreements is only £14M – index linked.

A: The budgets for the first primary and the secondary at Darwin Green are in the Council’s 2024-25 Business Plan and are made up of S106 contributions, Council investment and grant funding from Central Government.

Darwin Green Phase One - Andrew Maclaren

Q: Residents are concerned about drainage issues between the new sports pavilion and Huntingdon Rd. Can we get confirmation that BDW2 will not exacerbate the drainage issues already experienced by existing residents?

A: BACKGROUND:

This area of the site extends to approximately 5.6ha of land, including Parcel BDW2 development site as well as the properties along Woodlark Road, currently contribute to the existing ditch’s surface water catchment.

Topographical survey information indicate that Huntingdon Road does not contribute to the surface water catchment of the ditch.

The existing ditch outfalls to the Anglian Water public sewer in Woodlark Road and has been recently improved by the installation of a grill on the outlet pipe from the ditch to help prevent silt and debris from entering the pipe and causing blockages

The reserved matters planning application for BDW2 (Ref. 21/04431/REM) has a pre-commencement condition requiring the ditch to be cleared and maintained to ensure there are no obstacles preventing free flow of water along the ditch.

These works are carried out every 3 months, with evidence of the same, being shared with the City Council Planning Department.

PARCEL BDW2: SURFACE WATER DESIGN SOLUTION:

Surface water runoff from the BDW2 development will discharge into the strategic surface water network which serves the wider site before ultimately discharging into the existing award drain located north of the site.

Following development of the BDW2 site, the ditch will no longer serve as the primary outfall for the development area.

The only exception to this, is that a few of properties within the new development where their back gardens situated directly adjacent to the ditch fall towards it.

No impermeable areas (i.e. roads, driveways, roofs) within the site will discharge surface water flow into the existing ditch.

The only other remaining contributors to the ditch will be the existing properties along Woodlark Road.

This arrangement represents a significant reduction in the ditch catchment area and the associated contributing flows compared to the existing situation and therefore providing considerable betterment to the existing properties and drainage conditions within the area.