

Statement from the Headteacher

The scheme was quite rightly recommended for approval by the planning officer after reading the concerns from residents during consultation and visiting school. However, but due to concerns over the possibility of increased 'nuisance' noise generated by children using the elevated play deck (for 1hr maximum per school day) it was agreed by committee members that the decision should be deferred to allow neighbour consultations.

We are addressing the noise issue and have engaged an acoustician to undertake a sound report that can be considered by committee members ahead of the next committee meeting. This report will hopefully establish what the increased noise level will be; its acceptability or otherwise and what mitigating measure can be taken to reduce noise to an acceptable level.

Given that we have undertaken our own analysis over a number of years now on the most appropriate location for the play deck, this analysis will be set out for committee members for the next committee meeting.

I, the governors, staff and pupils are hoping the sound report will confirm that an acceptable level of noise is emanating from the deck and therefore no need for further neighbour consultations prior to the next committee meeting.

We are on a very strict timescale now in terms of funding and as you know this was intended to be a summer project completed by the beginning of September 2018. I have accessed funding from the 'sugar tax' as the criteria for the allocation totally matched the need for more play space in school and that together with our obesity statistics secured the funding that has to be spent this financial year. The diocesan buildings manager has indicated that realistically the decision needs to be made at the October planning meeting to allow the project to be realised before the funding deadline.

Hopefully we will be able to satisfactorily demonstrate that any 'nuisance' sound is contained to an acceptable level. We are all very much committed to a scheme that does not unnecessarily impact on neighbours but equally committed to providing children with the play areas that they very much need and deserve.

Yours sincerely,
Frances

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