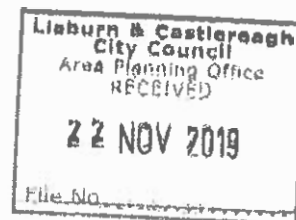




Local Development Plan Team,
 Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
 Civic Headquarters,
 Lagan Valley Island,
 Lisburn,
 BT27 4RL
 LDP@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk



Date: 19th November 2019

Dear Lisburn & Castlereagh LDP Team

Re: Response to Local Development Plan – Draft Plan Strategy

Cairnshill Primary School is one of the largest primary schools in the South Belfast area and currently has an enrolment of around 600 pupils. The school has seen significant growth over the years and now has 3 separate classes per year group.

Cairnshill Primary School was built in the 1960's following extensive growth in housing in the area and sits in a very unique position bounded between Cairnshill Park on one side and Beechill Park on the other. The Council also owns playing fields commonly known as the 'Cairnshill Pitches' beside the school and the school is extremely grateful to the Council in allowing us to use these pitches for outdoor games and sports days.

This unique position of the school and pitches however does present a number of challenges. The school is accessed via a Council owned pedestrian lane from Beechill Park and a vehicle and pedestrian access road from Cairnshill Park. There is however no parking for school traffic and so we continue to have significant traffic management issues during pickup and drop off times which has caused some ongoing issues with local residents. As both the school and pitches are also not visible from either road (particularly from the Beechill side) the area attracts antisocial behaviour in the evening and a significant amount of graffiti. As you will see (attached), the pupils and their families are constantly exposed to graffiti showing inappropriate language and images on the Council owned changing rooms.

Principal: JH (NI)
 6a Cairnshill Drive, Belfast BT8 6RT
 Telephone: 02890705172
 Email:
 Education At

The Board of Governors are aware that the Council has recently approved a substantial amount of housing within our catchment area and are currently developing future land use zonings as part of the Local Development Plan (LDP) which is likely to see additional housing growth. We are also aware of the vision the Council set within their Preferred Options Paper (POP) and the desire to improve the community facilities within the Cairnshill / Four Winds area.

Our school building is starting to approach the end of its natural life and so the Board of Governors have begun early discussions with the Department of Education and Education Authority regarding the medium/ long term development of the school site. We recently hosted Derek Baker (Permanent Secretary of the Department of Education) and Sara Long (Chief Executive of the Education Authority) to discuss this potential and what could be achieved at the site and received their endorsement to begin a wider conversation on the topic.

As a Board of Governors, we are obviously conscious that the Council also owns a significant amount of land beside the school. We believe there would be value in also starting a discussion with the Council to examine ways which we could work together through the development of a masterplan for the site which could bring multiple benefits to both parties. We recognise that this thinking is at an early stage but feel that it is important to start discussions on the topic while work is being developed on the LDP. We would also like to Council to take this development opportunity into consideration when zoning land and green space within the LDP, particularly the Cairnshill pitches.

We would therefore appreciate it if we could arrange to meet the relevant Plan officials within the Council to discuss the potential of this development and how we could move the process forward collectively.

Yours sincerely

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Governors

Appendices

Location of School



Vehicular and Pedestrian Access via Cairnshill Park



Pedestrian Access via Beechill Park



Vandalism of Council Changing Rooms



Growth of current Area (LDP POP Appendices)

