



In God's Love, aspire and achieve to be the best

Winwick School and Community Improvement Plan

Public Consultation 15th March – 1st April, 2021

for residents, stakeholders and members of Winwick village and school communities

Prepared by Winwick CE School Governing Body

in partnership with Liverpool Diocese and Winwick Parish Council



Consultation Overview

Winwick School Governors are pleased to share details and invite community comment for the proposed development plans for the upgrade of the school access road (off Myddleton Lane) and the current school carpark.

In addition we outline proposed plans for a **Phase Two** development, of a linear carpark encompassing a small section of the field area, across from the current school carpark and adjacent to the access road.

The school and Liverpool Diocese has been working with Winwick Parish Council to discuss and share our desire to invest in this area, with the emphasis on dramatically improving safety and access for school children, all pedestrians and vehicles, during week days/evenings and for weekend usage of the Parish field.

The following pages outline a three phased approach to the development of this area and the longer term plan within the school building.

- **Phase 1** - Subject to approval and support of a current Planning Application - work can be completed summer 2021.
- **Phase 2** – Subject to community consultation, planning applications & available funding from Liverpool Diocese – proposed work completion by Autumn 2022
- **Phase 3** – Longer term developments within the School building – subject to funding and planning – beyond 2022

In the sharing of these plans, School Governors wish to be open and transparent regarding the need to improve the safety of our school facilities and surrounding area.

Phase One Upgrade proposal - creating a safer environment

Timing: completion Spring/early summer 2021

Upgrade of the side access road from Myddleton Lane along the side of the shops approaching the leisure centre as well as the current school carpark (see attached drawings)

Proposed upgrades include the following:

- Resurfacing of the Access Road with improved drainage
- Installation of two swing barriers – one at the road entrance from Myddleton Lane and one on the boundary between school land and leisure centre carparking bays - to limit traffic access at specific times during school drop off and pickup times, daily.

NB: Restricted access times would be from 8.30-9.15am and 2.45pm-3.30pm. If emergency access was needed by workmen or a reasonable request to assist special events being held at the Leisure Centre during these times, then school would facilitate the opening of these, if requested to do so.

- Replacement and upgrade of school-yard approach walkway safety fencing.
- Installation of perimeter fencing around the school carpark with lockable access gates, plus incorporation of a new school bin storage pen.
- New zebra crossing to be included from parish field across the road to the school yard approach walkway alongside the swing barrier. Additional road markings to show a pedestrian walkway along the access road from Myddleton Lane.
- Access to the school's newly fenced lockable carpark area to be agreed with the leisure centre for authorised users/ parties to access the carpark for community and leisure centre activities such as football/sports clubs and events, during the evening/weekends. Stakeholders who needed access would hold a key for such events.
- As part of the above investment and development we propose to review the (1984) Access License Agreement with the Parish Council, based on these new investment upgrades and future usage arrangements.

Access road and school carpark visual images



Access from Myddleton Lane – Proposal to install a swing barrier to limit vehicle access during school drop off and pick up times **8.30-9.15am and 2.45pm-3.30pm week days/term time.**

Re-surfacing of the road and carpark area and erect perimeter fencing for added safety and security of the school carpark.

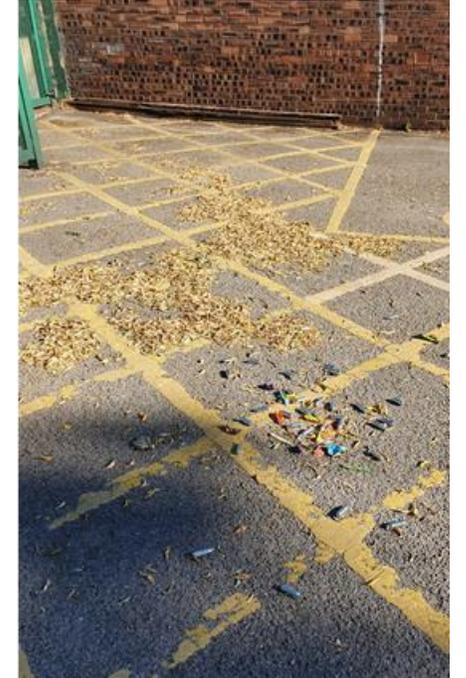
School carpark images



Old School walkway fencing to be replaced with new perimeter fencing



Perimeter fencing to go along the side of current parking bays to give protection from the road



Examples of drug debris regularly found on school parking bay areas

Why is this the right thing to do?

Phase One

Current situation is unsafe

- There is an immediate need to repair and resurface the access road and re-draw the road markings to ensure safety for both vehicle and pedestrian usage.
- Current vehicle access to school during 'drop off and pick up' times needs to address the issue of pedestrian safety – currently vehicle access to the lane is restricted via removable barriers, this is not a reasonable long term solution.
- Managing social distancing as part of the School's Risk Assessment requires parents and children to line up across the Access road which represents a safety risk.
- Unsociable behaviour at night time and weekends resulting in general littering, drink and drug paraphernalia being regularly left on the school carpark provides a risk to children and the staff who clear this up each morning. Therefore locking this area prevents this.
- Closing the area off also helps prevent potential damage to staff cars as well as unauthorised parking during the school day, which has a potential risk to emergency vehicle access.
- Allows a Refresh of the Access Road License Agreement between the Parish Council and School (last updated in 1984) which includes outdated agreements and annual access fees that do not accurately represent current day maintenance costs.

Please Note: These Phase One proposals were submitted to WBC Planning Dept in December 2020. School neighbours and local residents were notified early February 2021 with an opportunity to comment.

Outcomes of this submission are expected by Mid March 2021.

Phase two – upgrade proposal for Community Consideration and Comment

Proposed timing – 2022 onwards

The School and Diocese wish to update the plans originally submitted summer 2020, in line with Warrington Borough Planning Dept. guidance, to now develop a linear School car park on the Parish field by the access road, as follows:

- Re-configure the plans for possible linear parking spaces – therefore reducing the amount of green space taken & with the option of introducing a permeable ‘greener’ alternative surface to tarmac.
- Include low level ‘non intrusive’ lighting for improved visibility, safety and security for users and neighbours.
- Carpark area to be lockable with agreed access for Leisure centre users and clubs during evenings and weekends to avoid unauthorised usage & unsociable behaviour - current school carpark issues with drug use and littering daily.
- The School with the support and agreement of the Parish Council to conduct a full community-wide consultation to discuss the requirements and vision of the school aligned to these additional improvement benefits to the community – school families, sports groups, local people using the leisure centre and our neighbours.

On approval of the Phase Two development, the relocation of the school carpark will allow the extension of the school yard for Early years children and the opportunity to consider future building extension opportunities - outlined as our Future Vision - Phase Three development.

Phase Two – proposed area for linear carpark



Proposed land development area - view from leisure centre of the proposed area for linear carpark.

- Plan for 23 carparking bays in two row linear layout – area 15.5 metres wide x 31 metres long.
- Occupying area behind the shop & up to the first disabled parking bay on the left, level with park bench.
- The current four trees will be removed - eight new trees to be re-planted – details to be agreed with WBC Planning dept



Zebra crossing to be remarked, with installation of a double swing barrier on the land boundary line, for added safety. Current disabled parking bays on Parish Council land to remain.



View from school Access road. Removal of bushes, trees and existing fencing to create open area with improved visibility.

Why is this the right thing to do? - 1

Phase Two

Improve Safety

- Relocation of the school carpark to a linear carpark layout reduces the amount of green space taken up and provides the opportunity also of widening this area to give increased visibility for pedestrians - therefore increasing crossing safety at all times.
- General Health and Safety requirements (particularly also during Covid restrictions) means that having a larger play area would be beneficial to allow more children to use the yard area at any one time, rather than split lunches and break time rotas.
- By relocating the car park and not simply getting rid of it, enables the community continued use of this additional much needed space for leisure centre events and sports activity during the evenings and weekends.
- Opening up this area also allows greater visibility from the field onto the access road which will have low level lighting for increased safety at night time.
- The ability to securely lock this area means that only authorised users (to be agreed with Winwick Leisure centre) will access the carpark during evenings and weekends, therefore reducing the risk again of unsociable behaviour on the field immediately behind the shops and neighbouring houses.

Why is this the right thing to do? – 2

Phase Two

Create additional outdoor space and Improve our village school

- Relocating the car park allows much needed extra yard space for the school's younger children, with the future possibility of updating our EYFS classroom with the option of adding a pre-school offering – dependant on funding.
- Without the opportunity to convert the land on the edge of the Parish field, the school has very limited opportunity to increase and improve its provision in the future. This may result in losing out to other locals schools that can offer more.
- The leisure centre carpark has previously been suggested as an alternative place for school staff to park. This would have a large impact on the reduction of public and leisure centre carparking overall, with a loss of 20 spaces. It would limit the leisure centre's and the school hall's community activities during weekdays/evenings and would have an unacceptable impact on car parking capacity for weekend sports activities and events – resulting in added parking congestion on Myddleton Lane and surrounding roads.
- Governors have previously explored other options to increase the school footprint such as: utilising the land owned by the Premier Inn at the back of the existing playground – the Premier Inn are not prepared to relinquish any land, so this is not a viable option.

Phase three – Future vision for the school

Meeting the needs of our community – 2022 and beyond

Phase three – *Our desire for the future*

- The school has for some time been considering improving the function of the school building to meet the needs of the local community, families and our children.
- Future Proposed plans are to update the current school building to include installation of more ground floor toilets, as well as the opportunity to update the current EYFS reception classroom and outdoor play area. This provides the option to include an additional pre-school classroom also, in the future. (These plans would be subject to applying for funding from Liverpool Diocese and other stakeholders)
- Most modern Early years/ pre-school facilities are constructed around continuous access to a large outdoor play area for both the pre-school and EYFS/Reception children. Therefore any updates to the school's Early years facility needs to consider the amount of area available for outdoor play.
- Some of our neighbouring schools provide a pre-school class option; this ultimately allows ease of transition for children moving into reception, provides flexibility to parents and families having children in one place and offers consistency and continuation of care from an earlier age.
- Having a pre-school offering is something that Ofsted are very much encouraging schools to develop as part of their early years provision – this would therefore be looked upon favourably by them.

With the successful completion of Phases One and Two projects we would be able to look forward to taking on this larger Phase Three development and financially investing in our school's future.

We hope that everyone will consider these plans and share our desire to take positive steps to provide much needed upgrades and increased safety measures.

This will ultimately result in delivering the high quality school facilities and education provision that the children, families and community of Winwick deserve.

Community Consultation – Share your comments and support

- **Phase 1 feedback:** Planning Application information has been shared with school neighbours; outcomes of the first steps are expected mid to late March. Thank you to those who have had input to this.
- **Phase 2 & 3 feedback:** Your Questions and comments are welcomed as part of this next phase Community Consultation process - **between 15th March and 1st April.**

Please email your comments by the 1st April to

Chair of Governors at: **Winwick_primary@warrington.gov.uk**

Or write to us at: **Winwick CE School, Myddleton Lane, Winwick WA2 8LQ**

Responses will be made to comments by 30th April 2021



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Thank you for taking the time to read the Winwick CE School Community Improvement Plan

All documents can be viewed on the school website

We look forward to receiving your comments, questions and feedback

Winwick CE School | Myddleton Lane | Winwick | WA2 8LQ

www.winwick.eschools.co.uk

