



WIRRAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS

Cross Lane, Bebington, Wirral

CH63 3AQ

NOTICE OF CONSULTATION OF DISPOSAL OF SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD

Section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to dispose of school playing field land

Application Site: Parcel of land southwest of Wirral Grammar School for Boys, off Peter Price's Lane, Bebington, CH63 2PG - view plans below.

Thank you for visiting our information page about the intended playing field disposal at Wirral Grammar School for Boys. We hope that it answers your questions as to the consultation we are undertaking.

Wirral Grammar School for Boys owns a parcel of land, not now suitable as school playing fields, adjacent to the main school playing fields and southwest of the school off Peter Price's Lane. For over ten years the school has been unable to use the fields for more than a few months due to the marginal quality of the land due to poor drainage and ongoing maintenance issues.

We are now undertaking an application under section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to dispose of the land. Please see below a map which shows the area of land proposed for disposal, indicated by the red line.



Sale Proceeds

Our reason for doing this is that the school needs to raise capital to provide improved sporting facilities that can be used by students and the whole community throughout the year. Anyone who knows the school will be aware that the school playing fields are, despite ongoing works, in a very poor condition and many games lessons or sporting fixtures must



be moved off-site or cancelled. We believe this is damaging to the health and wellbeing of our students, and we are unable to offer them as a community facility either. We believe that our students and the local community deserve much better.

We wish to provide artificial grass pitches (AGPs), an enhanced Sports Hall, athletics facilities, artificial cricket wickets and cricket nets on the school site to provide students and the local community access to rugby, hockey, netball, tennis, football, basketball, athletics and cricket opportunities. Other sports and leisure activities could also be provided.

Any future development of the land after sale would be subject to all the normal planning arrangements and further consultation would have to take place as part of this planning process.

Background to disposal

Over many years now and at significant cost to the school, we have worked tirelessly with grounds' contractors to alleviate the conditions that have caused the playing pitches to become increasingly unplayable. However, the changing conditions and deterioration over time has meant that we can no longer maintain cricket wickets and field hockey pitches on the site; the rugby pitches are regularly waterlogged and as such become unplayable after any period of prolonged rainfall. The parcel of land we are proposing to dispose of cannot be used for the majority of the year due to the poor quality of the playing surface.

To play rugby fixtures, we must hire facilities at local clubs when they have pitches available which is becoming more difficult to achieve. To play hockey our students must walk to the Bebington Oval where again we must hire the facilities. All of this comes at an additional, unsustainable cost to the school.

We are very aware of the lack of quality sports provision available in the local area. The hockey pitch at the Bebington Oval is not of great quality, and the nearest rugby standard AGP is at Chester RUFC, nearly 13 miles away. We propose to create high quality outdoor and indoor facilities that would be used by our students and others from local schools and would be available for community use.

Having looked at every possible avenue the disposal of the land provides the best opportunity for us to get the funds we need to develop a hub of multi-sport facilities that would be available for everyone in the community to use.

All funds raised from the disposal of the land would be reinvested to enhance school facilities.



Disposal of former school playing fields requires Secretary of State approval via a Section 77 application. This consultation will feed into this application and an analysis of the comments will be forwarded to the Secretary of State.

Have your say

If you wish to make any comments on the proposed disposal, please provide these via the online form: <https://forms.office.com/e/txVhzjhrEa>

or by post to: Headteacher's PA, Wirral Grammar School for Boys, Cross Lane, Bebington, Wirral, CH63 3AQ

Your comments should be received by the close of the consultation period 10am Monday 22nd January 2024.

With thanks,

Simon P Ascroft, Headteacher

QR Code to access online feedback form:



QR Code to access school website:

