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Mrs Petterson,
Director of Childrens Services

Dear Mrs Pettersen,

Schools in Brentford.

On behalf of the Brentford Community Council I would like to thank you for the clear exposition you gave to IBAC monitoring committee yesterday.

Our Council would seem to be caught in a double bind with a rising birth rate and a spate of new building in Brentford and other parts of the borough on the one hand and insufficient resources and no sites earmarked for new schools.

It would seem that by next spring the Council may have to decide whether they can expand existing schools to meet their needs or acquire new sites

We understand that the requirement, particularly for secondary places for boys, is hardly being met now and that the position may well deteriorate further.

The Community Council was set up by Hounslow Council in 1989 and has acted as a forum for local opinion in Brentford ever since. It is now funded entirely by local groups and individuals. All our meetings are open, our agendas and papers are all published on the Brentford Community Council web site, where you will also find the dates of all our meetings for the coming year.

We regularly invite speakers to give a short presentation; and I have been asked to invite you to our meeting on Thursday October 8th at 7.15. I will send your PA details if you can accept.

We spoke after the IBAC meeting about the present state of the sites in Brentford. You will find a description of the sites in the Brentford Area Action Plan adopted in January 2009. Julia Worboys in the Planning Department, to whom I have copied this letter will be a mine of additional information.

You will note that at the present moment a large number of these uncommitted sites, which had been the subject of earlier applications which had been refused

consent by the Council and on appeal, were now in the process of new applications:

Scottish Widows Kew Bridge	164	Residential Commercial	Application awaiting SDC decision.
Albany House Housing	60	Residential	Application August
Alfa Laval	600(?)	Residential/ Commercial	Application August/September
Commerce Road	150/250	Residential/ Commercial	Application 2010
Brentford Town Centre	350	Residential/ Commercial	Application ? 2010/11
Thames Water	350	Residential	Consent granted ? start 2010
Total	Approx 1750 additional flats		

To which some allowance has to be made for completion of North Thames Quarter (755 in all) and the Lionel Road Stadium supported in the BAAP. It is understood that the club do not have the capital to build a 20,000 seater stadium and other facilities and that it might require 1,200 additional flats for sale + a proportion of affordable flats in Brentford to help cross fund the project. Barratts are now recalculating their figures so a more accurate picture may emerge in the autumn.

The concern which the BCC wished to highlight with you is the limited number of sites in Brentford. Apart from any spare capacity within existing school sites we think you may need to identify sites NOW which could be put to members in the event that they wished to select the new school option in Brentford

In our view this should lead to you reserving land now to ensure that current applications did not lose you further opportunities.

These sites include Commerce Road and Alfa Laval and possibly a site owned by Brentford Football Club/Hounslow Council: Griffin Park, Fountains Centre or part of the Stadium site

Alternatively land taken from Open Space:

These will involve change of use consents and possibly inquiries and need a long lead in time:

Gunnersbury Park (in place of land sale for housing on Lionel Road now being considered).

Gunnersbury Park is jointly owned/managed by Ealing and Hounslow. The joint trust has asked Mr Richard Gill (Hounslow) to work with consultants for plans to re-finance the restoration of the park and the two mansions for about £35 million. Part of this according to one of their published options is to sell off land at the southern end of Lionel Road (opposite your school) for more housing. Would a possible alternative be a school site?

Brent Lea has been mentioned as a possible Primary School site.

The recreation ground near the Brent Lea flats appears to be run down and under-used. It is in or close to an area of open space deficiency.

We wondered whether it would be possible to build a school on part of the site with playgrounds which could be used by the school and by all children out of school hours.

You kindly said that you would let me know the likely size of buildings required for primary and secondary schools and the amount of land you would need.

We would also be very pleased to have your advice on how the land requirement for future schools can be identified and protected through the planning system.

Yours sincerely

Denis M Browne
Chairman, Planning Consultative Committee
BCC

Copy to Julia Worboys. Hounslow Strategic Planning Team.