



Primary Education Issues Scoping Report for Lydney **Neighbourhood Project Steering Group**

This report was produced in response to issues raised at Lydney Town Hall and Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) meetings in late 2012 and early 2013. The purpose is to stimulate discussion and awareness of the issues confronting primary education over the next decade.

1) Issues Arising from Public Consultation

This report is intended to context for issues raised as part of the public engagement undertaken by Lydney NDP. The issues can be summarised as:

- Access or entry into primary school of choice
- Assumptions about access to transport and mobility when offered a school place
- Physical accessibility (distance, terrain and footpaths) to primary schools
- Capacity of Primary Schools to absorb more children

2) Primary School Capacity

The Schools within Lydney are:

- a) Lydney Church of England Community School (VC) (Capacity 210 pupils)
Ofsted: 1 – Excellent, 4-11 years,
State funded, Mixed gender
- b) Primrose Hill C of E Primary School (Capacity 315 pupils)
Ofsted: 3 – Satisfactory 251 pupils, 4-11 years,
State funded, Mixed gender
- c) Severnbanks Primary School (Capacity 210 pupils)
Ofsted: 1 – Excellent, 4-11 years,
State funded, Mixed gender

For the purposes of planning numbers and to help with the volatility of numbers in village schools the following schools are included in a pool for planning purposes:

- d) Aylburton C of E Primary (capacity 70 children)
- e) Bream C of E (capacity 210 children)
- f) Parkend Primary (capacity 56 children)

In addition to the above there is Three Castles College (2 pupils), and a National trend towards home schooling that may be reproduced in Lydney, but there is no data to inform the scale of this.

3) Gloucestershire County Council Approach to Managing Capacity

The attached table appendix 1 contains details of the capacity of schools and the forecast reception class numbers for September 2013 and future years. Where there is unused capacity, the schools are increasingly expected to manage the deployment of staff and resources themselves. If they admit students through the appeal process, in year, there is no extra funding.

At present Central Government state that it is not unreasonable for a child to walk up to two miles (as the crow flies) to get to school, which obviously places Primrose Hill and Aylburton within a suitable distance.

4) Immediate Issues: Parents and Children

The construction of the first phase of Oakdale has caused considerable pressure on local schools. A feature of the initial social housing, the first part of the development, has been inward migration to Lydney. Occupants have been required to move to strict deadlines as houses have become available and this has caused 'in year pressure' on Severnbanks School, the nearest school.

Severnbanks was at capacity (30) at the start of the school year (2012-13), three applicants have won independent appeals to be admitted to the school (based on proximity and children's needs) and the school will struggle to maintain its high quality status when it exceeds national guidelines on class size. Severnbanks is a single reception form Primary School with an internal Nursery as well as the children centre on site.

A major issue for parents and children admitted to Severnbanks from the new development is adequate and direct pedestrian routes to access the school. The route to other schools is circuitous and the safety of the by-pass is a major issue.

Some Oakdale parents, for example, have looked at car sharing to Aylburton this year but the logistical problems of access.

5) Immediate Issues: Schools

The major issue for schools is managing step costs. While schools have maximum capacity numbers of children that can be allocated to them each year, classes can exceed their capacity. When appeals of parents unhappy about their allocated placements in other schools are successful their children will be allocated to their chosen school after all available places have been allocated. In some schools because of smaller intakes there is overall capacity to take addition pupils, but this does not developing neighbourhoods with the greater demands.

This major issue of 'predicting step costs' affects recruiting extra teachers and expansion of facilities when necessary. It is too early to precisely predict the impact of placement offers in the Lydney area for 2013 but Oakdale residents are already frustrated at not being able to access schools in close proximity of choice. Primrose Hill and Severnbanks schools have already been advised to anticipate appeals. The situation will be further exacerbated by the completion of the first stage of Oakdale in Summer and Autumn 2013; another 100 houses.

6) Anticipating Growth

Housing developments go through various stages of planning. Gloucestershire County Council are mindful of the Core Strategies being developed in the district councils, so that they can make an early prediction of likely long term growth. The county council is asked to respond to any outline planning applications that have been submitted to the district councils, estimating the need for financial contributions to increase education provision to meet the needs of the new families that are expected to move into the new homes (see 106 agreements later).

The council use a formula to estimate demand for primary school places:

25 primary aged children per 100 houses, not including apartments or 1-bed properties in that calculation, since research shows the 'child yield' from these properties to be negligible.

7) Lydney and Planned Growth

Lydney, as other parts of the County, has experienced a growing birth rate since 2005 (Gloucestershire Population Monitor) but this has been small compared to

Gloucester City. Figures are available are up to 2008 but there is anecdotally thought to have been a large increase in the last two years. This will not immediately impact on school places but may compound pressure caused by new housing by 2018.

In the 2011 census the population of Lydney was 8,776 linked to 3,725 households. Since that time 200 new households have been constructed or are under construction. Assuming occupancy of 2.3 people this will increase the population to 9,236. Planning permissions have been given for another 1,500 houses increasing the population by another 3,500 people. The economic conditions may limit development but local and central government are trying to stimulate delivery of the house allocation for the District to provide homes and grow the economy.

Oakdale is a planned development of 200 houses. The latest reported position is 72 dwellings are complete and 128 are under construction. Assuming the additional numbers to date have been absorbed there is likely to be a demand for a further 30 primary school places up to the completion of the Oakdale development (phase 1). The demand may be for any age group up to eleven years.

Other approved developments with permissions are:

Smaller Developments

- Primrose Hill 8 houses (by March 2016)
- Highfield Hill 47 houses (by March 2016)
- Lydney Hill Street 10 houses (by March 2018)
- Lydney Holms Farm 20 houses (by March 2017)

Larger Developments

- Lydney East MMC 390 houses
- Lydney East (RHL) A 323
- Lydney East (RHL) B 750

In March 2013 the LEP awarded a loan of £3m to RHL to trigger the Lydney East development through creation of a roundabout and access of the A48. The FoDDC have not yet produced a revised forecast of the completion rate of the east Lydney Development. They are also looking to release land for a further 40 houses. So in summary:

- Smaller Developments = 85
- Lydney East = 1,463

- Possible additional allocation =40

The possible total demand using the Council formula to estimate school places = 397 primary school places. Noted that families will place demand across all years not just reception and that this assumes house buyers and leaseholders are new residents. Predictions based on formulas are never exact and actual growth can be influenced by many factors.

8) Section 106 funding

MMC- phase 1 no education contributions.

MMC- phase 2 payment of £436,400 towards rebuilding/replacing/extending/re-modelling/upgrading improving Severbanks primary school payable in intallments after occupation of 100th, 200th, 300th and 350th residential units.

Lydney A – payment of £316,657 towards primary education, in equal parts on first and second anniversary of commencement

-payment of £2,904 per unit after 300 residential houses are completed

Lydney B – six months after commencement developer will provide land for new primary school.

There are other section 106 agreements for youth, early years and secondary education.

9) Recommendations for discussion

The continued growth of housing in Lydney is creating a high demand for places at Severbanks. There is poor direct pedestrian and transport access to Severbanks although this may improve. New occupants to Oakdale within the school year are likely to have to locate their children in Schools further away from their neighbourhood. A proportion of the transportation issues will be met through use of motor vehicles exacerbating traffic flow around the bypass, into town to Bream Road and Primrose Hill. Once children are established in these schools they are likely to stay there creating a transport issue for several years. There is an urgent need to develop Severbanks school to *anticipate* demand from MMC phase 1 and 2 and RHL development triggered by the LEP investment. Severbanks Head Teacher and School Governors are prepared to develop the school given appropriate funding.

It would help local confidence in the availability of primary school placements for NDP to reflect GCC planning intentions, encourage GCC to take out a loan in

advance of MMC2 or find other capital resources to plan for the early development of Severnbanks. It would also help the NDP to have a clear indication of the triggers and timing of a second primary school east of Lydney.

The NDP should invite Linda Uren, Director of Children's Services, GCC or a representative to discuss these issues and provide support to the development of a primary school infrastructure to cope with growth and ensure a sustainable Lydney.

Note: This scoping report is based on information provided by parents (particularly those moving to Oakdale), Severnbanks Primary School, governors of other schools and Moira Pratt, Commissioner for Schools, Gloucestershire County Council. It is an attempt to provide a picture of primary school pressures caused by growth it is not exhaustive or necessarily complete but intended to provide the basis for discussion.

Appendix One

**Gloucestershire County Council
Primary Education Planning Area 1.1 -
Lydney**

DfE Number	School	PAN 2013	Reception intake Oct 2012	Forecast Reception Intake		
				2013/14	2014/15	2015/16

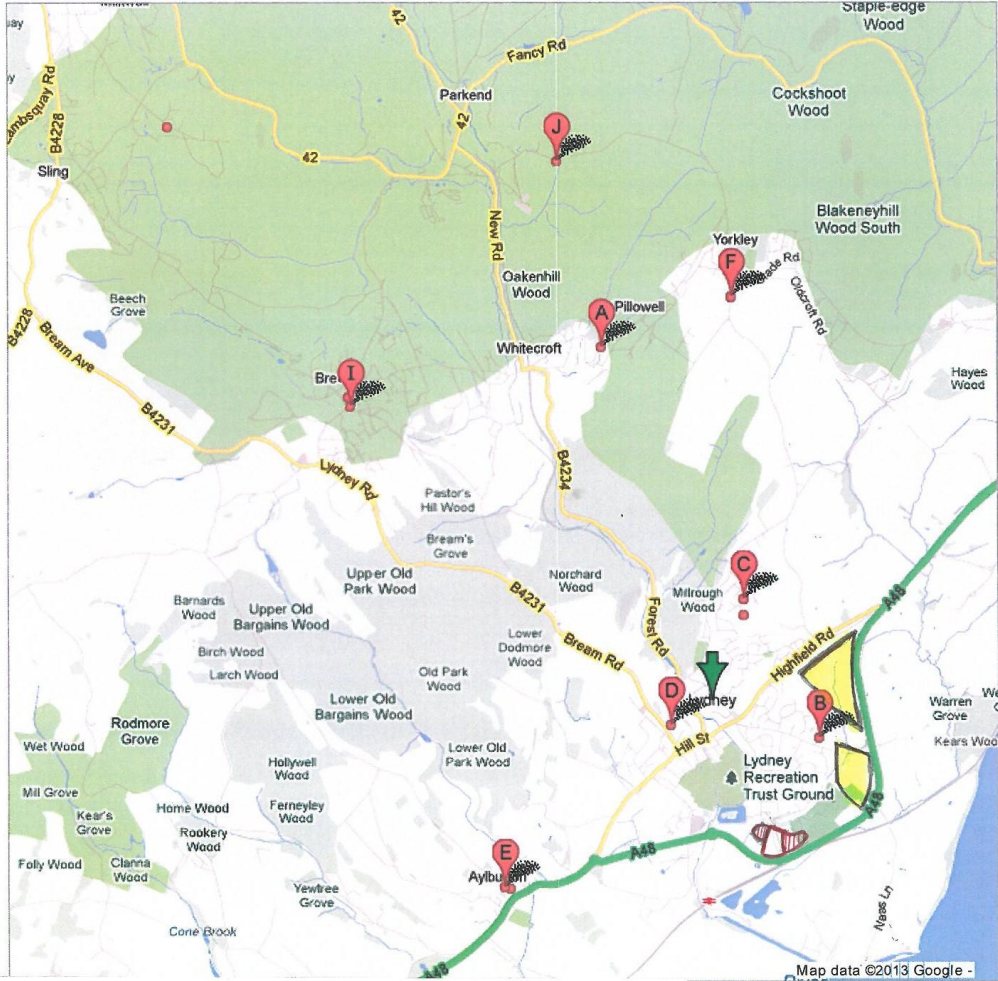
3018	Aylburton C of E Primary	10	8	6	5	6
3078	Bream C of E Primary	30	23	19	30	30
3048	Lydney Church of England	30	30	28	30	29
2108	Parkend Primary	8	5	5	5	5
2109	Pillowell Community Primary	12	9	8	10	9
5202	Primrose Hill C of E Primary	45	35	27	31	35
5216	Severnbanks Primary	30	30	29	27	23
2110	Yorkley Primary	25	17	14	15	11
		190	157	136	153	148
25% spare = 48		Spare places		54	37	42
			33			

DfE Number	School	Net Capacity	Total Number on Roll Oct 2012	Forecast total number on roll		
				2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
3018	Aylburton C of E Primary	70	63	55	50	53
3078	Bream C of E Primary	210	185	191	195	197
3048	Lydney Church of England	210	210	211	211	210
2108	Parkend Primary	56	53	54	51	48
2109	Pillowell Community Primary	84	79	80	78	78
5202	Primrose Hill C of E Primary	315	251	252	243	240
5216	Severnbanks Primary	210	198	188	184	180
2110	Yorkley Primary	175	132	131	131	120
		1330	1171	1162	1143	1126
25% spare = 333		Spare places		168	187	204
			159			

Appendix Two

Map showing Lydney Area Primary Schools and Proposed Development sites

To see all the details that are visible on the screen, use the Print link next to the map.



A – Pillowell School

B – Severnbanks County Primary School

C – Primrose Hill C of E Primary

D – Lydney C of E Community Primary



E – Aylburton C of E Primary

F – Yorkley Primary School

I – Bream C of E Primary School

J – Parkend Primary School