

# **Richmond upon Thames Borough Council - NEWS - Council will consult on Catholic Secondary School**

Tue, 8 November 2011 | London Borough Press Release

## **Contents**

Press release: P477/11

Contact: Elinor Ridgeway

020 8487 5159

[e.ridgeway@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:e.ridgeway@richmond.gov.uk)

Date: 08/11/11

News: Council will consult on CatholicSecondary School

As a correction to the report in last Friday's (4 November) Richmond and Twickenham Times, the Council agreed at its meeting on 1 November that should a formal proposal for a Catholic secondary on the Clifden Road site be made, the Council will conduct a borough-wide consultation.

At an 'extraordinary meeting' last Tuesday, members agreed a motion that reconfirmed the Council's support for a Catholic secondary as part of the borough's community of secondary schools, made over successive administrations of both the main parties, and set out its commitment to consult all residents.

Should the Diocese of Westminster indicate that it will publish a statutory proposal to establish a secondary school, the Council will undertake a full borough-wide consultation on the best use of the Clifden Road site.

Cllr Paul Hodgins, Richmond Council Cabinet Member for Schools, said:

"This Council is committed to secondary school capacity, quality, and choice for all residents. As part of our overall programme for our secondaries, including the support for sixth forms, increasing capacity at the right time to meet rising demand, and supporting schools to see quality rise further, we continued the Council's longstanding support of adding a Catholic secondary to our family of schools.

"The Diocese of Westminster has applied to the Government for permission to consult on the use of the Clifden Road site. Upon approval they will be able to formally apply to us.

“As and when we receive an indication of this formal submission, we will conduct our own full public consultation.

“The debate over a new Catholic school has understandably been vigorous, with strong feelings on both sides. There are many issues involved, including the role of faith schools in our system, capacity and quality for all residents, and the use of public funds. We will ensure these issues are addressed in detail in our consultation, and that people will be able to make their views known in a clear and open manner.

“We have made commitments to both support the introduction of a Catholic Secondary School and listen to the views of residents. We will honour both commitments, and we will make a decision based on all factors.

"We are working for an outstanding secondary system that meets the needs of all residents, and we will make decisions in that context."

Ends

Notes to editors

Members of the public should call the Council's contact centre for more information by phoning 08456 122660.

Latest news from Richmond Council

[www.richmond.gov.uk/press\\_office](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/press_office)

facebook

[www.twitter.com/lbrut](http://www.twitter.com/lbrut)