Beaumont life

April 2008
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❖Development Proposals Special Edition❖

From the Headteacher

A PROPOSAL TO IMPROVE SCHOOL FACILITIES AND ACCESS TO BEAUMONT SCHOOL

I am delighted to inform you that, following public consultation with local residents and Hertfordshire County Council's on-going review of facilities at Beaumont School, **a planning application has now been submitted to St. Albans City and District Council**. The application covers the existing Beaumont site together with land adjoining the school buildings which is owned by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

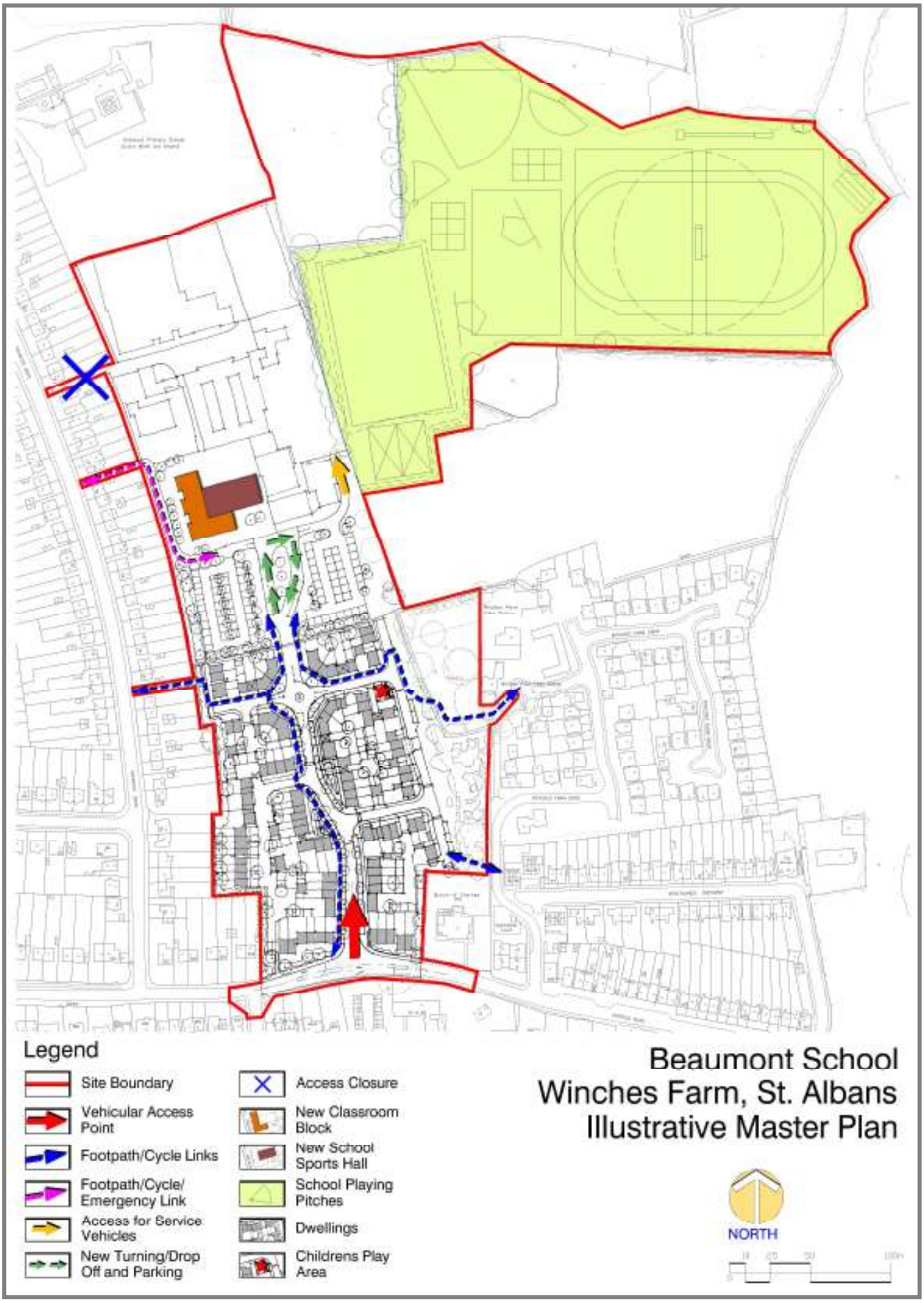
In summary, the following new facilities are proposed:

- A new access for the school off the Hatfield Road;
- New high quality playing fields including an all-weather pitch also available for community use and additional team games hard play area;
- A new sports hall available for community use;
- Additional teaching accommodation and new reception area for the school;
- Car parking rationalised into one area, to segregate playgrounds from vehicles;
- New pedestrian and cycle links to the school; and
- Housing on the southern part of the existing playing fields to fund the above improvements.

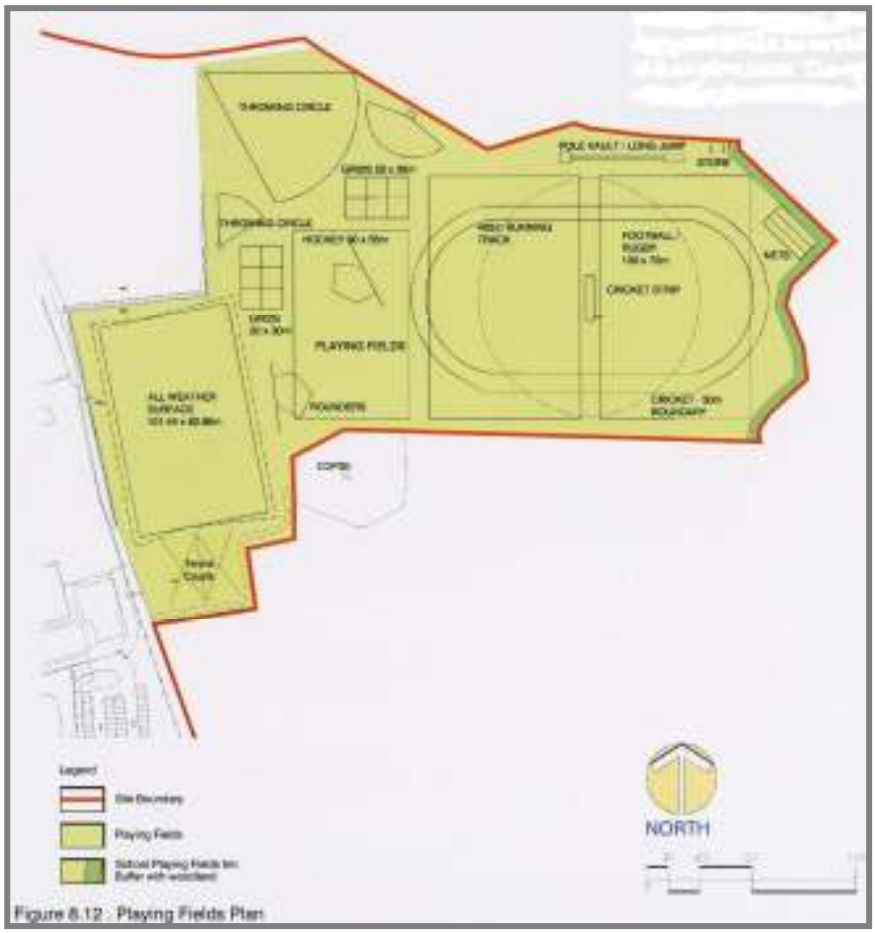
I have summarised below and on the back page the key reasons as to why these proposals are so important for Beaumont School. I hope you will be able to join us in expressing your support for them. Copies of plans showing the outline proposals are reproduced overleaf.

Safety and Access

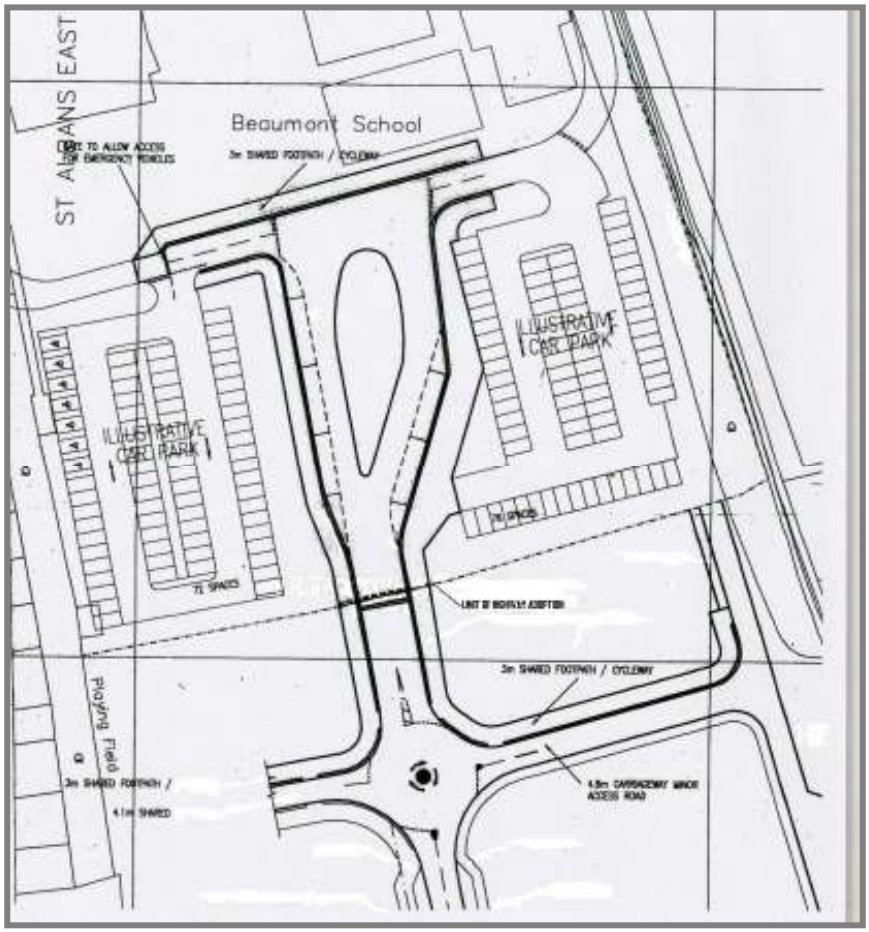
The new access would substantially reduce morning and afternoon peak hour congestion in Oakwood Drive which is a continuing source of concern and annoyance to local residents. In particular, the new access would remove the problems associated with the existing school entrances off Oakwood Drive which have poor visibility and which are particularly unsuitable for large vehicles such as school coaches, and for emergency access. This would allow us to park coaches on site for pupils to board in a safe environment. The existing northern access to the school would be closed. The proposals would also include safe pedestrian and cycle routes to the school from Oakwood Drive, Wynches Farm Drive and from the Hatfield Road, encouraging greener and healthier travel to and from school.


Legend
Site Boundary
Vehicular Access Point
Footpath/Cycle Links
Footpath/Cycle/ Emergency Link
Access for Service Vehicles
New Turning/Drop Off and Parking
Access Closure
New Classroom Block
New School Sports Hall
School Playing Pitches
Dwellings
Childrens Play Area
Beaumont School
Winches Farm, St. Albans
Illustrative Master Plan
NORTH

Proposed new school playing fields - detail



Proposed new school entrance and parking - detail



Sports facilities

The new sports pitches would replace the existing playing pitches which are frequently waterlogged and uneven and therefore often cannot be used. They are also too small bearing in mind that the number of pupils at the school has grown to nearly 1200; the current pitches are sufficient for only 690 pupils based on government guidelines. In addition, the School has one small gymnasium. The fields and gymnasium are insufficient to deliver the PE curriculum for the large number of pupils on roll. The new sports hall will address this deficiency and together with improved sports pitches, will provide high quality facilities sufficient to deliver the curriculum and be available for community use during evenings and weekends.

Science facilities

New science facilities are also required in order to deliver the full curriculum. It is proposed that these should be provided in the existing building. This would displace art rooms which it is proposed to relocate to a new teaching block and reception area which would adjoin the proposed sports hall.

Woodland

The proposals include an area of woodland adjacent to the school which would be available to pupils of Beaumont and Oakwood Schools on a supervised basis as a woodland teaching resource.

Residential development

In order to fund delivery of the above facilities residential development of part of the existing school playing fields is necessary. This will include a mix of house types and 35% affordable housing.

I am delighted with these proposals for the school which will provide tremendous benefits to both Beaumont and Oakwood Schools and the wider community while resolving longstanding local issues for nearby residents. I trust that you will feel able to support these exciting proposals. To this end we would value your support in the form of a personal letter to St Albans City and District Council, details below. Thank you very much.

Elizabeth Hitch

Showing Your Support

To support the proposals please write to the Council as soon as possible, preferably before 29th April (the date indicated by the Council's Planning Department) and at the latest before the planning application is considered by them on 9th June.

Your representation quoting Application Reference 5/08/0812 - Beaumont School/Winches Farm, St. Albans, should be sent to:

Planning Department
St. Albans City & District Council,
Civic Centre,
St. Peters Street,
St. Albans, AL1 3JE

Alternatively you can **email** your comments in support of the proposals via St Albans City & District Council's website. You can search for this planning application using the application reference **5/2008/0812** on: **www.stalbans.gov.uk/living/planning/search-plans**