



Bullers Wood School

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To all of our current and prospective parents, carers & supporters,

As you know we were extremely disappointed and frustrated by last week's Development Control Committee's decision to refuse the plans for Bullers Wood School for Boys at their meeting on Thursday 25th January 2018. This is all the more disheartening given that we had obtained an approval to grant planning permission on 4th October 2017.

Regrettably, it now seems that neither the Mayor of London or the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government are able to 'call in' this decision (albeit that they both reviewed the October decision and agreed it should stand). This means that the London Borough of Bromley will be issuing their decision imminently. We currently understand that their 'grounds for refusal' (though not actually stated at Thursday's meeting when the motion for refusal was proposed) will be along similar lines as the Planning Officer's original recommendation to refuse planning permission last October – i.e. concerns about the impact on traffic and road safety.

Whilst we recognise the legal basis for last week's revisiting of this in the light of the report from the Planning Inspectorate, we share our supporters' frustration and incomprehension that this was based on a visit which took place on a day when the most untypical conditions were experienced.

Despite our best efforts to demonstrate this, along with the information regarding the locality of applicants for September 2018 entry, 9 councillors' votes overturned the October decision. In due course the LBB will publish both the minutes and the audio recording of the meeting where you will be able to follow 'the argument'. You will then be able to draw your own conclusions.

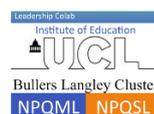
We can confirm that the legal challenge to the Inspector's decision on the first application, which led to the plans being returned to the Development Control Committee, is continuing and once the LBB formally issue their decision from last week, giving the reasons, the ESFA will pursue an appeal - hopefully by way of a Public Inquiry.

Meanwhile, the ESFA are working to explore whether there is any possible temporary solution that would allow us to open this September. We have of course indicated that we would be keen to explore any such option.

With only one month until National Offers Day, this is of little solace to those families whose sons' hearts were set on starting Bullers Wood School for Boys this September. Governors have repeatedly taken the view that without certainty over opening we would not offer school places on National Offers Day. We are not prepared to gamble with students' secondary education.

The LBB have stated that they have contingency plans for families in the event of us being unable to open in September and we continue to urge you to contact them, if you haven't already done so, to understand the steps they are taking.

q u o d p o t e s t e n t a



We have and will continue to work with all parties towards opening Bullers Wood School for Boys. This most recent of setbacks has only increased our resolve and determination to open this school as we believe that it is the right thing to do for the young people and their families in this community. The support from families in our endeavours to get this school open for the last three years has and continues to be phenomenal. This was further evidenced with Sunday's 'Walk to School'.

We would urge all of you who care about the secondary education of local boys and girls, and want this to be in local comprehensive schools, to lend whatever support you can to these efforts.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B Greene', written in a cursive style.

B Greene
Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A Gouldthorpe', written in a cursive style.

A Gouldthorpe
Headteacher