



HAVANT BRIEFING

Bid for new college block as region's student numbers look likely to surge

by Noni Needs

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A Havant college has said it needs to build a new teaching block as it expects student numbers to surge in the coming years.

Havant and South Downs College (HSDC) want to build the new three-storey block at its Havant campus and has submitted a planning application to Havant Borough Council, seeking permission for the plans which also includes eight new car parking spaces and 14 new cycle spaces along with new fencing and landscaping work. In documents, the college said the building is needed to accommodate an 'expected demographic increase' in the number of 16-19 year olds.

It added that the government has pledged extra funding for schools and colleges which accommodate 16- to 19-year-olds at the 2021 Spending Review. More than 1,000 students currently attend the college campus in New Road and this building would be for a further 270 students in the future, documents said. Emily Warner, of Smith Jenkins Planning and Heritage, said in the proposal: "After a successful bid, HSDC were awarded a £3.5 million share of the



CGI concepts of the proposed new teaching block

2023/24 capital investment which will be used to construct a new teaching building and provide further provision of parking/cycle storage. The development is necessary to extend the campus to allow for the college to support future pupil growth and provide a more modern and suitable facility that will meet educational needs and improve the college's teaching facilities." "The proposed building



will use high-quality materials, sustainable and appropriate design,

providing a landmark and highly sustainable building that meets the standards of

modern-day education." To retain the existing trees, maintain the emergency vehicle access route, and maximise building form, the building will be set back and three storeys high. The proposed new teaching building will be situated in the southeast corner of the campus, adjacent to the sports hall (north) and business block (west) on an 'underutilised' open area of land. The increase in journeys by staff

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The development will not result in a severe cumulative impact on the highway network

and new students to the campus would be 'negligible', according to Julian Hudson of Scott White, Hookins who compiled the transport document.

He said: "The development will not result in a severe cumulative impact on the highway network and will not lead to highway safety concerns."

That said, policies to use cycling and promoting public transport are being encouraged while controlling the use of cars by students."

The proposal includes the impact of the development on all technical matters including impact on residential amenity, design, highways, drainage, landscape, trees, biodiversity and sustainability. Comments on the application APP/23/00928 can be made until January 15.

Natural England: We'll support Langstone Mill Pond works

Havant MP Alan Mak has met with Natural England, which has given support for appropriate work to protect the Langstone Mill Pond and surrounding area.

The MP also praised the environmental advisor's commitment to the area following a visit to Langstone by a top official from the agency.

Senior Natural England official Graham Horton said: "If local decision-makers can formally agree on an appropriate scheme of engineering works that recognises the environmental

sensitivities in this area, Natural England will support appropriate works to protect Langstone Mill Pond and nearby sea defences whilst maintaining an access route for walkers."

Mr Mak said: "I'm delighted to have received Natural England's advice and support for an appropriate approach to works around Langstone Mill Pond following the visit."

"Natural England plays an essential role in protecting our local environment and is a valued partner."

"I'm grateful for its expertise, commitment and

help to make progress on this issue, which I've been working on for much of this year."

"I hope local decision-makers can now move forward and formally agree on an appropriate scheme of engineering works in 2024."

Chichester Harbour Conservancy, Hampshire County Council, Havant Borough Council and Coastal Partners are the key players and decision-makers when it comes to the future of the Mill Pond, nearby sea defences and the adjacent footpath popular with walkers.



Alan Mak MP with Graham Horton from Natural England at Lanostone Mill Pond