

Dear Jerome

Our Norfolk County Council School Sufficiency Plan is published each year, and this sets out the areas where new school sites have been safeguarded under a S106 agreement, and the County Council's medium and long term planned response in each case. Where Community Infrastructure Levy has replaced S106 education contributions, there is a greater challenge to the delivery of new schools serving communities due to a funding shortfall.

When a development reaches Reserved Matters, we begin to look in greater detail at the capacity in existing schools serving the area. Until this point, there is no certainty a development will be built, and phasing can change. We have ongoing dialogue with promoters and developers depending on the stage they are at. Each year, school forecasts for Norfolk are refreshed in line with Dept for Education guidance and where developments achieve full planning approval, the anticipated numbers will show in the local area forecasts.

In the case of the Taverham development at Marriott's Park, there is currently no timescale for delivery of a new primary school. The calculation of the impact of 100 homes on primary school places is 28 children across reception year group until Year 6 – and therefore relatively small. It is always difficult to know ahead of the house building who will buy the homes, how many children these families have who are of school age and whether they are relocating from within the local area or new to the area. If they are relocating from within a relatively small area, it is likely children will already have an established school place. The area is served by schools at Ghost Hill, Nightingale as well as Drayton. There is considerable capacity in all of these schools across all year groups which can accommodate any children needing a new school place. We will continue to monitor the flow of families as the houses are built and sold. The details of current capacity and forecast for the catchments are set out in the table below:

| School | PAN | Catchment Forecast 2028* |
|--------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| Drayton Infant | 90 | 56 |
| Nightingale Infant | 60 | 46 |
| Ghost Hill Infant | 60 | 30 |

*Housing is included within these numbers, and demonstrates a level of available capacity against existing demand

Secondary provision is a bit different in that the likely yield from 100 homes is lower at 14 pupils across all age ranges. Currently the numbers of pupils at secondary phase is fairly high and this is reflected in some year groups at Taverham High. The school is a popular school with parents and attracts from outside its area. The children from the new development will have higher priority than a number of those who currently are coming into Taverham and there are sufficient places where those children live to meet the sufficiency need. Children coming to live in the homes do not always neatly match the admission transfer at year 7, so it will require coordination with the high school in order to ensure places can be available for those new families across the appropriate

year groups if families are seeking a place. Alternatively, children will be offered places in their next nearest schools in the relevant year group. We are unable to safeguard places in this instance according to the admission code, so it will be a challenge to reduce the impact on all children. It is likely the first new homes in the development will begin to be available for occupation over the next 2-3 years and this is when numbers begin to decline at the secondary age, which could make more places available than we see currently.

Your final question is a really important one, as on the one hand we have some areas of the County experiencing a marked decline in school age population, whilst in others there are large scale planned developments creating localised pockets of demand. A key challenge for us is ensuring that communities are able to have the long term benefits of school infrastructure and the wider community benefit we know they bring when capital funds are under considerable pressure.

I hope that is helpful and please feel free to come back for further information if needed.

Kind regards
Sara

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Pronouns I use; she/her/hers (feel free to share yours)



Norfolk County Council

