

Built & Natural Environment Team

Youth Engagement Service



Youth Engagement Report

Planning application ref: 23/02467/FUL

Site address: The Former Welding Alloys site, The Way, Fowlmere, Cambridge

Participant: Fowlmere Primary School

Developer: Gen Two Fowlmere Ltd

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|---|---|
| Planning application ref: | 23/02467/FUL |
| Site address: | The Former Welding Alloys site, The Way, Fowlmere, Cambridge |
| Proposals: | Part demolition of existing buildings and construction of new buildings for research and development, including co-working space, cafe and gym (Use Class E - commercial, business and services), installation of plant, car parking provision of cycle parking, public realm improvements and associated works |
| Case Officer: | Charlotte Spencer |
| Developer: | Gen Two Fowlmere Ltd |
| Date of Youth Engagement Workshop: | Workshop 1 - Tuesday 10 October 2023 Workshop 2 - Friday 20 October 2023 |
| School: | Fowlmere Primary School, Cambridge |

1.0 Purpose of the Greater Cambridge Youth Engagement Workshop

The main purpose of the Greater Cambridge Youth Engagement Workshop is to provide local youths with the opportunity to have a genuine input into the design of the proposed development, in accordance with the requirements of Paragraphs 132 and 133 of the ‘*National Planning Policy Framework*’ (NPPF) (2023).

Paragraph 132 of the NPPF states that *“early discussion between applicants, the local planning authority and local community about the design and style of emerging schemes is important for clarifying expectations and reconciling local and commercial interests. Applicants should work closely with those affected by their proposals to evolve designs that take account of the views of the community. Applications that can demonstrate early, proactive and effective engagement with the community should be looked on more favourably than those that cannot.”*

Paragraph 133 states that *“local planning authorities should ensure that they have access to, and make appropriate use of, tools and processes for assessing and improving the design of development. These include workshops to engage the local community, design advice and review arrangements, and assessment frameworks... These are of most benefit if used as early as possible in the evolution of schemes and are particularly important for significant projects, such as large-scale housing and mixed-use developments. In assessing applications, local planning authorities should have regard to the outcome from these processes, including any recommendations made by design review panels.”*

Regarding the development proposals for the application site, specifically, Officers are interested in obtaining and reflecting local youths’ views on the design and layout of the proposed external amenity areas, the design of the street furniture, art and biodiversity element, to ensure that they are fit-for-purpose and are child-friendly. It is important that the results of this report are incorporated into the final layout to ensure genuine youth engagement.

This Youth Engagement Report aims to support the Design and Access Statement and the Statement of Community Involvement, to demonstrate that the proposals have considered the views of local youths.

2.0 The Greater Cambridge Youth Engagement Framework

The Greater Cambridge Youth Engagement Workshop was designed based upon a framework developed by the Council's Youth Engagement Team - "*Framework for Evaluating the Effectiveness of Youth Engagement*". This established framework considers the following four key areas which aim to benefit all those who takes part in the workshop:

- 1) Impact on the plan-and decision-making process
- 2) Process
- 3) Educational and social value
- 4) Practical factors

The Workshops comprised a series of activities to enable the local youths to get involved in the various design elements of the development proposals, via a structured approach.

3.0 Youth engagement process

The youth engagement process was conducted in two parts: Workshop 1 and Workshop 2, with a 10-day gap to allow students sufficient time to complete their design work, and to reflect on their learning.

Workshop 1:

Participants

On Tuesday 10 October 2023, 28 Year 5 and 6 students from the Owls Class, aged between 9 and 11, together with their Assistant Headteacher Kym Rouse, Class Teacher Daniel Gunyon, Teaching Assistant Lorna Chisholm and several teaching assistants from Fowlmere Primary School, took part in the Youth Engagement Workshop. The Workshop was led by the Council's Youth Engagement Lead Dr. Bonnie Kwok and supported by Youth Engagement Team members Tom Davies and Maxine Ross. The developer's team – Gen Two Real Estates, Ariel Levy, Daniel Sterling, Ed Fitzwilliams, Roxanne Sterling, and bcr.Infinity Architects Chris Jones, Jonathan Pateman and Sree Ramchander, attended and made significant contributions towards the youth engagement activities. Councillor Professor Richard Stobart, Councillor Dr. James Hobro and Councillor David Brock observed the event. The Case Officer Charlotte Spencer, Urban Design Officer Dr. Ammar Al Asaad, Landscape Officer Emma Lilley and Conservation Officer Paul Robertshaw, who have been involved in this scheme at pre-application stage, had input into the design of the youth engagement activities.

The Youth Engagement Workshops promote partnership working between Officers, Developers and their design team, with Local and District Councillors observing the events.

Process

1. Introduction

A presentation setting out the purpose of the workshop was given to the participants, it introduced the details of the proposals, the importance of youth engagement and basic principles of good urban design and town planning, and how they contribute to the concept of sustainability and the value of biodiversity.

2. Careers Talk

Officers, Gen Two and bcr.Infinity Architects then provided a talk on career options in the built and natural environment field, life science, the property development and community work. The purpose of this talk was to inspire the students to pursue a career in these areas. It is hoped that the students would be able to seek local employment in STEM subjects at the proposed development, or to pursue a career in the built environment profession, when they have finished education.

3. Walkabout

Students then took part in a walkabout: they were shown around the former 'Welding Alloys' buildings at The Way, Fowlmere (the application site) by Officers, Gen Two and bcr.Infinity Architects, to develop an understanding of the site's industrial heritage and how the proposed architectural and landscape design responds to the site context, including the repurposing of existing buildings to enhance sustainability credentials. The students also had the opportunity to learn about the site's wider context, such as St Mary's Church and the Chequers public house in the Conservation area on the journey to the site. Students also learnt about the biodiversity (30% net gain) and sustainability proposals (BREEM Excellent) for the development proposals.

4. Design Competition

The students were invited to design outdoor street furniture, an art element, bird boxes and bug hotels, based on their understanding of the site and the memorable things that are considered important to them. This is followed by a judging process where the best designs were shortlisted from the competition entries.

Four of the bench designs and a picnic table were selected as winning entries, and they will be built based on the children's design, with 3 pieces sited within the site and 2 benches at the school. The street furniture will be sited towards the front of the site to enhance the public realm, which is open to the public.

The winning design of the art element, a logo in the form of the letter 'A', which stands for the name of the proposed development 'Project Alchemy', was chosen and it will

be manufactured to a form an art piece to be incorporated on the front elevation of the café building to reflect children's input in the architecture.

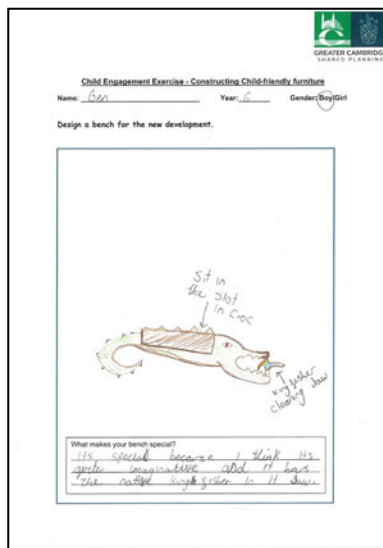
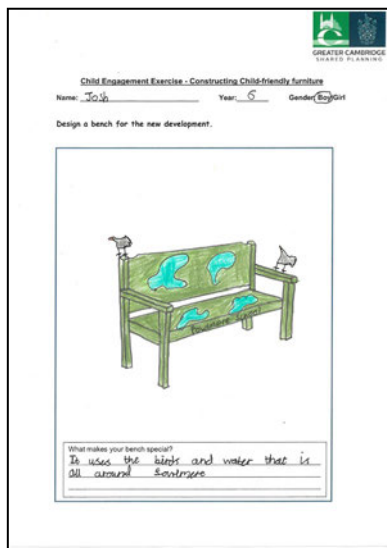
Gen Two has also committed to delivering bird boxes and bug hotels on site with references to the children's winning designs. The above offer will be delivered subject to planning permission, secured via a planning condition.

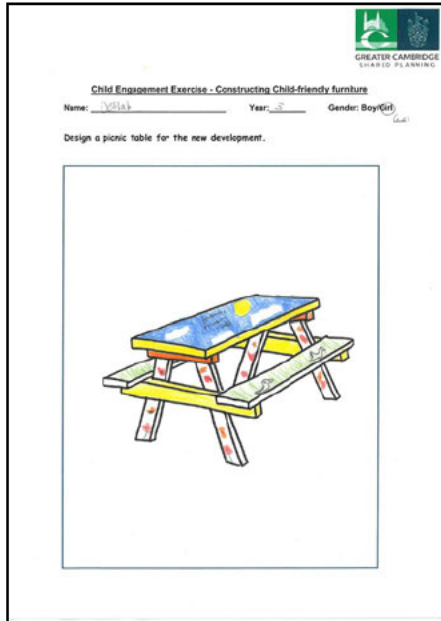
5. Quiz

The students were then divided into small groups and took part in an interactive quiz, with prepared questions that are tailored to this particular development proposal. The quiz questions cover the local history, details of the development proposals and some urban design principles. The purpose of this quiz was to reinforce their learning outcome and it was very well received.

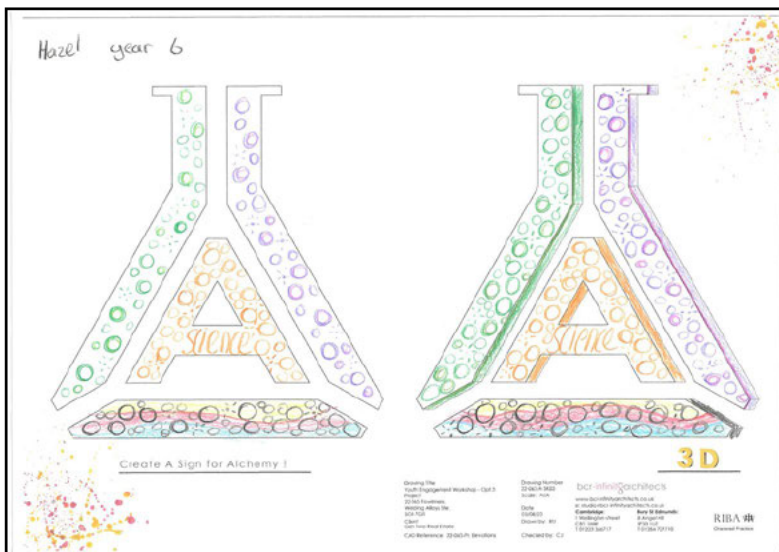
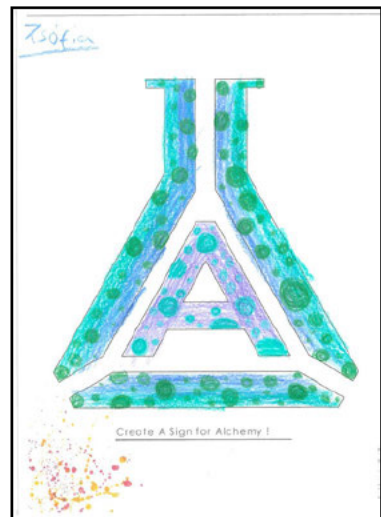
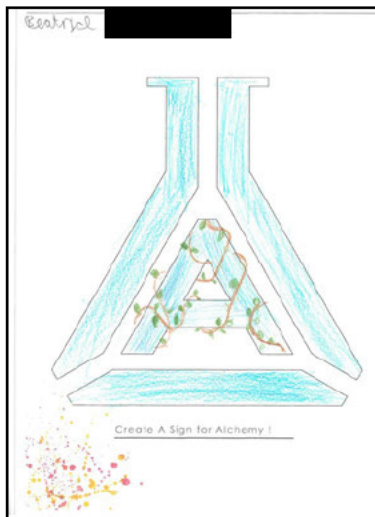
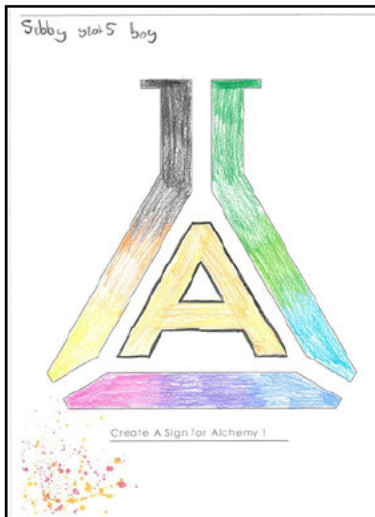
The process was videoed and is available on the GCSP website for knowledge sharing: <https://vimeo.com/user127071051/review/878410319/3cb0c23bf8>

The following four benches and picnic table, designed by students Ben, Josh, Connie, Jacob and Delilah, won the Street Furniture Design Competition:





For art element, the following Alchemy sign designs by Sebby, Zsofia, Beatrice [redacted] were winners with Hazel's design declared the outstanding award.



For the Bird / Bat / Bee Boxes, the following designs by Alexis (butterfly house) and Connie (bee house) were declared as joint winners.



6. Plenary / Feedback Session

The Workshop was concluded by students explaining to the facilitators what they had learnt from the youth engagement activities. The students were also encouraged to tell facilitators what key elements should be considered by adults/decision-makers as the scheme is further developed, and what can be improved in future Youth Engagement Workshops. The key points are summarised in Table 1.

Workshop 2:

Participants

On Friday 20 October 2023, the same group of 28 Year 5 and 6 students, Assistant Headteacher Mrs. Kym Rouse, Executive Head Teacher Sue Wright, two teaching assistants and parents, grandparents and guardians from Fowlmere Primary School took part in the second part of the Youth Engagement Workshop. The Workshop was led by the Council's Youth Engagement Lead Dr. Bonnie Kwok and supported by Youth Engagement Team member Tom Davies and Lead Urban Design Officer of the scheme Dr. Ammar Al-Asaad. The developer's team – Gen Two Real Estates, Ariel Levy, Daniel Sterling, Ed Fitzwilliams attended and made significant contributions towards the youth engagement activities. Councillor Professor Richard Stobart and Councillor David Brock observed the event and presented awards.

Process

1. Art Exhibition

This Workshop comprised an art exhibition showcasing the design work that were by the students in Workshop 1. This exhibition was open to all students, parents and

guardians from Fowlmere Primary School. Those students who took part in the design competition explained to their younger peers and parents about their design concepts and design intentions, as well as their learning outcomes. Both the students and their parents were very pleased to see their framed art designs and to hear about their learning outcomes. The students took home their framed artwork and Certificates of Participation.

2. Award Ceremony

The Award Ceremony began by the School's Assistant Headteacher Mrs. Kym Rouse, Executive Head Teacher Sue Wright giving a Thank You speech to students and facilitators for running the Youth Engagement Workshops, and the multiple benefits they brought to support the student's development. This was followed by speeches by Officers, Developers Gen Two and Councillors who expressed their thanks to all young participants to taking part in the workshops to allow adults to understanding their specific needs for building child-friendly developments, as they are our future. Gen Two also explained that the students will be kept informed of the planning process and they would be invited to the site at a late date to view their designs, subject to planning approval. Winners of the Street Furniture, Art and Bird and Bug Hotel competitions received their awards, which included certificated and trophies, engraved with the winners' names. Certificates and prizes were awarded to students in the following categories:

- Best graphic representation – Benches
- Best graphic representation – Picnic table
- Creative Design - Benches
- Creative Design – Picnic table
- Inclusive design – Benches
- Inclusive design – Picnic tables
- Innovative design – Benches
- Innovative design – Picnic table
- Sustainable design benches
- Sustainable design picnic tables
- Outstanding Design – Benches
- Outstanding Design – Picnic tables
- Outstanding Design – Art element
- Outstanding Design – Bird and Bug hotels

3. Feedback

A survey was conducted with the students, parents, guardians and teachers – 100% of the students and teachers said that they had enjoyed both Workshops, and had learnt something useful, including things that are not normally taught in school, such as careers in the built and natural environment and life science fields. Most of them had said that despite being a local resident, they had not visited the former 'Welding Alloys' site before. Therefore, the walkabout provided an enriching outdoor learning experience for them.

All the teachers, parents, guardians and grandparents said that the Workshops have enabled them to develop an understanding of the importance to hear children’s views on the development proposals, and they have commented on the effectiveness and usefulness of the Greater Cambridge Youth Engagement Workshops. The overall response was very positive. See Tables 2 and 3 for further information.

Overall, the Greater Cambridge Youth Engagement Workshop was a success and all the participants said that they had enjoyed taking part in the decision-making process.

4.0 Results

See the following pages.

Table 1 – What have you learnt from the Youth Engagement Workshop?

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|--|
| 1. The 4Cs set out in the Cambridgeshire Quality Charter for Growth: Connectivity, Community, Character and Climate |
| 2. What other Cs have you learnt: Creativity, Communications, Councillors, Co-operation, Construction, Career. |
| 3. Other new things learnt: the nature of the work and careers in Town and Country Planning, Designing, Innovation, Property Development, Sustainability, Architecture |
| 4. The typical features in a building |
| 5. Designing street furniture (benches and picnic tables) |
| 6. The history of the village |
| 7. The former ‘Welding Alloys’ buildings |

Table 2 – Feedback from children

Youth Engagement Workshop

Results of Survey with children

Site address: ‘Welding Alloys’ buildings at The Way, Fowlmere.
 School: Fowlmere Primary School
 Developer: Gen Two Fowlmere Ltd
 Date(s) of Workshop: 10 October 2023 & 20 October 2023

1. Did you understand why you have designed benches at today’s art exhibition?

Yes 28
 No 0
 Did not complete

2. Do you welcome the opportunity to give your views on the Research and Development proposals in Fowlmere and feel that your questions and points were listened to by the presenters and guests last Tuesday (10th October 2023)?

Yes 28
 No 0

3. Do you welcome the opportunity for you to learn about sustainability issues in the workshop?

Yes 28
 No 0
 Did not complete

4. Was it useful for you to hear from architects, planners, urban designers, politicians and property developers about pursuing future careers in these areas?

Yes 28
 No 0
 Did not complete

5. Would you recommend our youth engagement workshop to other children so that they can benefit from having an input in new development proposals in the Greater Cambridge area?

Yes 28
 No 0

6. Other comments

- 1) I really enjoyed finding out about the village
- 2) You could do the other schools in the whole of Cambridge.
- 3) Liked the visit
- 4) It was great
- 5) I really enjoyed it.
- 6) I liked designing the benches and building the bird boxes.

Table 3 – Feedback from adults

Youth Engagement Workshop

Results of Survey with Parents, Guardians & Grandparents

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Site address: | Welding Alloys' buildings at The Way, Fowlmere. |
| School: | Fowlmere Primary School |
| Developer: | Gen Two Fowlmere Ltd |
| Date(s) of Workshop: | 10 October 2023 & 20 October 2023 |

1. Did you understand why the children have designed benches at today's art exhibition?

| | |
|-----|----|
| Yes | 18 |
| No | 0 |

2. Do you agree children should have an opportunity to give their views on the Research and Development proposals in Fowlmere proposals and that their consultation input would be valuable and useful?

| | |
|-----|----|
| Yes | 18 |
| No | 0 |

3. Do you welcome the opportunity for your children to learn about sustainability issues in the workshop?

| | |
|-----|----|
| Yes | 18 |
| No | 0 |

4. Is it useful for your children to hear from architects, planners, urban designers, property developers and politicians about pursuing future careers in these areas?

| | |
|-----|----|
| Yes | 18 |
| No | 0 |

5. Would you recommend our youth engagement workshop to other parents so that their children can benefit from having an input in new development proposals in the Greater Cambridge area?

| | |
|-----|----|
| Yes | 18 |
| No | 0 |

6. Other comments

- 1) My daughter really liked designing building the bug box
- 2) It's a really good initiative
- 3) The Workshops are well organised
- 4) Thank you for coming to our school and teach the children about the basics of good design
- 5) It provided an insight into the different career options in the built and natural environment for children.
- 6) I am very impressed by the facilitators' commitment to getting local children involved in the design of this new development for our village

Disclaimer

The content of the above report is produced without prejudice to the determination of any planning application should one be submitted. Furthermore, it will not bind the decision of Elected Members, should a planning application be submitted, nor prejudice the formal decision-making process of the council.