

The Board want to address the decision by DCC to recently refuse planning permission for the sports facilities here at the school, while at the same time An Bord Pleanála has granted permission for the residential development, which is on an adjacent site. This makes no sense whatever. The reason for the refusal relates the Brent Geese.

It reads: "Therefore, applying the precautionary principle, the Planning Authority is not satisfied that the proposed development would maintain the favourable conservation condition of light-bellied Brent goose and would not adversely affect the integrity of the North Bull Island Special Protection Area contrary to the provisions of the Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022 and contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area".

However when we read the Board Pleanala Inspector's Report it states:

"Accounting for this in-combination effect on the overall potential network of inland feeding habitat in the Dublin area, I note that the number of sites remaining is greater than the 132 sites previously known to be part of the foraging network in the Dublin area. The availability of these potential sites should ensure that there will be adequate capacity in the potential network to absorb the loss of St. Paul's in-combination with the potential loss of the other 11 inland feeding habitat sites"

We will of course be appealing this decision and our trustees/BOM are currently involved in this process.

Note in the decision: "Appeals must be received by An Bord Pleanala within FOUR WEEKS beginning on 27- Mar-2018 . (N.B. not the date on which the decision is sent or received)"

We are entirely confident that An Bord Pleanála will grant our appeal and we can then proceed with this much-needed development.

It was always a priority that the school would benefit from the sale of the surrounding lands in 2015 - and we are determined that this will happen. We see this refusal as a temporary setback.

St Paul's School has been looking forward to investment for some time. With the addition of the new facilities, together with a trust fund for capital expenditure on future projects, we can look to the future with optimism. I will keep you informed of ongoing development in regard to the appeal.