

What Will Be The Impact For The Wider Community?

If there is a new secondary school built at Simonside this could mean changes and improvements for the current Community Centre provision and use of some of the open space to provide new sports facilities and good quality playing pitches.



Should there be a new secondary school at Simonside?

We want to know whether there is support for the principle of development of the site for educational purposes before moving to the next stage - which will be to appoint a team to produce a detailed design and layout, showing the size and design of the proposed buildings and their proposed location.

If plans to build a new secondary school do move onto the next stage people will have the chance to comment on the detailed design and layout before a planning application is submitted.

What are the proposals for the Community Centre?

The Community Centre is an important facility serving Newbiggin Hall. The Council wants to see a continuation of the services provided at the Centre, however the current building (part of the former Middle School) is now not in particularly good condition and the opportunity to relocate might be the best way forward.

A number of options for relocating the Centre are being explored with the Trustees, with the current favoured option being to move into the building at Gala Field that currently houses the Children's Centre and also to take over the vacant former housing office on Trevelyan Drive.



What are the proposals for the open space?

The Simonside site is allocated as Open Space in the Council's draft Development and Allocations Plan but is identified as having potential to be improved.

If a new secondary school is built here the open space would accommodate good quality playing pitches which the Local Planning Authority would ensure are made available for public use outside school hours through a Community Use Agreement.

What happens if a planning application is submitted?

Any development on the site would require planning permission, and the Local Planning Authority would consult statutory consultees, including Sport England, as well as local residents.

Issues such as loss of public open space, design and location of school buildings, access, traffic and parking proposals would be carefully considered during the determination of the planning application by the Local Planning Authority.