



Potential land disposal would generate funds to improve school facilities

The Aspire Learning Trust has identified surplus land adjacent to Drybread Road for potential disposal. This parcel of land is disconnected from all our schools. In fact, neither Sir Harry Smith nor any of the primary schools in the Trust are using this land.

Disposing of this parcel of land would generate funding, enabling the Trust to invest in new educational and sporting facilities at Sir Harry Smith. These new facilities aim to enhance the learning experience for all our students.

The government funds schools according to pupil numbers. These funds cover most operating and staffing costs. All additional fundraising for special projects and long-term investment is the responsibility of trusts. This is why we are exploring options for land disposal.

You are invited to comment on this process. You are welcome to return this leaflet directly to us or complete it online. All of the details can be found on the back page.



Department for Education (DfE)

As part of our fundraising plan, the Trust will seek permission from the Department for Education (DfE) to sell this land. This consultation will inform the DfE's decision-making process, so no commercial or legal decisions have yet been made.

The DfE will ensure that these funds are spent in accordance with the asset disposal bid.

To reiterate, our schools do not use this land, so its disposal will not affect our students. In fact, the proceeds from the sale will fund new facilities, enhancing our students' learning experience. That's a key consideration for the DfE.



Whittlesey Athletic FC

Although the Trust does not use this land, it is home to Whittlesey Athletic FC. The club will not be evicted as part of any future land sale.

The Trust has, in principle, agreed a position with Whittlesey Athletic FC under which the club will retain a portion of this land for a sports pitch and associated facilities.

The club's future on this site will be secure for decades to come.

YOUR FEEDBACK

As a local stakeholder, you are invited to provide feedback on this potential land disposal.

The consultation commenced on 7th October 2026 and will end on 20th November. Once all feedback is collated and considered, the Trust will submit its final proposal to the DfE.

How the money would be spent

The Trust has an ambitious plan to provide new facilities across all our schools. According to the recent land valuation, the Trust could provide the following facilities:

- New sports hall
- Upgraded/refreshed sporting facilities to the existing offering
- Refurbishment of areas of the school in need of repair



Consultation requirements

As part of any land disposal request, the DfE requires consultation with key stakeholders.

The following stakeholders have been invited to respond to this consultation:

- Governors
- Sports England
- Fenland District Council
- Parents
- Member of Parliament
- Whittlesey Town Council
- Cambridgeshire County Council

Feedback form

You can complete and return the feedback form to us in three ways:

1. **Post it back to** Sir Harry Smith Community College, Eastrea Road, Whittlesey PE7 1XB
2. **Complete it online** – just scan the QR code
3. **You can e-mail it to** landconsultation@sirharrysmith.com

Your contact details

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Email:

Telephone:

Q1. What is your role/position?

- ☐ Parent ☐ Governor ☐ Sports England
☐ Other
Please state:

Q2: Do you support or oppose the principle of disposing of underutilised school land to fund new facilities across our schools?

- ☐ Support ☐ Neutral ☐ Oppose

Q3 (if you oppose): If you disagree with the principle of land disposal, how do you think the Trust should seek to raise the required level of funding for the new facilities?

Q4: Do you support or oppose our proposed capital spending shopping list for special projects, listed above?

- ☐ Support ☐ Neutral ☐ Oppose

Q5 (if you oppose): If you disagree with our proposed capital spending plans, how would you like the money to be spent?

Q6: Whittlesey Athletic FC will be allowed to stay and operate from this land. Do you welcome this decision?

- ☐ Yes ☐ Neutral ☐ No

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