

PUPIL PREMIUM REPORT

MAY 2017

The planned closure of the Imphal Barracks and the building of a large housing development at the Germany Beck site are two important long-term programs of change that will have a significant impact on the pupil demographics at St Oswalds and a possible impact on future resources.

It is impossible to predict:

- a. when any change at St Oswalds will occur and
- b. the subsequent consequences of any change.

However various scenarios can be explored based on the best information that is available at this time.

Closure of the Imphal Barracks

Imphal Barracks accommodates HQ 1st (UK) Division, 2 Signal Regiment, Defence Business Services National Vetting and many small administering units. Currently 63 children of military personnel attend St Oswald's Primary School.

"On 5th March 2013, the Regular Army Basing Plan was announced to support the full implementation of the Army 2020 plan which sets out the location changes for the Army and confirmed the drawdown (i.e. the reduction in the size or presence of a military force) of all units from Germany by 2020. The plan has transitioned into a delivery Programme and this will affect most areas of the Army as more than 100 units will either relocate, re-role, convert or disband over the next six years." Source: www.army.mod.uk

*As part of the delivery of the plan the Imphal Barracks are to be closed **BY 2031***

At the time of writing one service pupil has already left St Oswald's, four are leaving imminently and a further 16 have informed the school that they are due to leave. One service child has joined the school in the last month and there are no known further admissions on the horizon. St Oswald's has always had high pupil mobility however it has never been on this scale and never without an almost one-to-one replacement.

The Service Premium Budget is based on the service children who are “in” school at the end of January and the Age-weighted pupil funding that the school receives for each child is based on the number of children “in” school when the October school census is carried out. If the twenty (net figure) known leavers have left St Oswalds by October and are not replaced by the end of January then the Age Weighted pupil funding, the Service Premium funding and any additional SEN or EAL funding for these children would be “lost”.

These twenty children equate to two-thirds of a class and they are neither clustered within one year group nor spread evenly over the school. The largest impact on pupil numbers would be in Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 where numbers would be down by 8 and 9 pupils respectively.

In the longer term the worst case scenario is that ALL the children leave in the next few years, which means a loss that equates to two whole classes.

This reduction in funding would have a hugely significant impact upon the schools resources.

Germany Beck Housing Development

Germany Beck is a large housing development of 655 properties which will include terraced properties, mews, semi-detached and detached homes.

Also “.. it is intended to provide 227 new ‘affordable’ homes for local people requiring economic support and otherwise denied the opportunity to achieve homeownership. These 227 homes will represent 35% of the total housing provision on the site and they will be provided throughout each phase of the development, in a style consistent with the other properties being built.”

Source: www.persimmonhomes.com

Given the types of properties and the size of the development it is reasonable to assume that families with primary school age children will move to Germany Beck. These children will then require a place at a primary school but the actual numbers are a complete unknown.

However by looking at the demographics of existing new developments it may be possible to formulate a working hypothesis. In order to achieve this, a report¹ which summarises the results of a survey of 28 new developments in Cambridgeshire and West Suffolk has been used (see www.cambridge.gov.uk/housing-research).

Using the classification in the survey, the Germany Beck development would be a substantial development. Researchers found that these developments had a slightly higher proportion of children under 16. Significantly, there were also a higher number of children per household in social rented housing, which could mean an increase in the number of families claiming Free School Meals and therefore entitled to Pupil Premium funding.

¹ This report was based on completed surveys returned by each household and because the percentage of surveys returned was less than 50% there is a margin of error in all data.

When considering the age of the children it was found that, across the seven substantial developments in the survey, 22 children² per 100 households were of primary school age. If this is rounded down and extrapolated across 600 of the Germany Beck properties it could be supposed that, potentially, 120 children (20 x 6) will be requiring a primary school place by the time the development is completed.

Although it is not certain that all primary school age children living on the Germany Beck development would require a place at St Oswald's it does seem fairly certain that there is the potential for a significant increase in pupil numbers.

Conclusion

The building of the Germany Beck development and the closure of the Imphal barracks will have an impact at St Oswald's. The number of service pupils at the school will decline and the potential number of children from the new housing development will increase. However, the full extent of the impact and its consequences are currently unknown. As the changes are implemented and more information becomes available any likely impact will become clearer.

In order to be aware of, and therefore prepared for, any significant changes, the following questions are posed for consideration:

1. Has the drawdown at Imphal Barracks already begun?
2. What impact will a reduction in pupil numbers have on future budgets and resources?
3. How can reductions be managed?
4. When will the Germany Beck development impact the school?
5. If the first phases of the Germany Beck development are completed before the service pupils leave will there be a net increase in pupil numbers?
6. Will there be a funding "gap" caused by the service pupils leaving before the various phases of the Germany Beck development are completed?
7. What will be the year-on-year impact of any "gap"?
8. When St Oswald's becomes part of the local Multi-Academy Trust what effect will this have upon the management of resources?

² The number of children per household depended on the size (bedroom numbers) and type of property. The size and type of properties at Germany Beck may differ from those surveyed.