

30 October 2023

Dear Local Resident

**The establishment of a new special school on land at Wheatridge East, Abbeydale, Gloucester: public engagement event.**

As you are likely already aware, it is Gloucestershire County Council's intention to establish a new special school on land accessed from Wheatridge East. This is land which has been intended as a site for a school for a number of years.

Information about the Council's plans have been available on our website since July and will continue to be updated as the project develops, and more information becomes available. The information can be viewed here: [www.goucestershire.gov.uk/new-special-school-gloucester](http://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/new-special-school-gloucester) but please do get in touch using the details below if you would like to receive a paper copy of the information.

A principal contractor has been appointed to lead on the design and build process, which remains at a very early stage, and an important part of that is engagement with the local community. This is part of our commitment to keep you updated as the project develops.

We are writing to give you details of the first of these engagement events:

**Thursday 23 November 2023**

**3.00pm – 6.30pm**

**Christchurch Church, Heron Way, Abbeydale, Gloucester GL4 5EQ**

*The event is run as a drop in event, where people are welcome to come along at a time that suits them between 3.00pm and 6.30pm.*

As the design process is still at an early stage, it is important to emphasise that there won't be any detailed plans to review and comment on. It provides an opportunity for residents to learn more about the next steps in the process and the timeline involved. There is an opportunity for you to put your views forward as to what you think are the most important factors for the team to consider when designing the building and grounds.

A further session will be arranged, early in 2024, when more detailed plans have been developed and prior to the submission of the application for planning approval.

As such, there will be an opportunity to meet representatives from E G Carter and Co Ltd and Robothams architects, both of whom worked together to deliver Brook Academy (another special school in the county), which opened in September 2022. Officers from Gloucestershire County Council will also be present as will Cllr Andrew Gravells, the County Councillor for the area.

Comments or questions can be raised at any point in the process by e-mailing: [universalcommissioning@goucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:universalcommissioning@goucestershire.gov.uk) or by calling Nathan Roe, Education Planning Manager, on 01452 427262

