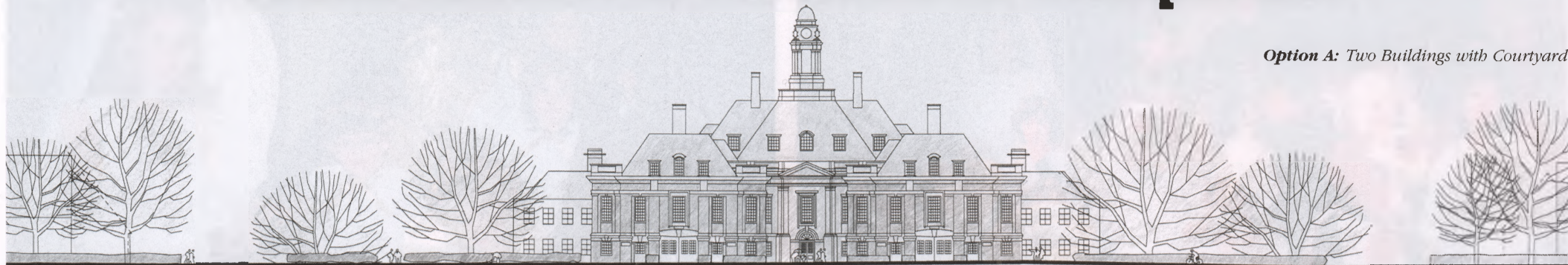
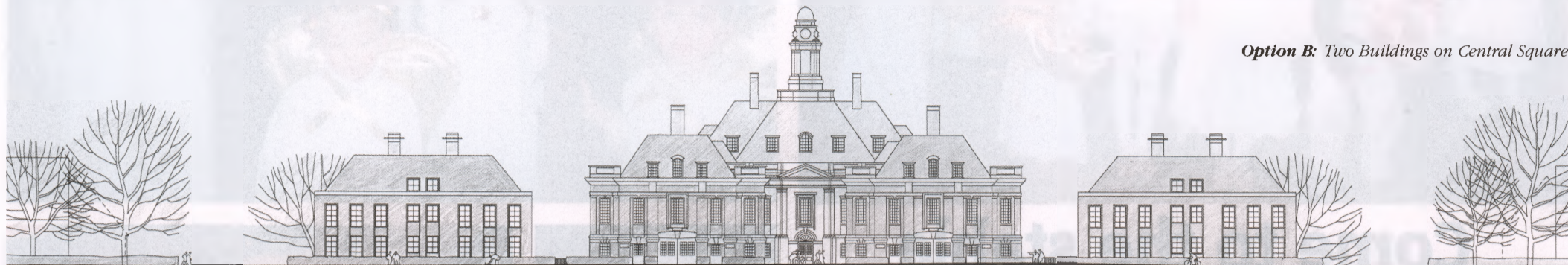


Henrietta Barnett School Development

Option A: Two Buildings with Courtyard



Option B: Two Buildings on Central Square



Option C: Central Building with two smaller wings



Last month two Open Forum events were held at the Henrietta Barnett School (HBS) to display various proposals for building development on the existing site, initially to accommodate a new science block.

Local residents, members of the RA, the HGS Trust, the Institute, parents, staff and pupils were invited to view the plans and models, meet School representatives, talk with the architects, van Heyningen and

Haward, and give their feedback. Notwithstanding problems with two house-to-house leaflet drops, local posters, press, the Suburb email forum and word of mouth resulted in strong attendance. There will be future opportunities to view plans as they develop, which will be advertised well in advance.

The School's last Ofsted report noted, amongst other things, the real inadequacy of the existing science and technology facilities. As a result, the School received a project grant from the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) to investigate the feasibility and to progress plans for new science accommodation. An additional application has been made to the DfEs, currently for 85% of £3.7m. First stage approval has already been received and this Government encouragement and support for the School and the education of its pupils is much appreciated and should not be wasted.

The School will seek to source additional funding from other grant-making bodies and HBS's Development Director, Jo Velleman, will be driving a significant fundraising campaign in due course.

HBS needs this investment in its buildings to maintain its achievements and reputation as one of the leading state schools in England, to improve its current facilities, to safeguard its continued integrity and to ensure that the Suburb continues to host the School it deserves. However, there are no plans to increase the number of pupils.

It is the school's vision to prepare its pupils for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century but as the School says "It is not just their future that is our concern. They are our future. They will be the doctors, scientists, vets, lawyers, artists, musicians and above all opinion formers that will shape our world."

The master plans for the new development proposes three options:

Plan A – using the land between the main building and Bigwood House, for two new buildings, incorporating a central courtyard; *Plan B* – using the land on the corners of Northway and Southway at their junction with Central Square to increase the main building frontage; and *Plan C* – as for Plan A but with 3 blocks between the main building and Bigwood House.

The School is committed to working with the Institute to find ways that enable the Institute to maintain a presence on the site. All the building proposals include possible accommodation for the Institute. The exact extent of the Institute accommodation and its location on site will have to be agreed between the two bodies.

The building work will be necessary even if the Institute chooses to give up its spaces in the Main Building and in Bigwood House. The majority of the existing rooms are shared – used by the School during the day and the Institute in the evenings. The absence of the Institute would mainly free up rooms during the evenings and, in any event, the School's daytime needs are for specialist teaching spaces, such as science labs, which could not be satisfactorily accommodated in the available rooms.

The long-term plan also includes, of course, the removal of the huts occupied by the Institute. The School shares the use of one of these huts, but would have no need for it once the new Science block has been built.

Many interesting comments were received from the exhibition including numerous expressions of preference between the 3 plans. Other key issues raised included parking facilities and traffic flow around the site and disruption to residents during the building process.

Wherever possible the School will take account of the issues raised during the next stage of the design and planning process. Needless to say, the School does not have power over some of the issues (e.g. traffic flow) but it is sympathetic to the concerns expressed and would hope to be able to propose ideas for inclusion in any planning submission.

Consultation will be continuing with the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust, the Residents' Association and other interested parties.

The School continues to welcome ideas, suggestions and comments. Please send them to Jo Velleman at The Henrietta Barnett School, Central Square, London NW11 7BN or by email to: development.office@virgin.net

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