

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Bulletin Brief of Strule Shared Education Campus, Omagh - your quarterly update on progress at Strule. Since our last issue, there have been significant and exciting developments on and off site; Arvalee School and Resource Centre has officially opened, Reserved Matters have been submitted to the Local Planning Authority and Stage 3 designs are nearing completion. In relation to traffic, progress is ongoing with both the Strathroy Link Road and Gortin Road. Strule continues to gather positive momentum against an ambitious timetable, and remains on schedule to open in 2020.

ARVALEE SCHOOL AND RESOURCE CENTRE

Education Minister, Peter Weir, visited the new Arvalee School on 13th September, welcomed by Principal Jonathan Gray along with staff and students.

The single-storey, purpose built building is made up of two distinct wings which house specialist facilities including sensory therapy rooms and courtyards, hygiene and hoisting facilities, and specialist teaching areas for art, technology, design and home economics.

Speaking during his visit the Minister said:

It has been extremely rewarding to see at firsthand the positive impact this investment has brought to the daily lives of pupils and teachers at Arvalee.

I know current pupils and staff contributed to the design process, and hope that they, along with those starting the school for the first time, will be inspired by their new facilities.



Principal, Jonathan Gray said:

This is a great day for Arvalee and for the local community. Our mission is to promote inclusion and enrich the education of children and young people in the Omagh district, so we are very proud to be the first school to open on Strule Shared Education Campus.

Our pupils are always at the heart of what we do, and our new surroundings will allow my team and I to deliver the highest possible educational experience and truly broaden their horizons.

This is an exciting time for both staff and pupils. We are very much looking forward to building our new school community together and welcoming our neighbours onto the campus over the next few years.



DESIGN AND PLANNING

We are developing the designs for the remainder of the campus and refining the site masterplan. Reserved Matters were submitted to Fermanagh and Omagh District Council in July, with a final decision expected in the coming months.

Designs for the 5 post primary schools and shared buildings will reach RIBA stage 3 (detailed design) during Autumn 2016, enabling the procurement of an Integrated Supply Team to further develop and construct the campus.

Subject to planning approvals, designs will be made publicly available before Christmas.

TRAFFIC

We are currently in the process of developing plans for proposed road widening at Mountjoy Road and Gortin Road and works to the junction of Strathroy Road and Gortin Road. A public consultation event was held on 15 September. Information exhibits were on display in Omagh Library and Omagh Community House until 30 September. The public consultation closes on 14 October. A full planning application will follow.

Work is ongoing with Transport NI to progress the Strathroy Link Road project, which is a key element of the campus traffic management solution. The procurement process for the contractor began in June 2016, with work on site scheduled to commence early next year.