

Education Committee - SCHOOLS PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE

Joint report (23.11.65) by the Education Officer, Education Architect and the Chief Officer of the Catering Department

1. There is no kitchen or dining hall at Clapham College (SB) (Wandsworth), a voluntary aided school, and the pupils have to walk to Henry Cavendish primary school for their midday meal, a distance of approximately two-thirds of a mile in each direction.

2. A proposal by the Governors to build a kitchen for 275 meals and a dining hall as the first stage of rebuilding the school was included by the then Ministry of Education in the major school meals programme for 1959-60. Preliminary plans and estimates were approved by the Schools Planning Sub-Committee of the London County Council on 27 October 1960 (Ed. 310).

3. Town Planning difficulties over the Governors' proposals for later stages of redevelopment which involved demolition of No. 7 Nightingale Lane held up progress on the meals scheme and by the time the Governors were ready to invite tenders (October 1961) Government financial restrictions had been imposed and the work had to be deferred. There were no further major meals programmes and the project has since had to compete for a place in the very much reduced minor improvement programmes where it has so far failed to gain a place.

4. A special appeal was made to the Minister of Education in February of 1964 to agree to the cost of the work being met from his central allocation for voluntary schools and a reply dated 18 March 1964 was received in the following terms:-

'I am directed by the Minister of Education to say that he is most concerned to see that dining conditions at Clapham College have not been improved despite proposals to do so since 1959-60. He is unable to agree to meeting the cost of the provision of a kitchen and dining hall at this school from the Ministry's central allocation, for the reasons given in paragraph 49.2 of the Building Code, which states that only projects for which the managers or governors are wholly or mainly responsible will be eligible to count against central allocations, and considers that this project commands sufficient priority to be included in the Authority's 1964-5 Minor Works Programme.

The Authority are therefore strongly urged to improve the meal facilities at this school as soon as possible.'

5. The Schools Planning Sub-Committee of the London County Council on 17 February 1965 (Ed. 978) and the I.L.E.A. Education Committee on 15 March 1965 approved the inclusion in the 1965-6 minor improvements programme of a proposal to provide a kitchen and dual purpose hall at Clapham College.

6. The Governors' architects have prepared a scheme which provides for the erection of a kitchen for 275 meals and dual purpose hall in which dining could take place.

The proposals are illustrated on drawings Nos. 101 and 6

To this should be added the sums of £1,190 for heating kitchen equipment and £95 for equipment supplied by the Council making a total of £8,214, the whole of which is recoverable from the Ministry of Education.

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