

## **Planning permission granted for new exemplar primary school in Old Basford**

On Wednesday, 19 November Nottingham City Council granted planning permission to replace the existing Southwark Primary School in Old Basford with a new 'exemplar' primary school.

The new building will provide facilities that are both sustainable and at the leading edge of 21<sup>st</sup> Century educational design. The new school has been sympathetically designed as an iconic, environmentally-friendly, educational facility at the heart of the local community.

The current Southwark Primary School is a large school in Old Basford which is spread over two sites, a quarter of a mile apart. The new school will be built on the infant and nursery site on Bulwell Lane.

The school will cater for 630 children aged 5 to 11 and 90 children aged 3 to 5. The design reflects the City Council's ambition to provide a rounded education for all pupils and to raise expectations and achievements.

Councillor David Mellen, Nottingham City Council's Portfolio holder for Children's Services, said: "The new build is regarded as an opportunity to show what an exemplary primary school, in terms of education, design and sustainability, should be like. The new school building will enhance the surrounding neighbourhood and the education opportunities for the whole school community."

Old Basford is an area that is low on community resources and so Southwark Primary aspires to be more than just a school and will open its facilities and resources as much as possible to the whole community. For example, the extensive sports facilities will be opened in the evenings, weekends and during school holidays when the school is closed.

The new school will be built by the Local Education Partnership (LEP) which has been procured through the Nottingham City Council's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. Construction work is due to begin in January 2009 and the new school is due to open in March 2010.

