

Agenda

South Morningside Parent Council Meeting

26 April 2021 at 6.45–8.20pm via TEAMS

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|---|---------------------------------|
| 1) Welcome, attendees and apologies | Olly Headey |
| 2) Review & Approval of Minutes of 15 March 2021 meeting | Bobby Pathak |
| 3) Review of matters arising & actions from last meeting | Bobby Pathak |
| 4) School update, clarification on uniforms, steer on possible relaxing of outdoor play | Michael Urquhart |
| 5) Parent Council vote on funding the school's change of house colour for hoodies | Olly Headey /
voting members |
| 6) AOB | All |

Clubs to give a verbal update on possible restarts

2020/21 meeting dates:

~~12 October 2020~~

~~23 November 2020~~

~~18 January 2021~~

~~15 March 2021~~

26 April 2021

14 June 2021

AGM meeting date:

13 September 2021

Date of next meeting: SMPC Mtg. 14 June 2021

Supporting Papers

South Morningside Parent Council Meeting

26 April 2021 6.45-8.20pm via TEAMS

1. Draft Minutes of the Parent Council meeting 23 November 2020 (Bobby Pathak)
2. Matters Arising/Action log (Bobby Pathak)
3. Chair Report (Olly Headey)
4. Transport Update (Ange Robinson)
5. Accommodation Report (John Cameron)

Meeting Minutes

South Morningside Parent Council Meeting

15 March 2021 at 6.45pm via TEAMS

Parent Council Voting Members – Attending

Olly Headey	Jeremy Balfour
Brendan Paddy	Alison Reeves
Alistair Haig	Ellie Trotter
Bobby Pathak	Chris New
Fraser Walker	Colin McRae
Louisa Dall	Angela Robinson
Andrew Leiper	

Parent Council Voting Members – Apologies

Andy Valdez-Tullett	Gedimias Burba
John Cameron	Martin Little
Brian Sharp	Lizzie Boyce
Tatiana Tantarouda	Emelia McMenamin
Elisabeth Quinn	Nadia Cunden
Chris Hebden	Shelagh Halford
Abigail Cabrelli	Reuben Carr

Parent Council Non-Voting Members – Attending

Michael Urquhart	Susie Morgan
Karen Richmond	Elaine Jones

Parent Council Non-Voting Members – Apologies

Pamela Ferguson	
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Councillors – Apologies

Cllr Neil Ross	
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Attending Parents/Carers/Guests

Eilidh Stimpson	Hannah Law
Antonia Hynd	Gordon Brown
Miriam Alice Wright	Wendy Donegan
Neil Inglis	

Welcome, attendees and apologies

Welcome and apologies were made, the agenda was summarised and attendees thanked. TEAMS etiquette introduced including the muting of mics, using the chat function for questions and the facility to raise hands.

Review & Approval of Minutes of 18 January 2021 meeting

The meeting minutes were approved by the Parent Council.

Review of matters arising & actions from last meeting

See separate document. It was, however, acknowledged a separate historical report may have been done into pollution levels outside the Comiston Road building but the findings may be unavailable.

Return to school & focus on teaching – Headteacher

- It was acknowledged the school has in fact always been open albeit in a ‘hub’ function at a reduced or different capacity.
- The expectation at this point is that recovering ‘lost’ learning will hopefully be minimal given this was not the first lockdown and valuable lessons have been learned in terms of delivery. With this in mind, there should be a shorter recovery period before the focus on curriculum can start in earnest.

- The iterative nature of education was also acknowledged and it is hoped missed essential learning will be covered within the natural cycle of classroom teaching.
- With only a little over two weeks until the easter holidays, the school's focus will be on health and wellbeing and an underlying priority remains with outdoor learning (OL). It is also hoped increased OL may mitigate the likelihood of possible school closures due to possible increased infection rates, as seen in other parts of the country.
- After the easter break, the curriculum will be brought into greater focus. Currently emphasis is on children in P1, 4 and 7. The transition of P4s and P7s are taking priority with an eye to the national assessments in the summer term.
- Online parent consultations have gone smoothly so far without some of the issues experienced during the last lockdown, for instance connectivity glitches.
- SMPS's leadership team will start looking at the reports of the parent consultations; however, the form these reports will take remain under review given the changes made as a result of the online consultations.

The floor was opened to general comment:

- It was noted from a member of the PC that the TEAMS consultation was very helpful.

The response from the school was that a group of parents will meet to feedforward what worked and didn't in terms of incorporating future practice. This will be done with guidance from the council. The parent council's meetings moving online was cited as an example of good practice.

- It was noted a lot of resources will have been developed to deliver new ways of learning over the last year and it was queried whether a revised form of these may be used and/or developed in the future.

The school's response was that staff have learned a lot in terms of their own ICT skills and the Teacher's learning has been collaborative and exponential. It is hoped this will be used even more within the classroom. The children voting remotely for the talent show was cited as both a success and transferable.

Despite the initial trepidation of using TEAMS with the younger P2 learners, its use was also cited as an example of the staff, children and parents becoming more comfortable with these various online platforms.

Christmas card update and end of financial year projections – Treasurer

- Some money remains outstanding from parents for the Christmas cards orders. These are mainly due to cheques being erroneous and this will be followed up in due course.
- It is anticipated next year will see more streamlined cashless transactions for fundraising which should help to mitigate against some of the issues which have arisen.
- Regarding financial year projections, and despite the continued difficulties in terms of face-to-face fundraising, the PC remains in fairly good financial shape. This is mainly as a result of money not spent.

- Given this financial position, it was noted that the PC is open to possible requests from Mrs Morgan and Mrs Richmond.

The floor was opened to general comment:

- A PC member queried the expenditure for the ski club.

It was clarified the ski club remains in surplus rather than deficit.

It was further clarified that there is a surplus in all clubs; however, the judo club may need reimbursed.

- It was reiterated that the intended removal of cash handling in the future should make things easier.

Deanbank update – Accommodation

- There was nothing substantive to be added to the accommodation subgroup's report.
- It was noted the new hoardings offer demonstrably better separation protection than the temporary nature of the previous Heras fencing.
- Children are enjoying bouncing balls of the new hoarding which is testimony to the more robust security it provides.
- The steel frame structure now allows onlookers to see the physical space of the new building at Deanbank. Seeing the actual space in three dimensions is proving exciting rather than attempting to visualise it simply from 2 dimensional drawings.
- Mrs Morgan suggested the hoarding may be an excellent opportunity for the children to produce mural artwork as a legacy project.

Parent Council positions vacant

- It was noted that there has been an expression of interest for the Chair position from 2021 – 2022.
- It was reiterated that all help is needed in terms of volunteers.

AOB

- A parent / carer queried whether new materials for Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood Education would be brought in for P6 in time for the upcoming summer term and could anything be done to expedite the transition towards these new materials.

It was noted by the school that new materials are not specific to P6 but that new health and wellbeing materials across Edinburgh will be covering nursery through to P7. The rollout of new materials has been impacted by the COVID pandemic but these will hopefully be arriving in August 2021; however, the point was stressed that, regardless of materials, the skill and professionalism of the teacher remained at the heart of lifting the materials *off the page* and making them relevant to the learners. It

was reiterated that parents should hopefully be reassured the teachers are scaffolding the children's learning appropriately with the materials to hand.

- A PC member queried the approach the school was taking in the instance where a lateral flow test is taken of a member of staff which is positive but a subsequent PCR test returns a negative result.

It was pointed out that lateral flow tests are not compulsory in schools in Edinburgh.

Teachers are being tested twice a week, however, there is no lag between a negative result and them returning back to school to work.

The meeting closed at 19:30

South Morningside Parent Council

Matters Arising/Action Log 12-Oct-20

OPEN MATTERS

Reference	Date Raised	Issue/Action	Owner(s)	Status
#1/21	March 15, 2021	Children's artwork proposed for the hoarding at Deanbank as a possible legacy project.	Susan Morgan	Awaiting info. Morgan Sindall may cover the whole cost of getting children's artwork printed and put up on the hoardings

Chair's Report

As the end of the current lockdown approaches, and with spring having finally arrived, we are looking forward to what we can achieve as a parent council in the final term of the 2020/21 school year.

Our fundraising efforts have been severely hampered of late, but there are some ideas bubbling away that might allow us to raise money for the PC in the absence of our traditional summer fair fundraising bonanza this year. If you're reading this and you have any socially-distant fundraising ideas, or if you just want to help out with our efforts, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our lovely fundraising team via fundraising@sm-pc.org.

Even though we have two more PC meetings to go in this school year, we are already planning for 2021/22. A number of people will be stepping down, including both co-chairs, so we're keen to get as many new faces involved in the PC as possible. Please spread the word! You can find out [all about our subgroups on our website](#) (which, by the way, needs a willing volunteer or two to help maintain it and give it some TLC). All of our subgroups would be delighted to have new people getting involved, so please get in touch if you can help: chair@sm-pc.org.

-- Olly and Brendan, Co-chairs

Transport

We have arranged a meeting with the relevant school transport lead in the Council to discuss a number of issues, including pollution at Comiston Road Site and bringing forward improvements for Canaan Lane. We've discussed the possibility of purchasing a portable pollution monitor with the school, with the intention this could be used to measure pollution at a number of sites around the school to better understand issues and press for changes (e.g. the bus stop outside the school), and that the children can use as a science project. We plan to come back to the Parent Council with a proposal and costs.

We're aware of quite a lot of comments on social media around Braid Road reopening southbound and the various changes to road markings and priorities.

While we agree with the intention of reducing traffic on streets that South Morningside children will travel along on their route to school there are legitimate concerns about the implementation details of this particular scheme so we will keep this under review. The council are working on a "try then modify" approach which allows us to raise any impacts on South Morningside children and try to ensure that they are addressed. Please do send any feedback to transport@sm-pc.org.



ACCOMMODATION SUB-GROUP UPDATE

APRIL 2021

SUMMARY

New School

The last Teams call with the council and contractor took place on the 16th March, and is now set up as a recurring 4 weekly meeting. The next one is imminent; it was re-scheduled due to the school holidays.

Nothing dramatic was reported; the project is on-going, but no real confirmation has been made on when the works will complete. The contractor / council will presumably have an internal date they are working to, but this isn't something they shared.

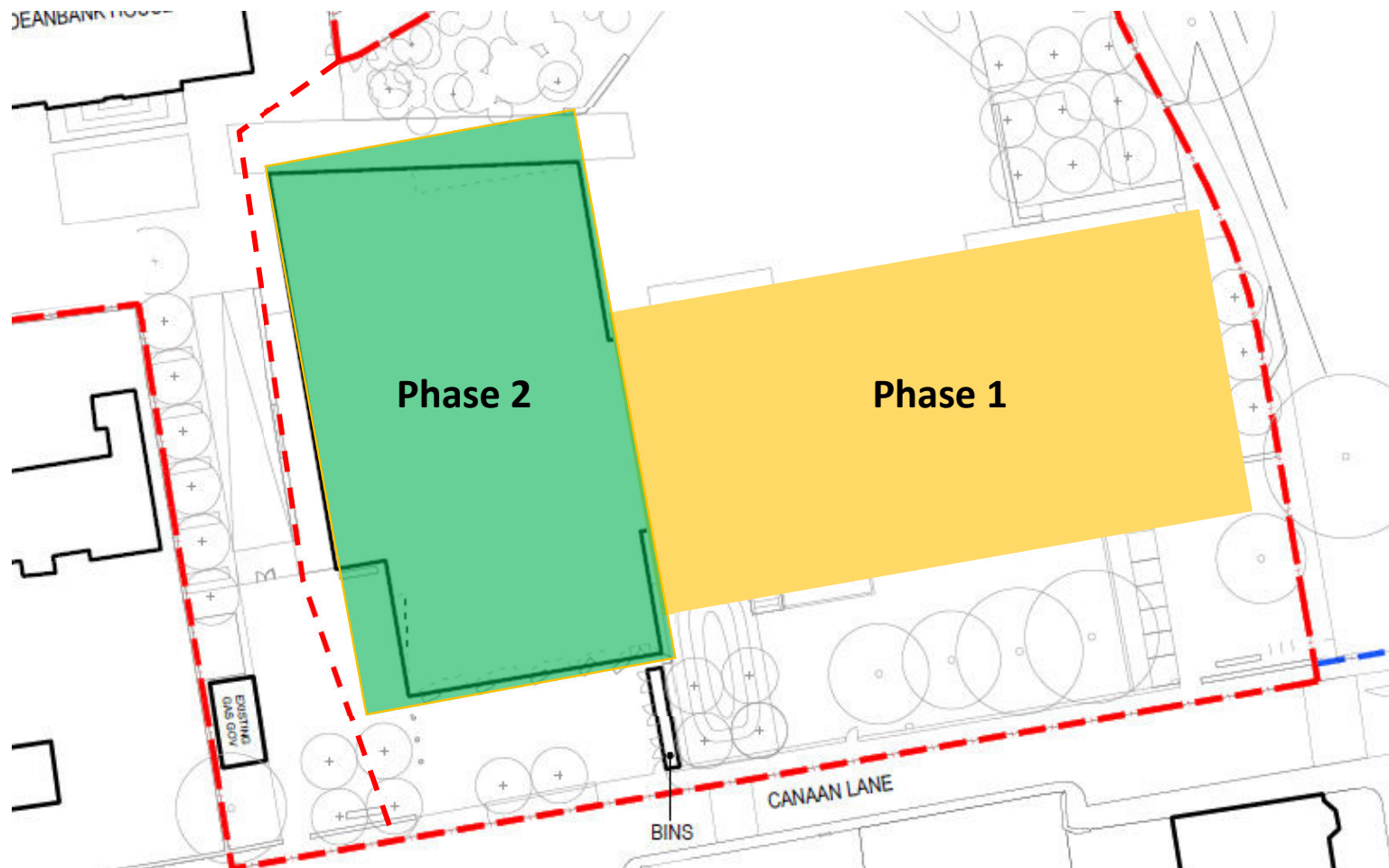
The contractor also provided a plan of upcoming works as attached, and we have requested that this continue to be issued following each meeting.

The accommodation group is unaware of any complaints or concerns arising from the building work, which is good but to be expected as the main structure is now in place.









W/C 15 March 2021

Phase1 –

Install curtain wall /
window sample.

Progress wall boards &
insulation.

Phase 2 –

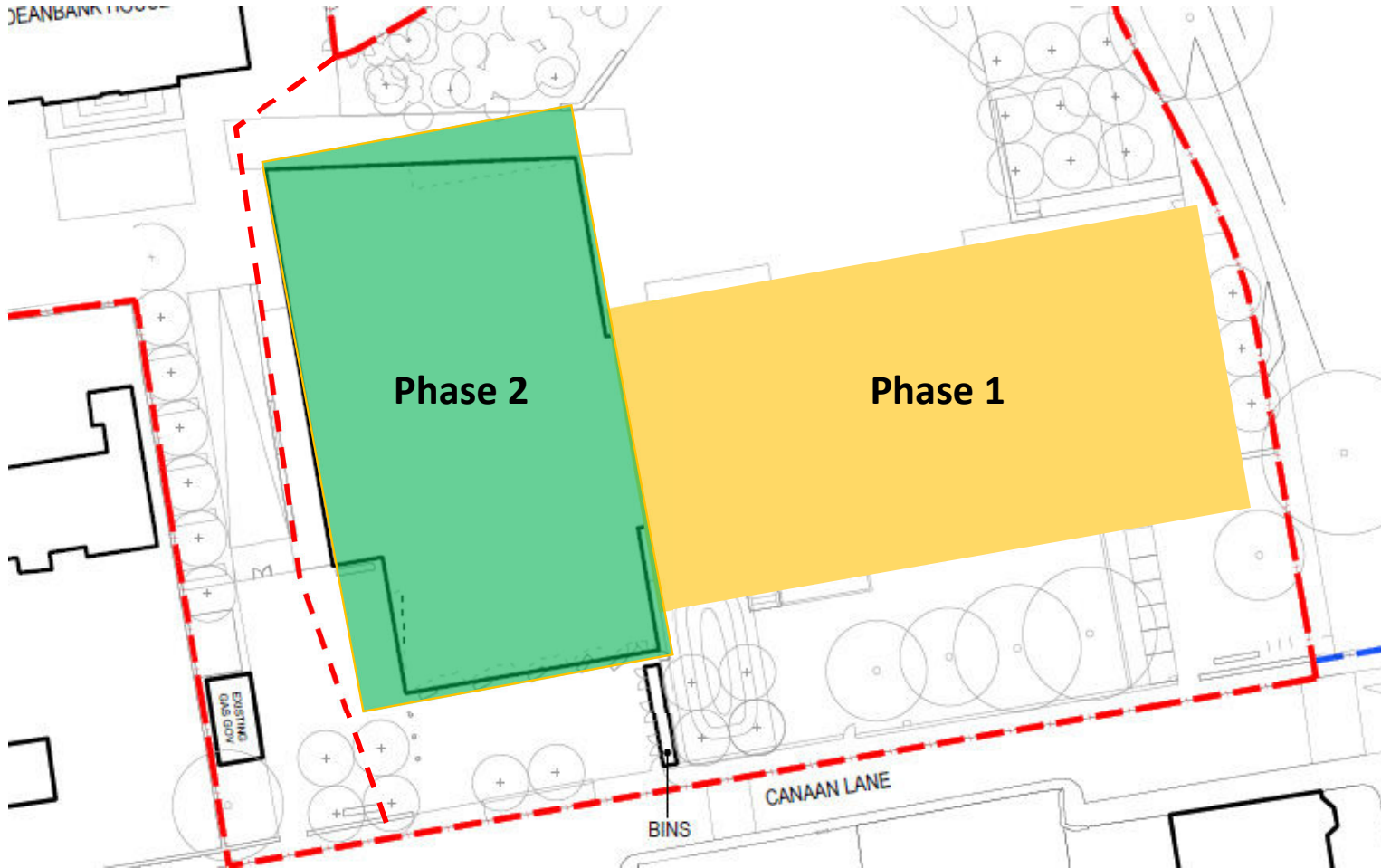
Install roof liner trays.

Install under-slab drainage.

Stone fill for ground floor
slab.

Fire protection paint to
steel.

W/C 22 March 2021



Phase1 –
Install curtain wall /
windows

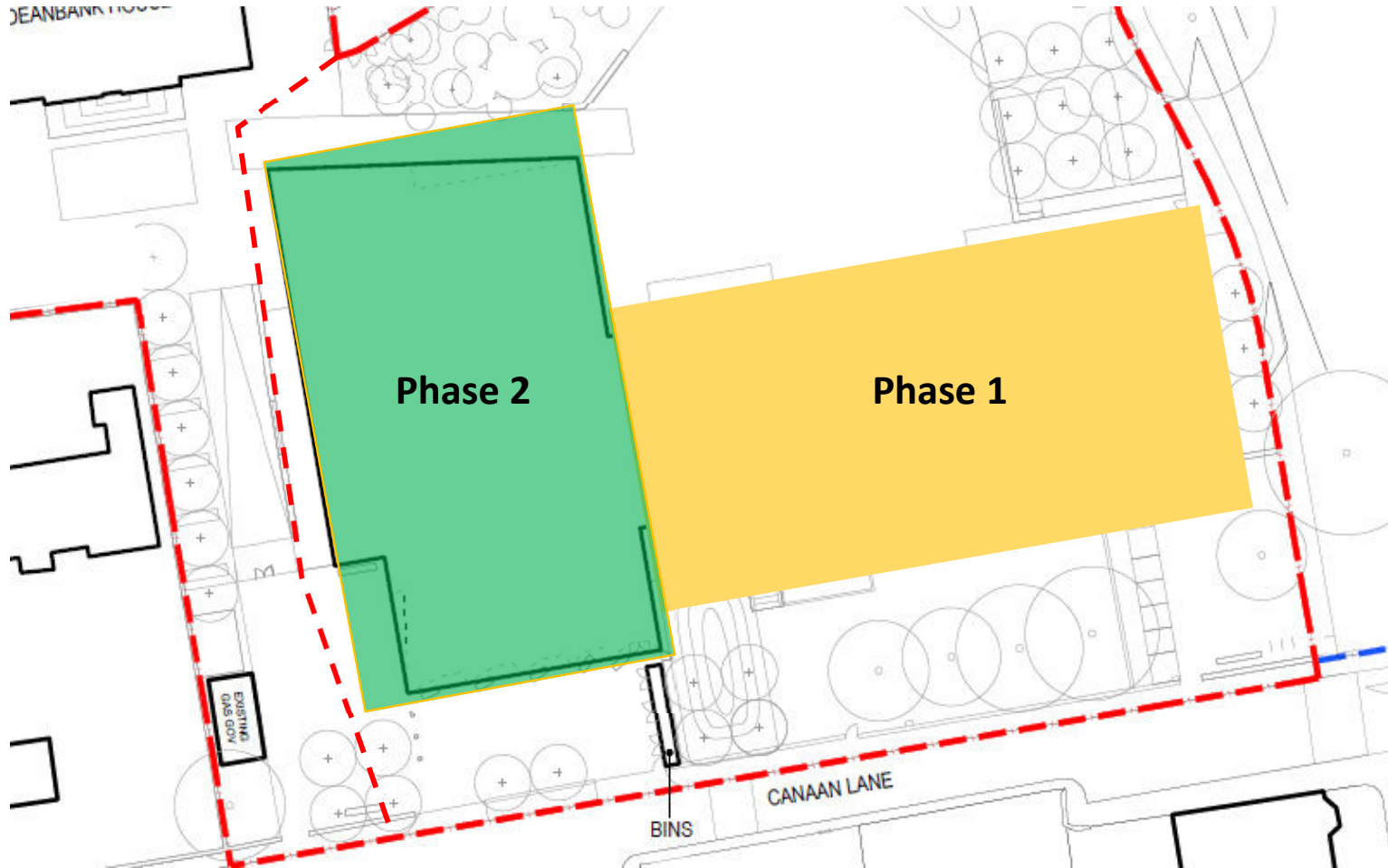
Progress wall boards &
insulation.

Phase 2 –
Install roof build-up.

Prepare and pour 1st
section of ground floor
slab.

Progress metalwork for
external walls.

Install perimeter scaffold.



W/C 29 March 2021

Phase1 –

Install curtain wall / windows

Progress wall boards & insulation.

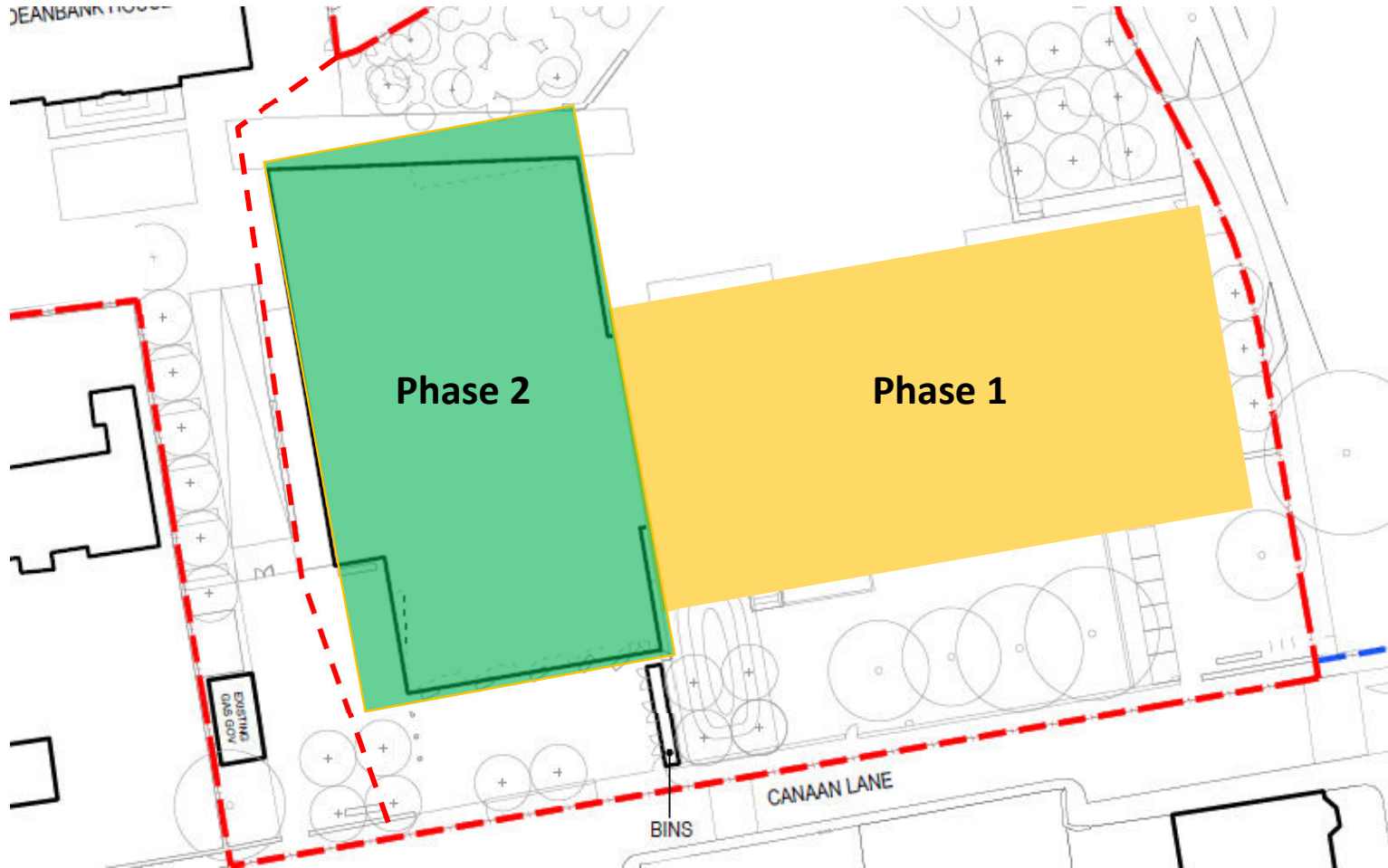
Commence Plasterboard partitions.

Phase 2 –

Install roof build-up.

Prepare 2nd area of ground floor slab.

Progress metalwork for external walls.



W/C 05 April 2021

Phase1 –

Install curtain wall / windows

Progress wall boards & insulation.

Progress Plasterboard partitions.

Phase 2 –

Install roof lights.

Prepare and pour 2nd area of ground floor slab and retaining walls.

Progress metalwork and boarding for external walls.