

APPENDIX 1

PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE AND ENLARGE 1 FORM ENTRY (fe) WESTFIELD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL TO A NEW 2fe SCHOOL AT HIGH LEIGH, HODDESDON, FROM 2020 (subject to the developer's programme)

1. Response to the consultation:

A total of 26 online responses were received to the consultation of which 46.15% were in agreement with the proposal and 30.77% disagreed. The remaining 23.08% were undecided. A breakdown of the responses is shown below:

Capacity of respondent	Total responses	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know
Parent/carer	8	2	5	1
Governor	4	4	0	0
Member of staff	8	4	0	4
Resident	5	2	2	1
Grandparent	1	0	1	0
Other	0	0	0	0
%	100%	46.15%	30.77%	23.08%
Total responses	26	12	8	6

The Governing Body agrees with the proposal to relocate and expand the school by 1fe to 2fe, the full response can be found at the end of this appendix.

On Tuesday 23 January an exhibition on the proposals was held at the school. The purpose of the event was to provide information and seek views on this consultation and on the proposed design of the new school as part of a pre-application, town planning consultation.

The event was well supported, 81 people recorded their attendance (some people chose not to sign in). Of those who attended, 23 completed a written response on the day, 52.2% of which were in agreement with the proposal, 30.4% disagreed and 17.4% were undecided. A breakdown of the responses is shown below:

Capacity of respondent	Total responses	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know
Parent/carer	4	1	3	0
Governor	0	0	0	0
Member of staff	0	0	0	0
Resident	5	2	1	2
Grandparent	0	0	0	0
Other (or not given)	14	9	3	2
%	100%	52.2%	30.4%	17.4%
Total responses	23	12	7	4

The written responses collected at the event were primarily related to the design proposals consulted on, as part of the pre-application town planning process for the new school building. The issues raised will be addressed in a Statement of Community Engagement that will be submitted along with a planning application for the new school design that will be considered separately to this consultation.

A summary of the combined responses, online and the event is shown below:

Capacity of respondent	Total responses	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know
Parent/carer	12	3	8	1
Governor	4	4	0	0
Member of staff	8	4	0	4
Resident	10	4	3	3
Grandparent	1	0	1	0
Other (or not given)	14	9	3	2
%	100%	49%	30.6%	20.4%
Total responses	49	24	15	10

Copies of every response received online and recorded at the event are available in the Members Room to enable Members to review the detail prior to the Education Panel and Cabinet meetings.

2. Key themes raised:

A significant number of the respondents welcomed the proposals to relocate and enlarge Westfield Community Primary School, agreeing that it will be good for the school to be relocated to a modern, energy efficient building and that it would be beneficial for the pupils and staff.

The following key issues were raised and a response to them provided below:

3. Expanding the school will adversely affect its small-school ethos, standards and impact on school's ability to recruit and retain staff:

Permanent expansion to 2 forms of entry will allow the school more flexibility to offer a broad curriculum for teaching and learning, as well as improved opportunities for staff development. The school name and team will not change as a result of the relocation.

There is not a direct relationship between the size of a school, the standards it achieves and its overall effectiveness. Schools of differing sizes can, and do, perform very well. The key factors which contribute to school standards and effectiveness are the quality of leadership and management, and of learning and teaching. Where these factors are equal, larger schools have some significant benefits. The larger budget provides greater flexibility in terms of staffing and resources; there is a better distribution of management responsibilities; there are improved opportunities for staff promotion within the school leading to better capacity to sustain leadership; and consequently the school is less vulnerable to turbulence.

In view of the opportunities for staff outlined above, a positive impact on recruitment and retention of staff is anticipated.

The county council is confident that Westfield Community Primary School will maintain its ethos and standards.

4. Further to walk to school via new routes, road safety, additional traffic and parking:

It is inevitable that a relocated school will mean that some children will have to travel further to get to school, including the need for some families to walk through different areas that some respondents have expressed concern about. The school will produce and maintain a travel plan for the new location to encourage sustainable travel amongst pupils, staff and visitors to the school. The school will continue to explore a number of walking to school initiatives to address pupil safety and make environmental improvements. Safe pedestrian and crossing routes from both the High Leigh development and existing residential areas, including Westfield Road, have been incorporated into plans and will be delivered as part of the new housing development to encourage families to walk to school.

The impact of traffic generated at peak times by a larger relocated school was considered in an independent transport assessment completed to inform the design process. This will be submitted with the planning application for the new school.

The car parking requirement for the school has been established in conjunction with the Highway Authority and reflects the normal provision for a school of this size considering the location and accessibility by other sustainable modes of transport.

A construction management plan has been submitted as part of the wider High Leigh development and the construction traffic for the northern area where the new school will be located will access the site directly from the Dinant Link Road, not from Westfield Road.

5. What will the vacated school site be used for?

Should the school relocate, the existing school site would be disposed of for housing development, subject to town planning approval. Disposal of the site for housing is essential to the financial viability of the relocation of the school to new premises.

It will be necessary to submit a town planning application for housing on the vacated site and as part of the pre-application town planning process a separate exhibition to discuss the proposed housing scheme was held at Westfield School on 22nd February 2018. Further formal consultation with local residents will take place through the Borough of Broxbourne's town planning process when a planning application is submitted.

6. Will the pre-school relocate with the school?

The new school building provides a nursery classroom space and as is currently the case, it will be for the school to determine how the nursery accommodation should be

used.

7. A public meeting should be held to allow people to ask questions and express their views:

A public exhibition held at Westfield Community Primary School on Tuesday 23 January gave interested parties an opportunity to express their views and ask questions about the expansion and relocation proposal and the design of the proposed new school. Representatives from the school planning and project teams were available to answer questions, including the highways and planning consultants. Attendees were offered forms to provide written responses at the event and encouraged to provide a response online as set out in the consultation letter and Hertfordshire County Council's website.

When the planning applications for the new school building and the redevelopment of the vacated school site are submitted, there will be further public consultations where the public will be able to express their views.

8. Governing Body Response:

At a Full Governing Body Meeting on the 21st November 2017 the Governors of Westfield Community Primary unanimously voted in favour of the proposed relocation and change to two form entry for Westfield CP School.

Received on 31st January 2018