

Creating Additional School Places at Rhodes Avenue Primary School

Feedback newsletter

April 2009

Thank you to all parents, carers, staff, governors and local residents who responded to the first stage of our consultation on the proposed **expansion of Rhodes Avenue Primary School** from two form entry to three form entry.

We will now be publishing statutory notices on the proposed expansion in the local papers in the week beginning the 20 April 2009. The formal consultation period will start on Friday the 24 April and will continue for four weeks until Friday the 22 May 2009.

This update is to ensure that all who comment have up to date information about:

- The outcome of the consultation process
- The Council's reasons for proposing to expand the school;
- How the statutory representation process works.

How you can have your say

Your views and comments are valued. If you have any further queries relating to this matter please do not hesitate to contact Carlene Liverpool on 020 8489 3607 or carlene.liverpool@haringey.gov.uk

What were the results of the consultation?

There were a total of 119 individual responses, with 52 opposed to the expansion, 61 in favour of the expansion, 4 impartial and 3 inconclusive. There were a further 8 responses from local schools and

governing bodies, the police, the Church of England Diocesan Board and adjoining local authorities.

What was said?

Those in favour of the expansion covered the following points;

- The importance of allowing children school places close to their homes
- That there is a need for school places in the area
- That a larger school would allow more children to benefit from an excellent school
- The extra places will have a positive impact on the areas that exist where it is hard to secure a local school of choice.

Those against the proposal made the following comments:

- Disruption during construction works (including health and safety implications, and impact on local residents).
- Increase in traffic and congestion.
- Impact on quality of the children's education.
- The school's unique sense of community will be damaged by the enlargement.
- Credit crunch and current sufficiency of school places means we should not expand.
- Negative impact on Bounds Green, Coldfall and surrounding schools.

- Other schools in the area could be expanded instead of Rhodes.
- Creating more places in a good school will lead to more people moving to the area for school places.

Those who were impartial raised issues including:

- Does the projected growth in numbers actually exist?
- Would any required building works actually be completed given the current economic situation?

What we considered

We looked very carefully at all of the comments that we received as well as holding three public meetings to hear views. In addition we considered the following questions:

Is there demand for the additional reception places in the area?

There is already a shortage of primary reception places in and around Rhodes Avenue. For 2009 entry at local schools applicants exceeded places available and this has been the pattern for some years, and has already led to us expanding other local schools. This continued shortage of places has meant that there are some disappointed parents who have not secured a place at one of their preferred schools, and have had to be placed out of the local area. For 2008 entry there were 93 first places preferences for a reception place at Rhodes Avenue for 60 places, and for 2009 entry this had risen to 98. Other schools in the local area are also oversubscribed and surplus capacity in reception classes in this area is close to 0%.

What is happening to the birth rate in Haringey?

Birth rates in Haringey have been rising year on year for the last 19 years, a trend that is being seen across London. In the area local to Rhodes Avenue birth rates increased by 33 in 2005/6 when comparing it with the 2004/5. These children will enter reception in 2010/11. Even allowing for the fact that we expect some of these families to move away from London before reception age, we can conclude that there will be an increased demand for reception places in and around Rhodes Avenue, and that the demand will outstrip supply if we do not plan for additional places now.

What is happening with admission applications for reception places?

The number of admission applications for reception places in Haringey schools has risen by 145 between 2007 and 2009, representing a potential additional 4.8 reception classes.

What is the impact of the current economic situation?

The UK is experiencing a recession, and this may impact on demand for school places because of a slow down in the building of new homes, earning potential, ability to move and the demand for private school places. We have already seen that birth rates are continuing to rise in the borough and that the recession does not appear to be having an effect on these birth rates at the present time. Current evidence does not suggest that, so far, the recession has meant a reduction in demand for school places within the borough, or indeed within the area that is local to Rhodes Avenue. The Greater London Authority's (GLA) Data Management and Analysis Group's advice is that a recession *may* actually result in an increased demand for school places

as people are unable to move, so that more families will take up a school place within the borough.

What will be the impact on Local Schools if Rhodes Avenue expands?

There will be some impact on local schools, but we expect that the overall increase in demand for school places that is happening will mean that local schools retain a roll close to or at capacity. Historically, most applications received in this area list their preferences from a small set of schools. With the expansion of Rhodes Avenue, thirty more will get one of their preferences: to date many have not.

Taking the proposals forward

A working party consisting of the Headteacher, school governors, staff, and the Council has been established to develop the proposals. As they develop they will be displayed for discussion and consultation purposes in the school and the local library prior to the submission of a formal planning application. Local residents, ward councillors and other interested parties will be kept advised and will be welcomed to view and comment on the proposals as they develop.

What happens next?

The Council has considered the views of the respondents, and balanced those views with the need to increase the supply of school places in the area.

The Council has decided to go ahead with the publication of the statutory notices.

The Statutory Notices will be published on Friday 24th April 2009. Statutory Notices will be published

outside the school gates and in the local papers.

This will start the formal consultation process and will last for four weeks. The process will end on Friday the 22nd May 2009. All interested parties are invited to write in and make their views known to the Acting Head of Place Planning, 48 Station Road, Wood Green N22 7TY by this date.

You will also be able to submit comments on line at www.haringey.gov.uk/rhodesconsultation during the consultation period.

Any representations received will be passed onto the Haringey Admission and School Organisation Forum. If there are no objections the expansion will be agreed at the end of the consultation period on the 22nd May. If there are objections the proposal will proceed onto the Council's Cabinet in July 2009.

The Council will be holding **two public meetings** for you to hear about why we want to expand Rhodes Avenue, and to give you an opportunity to ask questions. These public meetings will be held in the school hall at Rhodes Avenue Primary School, Rhodes Avenue, N11 7UT on:

- **Monday 11th May at 7pm**
- **Friday 15th May at 3.30pm**

If you have any further queries relating to this matter please do not hesitate to contact Carlene Liverpool on 020 8489... or email carlene.liverpool@haringey.gov.uk

A drop in session for the school and the community will also be held in the Junior Hall at Rhodes Avenue on

- **Thursday 30th April from 2pm – 7.30pm**

to present key elements of the initial design and feasibility report.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the design, you can e mail our Capital Projects team at PPS.construction@haringey.gov.uk