

The Children and Young People Services

Belmont Infant and Junior School

Public Consultation Meeting

17th and 18th May 2012

Held at Belmont School.



Haringey Council

Question and answers session:

ITEM	Local Authority Response	
1.0	Questions from public consultations	
	<p>The members of public expressed following concerns regarding the Belmont Infant and Junior school expansion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acoustics- space for autistic child. 2. The plans are a joke – if it's possible to spend decent money on Crouch End Schools – building new sites then the same is possible for us. 3. Concerned the principle of going from 2FE to 3FE will impact on the child's well-being? 4. Nurseries block 02 too close to residents. 5. Will the dining time and experience be compromised if expanded to 3FE? If not how this will be achieved? 6. The plans – which are already totally inadequate, are not affordable on £2.2m. So you can only afford bolt-ons – e.g. Plan A. Not good enough! 7. If the school was expanded how the council would ensure the children get access to enrichment activities (music, netball team, and football team – opportunity to participate)? 8. If there is shortfall of students why are you planning to expand it? You will bankrupt it!!! 9. Too crowded. Will affect the children's wellbeing. Also lost of cherished growing garden is terrible. It's been a great educational tool. 10. Don't understand acronyms. Info needs to be clearer. 11. How would Haringey Council ensure behaviour issues do not occur due to expansion from 2FE to 3FE and more people squeezed with existing spaces? 12. Concerns over dining. 13. It is realistic and in the children's best interest to feed the 360 proposed junior students in dinning hall that seats 86 with existing catering facilities? This will mean less than 15 min for student to eat lunch. What plans for this? 14. Is there any evidence that inclusion works well in 3FE Primary School? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Specific Design considerations such as the acoustic performance of teaching areas will be addressed if the design progresses. 2. The budget for any expansion of any school is determined by the requirements for each scheme depending on the level of work that needs to be done to the school to allow its effective expansion. This makes comparison between school expansions purely on a financial basis very difficult. 3. Any proposed expansion will have the well-being of the students and their welfare as a top priority, designs will be done in consultation with all stakeholders and will comply with relevant regulations. 4. The nursery block 02 is within the existing site boundary and any proposed expansion will need to gain planning approval which will rule on this kind of concern. 5. The dining experience will be managed in a way similar to other schools where meal times will be timetabled to suit the needs of the school. 6. Noted 7. Schools receive funding based on pupil numbers. Additional pupils will bring with them additional funding which will allow them to fund and resource these additional enrichment activities. 8. Our actual and projected figures show that there is not a shortfall of students and that we do not have

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	<p>15. Haringey Council has little concern or respect for our opinions. Staff is arrogant and don not seem to understand why we are opposed to this. More children crammed into an already small space = bad education + future of council residents will go down.</p> <p>16. Where is the CARE? You have not taken in consideration the upheaval to the vale children – the corridors are too narrow. We are already compromised!</p> <p>17. Open new site instead of cramming people in.</p> <p>18. Presently all children are able to access music (supported by Tottenham Grammar grant) lessons, will this continue if expanded to 3FE?</p> <p>19. How will Haringey ensure good design and construction if expanded as my experience as teacher in some completed schools there are signs of poor management ship and quality?</p> <p>20. Will the school still be able to attract quality teachers if the school was expanded from 2FE to 3FE?</p> <p>21. How will natural light be ensured in the new foundation building when it’s proposed to be located close to boundary?</p> <p>22. If as a school / parents we approve one of these plans will you commit to build the chosen option?</p> <p>23. If the proposal “expansion” goes through will it definitely be one of these three plans they are build?</p> <p>24. Not enough space! Is anyone listening? Haringey Council = “Have your say” has been ignored!!!</p> <p>25. Very concerned that a landslide majority of the school staff feel this is a bad idea. Will they feel so de-motivated that they will leave?</p> <p>26. Does this proposal serve the best interest of children who attend that school or will attend the school? I fear that their needs even the most basic ones are being ignored.</p> <p>27. Existing drainage issue – Drainage report completed. Will the Local Authority address this issue as part of the project?</p> <p>28. The local residents have not been invited to this consultation event. How will this be addressed for this event and future?</p> <p>29. Expansions of other school within this borough and others have cost around £8 million. How can you do it for 1/8 of this cost? What material are you proposing to build new rooms out of – cardboards?</p> <p>30. How will any of your plans improve the school? You should be giving something back.</p> <p>31. What about the premises at Downhills Park Road (formerly Moselle Upper School)? Good for junior school? What about extra outdoor space for additional pupils?</p> <p>32. Where are the six other Cabinet members who will take the decision on the expansion?</p> <p>33. If all are and overwhelming against and you are democratically voted in, then why don’t you withdraw expansion proposals?</p> <p>34. Money? Transparency on budget.</p> <p>35. Academy programme not helping shortage of places. Not joined up planning for</p>	<p>enough places at Belmont to offer every child who has placed it as a first preference. For 2012 reception entry Belmont Infant School received 107 first place preferences for the 56 available places (almost two children for every place available).</p> <p>9. The growing garden may be relocated to other areas of the site. The current growing garden area has been identified as an area to build as it then minimises the impact on the school playground. Other alternative areas may be viewed for construction.</p> <p>10. Council officers were at the consultation event to discuss any aspect of the plans – however in future acronyms will be clearly defined.</p> <p>11. One of the principal reasons for identifying Belmont as a possible school for expansion is the confidence that we have in the leadership and management and teaching in the schools. Both schools have been judged as outstanding by Ofsted and we see no reason why, under the outstanding leadership of both school – that behaviour would suffer as result of expansion. Other schools in Haringey that have been expanded have not seen deterioration in standards of behaviour or attainment . Haringey would be happy to support and advise with any concerns with respect to a fall in standards during the expansion process.</p> <p>12. See item 5.</p> <p>13. See item 5.</p> <p>14. Inclusion is determined by the school’s leadership and management and not by the size of the school.</p> <p>15. Subjective comment, the local authority has tried to use the consultation to engage with stakeholders and understand their concerns.</p> <p>16. Issues such as the width of corridors have been reviewed in a spatial analysis of the school, where particular concerns arise, they can be dealt with during design development if the expansion goes ahead.</p> <p>17. The spatial analysis of the existing school and the</p>

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	<p>education. Surely you can intervene and intake numbers for academies e.g. Noel Park.</p> <p>36. Where the garden? 10 years of work on garden by children and carers.</p> <p>37. Do not take the sledge hammer to one of Haringey's finest schools.</p> <p>38. Address acoustics of existing spaces? This is existing issue. Will be worse if not addressed.</p> <p>39. Current school not BB99 compliant for movement between classes. New rooms will be BB99 compliant; however they still need to travel between rooms. How will you make school BB99 compliant if no money for infrastructure of existing building?</p> <p>40. Garden – there is emotional attachment to this area by pupils, parent and staff. A large amount of effort and emotions have been given to this creation – can this be retained?</p> <p>41. None of current plans are making it a better school for the children. Just squeezing them further.</p> <p>42. How will any of this improve the school for the children here?</p> <p>43. Increase fence height around tennis court area?</p> <p>44. Need a new hall!</p> <p>45. Will there be new windows in the proposed design for the foundation that children will be able to look through with a pleasant outlook?</p> <p>46. There will not be enough room.</p> <p>47. New classrooms = new staff. Where are they going to park in a controlled zone area?</p> <p>48. Lobby the Government to allow more new schools to be built.</p> <p>49. I am not against expansion, but I am against the plan to cram more classrooms and children into the existing space. Why can't plans to expand the space can be considered?</p> <p>50. We need assurance that the projections for future pupils, if wrong, will not leave the school in financial trouble.</p> <p>51. Build up rather than out in the infant school.</p> <p>52. £2.2 million is not good enough. Bolting on classrooms is not good enough. You are guilty of reinforcing the east / west divide in Haringey!</p> <p>53. Really concerned about the space which is already tight. Why are the other school in the borough being reduced to 2FE from 3FE now if places are so in demand?</p> <p>54. What about the outside space? Play and garden vital to learning.</p> <p>55. I would like to know the projected total project cost for each option. Please can this be published on Haringey website?</p> <p>56. Concern over planted garden area. What happens to this?</p> <p>57. How can facilities be improved by expansion?</p> <p>58. How about listening to what people have already told you instead of trying to steamroller then into acquiescence?</p> <p>59. Can you undertake land acquisition of the park area to gain more external space?</p> <p>60. Why not spend money on reversing closure of forms at Noel Park and North Harringay. Spend money where it is needed!!!</p> <p>61. Will mature trees be affected?</p>	<p>proposed expansion options shows that the existing site can accommodate a 3FE school under current government guidelines, the local authority cannot justify an expansion that exceeds these guidelines and hence the expansion will remain within the existing site boundary should it go ahead.</p> <p>18. The music service is committed to providing whole class music teaching to any school that requests it. Whether a school is 2 fe or 3fe is of no consequence when providing this service</p> <p>19. The local authority employ a specialist consultant design team to ensure good design and construction.</p> <p>20. Many teachers welcome the opportunity to work in larger schools as there is more flexibility in terms of dedicated leadership opportunities, more colleagues to plan with and more resources to make provision for a first class education for the pupils. Schools that have expanded have not reported any lack of high quality applicants for teaching posts.</p> <p>21. The detail of how natural light will be maximised will be developed as the design progressed should the expansion go ahead.</p> <p>22. The best possible design solution will be taken forward and this process will include input from parents / teachers / students and other stakeholders.</p> <p>23. See item 22.</p> <p>24. Noted</p> <p>25. again, that has not been the experience of previous expansions. Indeed many staff welcome the new opportunities and experiences a larger intake brings. The increase in pupil numbers is incremental and does not have a dramatic immediate effect.</p> <p>26. See item 3.</p> <p>27. This is a maintenance issue that lies with the school management and the local authority has carried out previous complimentary works to the playground to improve surface water drainage on behalf of the school.</p> <p>28. The full consultation newsletters were sent out to 3000 local residences and businesses. GPS tracking</p>

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	<p>62. If the project progress would the classrooms have large windows to allow natural light?</p> <p>63. Please look in to acquiring more land if you are determined to push expansion through. There is not enough space!</p> <p>64. Transparency about total budget - council should provide a budget commitment before approval to the next stage of the project and publish on council website.</p> <p>65. This is a temporary building so may need a larger budget as Rhodes Av.</p> <p>66. Boys in Reception and Year 1 do not use urinals. If the project goes ahead can you consider this issue in the design development?</p> <p>67. Concern about the number of children with mobility issues being located upstairs in the junior 1st floor. Re: fire evacuations. How would this issue be mitigated?</p> <p>68. 1st floor juniors and Vale students. Evacuation route. Staff room upstairs. Vale students access to teachers??</p> <p>69. If you expand the school, the hall needs to be increased regardless of building guidance. Can this be actioned? This is valued by school community.</p> <p>70. Space standards and special analysis have Vale students' needs considered during this process?</p> <p>71. Given the great opposition to the expansion by the local community, what other alternative plans have Haringey Council considered, if any?</p> <p>72. Is the existing lift a fire evacuation lift?</p> <p>73. The addition of 90 (infants). More children means the play space will need to be expanded into the park (recreation ground). This is essential. The school could take possession of additional space in the recreational ground for 5 days a week and on the weekends the space could be revert back to public space. Or if that is not an option just take ownership of a portion. NOT for development, for play space. The recreation ground is under used and there are ¾ other local play / recreational spaces.</p> <p>74. Where are the Spanish translations? I do not understand.</p>	<p>of these deliveries was carried out and the delivery company have confirmed that all newsletters were delivered.</p> <p>29. £8m is not typical of the cost of expanding a school from 2FE to 3FE. The £2.2m is an early estimate based on the works required to achieve the expansion specifically at Belmont Primary School, this will be reviewed if the expansion goes ahead.</p> <p>30. By addressing inefficient use of space and improving access and egress within the school.</p> <p>31. This was answered by Cllr Kober and Cllr Reith at the consultation event, this area is not suitable for an expansion.</p> <p>32. The constitution of the Council's Cabinet was changed on the 21 May 2012, just after the public meetings. The current Cabinet members are Cllr Kober, Cllr Waters, Cllr Watson, Cllr Bevan, Cllr Vanier, Cllr Goldberg, Cllr Strickland and Cllr Canver.</p> <p>33. whether or not the expansion goes ahead will be determined by elected members when it goes before the Council's Cabinet in July 2012.</p> <p>34. Central Government have not announced capital allocations for 2013/14 onwards to local authorities, therefore the Council's 3-year capital programme (2012/13 to 2014/15) has made prudent assumptions about the level of future years' funding. Since designs are at an early stage, the Council will ensure that satisfactory completion of final agreed design option is financed from a first call on future government resources/adjustments to its current capital programme.</p> <p>35. The Question is unclear – if this is a question on the PAN at Noel Park this has been addressed in the previous Cabinet report.</p> <p>36. See item 9.</p> <p>37. Statement noted.</p> <p>38. See item 1.</p> <p>39. The project will address BB99 compliance where</p>

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		<p>possible and the designs will be developed in a way to ensure this should the expansion go ahead.</p> <p>40. See item 9.</p> <p>41. Noted.</p> <p>42. The expansion is about balancing the needs of the children currently at the school against the needs of children without a school place. Any expansion works will aim to enhance the existing infrastructure and maintain or enhance the teaching environment.</p> <p>43. This will be looked at as a possibility during the design development and may be addressed if the expansion were to go ahead.</p> <p>44. The existing infant and junior school currently have hall space that would be BB99 compliant for a 3FE school, however this would be something that will be looked at in design development should the expansion go ahead.</p> <p>45. This detail will be finalised during design development should the expansion go ahead.</p> <p>46. The spatial analysis of the existing school and the proposed options show that the school site can accommodate the expansion to 3FE given current government guidelines.</p> <p>47. There may be an opportunity for parking permits to be issued to staff if the expansion goes ahead. The use of public transport should be encouraged which supports Haringey's Greenest Borough Policy.</p> <p>48. Noted.</p> <p>49. The site is constrained by the existing boundary line and any expansion will need to be within this area. The design will however aim to use the existing space more efficiently.</p> <p>50. The DfE are currently consulting on the way that schools will be funded from April 2013. Local authority finance officers have made clear their views on this consultation and it is hoped that DfE will make adequate provision for expanding schools when the regulations are finalised.</p> <p>51. Expanding the infants school by constructing a first floor extension rather than increasing the foot print of the building can be considered in more detail</p>

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		<p>should the expansion progress, however, likely issues with this option would be an increased disruption to the school during the construction work above existing class rooms, upon direct access to outdoor areas for student in the first floor class rooms and potential structural issues with the existing building and foundations supporting the additional weight of the additional floor above.</p> <p>52. Noted.</p> <p>53. PANs at schools across the borough are considered very carefully and expansion to schools is considered against the place planning principles outlined in the annual School Place Planning Report 2012. a reduction in any PAN is only considered with good reason, for example falling rolls or financial instability in the school, and the principles of school place planning do not support maintaining or increasing PANs irrespective of other material considerations.</p> <p>54. The quality of the outdoor space will be maintained at it's current level with some opportunity for improved landscaping.</p> <p>55. The costs associated with each of the options are estimates only at this stage and full financial information will be made available should the expansions go ahead.</p> <p>56. See item 9.</p> <p>57. By addressing existing issues within the school in terms of access and egress and inefficient use of space.</p> <p>58. Noted.</p> <p>59. The Park is protected in open space terms – as Significant Local Open Land (SLOL). Recreational and open space supply and demand needs to be considered and Belmont Infant and Junior schools are already in an area of open space deficiency. The use of part of the park for playground space is not an option.</p> <p>60. North Harringay's PAN was reduced some time ago to address falling rolls. Given the upward trajectory of births and school rolls consideration is</p>

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		<p>being given to all schools who are capable of being expanded and where the principals of place planning are met. The rolls at Noel Park were reduced because of budgetary difficulties caused by the class size being constrained by accommodating (27 pupils per class and not 30 pupils).</p> <p>61. No mature trees will be affected by the current design options.</p> <p>62. See item 45.</p> <p>63. See item 17</p> <p>64. See item 34</p> <p>65. Noted</p> <p>66. Noted, this level of detail will be reviewed during the design development, should the expansion go ahead.</p> <p>67. Noted, This level of detail will be reviewed during the design development, should the expansion go ahead.</p> <p>68. Noted, this level of detail will be reviewed during the design development, should the expansion go ahead.</p> <p>69. See item 44.</p> <p>70. Yes, the Vale students requirements have been assessed during the design process to date, further detail will be defined during design development should the expansion go ahead.</p> <p>71. The entire primary estate has been considered along with sites for new school provision. This had to be balanced against existing surplus capacity and where demand was projected to be unmet.</p> <p>72. No.</p> <p>73. See item 59.</p> <p>74. The newsletter was translated into the thirteen languages requested by the school.</p>