

Consultation Analysis

PROPOSAL TO EXPAND BROOKLANDS SCHOOL



Consultation Analysis - Proposal to expand

Introduction

Surrey County Council, in partnership with the Head Teacher at Brooklands School, published an informal consultation on the proposal to expand Brooklands School and create additional 70 places for children who have a primary need of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The expansion will use an existing school site and will cater for a range of ASD needs wider than only those typically associated with Severe Learning and Development and Difficulties provision (SLDD).

This paper is an analysis of the responses received during the informal consultation period. This paper will be submitted to the Lead Cabinet Member for All Age Learning with the Cabinet Member report for consideration in the decision to determine whether to proceed with the proposal to extend Brooklands School.

Consultation Summary

The informal consultation was open from 13 January to 14 February 2020. The associated documentation was published on the Surrey County Council 'Surrey Says' website and circulated to local stakeholders. Interested parties were invited to return responses to the consultation via a formal consultation response form included at the end of the consultation document.

A public meeting was held at Brooklands School on 5 February 2020 at 5.30pm. The responses to the consultation will inform the decision taken by the Lead Cabinet Member of All Age Learning.

An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) is being completed throughout the informal consultation period and statutory notices. Responses will contribute to the EIA.

The key points and some comments from respondents are set out below:

- Respondents recognised having this type of specialist provision in Surrey will help to prevent primary school aged children travelling to school out of their local area.

e.g. "Very much in favour of this proposal. It is important that these children are provided with specialist education and this proposal makes use of existing expertise. Much better for the children to be placed in a school near their homes and also will save money that is at present being paid for private provision." (From someone who works at the school).

e.g. "There is a major shortage of primary aged placements for children with ASD diagnosis, my son is aged 7 and placed in an independent specialise ASD placement half an hour away at considerable cost to the LA, creating more places at a school already operating to a high standard can only be a good thing". (From a parent/carer of a child at another school).

e.g. "More specialist places are desperately needed. Mainstream schools are not the right place for some of our children with ASD". (From someone who works at the school).

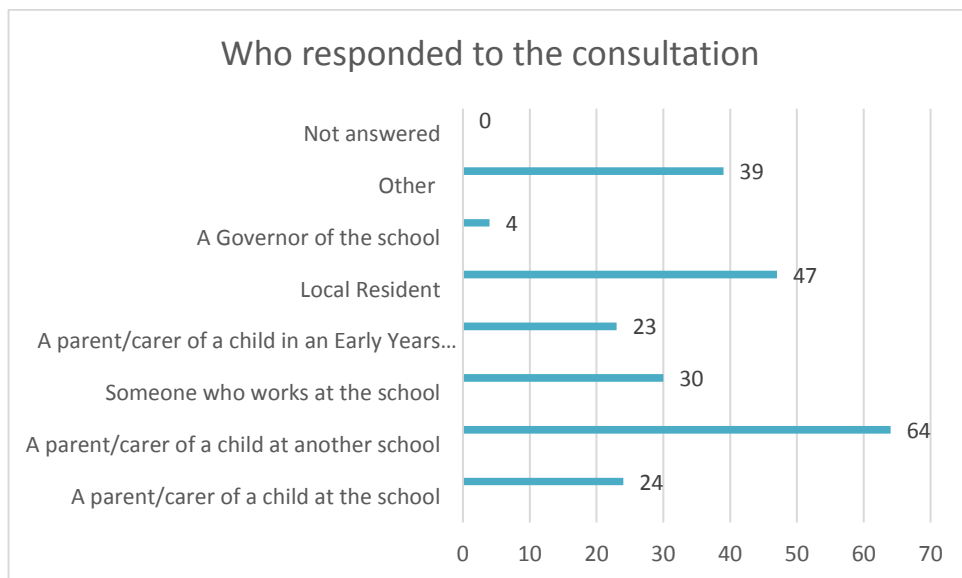
- Some respondents praised Brooklands School for the support and education provided to children with severe and profound learning difficulties.

e.g. "I think this is an excellent opportunity for children with SEND in the local community and for the existing pupils at Brooklands School". (From a local resident/Governor at the school).

Quantitative Analysis

There were 181 responses to the consultation. 96.6% of respondents agreed with the proposal, 2.2% of respondents disagreed with the proposal and 1.10% of respondents didn't know if they agreed or disagreed.

The chart below shows the distribution of responses to the consultation.



Respondents had the opportunity to add comments at the end of the consultation document. Comments left were tagged drawing on 9 possible tags. Each response could have more than one tag attached. The overall frequency of each of the tags provides an indicator of respondent's main concerns regarding the proposal.

Sub theme	Tag	Number of responses	Prevalence (% out of total responses)
Positive impacts	Positive emotional response.	37	20.4%
	Positive about expanding Brooklands School	28	15.5%
	Meeting the demand for special provision in the local area	38	21%
	Will help to reduce the travel times for young children	3	1.7%
Negative Impacts	Negative emotional response	5	2.8%
	Impact on existing staff	3	1.7%
	Impact of building work on the local community	1	0.6%
	Traffic flow during drop off and collection periods	1	0.6%
	Parking	1	0.6%

There were 2 key themes that emerged from the consultation response

Positive Impacts

Positive emotional response

Some respondents agreed with the proposal to expand Brooklands School. A resident is pleased the building is being used again. The overall view are pleased more spaces will be offered to unplaced children who need a specialist placement.

Positive about expanding Brooklands School

Some respondents mentioned the lack of school places for children in East Surrey for children with SLDD and the high demand for places at Brooklands School.

Meeting the demand for special provision in the local area

Some respondents also recognised there are not enough places for children with special needs in the local area.

Will help to reduce the travel times for young children

Some parents welcomed the opportunity for another specialist provision in the local area which will help to reduce the travel times for primary aged children with special needs.

Negative Impacts

Negative emotional response

A respondent questioned why provision for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder was only being created.

Impact on existing staff

Some respondents were concerned about the negative impacts for the school staff and wanted to make sure staff were not adversely impacted. Other respondents also questioned if nurses would be recruited to provide the therapies to meet the additional number of children's needs.

Impact of building work on the local community

A respondent mentioned the impact building work could possibly have on the local community.

Traffic flow during drop off and collection periods

Some respondents were concerned about the additional traffic during drop off and collection times. Some respondents were also concerned about parking for additional staff.

Public Meeting.

There was a public meeting held on 5 February at Brooklands School. There was a short presentation followed by 45 minutes for attendees to ask questions. The 13 people that attended the meeting consisted of school staff including the Head Teacher at Brooklands School - Teresa Prior; a member from Family Voice Surrey/Parent Carer Forum; residents from Allingham Road; Lyndhurst Road which are adjacent to the Alexander Road site; A school governor and parent from Brooklands School. The themes arising from the public meetings reflect the themes from the responses to the consultation. After the public meeting Questions and Answers document was published on Surrey Says alongside the consultation information. This can be found as an appendix to this report.

Appendix



Consultation
responses - Q & A

