

Consultation Analysis

Informal consultation

Proposal to expand Portesbery School
onto a satellite site



Portesbery School
A happy school where every one matters
and every voice is heard



SURREY
COUNTY COUNCIL

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Proposal to expand Portesbery School onto a satellite site

Introduction

This report is an analysis of responses gathered on the proposal to relocate and expand the sixth form of Portesbery School, creating 15 permanent additional places from academic year 2025/26. The school's sixth form school satellite site will be located at the former Deepcut Community Centre, which is 90 metres away from the current main site.

Surrey County Council (SCC) published a consultation on 10 March which ran until 4 April 2025.

Statutory notices are due to be published on 28 May 2025. Analysis of the responses during the statutory notices will be added to this paper and will be submitted to the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning as part of the Lead Cabinet Member report, for consideration in the decision to determine the statutory notices

Consultation Summary

The aim of the consultation was to seek views on the proposal from all interested parties, including the families of pupils who attend Portesbery School, the families of pupils who may attend the school in the future, other local schools and the local community.

The consultation was published on 10 March and open until 4 April 2025. The associated documentation was published on the Surrey County Council 'Surrey Says' website and circulated to local stakeholders. Responses were invited via an online form, with the alternative of email or postal options provided.

A public meeting was offered on 27 March 2025.

Key points from the consultation responses:

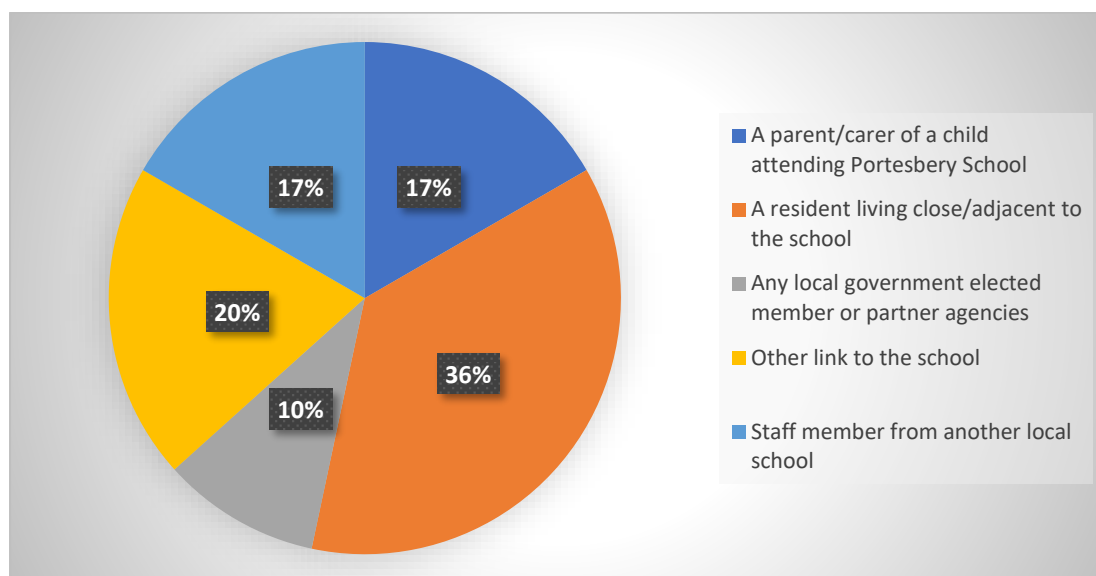
- There was a significant margin of agreement with the proposal: **87% agreed, 10% stated they didn't know and 3% disagreed.**
- 36% of all responses were from a resident living close/adjacent to the school, 20% were from other links to the school, 17% were parents/carers of pupils currently attending the school, 17% were staff members from other local schools and 10% were local government elected member or partner agencies
- Of those who agreed with the proposal, 38% were residents living close/adjacent to the school and 16% were parents/carers of pupils currently attending the school
- Of those who disagreed with the proposal or stated they didn't know, 100% were residents living close/adjacent to the school or in the local area.

Consultation Analysis

Quantitative Analysis

In total, there were 30 responses to the consultation. 87% agreed, 10% stated they didn't know and 3% disagreed.

All 30 respondents indicated their relationship with the school. The chart below shows the distribution of respondents to the consultation.



Percentage who agreed/disagreed/didn't know by individual groups

Responses from a resident living close/adjacent to Portesbery School – 36%

8 agreed with the proposal, 1 disagreed with the proposal and 2 didn't know

Responses from other links to Portesbery School – 20%

5 agreed with the proposal and 1 didn't know

Responses from a parent/carer of a child attending Portesbery School – 17%

5 agreed with the proposal

Responses from staff members from other local schools – 17%

5 agreed with the proposal

Responses from local government elected member or partner agencies – 10%

3 agreed with the proposal

Qualitative Analysis

Respondents had the opportunity to add comments at the end of the survey. Out of the 30 responses received, 22 comments were made on the proposal. These comments were broadly themed and then separated into 7 possible tags. Each response could have more than one tag attached. The overall frequency of each of the tags provides an indicator of respondents' feedback regarding the proposal.

Sub theme	Tag	Number of responses	Prevalence (% out of 30 total responses)	Prevalence (% out of 22 comments)
Positives	Positive impact on children and young people	10	33%	45%
	Need for more specialist places	10	33%	45%
	Targeted support for post 16 to aid with independence	3	10%	14%
	Experienced school staff	2	6%	9%
	Reduced travel times to school	1	3%	5%
Negatives	Parking	5	17%	23%
	Traffic flow during drop off and collection periods	5	17%	23%

Key themes from the consultation

Positive impacts for children and young people

33% of respondents stated their belief that the expansion of Portesbery School onto a satellite site would have a positive impact for children and young people. Respondents mentioned the terms “helpful”, “great opportunity” and “support” when expressing their positive thoughts on the proposal. One comment declared that “this makes total sense”.

“...it is a fabulous proposal and can only help young people with additional needs”.

“A much-needed change”.

“I think this is a great idea! It's a brilliant way to utilise the old community centre which is currently standing empty and in desperate need of restoration”.

“To be able to offer more space and opportunities to the post-16 students would be invaluable”.

Need for specialist places

33% of respondents felt that the expansion is welcomed as there is a demand for more specialist school places. Respondents referred to the proposal providing “much needed” additional school places.

“Any possibility of additional places at the school are desperately needed and welcomed”.

“Being able to expand pupil numbers is great as there is such a shortage of special needs provision”.

“Special needs schools are so hard to come by these days, so it is excellent to hear that 15 new places can be created by developing a new -yet close by site”.

“The need for additional SEND provision is clear and this seems like an idea way of achieving that”.

Targeted support for post-16 to aid with independence

10% of responses referred to the positive potential for targeted support at the proposed sixth form school satellite site.

“I feel that it would give those students a taste of independence being separated from the main school”.

“...the staff do amazing work with our young people to help with their future through education and lifetime skills”.

Negative impacts – traffic and parking issues

There were a number of concerns raised in the comments regarding parking near to the school and traffic flow during drop off and collection periods.

Of the 22 comments made, 23% referred to concerns relating to parking, and 23% referred to concern regarding traffic. Some expressed frustration at the current traffic and congestion at the school during drop off and pick up times and felt the proposed expansion would exacerbate this problem. One described the current situation as “a mess”.

“Of course an expansion could be a good thing but without proper measures put in place to mitigate parking and traffic it will be a disaster for the people who live in close proximity”.

“The traffic situation would need careful consideration in order to maintain the safety of the pupils”.

Public Meeting

A public meeting was offered on 27 March 2025 at 1.30pm in-person at Portesbery School. There were no participants on the day, therefore the meeting did not take place. No enquiries were made to request another date/time.

Questions and Answers

There have been no questions received during the informal consultation period.