



AGENDA

SCHOOL ORGANISATION ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, 17th March, 2010, at 10.30 am Ask for: **Geoff Mills/Karen Mannering**
Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone Telephone **(01622) 694289/694367**

Tea/Coffee will be available from 10.15am outside the meeting room

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

(During these items the meeting is likely to be open to the public)

1. Substitutes
2. Declarations of Interests by Members in items on the Agenda for this meeting.
3. Minutes - 4 February 2010 (Pages 1 - 2)
4. Proposed Closure of Wilmington Enterprise College and its Replacement with a Government Funded Academy (Pages 3 - 24)
5. Proposal to Expand the John Wesley School from 210 places to 420 places (Pages 25 - 42)
6. Proposal to Re-Designate Foxwood School as a School for Profound and Severe Learning Needs and Highview School as a School for Complex Learning Needs; Relocate both Schools on to an Alternative Site; Remove the Boarding Provision at Foxwood School and Change the Age-Range of Highview School to include Post-16 (Pages 43 - 74)

EXEMPT ITEMS

(At the time of preparing the agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public)

Peter Sass
Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership
(01622) 694002

Tuesday, 9 March 2010

Please note that any background documents referred to in the accompanying papers maybe inspected by arrangement with the officer responsible for preparing the relevant report.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

SCHOOL ORGANISATION ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES of a meeting of the School Organisation Advisory Board held in the Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Thursday, 4 February 2010.

PRESENT: Mr P J Homewood (in the Chair), Mr D L Brazier, Mr C J Capon, Miss S J Carey, Mr M C Dance, Mr P J Homewood and Mr M J Northey.

ALSO PRESENT: Mr G Cooke.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr D Adams (Area Children's Services Officer, Ashford and Shepway), Mr M Doole (Area Children's Services Officer, Thanet and Dover) and Mr G Mills, Democratic Services Manager.

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. Minutes - 3 December 2009
(Item 3)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2009 be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

2. The Proposed Change of Age Range for Aylesham (Community) Primary School (from 3-11 years to 4-11 years) and the Closure of the Maintained Nursery Class
(Item 4 - report by Mrs Rosalind Turner, Managing Director, Children, Families and Education)

(1) This report set out the results of the public consultation on the proposal to close the maintained nursery class at Aylesham Primary School and to change the age range from 3-11 years to 4-11 years with effect from 1 September 2010. It also sought the views of the Advisory Board on the issuing of a public notice.

(2) During the course of discussion members raised a number of points of detail to which officers responded accordingly.

(3) **RESOLVED** that the Advisory Board endorse the issuing of a public notice for the closure of the maintained nursery class at Aylesham Primary School, and for the change of age-range from 3-11 years to 4-11 years.

3. The Proposed Relocation of Laleham Gap (Community Special) School
(Item 5 - report by Mrs Rosalind Turner, Managing Director, Children, Families and Education)

(1) This report set out the results of the public consultation on the proposal to relocate Laleham Gap (Community Special) School into purpose-build buildings on a

single site at Newlands Lane, Ramsgate. It also sought the views of the Advisory Board on the issuing of a public notice.

(2) During the course of discussion members raised a number of points of detail to which officers responded accordingly.

(3) **RESOLVED** that the Advisory Board endorse the issuing of a public Notice in relation to the proposals for the relocation of Laleham Gap School.

4. Update on Proposals following the Cancellation of the School Organisation Advisory Board on 7 January 2010

(Item 6 - report by Mrs Rosalind Turner, Managing Director, Children, Families and Education)

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

5. Schools Applying for Foundation/Trust Status

(Item 7 - report by Mrs Rosalind Turner, Managing Director, Children, Families and Education)

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

By: ROSALIND TURNER, MANAGING DIRECTOR, CHILDREN,
FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

To: SCHOOL ORGANISATION ADVISORY BOARD – 17TH MARCH 2010

Subject: PROPOSED CLOSURE OF WILMINGTON ENTERPRISE COLLEGE
AND ITS REPLACEMENT WITH A GOVERNMENT FUNDED
ACADEMY.

Classification: UNRESTRICTED

Summary: This report presents the results of a public consultation on the proposal to close Wilmington Enterprise College and to replace it with a government-funded Academy. It seeks the views of the School Organisation Advisory Board on the issuing of a public notice.

Introduction

1. (1) Wilmington Enterprise College is Modern (non-selective) Community Secondary school with a mixed intake of 11–18 year old students.

(2) The school serves both rural and urban communities located in the Dartford district. It primarily serves the children living in the electoral divisions of Wilmington (Mrs Ann Allen) and Dartford West (Mr Jan Ozog), but also draws in pupils from all over Dartford. The school is sited about a mile away from the border with the London Borough of Bexley. A considerable number (82 or 11.3%) of Wilmington pupils live in the London Borough of Bexley.

(3) Wilmington Enterprise College is part of the Wilmington, Hextable and Swanley Partnership. This is a 14 – 19 consortium comprising the two Wilmington Grammar Schools, Hextable School, Swanley Technology College and North West Kent College. The Partnership enables the member schools to offer a rich selection of curriculum options across the 14-19 age range. The Partnership has been widely recognised for its success in developing new Diploma Programmes in a range of subjects including Creative and Media, ICT, Business, Engineering and Construction. Students are able to follow courses on different sites for part of their timetable.

(4) The socio-economic profile of the student intake is below Kent average overall. 11.2% are entitled to free school meals which although lower than the national average of 13.4% is still higher than the Kent average of 8.6%. The proportion of students with statements of special educational needs is 3.7%; above the Kent average of 2% and the National average of 2.1%.

(5) The school has low numbers of students from minority ethnic backgrounds, and a very low number of students are at early stages of learning English.

(6) Wilmington Enterprise College is the lead school for specific learning difficulties in supporting secondary schools in the Dartford East and West, Gravesham and Swanley Partnerships. The College also manages, on site, the learning mentor for looked after children for the Dartford West Partnership. The school has Business Enterprise specialist status and Healthy School Status.

[7] Following the HMI monitoring visit in September 2009, the category of 'inadequate progress' was a growing concern following the recently published new Ofsted 'Framework for School Inspections'./ Under the new guidance, the Secretary of State has the right to intervene if two consecutive 'inadequate progress' reports are received.

[8] The Local Authority then determined to lead on a 'structural solution' from a highly performing similar school. The Leigh Academy Trust was then approached.

[9] Wilmington Enterprise College has been in Special Measures since March 2009, progress had been measured as inadequate to September 2009, and there is every indication that the next HMI monitoring visit would yield a similar outcome. We must also be mindful of the impact on other Dartford, Hextable and Swanley Secondary Schools of a delay.

The Proposal

2. (1) It is proposed that the Academy will replace Wilmington Enterprise College. Academy will be part of a hard federation with the Leigh Technology Academy and the Longfield Academy. It is proposed that the Leigh Academies Trust will become the sole legal body responsible and the lead sponsors with Kent County Council as co-sponsors.

(2) Following discussions with Wilmington Enterprise College IEB, local schools, councillors and stakeholders, the Leigh Academies Trust was chosen as lead sponsor because they have the capacity, through the Leigh Academy and the Longfield Academy, to manage the school improvement issues at Wilmington Enterprise College. This was deemed to be the most appropriate option, as capacity, locality and expertise were the deciding factors in the local authority commissioning the Leigh Academies Trust to provide an outstanding education and learning experience for young people in Dartford West into the 21st century.

[3] Most importantly, the Local Authority, is the guardian of standards for all current and future students. As a consequence the structural solution for a swift and decisive change was commissioned.

(4) It is proposed that the new Academy will open in September 2010 on the existing site and premises. The Published Admission Number will be 150, with a capacity of 750 with up to 200 post 16 places. Longer term, we would broadly expect a new build would be provided for the Academy. The new buildings are expected to be built for completion in September 2013 on the same site, adjacent to the current premises.

(5) The academy will be at the core of the community and will be characterised by:

- creating an environment that automatically has high expectations for all.
- having the highest standards of behaviour and commitment.
- developing an enthusiasm for learning by creating a modern, challenging curriculum.
- creating a culture of continuous improvement.
- developing its distinctive approach to creating excellence in education by working in close partnership with the Leigh Technology Academy and Longfield Academy.
- enabling a greater proportion of young people to achieve the knowledge, skills and attributes needed for our Knowledge Society.

(6) The vision for the Wilmington Academy is that it will establish an outstanding Academy that will develop new first class approaches to education. The Academy will instil a pride in and love of learning, motivating students to aim high, become skilled and flexible learners and develop into socially, emotionally and behaviourally confident citizens, employees and employers. The Academy will have a particular focus on vocational education creating a mix of academic and vocational experience.

The Consultation

4. (1) The consultation process began on the 25th January 2010 and finished on the 8th March 2010.

(2) A consultation document, a copy of which is attached as Appendix 1 was circulated according to the County Procedures for Review. This circulation included Local Members, Dartford and Gravesham Borough Council, Sevenoaks Council, London Boroughs of Bexley and Bromley, local Parish Councils, DCSF, SEEDA, LSC, the local libraries, Members of Parliament, Trade Unions, all SOAB members, all Dartford Members, KCC Officers and all Dartford and Swanley Primary and Secondary Schools.

(3) Wilmington Enterprise College was sent enough copies for all staff, governors, parents and carers to receive one. Attached to the consultation document was a reply form for respondents to express their views. Approximately 2900 copies of the document were circulated.

(4) The document can be viewed on the KCC website at:
<https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/education-and-learning/plans-and-consultations/education-consultations/cons-Wilmington%20PCD1-2010.pdf>

(5) A public meeting was held at Wilmington Enterprise College on 1st February 2010. Mrs Valerie Dagger, Chair of SOAB, chaired the meeting. In attendance were: Simon Webb, Area Children's Services Officer for Dartford and Gravesham; Mrs Jane Wheatley, Executive Head Teacher, Wilmington Enterprise College; Mr Frank Green, Chief Executive Officer, Leigh Academies Trust; Mr Mark Poulter, Head of School, Wilmington Enterprise College and Mrs Janice Brooke Chair of Interim Executive Board for Wilmington Enterprise College. Cllr Ann Allen attended as the local elected member for Wilmington and as a member of the Interim Executive Board.

About 150 members of the public attended.

Responses to the Public Consultation

Written Responses (as at 5 March 2010)

5. (1) Thirty one responses have been received, of which 17 are in favour, nine are undecided and five are opposed.

(2) A summary of written responses is attached as Appendix 2.

Public Meeting Responses

(3) A summary of the points, questions and comments made at the public consultation meeting is attached at Appendix 3.

Views of the Pupils

6. (1) The executive headteacher of Wilmington Enterprise College has kept the pupils and their parents informed and involved through the school newsletter and regular assemblies. Responses from pupils so far indicate that pupils are looking forward to the school becoming an Academy. The Area Children's Services Officer met with the School Council on 2 March 2010 and the students offered these comments:

- The students whom were all, from Year 7 to Year 13, broadly in favour of change to the Academy.
- Concern was raised about the transition plan from the current building to the new building as the students needed to be assured that their learning would not be interrupted.
- All students sought to be part of the consultation and decision-making process for the new design and construction of the building.
- The Council also expressed a wish to visit the Leigh Academy in order to be reassured on the class size and how their learning would be enhanced.
- The ACSO agreed to talk to each of the four House groups in late March 2010 to respond to any questions the students may have.

Views of Local Members

7. The Local Member for the County Division where Wilmington Enterprise College is sited is Mrs Ann Allen. Mrs Allen said:

"With reference to this report, I would say that I welcome and support the proposals as a positive and constructive way forward for the pupils and staff of Wilmington Enterprise College."

Views of the Interim Executive Board

8. [1] Following the resignation of the governing body of Wilmington Enterprise College, delegated authority is now vested in a local authority Interim Executive Board (IEB).

(2) Their response is as follows:

- (a) The IEB were, naturally, disappointed that their tenure was expected to be ended after only one year, however, they are not opposed in principle to an Academy being established on the site.
- (b) The process for change has been outlined to the IEB, however, they believe the Local Authority have moved too swiftly for all the necessary arrangements to be in place by September.
- (c) They recognise that the new facilities being built will enhance teaching and learning and are a significant benefit to the students, along with the enhanced budget which an Academy is entitled to.

Views of the Main Sponsor

9. The Leigh Academies Trust are in full support of this proposal.

Views of the Area Children's Services Officer

10. (1) The DCSF National Challenge team have challenged the local authority to ensure that all such category of school achieves at least thirty percent 5A*- C including Maths and English, by September 2010.

(2) The Ofsted framework, which changed from 1st September 2009, instructs the DCSF to issue a closure notice, or to make a structural change, to the local authority should two consecutive Inspection Monitoring visits issue an 'inadequate' notice.

(3) Given the very strong likelihood that a second 'inadequate' notice will be published, the local authority has taken the initiative to seek support from the Leigh Academy Trust and have commissioned them to drive forward the recovery improvements and to lead on the creation of the Wilmington Academy

(4) As a consequence of the commissioning process, both the Leigh Academy Trust and the local authority will work in partnership to ensure that an Expression of Interest is secured to obtain Academy status for Wilmington Enterprise College from the 1st September 2010.

(5) It is very clear that the site issues for Wilmington Enterprise College and Wilmington Boys Grammar will need to be considered as part of the Academy process and its development.

(6) Parents at the Public Meeting were concerned at the class organisation, which will mirror the current arrangements at the Leigh Academy, e.g. teaching class sizes of 60. I have visited the Leigh Academy on a number of occasions and seen how effective this method of teaching and quality of learning is for all abilities of students. The recent Ofsted report for the Leigh Academy reflects this. The Head of School at Wilmington Enterprise College is arranging visits for the parents to visit the Leigh Academy to see the teaching at first hand.

(7) The early entry of Year 11 students in November 2009 has yielded some much improved results from August 2009. The College has currently achieved 24% of pupils achieving both English and Maths GCSE results. It is expected, with further teaching and support given by the Advisory Staff, paid for by National Challenge Funding, that the projected figures are for the College to achieve 31% 5 A*-C English and Maths for August 2010.

(8) Currently 25% of the Kent Advisory Staff are supporting the learning of students in Years 10 and 11. This is due to the removal of inadequate staff from the College. Many of these vacant posts are being covered by supply staff.

[9] A response from the Governing Body of Hextable School offer the following responses:

1. The third secondary provision within Dartford led and managed by the Leigh Academy Trust will lead to a reduction in choice for parents.
2. The need for the 14-19 Partnership to continue to ensure a wide choice for all students.

3. The impact on intakes of the remaining Local Authority schools

(10) It is welcomed that the Leigh Academy Trust is the Lead Sponsor for the Wilmington Academy, as between the Leigh and Longfield Academies, they have staff who will be able to support and fill these vacancies.

Views of Local Member of Parliament

11. The Local Member of Parliament is Dr Howard Stoate. Dr Stoate and MPs from adjacent wards have been informed of the proposal.

Views of Dartford Borough Council

11. Dartford Borough Council has been fully informed of the proposal.

Views of the Local Children's Services Partnership

12. The Partnership has been informed of the proposal and is fully supportive.

Proposed Timetable

13. It is proposed that planning for the building work will commence after a decision has been reached on the proposal.

7 th Jan 2010	School Organisation Advisory Board meeting to consider a public consultation.
25 th Jan 2010	Start of Consultation.
1 st Feb 2010	Public Meeting.
8 th Mar 2010	Close of Consultation.
17 th Mar 2010	School Organisation Advisory Board meeting to consider issuing a Public Notice
Mar 2010	Report to Cabinet Member
Mar 2010	Public Notice issued, if agreed by Cabinet Member
April 2010	End of Statutory Representation Period
Sept 2010	Wilmington Enterprise College closes New Academy opens

Recommendation

14. The views of the School Organisation Advisory Board are sought on the issuing of a public notice on this proposal.

Simon Webb
Area Children's Services Officer
Dartford & Gravesham
Tel 01732 525110

The local member is Mrs Ann Allen

Background Documents:

None

Previous Committee report

School Organisation Advisory Board – 7 January 2010

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My comments are as follows

Please continue on another sheet if necessary



Public Consultation

Proposal to close **Wilmington Enterprise College** and replace with a new **Government funded Academy**



Kent County Council would like to hear your views on the proposal



Kent County Council is considering a proposal to close Wilmington Enterprise College and open a Government funded Academy. We would like to hear your opinions.

Please take time to read this important document and let us know what you think of this proposal.

Your views are important and will help shape the future. This document gives you the opportunity to let us know what you think.

I can assure you that all comments received will be carefully considered and will be used to develop the proposal for the school. We will then consult you again with these proposals.

Martin Baker
*Strategic Director For Schools, Settings And Colleges
Children Families and Education
Kent County Council*



Public Consultation Response Form

Proposal to close Wilmington Enterprise College and replace with a government funded academy

To: Simon Webb,
Area Children's Services Officer, Dartford & Gravesham
17 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill, West Malling
Kent, ME19 4UL
Fax: 01732 525223

You can also email your views to: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN 8th MARCH 2010

Do you agree with the proposal?

Yes

No

Undecided

The parent/carer of a pupil at
Wilmington Enterprise College

A member of staff at
Wilmington Enterprise
College

A governor of Wilmington
Enterprise College

A pupil at Wilmington
Enterprise College

Other interested party

Please supply details of interest:
.....

Name:

Address:

Kent County Council is a data controller under the Data Protection Act 1998 and will comply with the requirements of the Act at all times. We will ensure that your personal information is processed fairly and lawfully and in this instance used only for the purpose of validation, which will enable a fair and just consultation.

PLEASE WRITE YOUR COMMENTS OVERLEAF

HOW TO TELL US YOUR VIEWS

If you would like to comment on the proposal there are several opportunities available to you.

► **Complete and return the response form.**

Send to:

Simon Webb,
Area Children's Services Officer
(Dartford & Gravesham)
17 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill,
West Malling
Kent, ME19 4UL
Fax: 01732 525223
(forms must reach us by 8th March 2010)

► **Come to a public meeting.**

Wilmington Enterprise College
Common Lane
Wilmington
Kent DA2 7DR

7.00 p.m. Monday 1st February 2010

An elected member of Kent County Council will chair this meeting, at which all interested parties will have an opportunity to put forward their views. Officers from the Local Authority will also be present to clarify points of detail.

► **Email your comments**

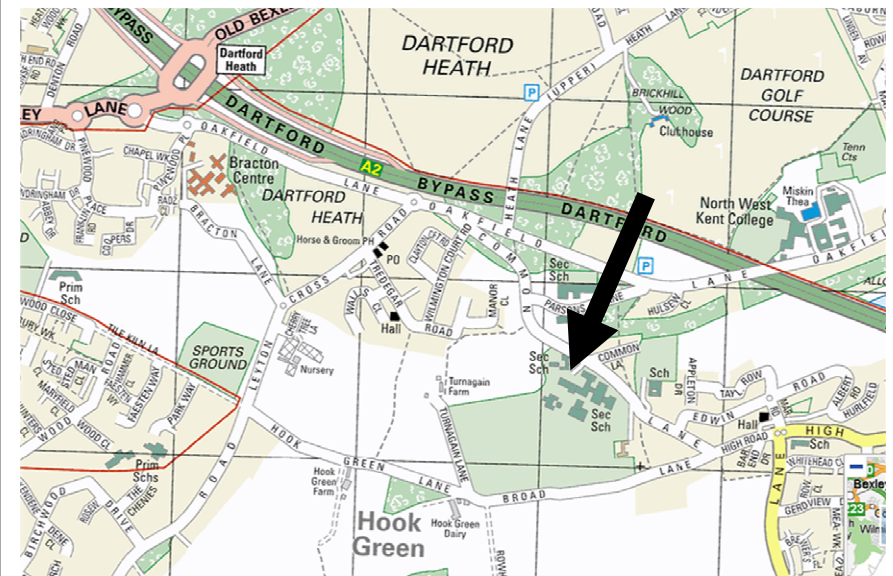
school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

Wilmington Enterprise College

Wilmington Enterprise College is Modern (non-selective) Community Secondary school with a mixed intake of 11–18 year old students. It accepts up to 150 new students every year into year seven.

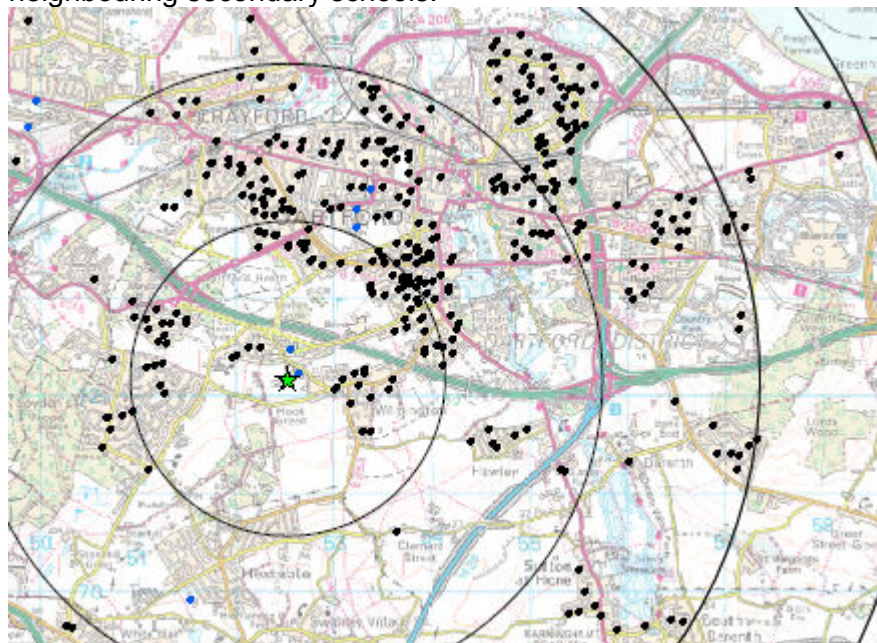
Wilmington Enterprise College is part of the Wilmington, Hextable and Swanley Partnership. This is a 14 – 19 consortium comprising the two Wilmington Grammar Schools, Hextable School, Swanley Technology College and North West Kent College. The Partnership enables the member schools to offer a rich selection of curriculum options across the 14-19 age range.

Wilmington Enterprise College is situated on the edge of Wilmington village at Common Lane, Wilmington, Dartford, Kent, DA2 7DR. The college shares a site with The Wilmington Boys Grammar School and is across the road from the Wilmington Grammar School for Girls.



Although fairly rural, the school serves both rural and urban communities in the Dartford district, drawing from an area which includes some of the more deprived wards in Dartford, including Newtown, Littlebrook, Town and Princes.

The following map shows the spread of pupils and the locations of neighbouring secondary schools.



Why is KCC proposing a change?

The most recent Ofsted report (17/18 March 2009) for the College graded the school as being in Special Measures. A Section 8 HMI Monitoring visit took place on the 16th September 2009.

Initial recommendations indicate little improvement in any area except in behaviour and governance. An inadequate grading was given and it was clear that the measures put in place by the local authority have not made the desired improvement to the performance of the school.

Accordingly the local authority determined to commission the Leigh Academy Trust to provide an academy for Wilmington Enterprise College as a structural solution.

CONSULTATION TIMETABLE

7 th Jan 2010	School Organisation Advisory Board meeting to consider a public consultation.
25 th Jan 2010	Start of Consultation.
1 st Feb 2010	Public Meeting.
8 th Mar 2010	Close of Consultation.
17 th Mar 2010	School Organisation Advisory Board meeting to consider issuing a Public Notice
Mar 2010	Report to Cabinet Member
Mar 2010	Public Notice issued, if agreed by Cabinet Member
April 2010	End of Statutory Representation Period
Sept 2010	Wilmington Enterprise College closes New Academy opens

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- Following this consultation, the outcomes will be reported to the School Organisation Advisory Board of Kent County Council.
- A decision will be made on whether to take the proposal forward.
- If so, a Public Notice will be published for four weeks.
- Representations about the proposal can be made.
- A determination will then be reached on whether the proposal is to be implemented.
- In certain circumstances this could include referral to the statutory Schools Adjudicator.
- All views will be considered before a decision is made.

How much will it cost?

Capital

There is no Capital implication for the County Council for any new rebuilding. KCC will incur administrative and development costs in the period leading up to the opening of the Academy. These include the costs of the appointed consultants.

Revenue

The academy will receive its revenue funding directly from the DCSF each year. It will be funded at a rate equivalent to other Kent specialist schools.

Human

Consultation will take place in accordance with the requirements of TUPE. Costs of new staffing (TUPE applies to current staff) and costs associated with TUPE, including any valid redundancies of staff, are borne by the DCSF.

Transport and Road Safety Implications

Early discussions will take place with Dartford Borough Council and Kent Highways. They will be fully consulted as part of the design and development phase of the new Academy and a travel plan will be produced prior to the opening in 2010.

How are Academies accountable to their local communities?

Academies are designed to be at the heart of their communities, and it is expected that local stakeholders are involved from the outset.

Academies are a part of the local family of schools, sharing their facilities and expertise with other schools and the wider community, contributing to raising standards across the whole area. Local interests are represented on the governing body.

Why an Academy?

The Government requests that local authorities always consider an Academy as an option for dealing with a school in special measures, or subject to an improvement notice. As a broad rule of thumb, the Government is prepared to consider Academy status for any secondary school where fewer than 30% of pupils gained five or more GCSEs at grades A* - C (including English and Maths). Most new academies replace existing weak or underperforming schools.

Academies are a key element of the current drive to raise standards and create opportunity in some of the more disadvantaged communities in the country. Academies have a mission to transform education where the status quo is simply not good enough. Academies aspire to be the engine of social mobility.

What is an Academy?

Academies are publicly funded, independent, all ability schools that offer a first class free education to local pupils of all abilities. Academies provide a teaching and learning environment that is in line with the best in the maintained sector and offer a broad and balanced curriculum to pupils of all abilities.

Academies are established by sponsors from business, faith or voluntary groups working in highly innovative partnerships with central Government and local education partners. Sponsors bring a distinctive approach to school leadership drawing on the skills of sponsors and other supporters. They give Principals and staff new opportunities to develop educational strategies to raise standards and contribute to diversity in areas of disadvantage.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) meets the capital and running cost for the Academy in full. The new Academy can expect to be completely rebuilt to provide state of the art learning accommodation fit for the 21st century. The costs of the rebuild are borne by the Government.

What does this proposal mean?

The proposal is for Wilmington Enterprise College to close and in its place, a government funded academy will open. It is proposed that the new Academy will be federated with the Leigh Technology Academy.

The Leigh Academy Trust will be the lead sponsor with Kent County Council (KCC) as co-sponsors. The Leigh Academy Trust has proved its value as a sponsor. In December 2009, the Leigh Technology Academy received an Ofsted inspection and was graded as "outstanding" despite being less than three years old. The Leigh Academy Trust plans to bring this experience and expertise to the new academy.

The New Academy

The new Academy would plan to open in September 2010 in the existing premises with a Published Admission Number of 150. This reflects a capacity of 750 with up to 200 post 16 places. A full new build would be planned with completion by September 2013

It is intended that the investment in facilities, curriculum and funding flexibility that the academy would bring, would have the positive impact on standards that is required for the students of the Dartford and for improved life opportunities in the local communities.

The Academy will be part of a hard federation with the Leigh Technology Academy Trust. The Leigh Technology Academy Trust will be the sole legal body responsible for both the Academy.

The vision for the new Academy is that it will establish an outstanding Academy that will develop new first class approaches to education. The Academy will instil a pride in and love of learning, motivating students to aim high, become skilled and flexible learners and develop into socially, emotionally and behaviourally confident citizens, employees and employers. The Academy will have a particular focus on vocational education creating a mix of academic and vocational experience.

The academy will offer greater opportunities for the community and the establishment will be characterised by:

- creating an environment that automatically has high expectations for all
- having the highest standards of behaviour and commitment
- developing an enthusiasm for learning by creating a curriculum that incorporates the Sciences and the Creative and Expressive Arts as a rich strand running throughout all aspects of education.
- creating a culture of continuous improvement
- developing its distinctive approach to creating excellence in education by working in close partnership with the Leigh Technology Academy enabling a greater proportion of young people to achieve the knowledge, skills and attributes needed for our knowledge society.

The new Academy will be required to specialise and the options and choices would be explored further during later Academy Consultations.

Equality and Diversity

The new Academy will be an all-ability mixed school and will admit boys and girls regardless of faith or denomination.

The new Academy's admissions arrangements must be agreed with the local authority and the Secretary of State as a condition of the funding agreement and be consistent with the School Admissions Code. In addition, Academies must have regard to the SEN code of practice and statutory guidance on inclusion. The independent status of an Academy, does not affect parents' rights to appeal to the SEN and Disability Tribunal.



Appendix 2

Summary of Written Responses

	In favour	Opposed	Undecided
Pupil at Wilmington Enterprise College	3		
Parents/Carers of children at Wilmington Enterprise College	12	3	5
Parents/Carers of children at other schools			
Governors/IEB Members			
Members of Staff			
Local Elected Members			1
Interested parties/other respondents	2		2
Total	17	3	8

Comments received in favour of the proposal

- This proposal couldn't come soon enough
- Something definitely needs to be done as the discipline and levels of teaching are not satisfactory.
- We have three sons attend and they have been let down severely in their education.
- Should've happened years ago.
- We think your proposal is a good one shame it has to wait as long as September.
- Great idea, something needs to be done urgently as currently, WEC is failing its pupils.
- Although initially unhappy with the proposal, I can now see that there is no alternative. My son has four subjects not with a regular teacher.
- I feel this may benefit my girls in years 8 & 9. Making it an academy will hopefully aid my girls more.
- I think that changing the school completely is a good idea.
- Until last year we had nothing but praise, but now my children are quite negative about school
- Continuity of teachers is a problem.
- We would welcome any change that would give our children the secondary education they deserve.
- If the college can continue to improve then it can only be a good thing.
- I would like to see the school given more time to continue the work to improve standards.
- I believe that the change can only be a benefit to the students who attend now and in the future.
- Very positive plans to turn WEC into an academy.
- Slight concern that Leigh has the monopoly.

Comments received opposed to the proposal

- Freedom to choose taken away from us and future parents.

- Wilmington is the only KCC school in the area.
- Have the children been asked?
- Not enough time has been given to see whether the changes and improvements have worked.
- Not convinced that academy is the solution.
- Improvements have been made, why change to an academy?
- May it go onwards and upwards, but as WEC, not an academy.
- We viewed the Leigh and we did not like what we saw on offer. We detested the format.
- We do not want to see groups of sixty students learning together.
- Despite successful improvement, academy is the only option.
- Complete erosion of parental choice in the Dartford catchment area.
- The re-build will cause noise and disruption which will be detrimental to teaching and learning.
- Wilmington has a rich historic past and we do not want something so grotesque built here.

Comments from respondents who are undecided

- Why have there been four name changes in twenty years?
- Like a bit of stability.
- I feel I was misled as the school went into special measures right after my daughter started.
- Will teachers be moved around the three academies?
- Will school times change?
- I hope that the school will not get any bigger and become more impersonal.
- Leigh Academy picked the best children, how will that work at Wilmington?
- Teacher must be full time, not supply.
- I chose Wilmington because I did not want my daughter to an academy.
- I feel I am being forced into a school I did not want.
- Concerned about encroach of the school site onto Green belt
- Concerned about highway issues for the local community
- Academy schools will dominate in the locality
- Parental choice seems to be restricted with three Academies in Dartford.

**PROPOSAL TO CLOSE WILMINGTON ENTERPRISE COLLEGE AND REPLACE
WITH A NEW GOVERNMENT FUNDED ACADEMY**

Summary of points raised during the Public Meeting held on 1 February 2010

Comment or Question	Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 120 people attended the public meeting, including headteachers, staff, governors and parents. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel members were Mrs Valerie Dagger, Chair of School Organisation Advisory Board and Simon Webb, Area Children's Services Officer. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal is to close Wilmington Enterprise College and replace it with a new government funded Academy. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a parallel consultation on the establishment of an Academy which will be managed by DCSF consultants. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilmington Enterprise College is in Special Measures and a National Challenge School. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Authority are considering the following options: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Closure b. Amalgamation c. Federation d. National Challenge Trust School e. Academy 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the proposal is accepted, the current Wilmington Enterprise College will close on 31 August 2010 and a new Academy will open on 1 September 2010. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new Academy has capacity to accommodate 750 students from age 11-16 and approximately 200 students from age 16-19. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leigh Academy Trust will be the lead sponsor with Kent County Council as co-sponsors. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The process involves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing a letter of intent • Expression of Interest 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Consultation • Funding agreed by the Secretary of State • Proposed implementation Sept 2010 • Building of new Academy 2013 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implications for staff include the appointment of a principal. • All existing staff have the right to transfer to the new Academy • Current pupils will automatically transfer • Students who have expressed an interest in their children attending WEC from September 2010 will still be given preference at the new Academy. 	
<p>Timetable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 Jan 2010 School Organisation Advisory Board consider public consultation • 25 Jan 2010 Start of Consultation • 1 Feb 2010 Public Meeting • 8 Mar 2010 Close of Consultation • 17 Mar 2010 SOAB meeting to consider issuing a Public Notice • Mar 2010 Report to Cabinet Member • Mar 2010 Public Notice issued if agreed by Cabinet Member • Apr 2010 End of Statutory Representation Period • Sep 2010 Wilmington Enterprise College closes and new Academy opens 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the consultation, the outcomes will be reported to the School Organisation Advisory Board. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a decision is made to take the proposal forward a Public Notice will be issued. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representations regarding the proposal can still be made. • A determination will then be reached on whether the proposal is to be implemented and in certain circumstances that could include referral to the statutory Schools Adjudicator. 	
<p>Concerns were raised over the pastoral or SEN provision offered at Leigh Academy in comparison to the care offered presently at WEC. With reported class sizes of 60, students with special needs would find it extremely difficult to cope.</p>	<p>Frank Green said SEN issues are understood and can cause a great deal of concern. Comments were sought from the Ofsted inspection team on the changes implemented at Leigh Academy to see if they are effective. The outcome was an 'outstanding' from Ofsted.</p>

	Frank Green appreciated that there are differences; the Leigh Academy consists of four colleges, each with its own Principal. We believe that these smaller schools within the Academy develop deeper relationships and lay stronger foundations for learning, which underpin outstanding achievement. 95% of students achieve 5 good grade GCSE's despite their starting point.
	Frank Green's suggestion was made that parents could come and observe lessons and get a clear understanding of how the academy operates. It would also give the staff an opportunity to allay any parental anxieties.
Was it the Local Authority's intention to replicate the Leigh Academy at WEC?	Frank Green said the Longfield Academy is not a replica of the Leigh, although it does have certain aspects that are the same in terms of the structure. There are two smaller schools, with two principals.
Parental concerns were expressed about the size of the classes.	Many classes are taught to groups of 60 and students are taught within their college instead of classes of mixed colleges. Frank Green said the intention is that much of the teaching at Leigh is structured around independent learning to help students prepare for life after school.
There was criticism from parents about noise levels in 60 strong classes and also concerns that many children would not get the attention they required in such large classes.	Frank Green explained the way students learn will vary dependant upon the activity taking place. Children that attend High School are not academic learners, so their learning style is different to those in a selected school. Some learn from problem solving, others from experimental techniques.
	Within the small college structure, teachers are able to work with each student to set high, yet realistic targets for academic and personal achievement.
	Parents were invited to visit and experience learning for themselves.
Leigh Academy have experimented with class sizes as large as 60. This surely has a negative effect on the teaching of students.	Mark Poulter explained this is not unique to academies and has been tried over a number of schools. By bringing classes together for certain lessons, the students can be supported in a flexible range of ways. Large lecture style groupings can be a very effective depending on the learning activity and objectives, providing for individuals and smaller groups to also be supported.
Why an Academy? Why have the Local Authority not explored other opportunities?	Simon Webb said there were four other options. Closure is not an option because the provision is

	<p>required in this part of Dartford.</p> <p>Amalgamation – only possible if school in close proximity to a similar school. DTC has been completely rebuilt and no large sites available in Dartford to move school to.</p> <p>Federation – The joining of two schools with one governing body. DCSF will not support hard federation because WEC in special measures.</p> <p>National Challenge Trust School – change of ownership required as governed by Trust Board.</p> <p>Academy – offers the best option and means school will be linked to Leigh Technology Academy, one of the best schools in the area.</p>
Concerns over vertical tutoring system employed at Leigh Technology Academy.	<p>Mark Poulter explained at the Leigh Academy vertical tutoring allows students aged between 11-18 to work together. Younger students are inspired by the older children and the older children develop a range of leadership skills. The students work together to achieve shared goals and values.</p>
To the detriment of Wilmington Enterprise College many experienced teachers are leaving. Results are therefore disappointing.	<p>Simon Webb said the College went into Special Measures in March 2009 and since that time it has become necessary to remove unsatisfactory teachers.</p> <p>Staff have been consulted on the implications of transferring to the new Academy and any associated costs will be borne by the DCSF. It is up to the Local Authority to ensure that teaching is, of least, a good standard.</p>
Concern that uncertainty over the Academy plans will result in teachers being disillusioned and look for other jobs.	<p>SW advised staff employed at WEC would be protected under TUPE legislation and have the right to transfer to the Academy under their existing terms and conditions of service. There will be a full and extensive programme of consultation meetings and other support arrangements in due course.</p>
Achievement at the college is disappointing and the number of supply teachers employed is alarming.	<p>Simon Webb advised projections for the current Y10 students are in excess of 40%, including English & Maths. It was necessary to employ supply teachers to bridge the gaps where incompetent teacher were dismissed. Exciting new appointments are being made in many departments.</p>
Funding	<p>Simon Webb said the DCSF meets the capital and running costs for the Academy in full. The new Academy can expect to be completely rebuilt to provide state of the art learning accommodation fit for the 21st century. The costs of the rebuild are borne by central government.</p>
Option Choices	<p>Simon Webb stated that students' options will be</p>

	honoured by the new Academy and the Wilmington, Hextable and Swanley Partnership will enable member schools to offer a range of curriculum options across the 14-19 age range.
Can admission arrangements be guaranteed? Will siblings automatically get priority?	Simon Webb explained the Academy would need to adhere to national schools admission code to ensure fair practice. The sibling rule would still apply.
Parents have concerns that the Leigh Technology Academy appears remote and unapproachable.	Simon Webb extended the invitation to visit the Academy to all parents. Mark Poulter said the Academy has a Student Council that sits the first Monday of every month.
Academies are introduced to replace failing schools that have poor results.	Simon Webb said this is not the case as there have been many successes.
Parents were disappointed with the lack of progress at WEC. How will standards improve before the proposed Academy comes into force?	Simon Webb apologised as the Local Authority were under the impression that parents had been notified of outcomes. The college and Local Authority will continue to ensure that the students progress and achieve to the best of their ability. College has a robust Interim Executive Board who will challenge senior staff to make sure that progress is sustained and consistent throughout the school. When HMI visit next, staff will be informed of the outcomes.
If the proposal for an Academy does not progress what is Plan B?	Simon Webb said if college continues in its present form, it runs the risk of Secretary of State bringing in a partnership from anywhere in the country to drive it forward. It is the Local Authority's opinion that a local solution is best. Government exerts pressure on underperforming schools to find a solution which neither the parents, staff or Local Authority will have a say in.
Parents acknowledged there are significant weaknesses at Wilmington Enterprise College, with standards of teaching and levels of attainment but who is accountable?	Simon Webb, on behalf of the Local Authority explained it would do everything in its power to get the College back on track. Steps are being taken to ensure that the progress within College is accelerated. Unsatisfactory teachers will be dismissed.
Very little time has been given to demonstrate tangible progress yet it appears the college will have record levels of achievement this year. Surely college should concentrate of sustaining levels of progress before embarking on Academy proposal?	Simon Webb informed the meeting the Local Authority cannot determine when Ofsted will visit and inspect. To ensure progress is rapid and sustained, significant levels of support have been put into the college. Results are improving due to the hard work of the HT and staff. The vertical tutoring system has already been implemented within WEC and feedback is

	encouraging. Local Authority believes the best option for the children is the proposal for WEC to become an Academy.
Choices for children are limited if Wilmington Enterprise College is to become the third Dartford Academy, especially if you have a child with Special Needs.	Simon Webb said the Special Needs provision will remain the same at the new Academy. Funding direct from the government has been secured, irrespective of which political party is elected later in the year.
How will the disruption be managed whilst transition takes place?	Simon Webb advised that KCC is rehearsed and successful at managing the transition.
Your views are important to us, so please complete the response form and return it to Simon Webb, Area Children's Services Officer, either in the post or via the school.	
Thank you for attending this meeting.	

By: Rosalind Turner, Managing Director, Children, Families and Education

To: School Organisation Advisory Board – 17 March 2010

Subject: PROPOSAL TO EXPAND THE JOHN WESLEY SCHOOL FROM 210 PLACES TO 420 PLACES

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: (1) This report sets out the results of the public consultation on the proposed expansion of The John Wesley School.

(2) It seeks the views of the School Organisation Advisory Board on the issuing of a Public Notice to expand the school.

This paper should be read in conjunction with the report to School Organisation Advisory Board of 4 November 2009.

Introduction

1. (1) The School Organisation Advisory Board, at its meeting on 4 November 2009, supported a recommendation to consult on the proposal to expand The John Wesley School from 210 places to 420 places.

(2) This report sets out the results of the public consultation exercise that took place between 10 December 2009 and 4 February 2010 on the proposed expansion.

The Proposal

2. (1) The proposal is to expand The John Wesley School by one form of entry, bringing the total capacity to 420 places, with up to 60 places per year group. The expansion of the school will be gradual with the additional places being created annually to accommodate reception aged pupils only, and therefore taking seven years for the school to grow to its full size. The first two form entry intake is proposed for September 2010.

The Consultation

3. (1) A public consultation document was widely distributed. Hard copies were provided for all parents / carers, students, staff and governors of The John Wesley School. Hard copies or links to the electronic copy on the County's website were distributed to all schools in the area, Local Members, Cabinet Members, SOAB Members, the local Member of Parliament, Ashford Borough Council, the Diocesan Boards, local libraries, key colleagues in the Children, Families and Education Directorate and others.

(2) Approximately 500 copies of the public consultation document were circulated, which included a form for written responses. A copy is attached as Appendix 1.

Responses to the Public Consultation

Written Responses

4. (1) 204 responses have been received, of which 156 are in favour, and 48 are opposed.
- (2) A summary of written responses is attached as Appendix 2.
- (3) The views of the pupils are summarised at Appendix 3.

Public Meeting Responses

- (4) A summary of the points, questions and comments made at the public consultation meeting is attached as Appendix 4.

Views of the Local Member

5. Mr Wedgbury sees the expansion as necessary and feels that it is sensible for the school to go to 2fe. He does have some concerns regarding the entrance for the proposed neighbouring housing development and would like to see the entrance for that development to enter Cuckoo Lane thus helping traffic calming measures in the vicinity.

Views of Local Member of Parliament

6. Damian Green feels that this school has been excellent since it was founded and deserves the chance to expand.

Views of Ashford Borough Council

7. Amanda Hodgkinson, local Borough Councillor for Singleton South, likes the way the expansion is planned to grow year on year and wishes the school the best of luck with the proposal. She is happy with the excellent teaching team at the school.

Views of the Parish Council

8. The Parish Council is more than happy to support the proposal but has grave concerns about the traffic management outside the school. The school is in a flagship building which looks good and fits in well with the Environment Centre. The school is very accommodating and works with the community far more than any established school in the area.

Views of the Diocesan Authorities

9. [1] Canterbury Diocese is very pleased to support the proposed expansion of John Wesley School, Ashford. It was always expected that this would be a 2 FE school and although only 1FE was built in phase 1 the infrastructure was designed for 2FE. It will be straightforward for diocesan architects to add the additional 7 classrooms and we would expect this to be done in a way that is in keeping with the rest of the school. It is also our view that, in order to minimise the disruption to the existing schools and children, the whole

of the next phase should be built at once, rather than a couple of classrooms every few years.

[2] The Methodist Circuit is fully behind the expansion of the school to 2fe. Since 2002 it has been a long-term aspiration of the Methodist Circuit for the school to become a 2fe school and to provide for the wider community as well as for church-going families.

Views of the Governing Body

10. The Governing Body is in unanimous support of the proposal. It would wish to see the permanent buildings completed as soon as possible to minimise the period of temporary accommodation on site.

Views of the Pupils

11. These are summarised at Appendix 3.

Views of the Partnership Board

12. The Ashford One and Rural Boards received a presentation on the proposal at a joint meeting. The need for additional capacity was noted and the opportunity to respond to consultation was highlighted.

Views of Highways

13. The school travel plan actively encourages sustainable modes of transport, but, parking is a serious issue here with inconsiderate parking on verges. Currently, parents park on one side of the road causing other vehicle to mount the pavement. These matters will worsen as the school grows. Measures need to be put in place before the school expands, ie Police Community Support Officer to attend to make parents aware, bollards to prevent parking on the verges, making use of the Park Safe Scheme which encourages parents to park in safe places. Other matters that need to be considered are a dedicated school crossing patrol on Cuckoo Lane, eg a zebra crossing, and warning signage on Cuckoo Lane for the school.

Views of the Area Children's Services Officer

14. (1) This is a popular and successful school, which is located in an area of housing development. Expansion is both necessary to ensure sufficient school places, and supported by parental applications for places.

(2) The issues around the parking difficulties for parents at the school at drop off and pick up times will need to be addressed. We will work with colleagues in Highways and at Ashford Borough Council to find a solution that is satisfactory for all parties.

Resource Issues

Capital & Revenue

15. (1) Initially, the school will require temporary accommodation to enable the intake of additional pupils, and until the permanent build is complete. The Canterbury Diocese have indicated that they will fund the temporary accommodation and the Local Authority will have to cover the 10% Governors liabilities. This will be funded from an existing budget. The permanent expansion will be funded via developer contributions and is in the agreed capital programme.

Human

(2) Additional teaching and support staff will be required. The school's budget will increase annually as its pupil numbers increase, although there is a lag of seven months in receiving this funding. The school will also receive reorganisation funding, current £7,041 based on a per class allocation for furnishing.

Proposed Timetable

16. If it is decided that the matter proceed, then the following timetable could apply:

Issue Public Notice	22 April 2010
Public Notice expires	2 June 2010
Cabinet Member Decision	June 2010
Adjudication (if required)	July 2010
Implementation date	1 September 2010

Recommendation

17. The School Organisation Advisory Board is requested to recommend to the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education that a Public Notice be issued to expand The John Wesley School from 210 places to 420 places.

David Adams
Area Children's Services Officer
Ashford & Shepway
Tel: 01233 898559

The Local Member is Jim Wedgbury

Background Documents: None

Previous Committee Reports: SOAB report seeking permission to consult: 4 November 2009

Public Consultation Document



Kent County Council would like to hear your views on a proposal to expand The John Wesley School from 210 places to 420 places.

**Date of Public Meeting: Tuesday 19 January 2010 at 7pm
at The John Wesley School, Wesley School Road, off
Cuckoo Lane, Ashford TN23 5LW**

1. INTRODUCTION

Kent County Council is proposing to expand the John Wesley Primary School from 210 places to 420 places.

This document gives you details of the proposal, information on the background to it, and outlines the current position.

We are undertaking a public consultation to seek the views of the wider community on this proposal. There will be a public meeting on 19 January 2010 which will give you the opportunity to make your views known and to ask any questions you may have.

There is a form at the end of this document which we ask you to complete and return to us by 4 February 2010.

2. SCHOOL PLACES IN ASHFORD

Ashford is designated as a major growth area for the South East of England, with 30,000 houses planned to be built in the period up to 2030. This growth is changing the shape of the town, bringing new families to the area and creating new communities. It requires the infrastructure to meet the future needs of the town and its residents.

The school planning data contained in Table 1 on page 3 shows that there are currently 118 spare primary school places within one mile of The John Wesley School. However, there is forecast to be a shortfall of places over the next five years.

Table 2 on page 3 shows forecast figures for children aged 4 years old in the area (ie Reception aged pupils). There is a significant increase in the number of children living within one mile of the school. This suggests one additional reception class needs to be opened during that period to meet this demand.

Table 1 The projected number of primary aged pupils in the area of the John Wesley Primary School	School places available 2009-10	2008-09 (Actual)	2012-13 (Forecast)
Total pupils within 1 mile	2100	1982	2150
Surplus / deficit places within 1 mile	-	118	-50
Total pupils within 2 miles	4620	4392	4695
Surplus / deficit places within 2 miles	-	228	135*
Total pupils within 3 miles	5670	5426	5660
Surplus / deficit places within 3 miles	-	244	220*
In addition to the data above it is estimated that there may be an additional 232 primary pupils by 2012-13 due to new housing development within this area			
Forecast roll data based on projections made in Summer 2009			
* From 2012-13 there will be an additional 210 places available at Repton Park (this additional capacity is reflected in the surplus / deficit figure above)			
Table 2 The projected number of reception year children in the area of the John Wesley Primary School	Reception class places available 2009-10	2008-09 (Actual)	2012-13 (Forecast)
Total reception year pupils within 1 mile	300	268	336
Surplus / deficit reception year places within 1 mile	-	32	-36
Total reception year pupils within 2 miles	660	614	740
Surplus / deficit reception year places within 2 miles	-	46	-50*
Total reception year pupils within 3 miles	810	758	892
Surplus / deficit reception year places within 3 miles	-	52	-52*
In addition to the data above it is estimated that there may be an additional 33 Year R pupils by 2012-13 due to new housing development within this area			
Forecast roll data based on projections made in Summer 2009			
* From 2012-13 there will be an additional 30 Year R places available at Repton Park (this additional capacity is reflected in the surplus / deficit figure above)			

3. THE PROPOSAL

The John Wesley School was newly built and opened in September 2007. It was constructed as a “hybrid school” meaning that the central resources, such as the hall, were built at a size large enough to accommodate 420 children, but only seven classrooms were completed. Therefore, adding a further seven classrooms will be fairly straightforward.

The school is now a popular, over-subscribed school, which is performing well. It has the leadership capacity to manage the school during the building works, and to grow the school.

Kent County Council would like to expand The John Wesley School by one form of entry, taking the total capacity of the school from 210 places to 420 places. The school would then admit 60 pupils per year.

The expansion of the school would be gradual with the additional places being created annually to accommodate reception aged pupils only. It will therefore take seven years for the school to grow to its full size.

It is proposed that the school would admit 60 pupils per year from September 2010.

Initially, the school will require temporary accommodation until the permanent build is complete.

CONSULTATION & DECISION MAKING TIMETABLE

Public Consultation Period	10 December 2009 to 4 February 2010
Public Meeting	19 January 2010
Report Back to the Kent County Council School Organisation Advisory Board *	17 March 2010
Public Notice Issued (subject to Cabinet Member decision)	22 April 2010
Public Notice Expires	2 June 2010
Decision by Local Authority	June 2010
Adjudication (if required)	July 2010
Implementation	September 2010

* The School Organisation Advisory Board meeting is held at County Hall, Maidstone and the webcast can be watched via the kent.gov.uk website. **The meeting is open to the public.**

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- Following this consultation, all views received, either in writing, by email or at the Public Meeting, will be reported to the School Organisation Advisory Board of Kent County Council.
- A Cabinet Member decision will be made on whether to take the proposal forward.
- If so, a Public Notice will be published in a local newspaper, at the school and in public places like the library. The Public Notice will run for six weeks. Representations about the proposal can be made.
- A determination will then be reached on whether the proposal is to be implemented.
- In certain circumstances this could include referral to the statutory Schools Adjudicator.
- All views will be considered before a decision is made.

HOW TO GIVE YOUR VIEWS

We would like to know your views on this proposal.

You can respond to the consultation by:

Completing and returning the attached response form to:

David Adams, Area Children's Services Officer, Mid Kent Education Office, Kroner House, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford, Kent TN24 8XU

**Your comments must reach us by 5pm
on 4 February 2010**

Coming to a public meeting at The John Wesley School, Wesley School Road, off Cuckoo Lane, Ashford TN23 5LW

on 19 January 2010 at 7pm.

- An elected member of Kent County Council will chair this meeting, at which all interested parties will have an opportunity to put forward their views.
- Officers from the Local Authority will also be present to clarify points of detail.

Emailing your comments to:
school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

(We will note all you say, but will not be able to respond individually to response forms, letters or emails)

Public Consultation Response Form

Please return no later than 5pm on Thursday 4 February 2010

To: David Adams, Area Children's Services Officer, Mid Kent Education Office, Kroner House, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford, Kent TN24 8XU. (Fax: 01233 898500)

You can also email your views to: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

Do you agree with the proposal?

Yes

No

I am: (please tick as appropriate)

The parent/carer of a student at John Wesley Primary School

A member of staff at John Wesley Primary School

A governor of John Wesley Primary School

A student at John Wesley Primary School

Other interested party

Name of interested party

.....

Name:

Address:

Kent County Council is a data controller under the Data Protection Act 1998 and will comply with the requirements of the Act at all times. We will ensure that your personal information is processed fairly and lawfully and in this instance used only for the purpose of validation, which will enable a fair and just consultation.

This document is available on:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-learning/about-education-service/consultations/>

PLEASE WRITE YOUR COMMENTS OVERLEAF

My comments are as follows:

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying the central portion of the page. It is intended for the user to provide their comments as indicated by the text above it.

If you have difficulty reading this document and require it in another format please contact your school.

PROPOSAL TO EXPAND THE JOHN WESLEY SCHOOL FROM 210 PLACES TO 420 PLACES

Summary of Written Responses

Consultation documents distributed 500
Responses received: 204

	Support	Against	Undecided	Total
• Parents of pupil at The John Wesley School	6	5		11
• Members of staff at The John Wesley School	14			14
• Governors of The John Wesley School				
• Pupil of The John Wesley School	135	43		178
• Other interested party	1			1
TOTALS	156	48		204

In support of the proposal:

- This is one of the greatest schools in Ashford. All my children have been here. The building is so welcoming and the staff are welcoming too.
- I am in favour of the expansion but am concerned about parking issues and the impact this could cause for local residents.
- Expanding this school will allow other families in the area to receive the support and high education that our children currently have.
- I am in favour of the proposal but am concerned about time spent in temporary accommodation and would like to see permanent classrooms as soon as possible.
- I think the expansion is needed as parents on the local Washford Farm estate could not get in even though it's their local school.
- It should have been built as a 2fe school from the start.

Against the proposal:

- Smaller schools seem to get the best out of pupils. If this school were to expand it will lose its identity as a church school.
- I moved my child from a 2fe school as I wanted her to attend a small school. Expanding the school will mean all local schools are large with less choice for parents.
- Temporary classrooms will not be good for children
- Lack of parking spaces available – the road is chaotic and dangerous now.
- Pupils have already been offered places for September 2010 even before this consultation has finished.
- The disruption during building works and then to children's education afterwards.

PROPOSAL TO EXPAND THE JOHN WESLEY SCHOOL FROM 210 PLACES TO 420 PLACES

Summary of pupil responses

The pupils were asked if they would like the school to get bigger, ie, more rooms, computers, playground areas, equipment etc. Yes or No responses were as follows:

	Yr R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Total
Yes	31	17	27	26	13	9	12	135
No	0	13	3	2	10	5	10	43
Total	31	30	30	28	23	14	22	178

The pupils were asked **“If you said Yes, what are your reasons for wanting the school to get bigger?”**

- So we have more things to play with
- It's better to play with more children
- There would be more space indoors for us to work
- More teachers and helpers
- More outside space
- We will have an indoor playground
- More children could come and new friends could be made
- Would like it to be part secondary so we wouldn't have to leave the school
- More people to make sports teams
- It may be fun in a mobile
- More people to share ideas with
- Prepares you for secondary school
- More clubs and facilities for them

And **“If you said No, what are the reasons for wanting the school to stay as it is?”**

- There aren't enough parking spaces now
- The playground will be crowded
- When they are building we won't be able to go to school
- I don't like the school to get high
- There will be more traffic around the school and more crashes
- We are comfy as we are
- Don't want it to change
- Don't want it bigger
- Don't want to be in a mobile because: it may be cold, cramped or squashed and too far to walk to main school, the toilets might not be nice, the field will be smaller
- Teachers may leave
- It would cost a lot of money
- May get split up from our friends
- More fun in a small class

- Could be overcrowded and hot
- Different teachers
- Too busy – there may be more arguments which may waste learning time
- School has already grown enough in a short time
- Scary for new people

The pupils were also asked if they had **any other comments:**

- The children were excited at change but unsure of the length of time for the change or time that they or others would have to be in outside classrooms.
- Could save the money and use it for making the school better now.
- Hard to get used to if it happens all at once

The pupils were also asked **what they would like to be built as part of the extension:**

- A swimming pool
- More play equipment and toys
- On sports day a place for parents to sit out of the sun
- Sports room, bigger medical room, table tennis, science lab, art room, coffee house for teachers, drama stadium, stage
- Bigger cloakrooms and hall

PROPOSAL TO EXPAND THE JOHN WESLEY SCHOOL FROM 210 PLACES TO 420 PLACES

Summary of points raised during the Public Meeting held on 19 January 2010 at The John Wesley School

Issue or Comment	Response
How much will it cost and where will the money come from?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cost of the expansion would, typically, be around £2m. The money would come from Developer Contributions, Basic Need funding etc.
Would the money come before the work starts or is the school expected to raise money in advance?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To implement the expansion by September 2010 we will put temporary accommodation on site. • Basic Need bid will be submitted to Central Government. • Will need to go through design, planning, structure process.
Concerned re safety of children during the building works. Access roads to the school are already limited. How will you deal with that?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be separate access for construction traffic. Where children need to cross the road the construction traffic will stop. Area of construction will be segregated. Children's safety comes first. For example, at the beginning and end of the day there will be no construction traffic to ensure children's safety. • Noisy construction will be timetabled to cause least disruption during the day.
Will you access the site from the other end of the field?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will look to segregate the traffic. Around the top of the building up towards the Singleton Environment Centre by the netball courts, not at the front where the school is. • This will require the owners of Singleton Environment Centre allowing us access.
Re the expansion over 7 years: Will you build over 7 years or will you build first and then expand? If you do build over 7 years how will it affect the children? How will they access the classrooms?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial phase: temporary accommodation in the summer. • Design period: 18-24 months subject to receiving funding. Permanent expansion will be one of two ways: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Phased: 3-4 classrooms, then add 3-4 classrooms. Personally not happy with that, but it will be based on funding available for the project at the time. 2. 7 classrooms: Cheaper. Less disruptive. If significant pressures over housing and children coming in we may have to change the strategy. Would hope to build 7 classrooms in one go. • Growing from Year R only therefore local children are more likely to attend. • Access to classrooms: Confident in the leadership team here who will work out safe access routes. There may be periods of time when the routes will need to change.
Parking: A lot of people drive here. It's a church school so some parents come from outside of the community. Congested and bad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church School nature: Relatively few children come in on church places. The school mainly provides for local children. Singleton is developing which is why

<p>in the morning already.</p>	<p>we need to expand this school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will work with parents re walking buses, park and stride etc. • There will be sufficient on-site parking. • Recognise that in expanding schools there are more cars, more parking, more traffic etc. The school was designed to cope with traffic for 420 pupils.
<p>I wanted my son to attend a small school and transferred him from a 2fe school to come here. He has made very good progress here. As this school grows I am concerned that the students will get lost in the system.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The caring ethos will continue. The staff are brilliant and will ensure that every child is catered for using personalised learning etc.
<p>Re the growing birth rate: A few years ago a number of schools closed or amalgamated. If that happens again will John Wesley close or amalgamate?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC's Primary Strategy – the right provision in the right place at the right time. The decision for Ashford was to ensure that provision is in schools that parents want, not where they don't go. This involved closing or amalgamating schools in certain areas of the town – ie south Ashford. • There has been steady growth in Ashford since 2005 and significant growth since 2007. • If the birth rate continues to grow we would expect to develop more provision rather than take it out.
<p>Re outside play area: KS1 play area is sufficient for current children. Would the play area be sufficient after the expansion? Would the school receive funding for the play area to be enlarged?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are unlikely to receive funding beforehand unless we put mobile on that space. • The school was built as a hybrid school so has hall, play areas etc large enough for 2fe. If we discover that the play area is under-sized we would need to expand it.
<p>Will you wait for the building to be complete before you expand the outside play area?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to go through the planning processes. If we do need to expand the outside play area then it is unlikely that planning will not be given.
<p>There is a planning application for the field opposite the school – 40 houses plus a block of flats. That could produce a high number of children for the school.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LA has a formula for calculating the Pupil Product Ratio generated by new housing. 40 houses are likely to produce 15 children across all age groups.
<p>What if we don't get planning permission?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If we cannot get planning permission we can go back through the processes to be relieved of our statutory duty. We already have outline planning consent for the school to be 2fe but we need to put the detail of design through planning. • We should hear about planning consent for temporary accommodation by June to admit pupils in September. We can rely on the Admissions Code to admit more pupils in exceptional circumstances.
<p>You say the hall is big enough for 2fe but this school prides itself on including families and the hall is getting pretty cramped. Will there be split lunch, worship etc – KS1 and KS2 separately?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the number on roll increases the school will change the way they operate but will engage parents in those decisions. • The hall was built to national guidelines for 420 pupils plus staff. Not for parents, grandparents etc.
<p>I know that the staff will do their best to treat the children as individuals because the staff are amazing, but the school may change in character. A lot of parents and children coming into school don't share what the school is trying to promote.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pleased to hear that parents appreciate the Christian ethos. We will do our utmost to maintain that. Thank you for your words of encouragement. • The school ethos is the key to what makes this a successful school.

By: Rosalind Turner, Managing Director, Children, Families and Education

To: School Organisation Advisory Board – 17 March 2010

Subject: PROPOSAL TO RE-DESIGNATE FOXWOOD SCHOOL AS A SCHOOL FOR PROFOUND AND SEVERE LEARNING NEEDS AND HIGHVIEW SCHOOL AS A SCHOOL FOR COMPLEX LEARNING NEEDS; RELOCATE BOTH SCHOOLS ON TO AN ALTERNATIVE SITE; REMOVE THE BOARDING PROVISION AT FOXWOOD SCHOOL AND CHANGE THE AGE-RANGE OF HIGHVIEW SCHOOL TO INCLUDE POST-16.

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: (1) This report sets out the results of the public consultation on the above proposals.

(2) It seeks the views of the School Organisation Advisory Board on the issuing of a Public Notice.

This paper should be read in conjunction with the report to School Organisation Advisory Board of 4 November 2009.

Introduction

1. (1) The School Organisation Advisory Board, at its meeting on 4 November 2009, supported a recommendation to consult on the proposal to redesignate and relocate Foxwood and Highview Schools and to remove the boarding provision at Foxwood School.

(2) This report sets out the results of the public consultation exercise that took place between 7 December 2009 and 5 March 2010.

The Proposal

2. (1) The original proposal was to redesignate Foxwood School as a school for profound and severe learning needs and Highview School as a school for complex learning needs (with effect from 1st September 2010); change the age range of Highview School to include post 16 provision (from September 2011); relocate both schools onto the site of Brockhill Park Performing Arts College and remove the boarding provision at Foxwood School (with effect from June 2010).

(2) Following publication of the consultation document, further discussions became necessary with the Governing Body of Brockhill Park Performing Arts College regarding the precise siting of the schools. It was originally proposed to locate the special schools close to the college itself, but an alternative location on site, to the south, is now

proposed. Additionally, the Local Authority felt it appropriate to consult on an alternative site location for the two special schools. The second site proposed is land fronting Park Farm Road - part of the former Channel School site. The site adjoins the Folkestone Academy which is an all ability school for boys and girls aged 4-18 years. An Addendum to the Public Consultation Document was issued as a result of this.

(4) It has been necessary to move the position of Foxwood and Highview Schools in the sequence of school rebuilds within Wave 5 of BSF. We now anticipate the schools being completed by January 2015. This will alter the proposed relocation date.

The Consultation

3. (1) A public consultation document was widely distributed. Hard copies were provided for all parents / carers, students, staff and governors of Foxwood School, Highview School, Brockhill Park Performing Arts College, St Augustine's Catholic Primary School and Folkestone All-Age Academy. Hard copies or links to the electronic copy on the County's website were distributed to all schools in the area, Local Members, Cabinet Members, SOAB Members, the local Member of Parliament, Shepway District Council, the Diocesan Boards, local libraries, Saltwood Parish Council, Folkestone Town Council, Saltwood Village Society, key colleagues in the Children, Families and Education Directorate and others.

(2) Approximately 4,200 copies of the public consultation document were circulated, which included a form for written responses. A copy is attached as Appendix 1.

(3) Approximately 4,200 copies of an Addendum to the consultation document were circulated, which included a form for written responses. A copy is attached as Appendix 2.

Responses to the Public Consultation

Written Responses

4. (1) 121 responses have been received, of which 57 are in favour, 50 are opposed and 14 are undecided.

(2) A summary of written responses is attached as Appendix 3.

Public Meeting Responses

(3) A summary of the points, questions and comments made at the public consultation meeting is attached as Appendix 4.

Views of Local Members

5. (1) Mr Christopher Capon, Member for Hythe is happy with the proposal to re-designate both schools, change the age range of Highview School and end the boarding provision at Foxwood School. With regard to the relocation he has no objection to the principle of either site being used for the new building. He is, however, very much

concerned with regard to traffic using the access to the Sandling Road, and feels that the use of access via St John's Road is totally unacceptable.

(2) Miss Susan Carey, Member for Elham Valley has concerns about traffic through the village at present and is as anxious as other local people that this problem is not worsened if the two special schools locate to a site on Brockhill Park."

(3) Mr Richard Pascoe, Member for Folkestone North East

Views of Local Member of Parliament

6. No comments have been received.

Views of Shepway District Council

7. No comments have been received.

Views of the Parish Council

8. (1) Saltwood Parish Council has indicated that they have no views at this stage but will comment on the Planning Application if and when received.

(2) Folkestone Town Council has no strong feelings either way regarding the two site options.

Views of the Learning and Skills Council

9. The LSC sees benefit in the proposal such as the potential for the opportunities to widen the curriculum offer and to promote inclusion.

Views of the Governing Body

10. The Governing Body supports the re-designation of the schools, as this better describes the needs of pupils currently being admitted. The Governing Body also supports the removal of residential provision at Foxwood School, which has been without staff or pupils since December 2009. The addition of post 16 provision to Highview School is also a very positive step forward and is fully supported. The Governors recognise that the buildings of both schools are inadequate and welcome the opportunity to have fantastic new buildings to support their pupils' education. The Governors recognise that neither of the current school sites are suitable for the rebuilt schools, and therefore a new site is needed. Inevitably a new site would have advantages and disadvantages for pupils and neighbouring communities, but with good planning and positive working relationships these can all be overcome. The schools desperately need a new building and facilities. It would be the best thing in the world for the children.

Views of the Pupils

11. These are awaited.

Views of the Partnership Board

12. The joint Shepway Partnership Boards support the proposals to re-designate both schools, remove the boarding provision at Foxwood School and change the age range of Highview School to incorporate pupils aged 16-19 years. The Boards also support the proposal to relocate the schools to a single site.

Views of Highways

13. Highways are not in a position to give a formal view until a Transport Assessment at Saltwood has been conducted and that is currently being undertaken. The original Transport Assessment was based on the previous site proposal.

Views of the Area Children's Services Officer

14. The responses to the consultation need careful interpretation. A number of those indicating the proposals are not support are in fact not opposed to the re-designation aspects or even to the need for the schools to relocate somewhere, but are generally registering objection to a particular site option, usually to the Brockhill Park site. This assertion is supported by the written responses and the statements made at the public meeting. It would suggest that the majority of those responding are comfortable with the proposals, provided the right site for relocation is identified.

I recognise the genuine concerns of the residents of Saltwood village about existing traffic problems, and the worries that this situation would become untenable were the schools to relocate to Brockhill Park. I also appreciate that traffic outside of most schools causes inconvenience to local residents and this will be true of any site identified for the relocation of these two schools. While every effort will be made to militate against any negative impact, it is not possible with any development to state that we can address the issues to the extent that there will be no negative effects. A traffic impact assessment will be required as part of any planning application and this will inform any remedial action that could and should be taken.

Suggestions have been made regarding constructing alternative road access to the Brockhill Park site, and these are being followed up. However, the cost and environmental impact of such a proposal may render these unviable.

It is welcomed that the hard work undertaken by the Authority and the two schools to develop an innovative solution to meeting the needs of the District's pupils appears to have support.

In line with the commitment given throughout the special school review, parents have been assured that their children can continue in Foxwood and Highview Schools until they would naturally leave, or the parent and Authority agree that a different placement would better meet the child's needs.

A small number of parents have raised legitimate concerns about their children's safety, particularly from bullying, if the special schools share a site with a maintained school. Clearly this is an issue that the leaders of all of the schools on the site would take very seriously, and would continue to educate all children about respect for others. These

concerns need to be balanced against the positive benefits of co-location, and a recognition that isolating one community group from another may not help in the long term.

Resource Issues

Capital & Revenue

15. (1) The new building would be provided as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme.

(2) The schools will continue to receive their revenue budgets in line with the County's funding formula which is linked to the need type of the pupils. The provision of 6th form funding to Highview School will be negotiated as part of the implementation decisions.

Human

(3) There were some redundancies on the closure of the residential provision at Foxwood School. The proposals in themselves do not have an impact on staffing at the schools. However, it is likely that staffing structures would be re-examined by the Governing Body to ensure these are appropriate for delivery in the new school buildings. It is possible that more economies of scale could be achieved through shared staffing. These would be decisions for the Governing Body.

Proposed Timetable

16. If it is decided that the matter proceed, then the following timetable could apply:

Issue Public Notice	15 April 2010
Public Notice expires	27 May 2010
Cabinet Member decision	11 June 2010
Implementation:-	
Removal of residential provision	June 2010
Redesignation	1 September 2010
Post 16 at Highview	September 2011
Relocation	January 2015

Recommendation

17. The School Organisation Advisory Board is requested to: (a) recommend to the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education that a Public Notice be issued to redesignate Foxwood and Highview Schools; to remove the boarding provision at Foxwood School; and to change the age range of Highview School to include post-16 provision; and (b) recommend to the Cabinet Member which site should be included in the Public Notice for the schools to relocate onto.

David Adams
Area Children's Services Officer
Ashford & Shepway
Tel: (01233) 898559

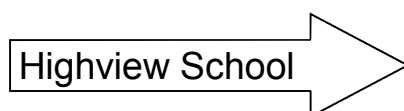
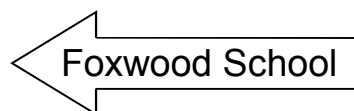
The Local Members are Richard Pascoe, Christopher Capon and Susan Carey

Background Documents:

None

Previous Committee Reports:

Public Consultation Document



Kent County Council would like to hear your views on a proposal to re-designate Foxwood School as a school for Profound and Severe Learning Needs and Highview School as a school for Complex Learning Needs; relocate both schools onto the site of Brockhill Park Performing Arts College; remove the boarding provision at Foxwood School; and change the age range of Highview School to include post-16.

**Date of Public Meeting: Tuesday 12 January 2010 at 7pm
At Brockhill Park Performing Arts College, Sandling Road,
Saltwood, Hythe CT21 4HL**



Children, Families & Education Directorate

1. INTRODUCTION

Kent County Council is proposing to relocate Foxwood School and Highview School onto the site of Brockhill Park Performing Arts College.

The proposal involves the construction of a new building as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme. The schools will share the new building with each school retaining its individuality.

This document gives you details of the proposal as well as information on the background to this proposal, the current position and the vision of both schools as they work towards stronger joint collaboration.

We are undertaking a public consultation to seek the views of the wider community on these proposals.

The consultation seeks to explain the processes involved in:

- redesignating both schools
- relocating both schools
- removing the boarding provision at Foxwood School
- changing the age range of Highview School to incorporate pupils aged 16-19 years

There will be a public meeting on 12 January 2010 which will give you the opportunity to make your views known and to ask any questions you may have.

There is a form at the end of this document which we ask you to complete and return to us by 29 January 2010.

2. BACKGROUND

Kent County Council has been moving forward with a planned programme of redesignation of its special schools in order that it has a pattern of provision which can meet the future needs of pupils, and to ensure that appropriate provision is as local to the children's homes as possible.

The principles upon which the County's Special School Plan is based were widely consulted upon at the time.

The Plan identified the need to provide more places in the following categories of need: Autism; Behavioural Difficulties; Severe Behavioural, Emotional and Social Needs; and Complex Medical Needs.

The Plan also provided for each District in Kent to have a "District Special School" with the intention that this school would provide for the full range of needs for primary aged pupils, with provision for secondary aged pupils becoming more specialised.

The Local Authority has worked with Foxwood and Highview Schools to develop an approach which delivers the District Special School concept but retains the individual schools within a federated schools model.

3. CURRENT POSITION

Foxwood School currently provides for pupils aged 3-19 years with a combination of Severe Learning Difficulties and/or Autism. The school has specialist status for Cognition and Learning. The designated number is 122 and there are currently 106 pupils on roll, 5 of whom are residential. The school provides support for 7 children in the early years who are not on the roll of the school.

Highview School currently provides for pupils aged 5-16 years with Moderate Learning Difficulties. The designated number is 141 and there are currently 117 pupils with Moderate and Complex Learning Needs on roll. The school has Creative Partnership Change Schools Status and will submit a bid for specialist status for Cognition and Learning in January 2010 with a view to achieving status in September 2010.

Foxwood School has a large open site on a hillside with a range of buildings of moderate quality. The site is not appropriate given the needs of its pupils. Highview School has a smaller site but with many different levels due to the sloping nature of the site. Both schools would benefit from new buildings.

The two schools federated on 1 November 2008. They have a joint governing body, joint leadership team meetings, are developing a shared vision for the future when the schools share a site and are working towards a joint leadership team model. They also run a joint Outreach Service—Integrated Specialist Inclusion Services (ISIS).

4. THE PROPOSAL

The proposal is to relocate Foxwood and Highview Schools to a shared building on the Brockhill Park School site (see map on page 8). A proposed footprint for this building has been identified, and will be subject to consultation through the planning system.

Foxwood School will re-designate to provide for pupils with Profound and Severe Learning Needs. Highview School will re-designate to be a school for pupils with Complex Needs. Therefore, between the two schools the full spectrum of Profound, Severe and Complex Needs (PSCN) will be delivered within the District. The new building could be complete by September 2013.

In order to ensure equality of access across Kent, it will be necessary to change the age range of Highview School to 5-19 years to enable it to provide post-16 education.

The schools will also provide, on an area basis, for secondary aged pupils who have Severe Communication and/or Interaction Needs associated with a combination of Autism and learning difficulties; and pupils with specific language impairment and/or Autism. This provision will build on the specialist status of Cognition and Learning of both schools. We propose changing the designation of the schools from 1 September 2010.

Foxwood School currently has residential designation. The number of pupils accessing this provision has reduced over the last 5 years and the remaining 5 residential pupils leave in December 2009. It is proposed to remove the residential designation from Foxwood School in June 2010.

Pre-school pupils currently attending the Children's Centre at Foxwood School will continue to be supported within the school and it is proposed that this Centre relocates with Foxwood School.

The schools, jointly, will offer 282 places for children aged 3 to 19 years.

5. FOXWOOD-HIGHVIEW FEDERATION

The schools federated in November 2008 and now have a single governing body. The Leadership Teams of both schools have been developing a joint 3 year plan to develop the ways in which collaboration will benefit the pupils of both schools.

The overriding philosophy of both schools has been, and continues to be, one of putting the pupil first.

The schools are:

- Inclusive — recognising the right of every student to access learning relevant to their own individual needs.
- Enabling — giving students the skills they need to achieve success — academically, personally, physically, socially and emotionally.
- Personalised — stimulating, challenging and meeting the learning needs of every student.
- Collaborative — providing a comprehensive range of opportunities.

A new building will allow:

- The schools to utilise best practice from within each school, for example, teachers acting flexibly as facilitators / coaches / mentors where appropriate.
- More creative use of space to enhance the development of students' emotional intelligence.
- New models of physical provision to meet the learning needs of young people in collaboration with mainstream colleagues.
- Development of the "learning campus" model where the schools are able to develop the positive elements of both schools without compromising the quality of either.

The move to a new site would enable the development of a new purpose built training and development centre to assist in the delivery of AEN training to all schools in the District.

5. FOXWOOD-HIGHVIEW FEDERATION contd

All opportunities will be taken to co-locate children's and communities services on the school site. The schools are working with the PCT to develop an integrated model where education and health can develop a centralised resource.

Co-location with Brockhill Park would offer access to a wider range of facilities, resources and experiences, whilst retaining specialist teaching and support. It will promote high levels of pupil integration, especially socially and in sport, music, drama, art and vocational courses.

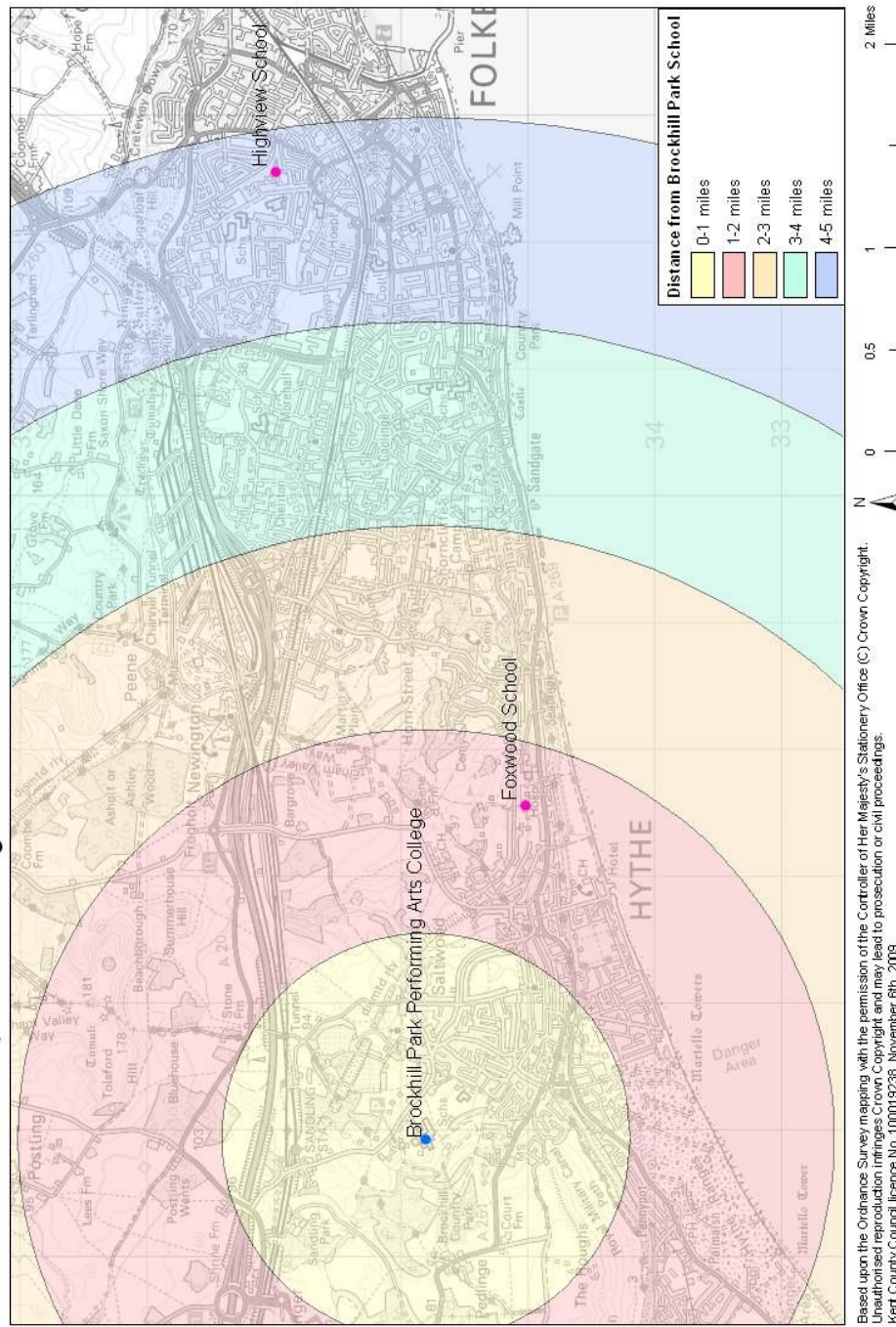
Discussions regarding the post-16 provision of the schools are ongoing. We anticipate providing a number of pathways for pupils, via a central base in the main school building, some supported inclusion in Brockhill Park Performing Arts College and other school sixth forms and access to college courses. Consideration is being given to creating an off-site provision for Independent Life Skills development.

Pupils currently on role at the two schools will continue to be educated in these schools. Decisions on admission to the schools after 1 September 2010 would be based on the pupil meeting the admissions criteria for the schools which will operate at that time.

We recognise that most pupils who attend either Foxwood or Highview School are transported to school by the Local Authority. We will need to review all transport arrangements when the schools relocate and we will involve parents in this process.

The issue of increased traffic that will result from this proposal will be carefully considered with Kent Highways Department during the planning process.

Location of Brockhill Park, Foxwood and Highview Schools



Based upon the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (C) Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Kent County Council license No. 100019238. November 8th, 2009

CONSULTATION & DECISION MAKING TIMETABLE

Public Consultation Period	7 Dec 2009— 29 Jan 2010
Public Meeting	12 Jan 2010
Report Back to the Kent County Council School Organisation Advisory Board *	17 March 2010
Public Notice Issued (subject to Cabinet Member decision)	15 April 2010
Public Notice Expires	27 May 2010
Decision by Local Authority	11 June 2010
Removal of residential provision at Foxwood School	June 2010
Redesignation of both schools	September 2010
Relocation	September 2013

* The School Organisation Advisory Board meeting is held at County Hall, Maidstone and the webcast can be watched via the kent.gov.uk website. **The meeting is open to the public.**

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- Following this consultation, all views received, either in writing, by email or at the Public Meeting, will be reported to the School Organisation Advisory Board of Kent County Council.
- A Cabinet Member decision will be made on whether to take the proposal forward.
- If so, a Public Notice will be published in a local newspaper, at the schools and in public places like the library. The Public Notice will run for six weeks. Representations about the proposal can be made during this six week period.
- A decision will then be made on whether the proposal is to go ahead.
- In certain circumstances this could include referral to the statutory Schools Adjudicator.
- All views will be considered before a decision is made.

HOW TO GIVE YOUR VIEWS

We would like to know your views on this proposal.

You can respond to the consultation by:

Completing and returning the attached response form to:

David Adams, Area Children's Services Officer, Mid Kent Education Office, Kroner House, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford, Kent TN24 8XU

**Your comments must reach us by 5pm
on 29 January 2010**

**Coming to a public meeting at:
Brockhill Park Performing Arts College,
Sandling Road, Saltwood, Hythe CT21 4HL**

on 12 January 2010 at 7pm.

- An elected member of Kent County Council will chair this meeting, at which all interested parties will have an opportunity to put forward their views.
- Officers from the Local Authority will also be present to clarify points of detail.

Emailing your comments to:

school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

(We will note all you say, but will not be able to respond individually to response forms, letters or emails)

Public Consultation Response Form

Please return no later than 5pm on Friday 29 January 2010

To: David Adams, Area Children's Services Officer, Mid Kent Area Education Office, Kroner House, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford, Kent TN24 8XU. (Fax: 01233 898500)

You can also email your views to: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

Do you agree with the proposal?

Yes

No

I am: (please tick as appropriate)

The parent/carer of a student at Foxwood School

The parent/carer of a student at Highview School

A member of staff at Foxwood School

A member of staff at Highview School

A student at Foxwood School

A student at Highview School

A governor

Other interested party

Name of other school or interested party

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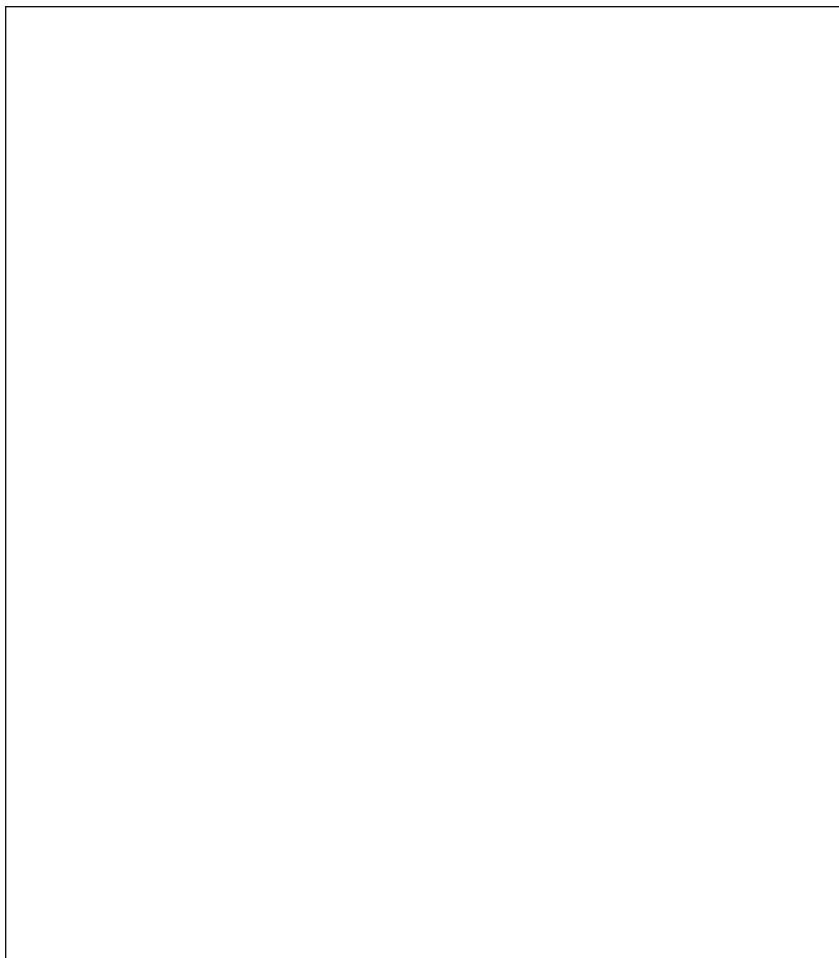
Name:

Address:

Kent County Council is a data controller under the Data Protection Act 1998 and will comply with the requirements of the Act at all times. We will ensure that your personal information is processed fairly and lawfully and in this instance used only for the purpose of validation, which will enable a fair and just consultation.

PLEASE WRITE YOUR COMMENTS OVERLEAF

My comments are as follows:



This document is available on:
<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-learning/about-education-service/consultations/>
Responses can be emailed to:
school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

If you have difficulty reading this document and require it in another format please contact your school.

Addendum to Public Consultation Document involving Foxwood School and Highview School

Introduction

On 7 December 2009 Kent County Council began a consultation on the following proposal:

- to redesignate Foxwood School as a school for Profound and Severe Learning Needs, and Highview School as a school for Complex Learning Needs;
- to relocate both schools on to the site of Brockhill Park Performing Arts College;
- to remove the boarding provision at Foxwood School; and
- to change the age range of Highview School to include post-16 provision.

The original proposals to site Foxwood and Highview Schools adjacent to Brockhill Park Performing Arts College (BPPAC) buildings have been withdrawn following discussion between Kent County Council and the BPPAC governing body.

This has necessitated the distribution of this addendum to the public consultation document, which is seeking your views on the alternative site options now available for the relocation of Foxwood and Highview Schools. It also sets out a revised date and location for the public meeting of 11 February 2010, and extends the consultation period.

Site Options

There are two possible site options for Foxwood and Highview Schools:

1. Brockhill Park Performing Arts College site: The BPPAC governing body have agreed to KCC carrying out feasibility studies with regard to the siting of Foxwood and Highview Schools at the south-eastern end of the Brockhill site adjacent to St. Augustine's RC primary school, so this option remains a possibility.
2. Part of the Former Channel School site (Park Farm Road): The County Council owns a parcel of land from the former Channel School site which fronts on to Park Farm Road. The site is large enough to accommodate Foxwood and Highview Schools, and it adjoins the Folkestone Academy which is an all ability school for boys and girls aged 4 to 18 years.

Each site has advantages and disadvantages in respect of the relocation of the two Special Schools, but the relative merits of these will differ according to the individual's personal perspective. Some factors that might be considered are:

- Is the site large enough to easily accommodate Foxwood and Highview Schools, in addition to the existing site users?

- The new support and curriculum pathways that can be created for the benefit of all students by co-locating Foxwood and Highview Schools with the relevant mainstream primary and secondary schools.
- The traffic and access issues of the site.
- The suitability of the site for use by pupils with significant physical disabilities.

Your views on these site options are sought.

How to Give Your Views - The Consultation Process

The consultation document issued on 7 December 2009 remains valid and should be read together with this addendum. The changes to the consultation process are:

1. The **PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING** will now be held at **FOXWOOD SCHOOL, SEABROOK ROAD, HYTHE, CT21 5QJ** on **Thursday 11 February 2010 at 7pm.**
2. The **closing date** for the public consultation **has been extended to 25 February 2010.**
3. The **attached consultation response** form should be used instead of the form contained in the consultation document¹.

¹ Any completed response form will be accepted, but if you use the form contained with the original consultation document please use the comments section to give us your views on the site options.

Public Consultation Response Form

Please return no later than 5pm on 25 February 2010, to:

David Adams, Area Children’s Services Officer, Mid Kent Area Education Office,
Kroner House, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford, Kent TN24 8XU.
(Fax 01233 898500)

You can also email your views to: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

Do you agree with the proposal to re-designate Foxwood and Highview Schools, relocate both schools, remove the boarding provision from Foxwood School, and change the age range of Highview School to include post -16?

Yes **No**

I am: (please tick as appropriate)

The parent / carer of a student at Foxwood School The parent / carer of a student at Highview School

A member of staff at Foxwood School A member of staff at Highview School

A student at Foxwood School A student at Highview School

A governor

Other interested party Name of school or interested party
.....

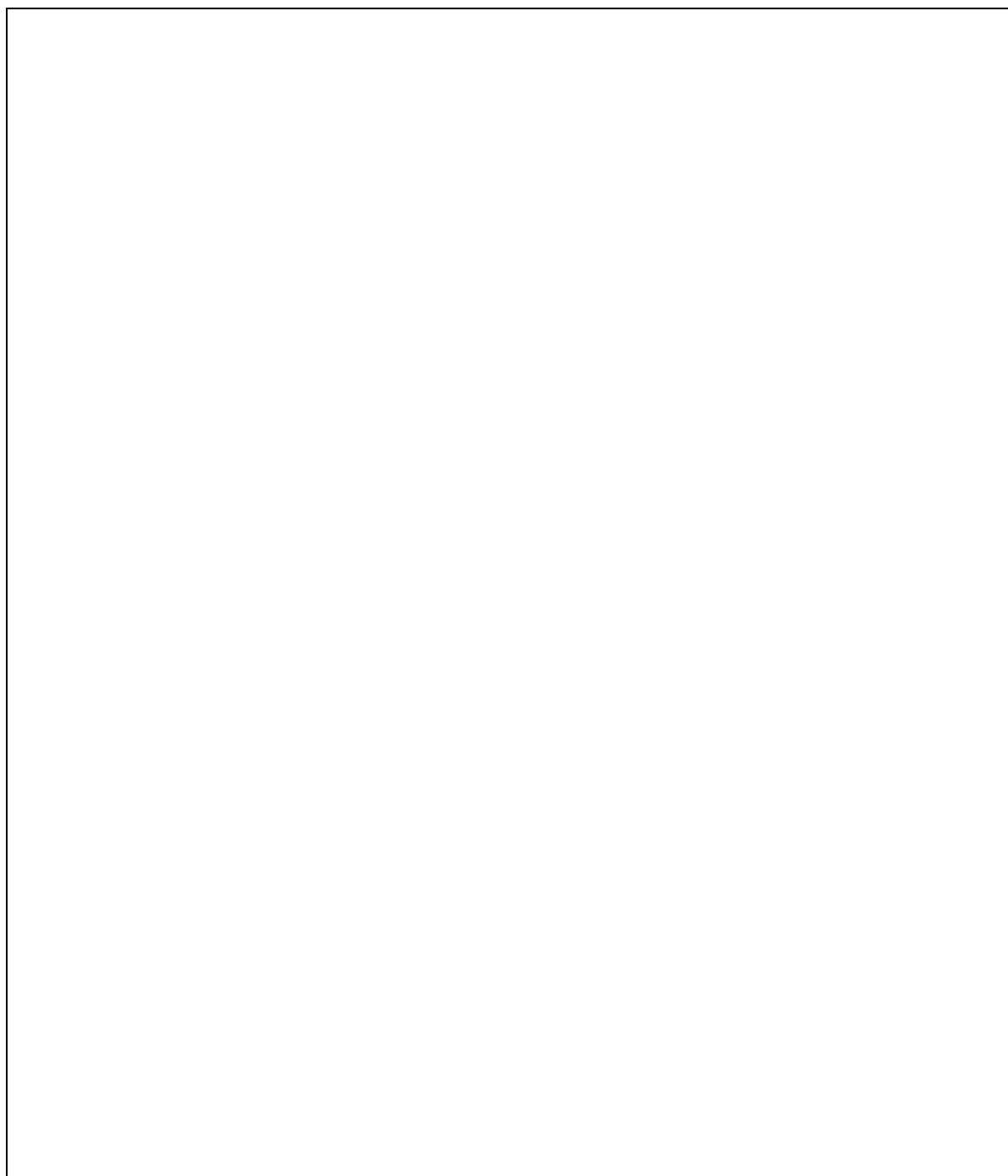
Please indicate which of the site options you favour (please tick your preferred site):

- Brockhill Park Performing Arts College
- Land on Park Farm Road

PLEASE WRITE YOUR COMMENTS OVERLEAF

Name:
Address:
Kent County Council is a data controller under the Data Protection Act 1998 and will comply with the requirements of the Act at all times. We will ensure that your personal information is processed fairly and lawfully and in this instance used only for the purpose of validation, which will enable a fair and just consultation.

My comments are as follows:



This document is available on:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/education_and_learning/plans_and_consultations/consultations.aspx

Responses can be e-mailed to: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

If you have difficulty reading this document and require it in another format please contact your school.

PROPOSAL TO REDESIGNATE AND RELOCATE FOXWOOD AND HIGHVIEW SCHOOLS; TO REMOVE THE BOARDING PROVISION AT FOXWOOD SCHOOL AND TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE OF HIGHVIEW SCHOOL TO INCLUDE POST-16 PROVISION

Summary of Written Responses

Consultation documents distributed
Consultation documents received:

4,200
121

	Yes	BH	PF	No	BH	PF	Un	BH	PF	BH Total	PF Total
Parents/carers of pupil at Foxwood	8	1	3	7	1		1		1	2	4
Pupils at Foxwood											
Members of staff at Foxwood School	10	2	7				1	1		3	7
Parents/carers of pupil at Highview	13	2	8	2						2	8
Pupil at Highview											
Members of staff at Highview School	2		1								1
Parents/ carers of pupil at Brockhill	1		1	11		2	2		2		5
Members of staff at Brockhill	2	2								2	
Parents / carers of pupil at Folkestone Academy	2	2								2	
Members of staff at Folkestone Academy											
Residents local to Brockhill / St Augustine's RCPS	14		14	25	1	14	9		7	1	35
Residents local to Park Farm / Folkestone Academy				1							
Other interested party	5		1	4		2	1		1		4
TOTALS	57	9	35	50	2	18	14	1	11	12	64

In support of the proposal:

- I am in favour because Foxwood's current site is inadequate for children in wheelchairs as it is on a steep hill. Access to classrooms in the senior school is not ideal.
- We are happy with the proposed "merger" so long as both schools are as good as or better than they are now.
- Post 16 is a good idea and the children will benefit from this. (2)
- Brockhill is set in beautiful, quiet, safe surroundings which would be appropriate for the relocation of Foxwood and Highview. (2)
- If the schools move to Brockhill our children will benefit from the dance and drama at Brockhill as well as the farm and animal care
- I realise that local residents are unhappy about increases in traffic but most of these children need to be transported so cannot walk, cycle or use public transport. I am sure that local residents would feel differently if their own children had special needs.
- I think this is a good idea but have some reservations about bullying from students at Brockhill Park School (3) and the volume of traffic in the area.
- I would love my child to attend Brockhill, which is 5 minutes walk away. She would like to attend after school activities there like dance and the young farmers club. All these things are denied her and she is quickly learning that people do not accept her as she is and is depressed and anxious, has no peer group or friends because there is nothing for her to access as she does not attend a mainstream school.
- I agree with the proposal but not the relocation to Brockhill as it is difficult to reach and has poor public transport links. (2)
- Foxwood and Highview urgently need to be relocated. By the time the school moves into a new building my daughter will have been educated in portacabins in the middle of an industrial estate for the whole of her school life. How much more disadvantaged and discriminated against can it be? The Brockhill site would be lovely as it is very local to home but not be the best option as access is impossible and there are already 3 schools within a one mile radius.
- I would like the Education Department to issue a statement concerning the needs of the children attending these schools, to raise the profile of our children and to combat discrimination locally.
- I have no objection to the re-designation of the schools but feel it would be preferable for one of the existing sites to be redeveloped to accommodate both schools. Siting the schools near St Augustine's would exacerbate traffic problems in the area and I cannot see the benefit for any of the pupils to be located next to a mainstream school.
- I agree with the proposal and would prefer the Park Farm site. (3)
- The school should stay in the Park Farm area where we have built good relations with the people around us.
- Park Farm site would be more suitable – closer for some of the staff so could walk or car share.
- Building at Park Farm would locate both schools in close proximity to Folkestone Academy.
- Access facilities at Park Farm would be better – wider roads and safer for drivers and pedestrians alike. (2)
- The Park Farm site is empty and ready to build on for our new school.
- If the boarding provision at Foxwood does go then the Park Farm site would be far more suitable than the Brockhill site. There can be inclusion with the Academy with a range of different ages of pupils.

- I would prefer the Park Farm site as my son could walk there as we don't drive and it would be nice to have a 16+ unit at Highview.
- Building the school at Park Farm would give more pupils the opportunity to walk to school whereas building it at Brockhill would mean more school transport.
- Moving both schools to the Park Farm area is a good idea because it is closer to beach, town, libraries and supermarkets. This would save money on buses and petrol and be better for the environment. (5)
- Originally I was in favour of relocating to Brockhill because of the fantastic rural surroundings, participation in small animal programmes and performing arts within a well regarded local mainstream school. I was deeply disappointed by the decision of the Brockhill governors to reject the relocation proposals. However, discussions had been ongoing for some time so why did they not flag up their concerns sooner? The effect of their decision has pushed the timeline for relocation back to January 2015, rather than September 2013. Their decision has denied my child, and others like him, access to really top class facilities for secondary provision, rather than the current barely adequate buildings they are operating from now. We have no playing fields, art or drama facilities, no "state of the art" science labs. Our children are destined to have a poorer secondary offering for much longer now and I am greatly angered by this. Quite frankly many parents and myself feel that the special schools would not be welcome at Brockhill Park and would rather KCC opted for the Park Farm planning option.

Against the proposal:

- I do not agree with the merger of Foxwood and Highview Schools at all. It would cause too many problems teaching these children in a combined situation.
- I do not think the children's needs would be met so well if Foxwood and Highview were to share.
- Foxwood School will become too big if it joins with Highview. Agree that a new site needs to be found and important to have a hydro pool on site.
- I agree with combining Foxwood and Highview together but not with a mainstream school. (2)
- My child will not be able to cope with the life of a mainstream school. The children will be made fun of if they are next to a mainstream school. (2)
- Travelling to Folkestone would be too far for my son; siting the school at Brockhill where the children would not be welcome as they may be bullied is not a good idea.
- Foxwood and Highview should be moved to land that is not next to another school as these children are at these schools for a reason and the prospect of possible interaction with our children is a concern.
- The staff and facilities at Foxwood are brilliant and the location is perfect.
- I do think the 16+ proposal is good but cannot Foxwood School stay where it is and just be renovated?
- Children attending Foxwood find change difficult. It would be detrimental to school and home life.
- Boarding provision provides a much needed service for students but also the opportunity of short breaks for these students and families. We have no other form of respite or support.
- Brockhill Park is thriving and with an expanding curriculum would possibly need the whole site.
- I feel that there are enough troublesome pupils at the Academy. I think the amalgamation would be unfair to teachers and pupils at the Academy and to

Foxwood and Highview. If this goes ahead I will have no alternative but to remove my child from the school.

- **Brockhill Park:**

- The road near Brockhill Park is regularly flooded and any building programme in the area will make this worse.
- Traffic is already a serious problem in the area around Brockhill and two new schools and more traffic will not improve the situation. (49)
- I cannot currently walk my children to Saltwood Primary School due to the volume of traffic locally. With an increase in traffic if this proposal goes ahead I cannot see a point in the future when I will feel able to let my children safely cross this busy road on their own.
- I currently drive my child to Brockhill Park from Ashford and the school traffic is dreadful. There are already insufficient parking spaces on site.
- Moving Foxwood and Highview Schools onto the Brockhill Park site will affect the status of Brockhill Park. There will be an impact on my daughter's education if this plan proceeds.
- I believe Brockhill Park should be solely for the development of Brockhill School.
- I bring my child to Brockhill Park from Canterbury and there is already insufficient parking available for the drop off and pick up.
- Deep concerns for the environment. Brockhill is a site of great natural beauty with its unique grounds and history.
- My main concern is the integration of two special needs schools into what is a mainstream school environment. In my view this will not work and I have seen no evidence to suggest that it will have any benefit or positive impact on the majority of pupils at Brockhill Park.
- Concerns regarding the loss of boarding provision with this school sector.
- Moving Foxwood and Highview to Saltwood would mean longer journeys for the majority of pupils (2)
- I chose Brockhill Park for my children for all the beautiful ground it covers and the PE children gain from all the outside space.
- Area covered by planning policies – area of special character, rural settlement and conservation etc.
- Developing this beautiful green space will ruin the site's main attraction and destroy the image of Brockhill Park as a school with beautiful grounds and attractive spaces for students and sporting activities. (3)
- Applications by local residents to build on their land were turned down in the past due to the rural location and to the AONB designation.
- A new building next to St Augustine's School would build on an area of outstanding natural beauty (6) and ruin the view from my bungalow.
- Any more building work in the area will have a detrimental effect on our wildlife. (2)
- This is an expensive proposal. Can the two schools be situated on one of the existing two sites? (2)
- The site is currently used by the community at weekends due to its safe position with only pedestrian access – this could be lost if a new building is added. (2)
- The proposals contradict the LA's planned programme of "providing appropriate provision as local to the child's home as possible". (2)
- There are problems for emergency vehicles accessing the area at certain times of day (3)

- Surely it is sensible to use an existing school site with far easier access than Brockhill with its very narrow access.
- Land around Foxwood School has been developed for housing. Why could this land not have been used to accommodate both schools?
- Changing school closing times and drop off times would extend the period of pain and traffic muddle for longer. (2)
- If children attending Foxwood and Highview are coming from as far afield as Ashford would it not be sensible to try and find a more central and accessible location?
- Totally supportive of achieving the best solution for children of Foxwood and Highview Schools but it is important to ensure the continuing success of Brockhill Park School and numbers at the school should not be reduced to ease the traffic problem.
- The predominance of pupils from the Folkestone area would make the old Channel School site the “greener” option as fewer emissions would be generated and less fuel used if the new school were to be sited there.
- The Park Farm site will be better for these children as it is close to all amenities.
- **Park Farm Road:**
 - The old Channel site will become very congested.
 - Locating Foxwood and Highview at Park Farm would be detrimental to the Folkestone Primary Academy
 - Traffic to and from the Academy is already a problem and locating Foxwood and Highview here would make that worse.

Neither for nor against:

- I have a child at Foxwood and a child at the Academy. The Park Farm site would suffer with traffic problems if this goes ahead; although the Brockhill site would be more badly affected.
- I favour the site at Park Farm as it is a brown field site with the road infrastructure already in place. I agree that all children should have access to mainstream education where possible to enrich the experiences of all children and would welcome greater inclusion at Brockhill if this is the final outcome.
- I have no preference as to the site of the schools, but I currently walk to and from St Augustine’s with two small children and my concern is that traffic will increase.

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Summary of points raised during the Public Meeting held on 2 March 2010 at Foxwood School

Approximately 100 people attended the public meeting including parents of both schools, staff and governors and residents local to Brockhill Park.

The building: will it be two buildings or one building with two schools?	Discussions ongoing re design. Single building – two separate and distinct schools with some shared resources (ie hydro therapy pool etc.) Sufficient flexibility to meet needs of all PSCN children in Shepway and to ensure children are not travelling out of Shepway.
Brockhill: You talk about high level integration and sharing of facilities. What about this with the Academy?	We won't design the schools to be dependent on any other schools. For example, Harvey Grammar School has sports specialist college – and may have very specialised equipment. We would work with Harvey Grammar School to ensure that all children in the locality could access that provision.
Brockhill: Now that the proposed site has moved how will children get over to Brockhill to access facilities?	The nearer the schools are together the easier it is for pupils to move between schools. We would need to find answers for that.
If it goes to Brockhill will there be a swimming pool provided? Would this be considered?	Not aware of looking at school-based swimming pools. Schools generally have trouble keeping them open.
If it's at Brockhill will my child still go to school on the bus? Will the road be upgraded at all? Will there be another entrance?	Access to sites – we recognise the concerns regarding the Brockhill site and the nature of the road. Alternative roads or the need to upgrade roads will need to be considered. Educational aspect – we are listening. Local Authority will need to go through planning etc.
Park Farm: Two schools, joint hub, admin block, sports facilities, training hub, co-location of children's services to go on site. Will it all fit? There are proposals to demolish Park Farm School and incorporate it into the Academy. Where will SEN fit in with that?	Architects say yes it will all fit. We acquired the previous Park Farm land to enlarge the site. Academy: the trustees are working up proposals to rebuild the primary element on the existing Academy site. It should not impact on our site. If it does we will need to do a land swap.
Autistic children at 16+ don't feature in the plans. The 6 th form will start in 2011. Where will they be sited? There is no room on either site.	We have had initial discussions already with the HT. It will take time to get the provision up and running and we do not want to wait until 2015. We will need to find premises.
Is the funding in place for all of this to happen? Including catering and sports facilities?	Funding is via the BSF programme. It is intended that all secondary schools are rebuilt, replaced or refurbished.
Can you clarify how the designation of complex needs differs from MLD and how will this alter the profile of Highview pupils?	Highview's current designation is MLD. MLD designation is limited as it only looks at MLD and not much else. Highview are taking Speech & Communication needs and ASD as well. Children referred to the school have complex needs - MLD

	and other complexities. There will not be much change in the intake or population of the school.
Re-designation: Would all children need to have their statements amended?	No, there will be no need to change them.
Academy receives its funding from Central Government and some from Roger de Haan. What input will he have on the SEN schools?	The Academy will not impact on the SEN schools. Foxwood and Highview are run by GB with LA input.
Will the new school(s) include behavioural needs?	The original plan of the Special School Review recognised a combination of MLD and Behavioural Needs. There are five schools to cater for these children (Behaviour and Learning schools). Statementing for children will be either B&L or complex needs.
My child goes to school in Shepway. I live in Ashford. Would she be moved to Wyvern?	All of the children currently in school will work their time out. The schools will continue to work with parents through to natural leaving date.
When will we find out where our autistic child will sit?	Where they are now. For as long as they need.
Highview is at the heart of the community. Park Farm is near the sports centre etc. Brockhill is in the middle of nowhere. It's out of the way and has poor access etc. You say provision should be as local as possible.	We will take on board all comments re the siting of the new building. Schools should be at the heart of the community. Local residents see the school as belonging to the community.
All of us [parents] here have our child's needs and wants and hopes at heart. Somewhere along the line there will be compromise. We don't want compromise. The kids need to get what they deserve.	
Concerns re the security of the school, both when it's being built and after. Children will be bullied.	The site will be secure during the building. Whichever site is chosen, all staff, the LA, Governing Body are security conscience. Design issues will include security measures to stop children running from site, to deal with visitors etc. The bullying aspect is included in how we work with all children in all schools learning to be respectful of all members of society.
My child has been at Highview for 5 or 6 years. Love the school. Fantastic facilities. Appreciate the ethos and how its run. It's a small school like a village school, where the children all know each other. The initial idea for these two schools was to bring them together into two buildings, with two headteachers. Now one building with one Executive Headteacher. Creeping loss of distinctiveness. The school will double in size. In a big building will the village school size be lost?	We tried to listen to views from previous consultations and staff and the Governing Body. The schools need to retain their individual identities. Yes, they will share a building, and share a headteacher. We looked at a proposal that retains the best of Highview, the best of Foxwood. BSF looks at breaking down all schools into smaller units – schools within schools. The academic and social needs of all pupils are known and will be known to staff.
	Highview headteacher: Trying to sort out organisation of how it would work. Created federation – about meeting pupils' needs. Concept of units of provision currently termed huts. Foxwood hut; Highview hut; KS1 and EY hut. Complex/challenging ASD pupils having their needs met at Foxwood. A small hut for the small number of challenging ASD children. Re-designation at 16+ is a fantastic opportunity. No idea how we're going to do it yet, but it will not stop us putting it into place. Looking at joint provision for 16+.

	<p>Training & Development – expect to run on both schools. A T&D hut.</p> <p>The previous proposals were about amalgamating. 18 months ago we federated the two special schools. We can build something new – creative, innovative – very brave step. Creative new solution captures everything in Foxwood and Highview and allows us to create something new.</p> <p>Have to think about the site but this is about educational aspects.</p>
<p>Chair of Governors: The Governing Body is absolutely behind what the Highview headteacher has said. When BSF opportunity came along we grabbed it with both hands. Governing Body are determined to get the best results for all your children.</p>	
<p>Funding: Is BSF funding from Central Government or KCC? If Central, are we sure it won't be slashed in the next year or so?</p>	<p>BSF funding is 90% from Central Government. KCC contribute 10%.</p> <p>There may be an impact on BSF funding post general election.</p> <p>Shepway and Dover are in Wave 5. Funding is earmarked nationally. There may be challenges ahead but these will not impact on Wave 5.</p>
<p>Will there be funding to maintain the schools during the next 5 years? Don't wish to see the buildings deteriorate.</p>	<p>We will need to weigh up maintenance costs against value for money.</p> <p>Will always be the odd debate (ie replace boiler system 12 months before new build).</p> <p>Ultimate responsibility is to the children in school at the time.</p>
<p>Local Member: Brockhill is not in the middle of nowhere.</p> <p>There is an existing problem with traffic at Brockhill. New traffic from Foxwood and Highview will make the problem worse.</p> <p>I am keen that these children get the building they deserve and Saltwood villagers will also be keen for that.</p> <p>We need to ameliorate the present situation and the future one. Maybe by rationalising coach traffic; new road into Brockhill; more parking on site; walking; and increased use of public transport.</p>	<p>Traffic at schools is an issue across the country. It's a complex problem with no easy answers.</p> <p>Difficult access to Brockhill. We are looking at suggestions. If it costs £Xm to put a new road here this may not be cost effective.</p> <p>Other options: School Travel Plan needs to be completed by the end of the year.</p> <p>Public networks – families living 2.9m away – consider use of one vehicle and cut down on cars.</p> <p>Encourage walking and cycling.</p> <p>Parking – solve some problems, turning circles etc.</p> <p>Staggered hours – Foxwood and Highview start later than Brockhill or the Academy. Although this would mean the period of congestion time lasts longer.</p>
<p>I have lived near Brockhill School for 30 years. When we came to the area some of our children attended Brockhill and it was then a sink school. Over the past 15 years it has improved. We need reassurance that Brockhill will not suffer.</p> <p>Most Saltwood residents would be totally supportive of doing the best for the children of Foxwood and Highview. Foxwood and Highview need to have the best alternative.</p> <p>We already have a very severe traffic problem. LA officers need to sit down and see it.</p>	

<p>The two main entrances cause people enormous problems. One to Brockhill, one to St Augustine's. Cannot fund new entrance. 16 buses to Brockhill alone. Brockhill changed hours because of the primary school. There was a meeting last November [re BSF proposals]. LA representatives were unable to discuss traffic issues as they were only concerned with buildings. They have now begun to realise. You cannot sweep this under the carpet. 150 people attended the Saltwood Parish Council meeting.</p>	
<p>Saltwood Village Society: Others have made the traffic problems very clear. St Augustine's made it worse. They have Walk on Wednesday – does not work. Designated routes for parents/coaches work in the short-term not in the long-term. Locate the schools at Park Farm.</p>	
<p>Traffic problem at Brockhill is one thing but to say that Brockhill School will be spoilt if SEN schools move there is not on.</p>	<p>Don't think anyone meant that Brockhill School would be damaged by the location of the special schools on site. Traffic issue at Saltwood or Park Farm or on every consultation ever. Residents by every school face this.</p>
<p>Brockhill is in favour of having schools on site. Brockhill stands to lose part of their identity, but if the best option for the children IS to be at Brockhill then that's the best option.</p>	
<p>I live opposite Brockhill School. Went to see the plans in November. (a) upgrade. (b) federation of schools onto site. Green fields, tarmac, buildings etc. Brockhill 6th form would need to reduce in size or shut down. When St Augustine's moved to Saltwood, reassurances were given at the time but, for example, the bus cannot turn round at the turning circle. The site is a trap only two access roads – Sandling Road and St John's Road. Shared resources etc for the schools is a brilliant idea, innovative. But, add pupils, staff etc and traffic is not a side issue – it's central. Buses already go onto the pavement to pass each other. It's not safe to cycle. Any further development will be an error and we will live with it for decades.</p>	
<p>The merger WILL happen. It's good and it will benefit our children. Re the comments re schools staying small, the school needs to be bigger. It's a big wide world out there. My son needs to learn how to cope. The Academy site is better; there are lots of children around. The children can learn how to shop, etc. The will learn how to live in a big community.</p>	
<p>I live in the middle of nowhere with a village school close by. There are traffic problems. We want what's best for our children. Traffic is not the issue. I don't want my child sitting in a taxi but I want what's best for my child.</p>	

<p>Some of the children at Foxwood and Highview are physically disabled. Their parents have blue badges to transport them around. Traffic at SEN schools needs to be considered. There is no way that some of these children could walk or cycle or even go on a bus.</p>	
<p>Foxwood and Highview joining together will enrich my son's life. You need to listen to staff, teaching assistants etc, otherwise you might have a great building but no good for SEN. Question for the two headteachers: How much time have you spent at each other's school?</p>	<p>Foxwood headteacher: Worked with the headteachers at Highview for years. Worked closer with current headteacher. Also working with secondary schools etc. We have a team called ISIS which offers support to all pupils in Shepway. The team has been in to all primary and secondary schools in Shepway who all want our underlying support. Succession planning is in place re staffing etc. 2015 deadline gives us more time to develop expertise.</p>