



KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

SCHOOL ORGANISATION ADVISORY BOARD

AGENDA

Wednesday, 7 September 2011, at 2.00 pm
in the Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone

Ask for: **Geoff Mills/Karen Mannering**
Telephone: **(01622) 694289/694367**

Membership (8)

Conservative (7): Mrs V J Dagger (Chairman), Mr D L Brazier, Mr C J Capon,
Miss S J Carey, Mr M C Dance, Mr M J Northey Mr K Smith

Liberal Democrat (1): Mr M J Vye

Webcasting Notice

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UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

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

1. Introduction/Webcasting
2. Substitutes
3. Declarations of Interests by Members in items on the Agenda for this meeting.
4. Minutes - 20 May 2011 (1 - 2)
5. Proposal to Expand Aldington Primary School (3 - 14)
6. Proposal to Expand Challock Primary School (15 - 34)

7. Proposed Primary School at Repton Park - Modification of Proposal (35 - 36)

Peter Sass
Head of Democratic Services

Tuesday, 30 August 2011

Please note that any background documents referred to in the accompanying papers may be 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 Friday, 20 May 2011.

PRESENT: Mrs V J Dagger (Chairman), Mr C J Capon, Miss S J Carey, Mrs P T Cole (Substitute) (Substitute for Mr M C Dance), Mr L B Ridings, MBE (Substitute) (Substitute for Mr K Smith) Mr C T Wells (Substitute) (Substitute for Mr M J Northey)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr D Adams, (Area Education Officer, Mid Kent), Mr S Webb (Area Education Officer, West Kent) and Mr G Mills (Democratic Services)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. Minutes - 26 April 2011

(Item 4)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2011 be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

2. Proposal to Expand Aldington Primary School

(Item 5 - report by Interim Corporate Director, Education, Learning and Skills)

(1) This report sought the views of the Advisory Board on a proposal to undertake a consultation to expand Aldington Primary School from 140 places to 210.

(2) Following discussion on the proposal the Advisory Board Resolved that a public consultation should be undertaken on the proposal to expand Aldington Primary School from 140 to 210 places.

3. Proposal to Expand Challock Primary School

(Item 6 - report by Interim Corporate Director, Education, Learning and Skills)

(Mr David Adams made a personal declaration of interest in this matter as he has children attending this school. He stated he had not therefore had any involvement in this proposal which had been dealt with by Mr Simon Webb the Area Education Officer for West Kent)

(1) This report sought the views of the Advisory Board on a proposal to undertake a consultation to expand Challock Primary School from 140 places to 210 places.

(2) Following discussion on the proposal the Advisory Board Resolved that a public consultation should be undertaken on the proposal to expand Challock Primary School from 140 to 210 places.

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By: Sarah Hohler, Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills
Lorraine O'Reilly, Interim Director – Education, Learning & Skills

To: School Organisation Advisory Board – 7 September 2011

Subject: PROPOSAL TO EXPAND ALDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report presents the results of a public consultation on the proposal to expand Aldington Primary School from 140 places to 210 places.

This paper should be read in conjunction with the report to School Organisation Advisory Board of 20 May 2011

Introduction

1. (1) The School Organisation Advisory Board, at its meeting on 20 May 2011, supported a recommendation to consult on the proposed expansion of Aldington Primary School from 140 places to 210 places.

(2) This report sets out the results of the public consultation, which took place in June and July 2011.

The Proposal

2. (1) The proposal is to expand Aldington Primary School by 10 places per year, bringing the total capacity to 210 places, to provide one form of entry, with up to 30 places per year group. The expansion of the school will be gradual with the additional places being created annually. It is proposed that the school formally expands for September 2012.

The Consultation

3. (1) A consultation document, a copy of which is attached as Appendix 1 was circulated. This circulation includes local Members, Ashford Borough Council, the Member of Parliament, the Diocesan Education Boards, head teachers in the Ashford district and local residents. The school had enough copies for all staff, governors, parents and carers. Approximately 300 copies of the public consultation document were circulated, which included a form for written responses.

(2) A public meeting was held at Aldington Primary School on 27 June 2011. Mrs Valerie Dagger, KCC Member, chaired the meeting. In attendance were Mr Andrew Wickham, Member for Ashford Rural East and Mr David Adams, Area Education Officer; Approximately 40 people attended.

Responses to the Public Consultation

Written Responses

4. (1) 31 responses have been received, of which 22 are in favour, and 9 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 as Appendix 3.

Views of Local Member

5. (1) Mr Andrew Wickham, Member for Ashford Rural East is supportive of the expansion of Aldington Primary School. It is rated as a good school by Ofsted and he has always been very impressed with it.

(2) Mr Wickham is aware of the problems regarding traffic and since the public consultation meeting has been working with the Parish Council and Kent Highway Services to try to resolve both the current problems and in anticipation of a future possible expansion of the school.

(3) With regard to parking, an informal arrangement has been made with the village hall management committee which allows parents to park in the village hall car park when there is no function at the village hall. Mr Wickham has approved a grant to pay for signs indicating that.

(4) He likes the idea that children at the school will be taught in their year groups and not in mixed age groups as they are at the moment and also feels it is important to provide primary school places for all those children who live in the village who wish to go there, the expansion will help allow this.

Views of Local Member of Parliament

6. The local Member of Parliament, Mr Damian Green, has been consulted on the proposal. A response is awaited.

Views of Ashford Borough Council

7. Ashford Borough Council has been consulted on the proposal. A response is awaited.

Views of the Parish Council

8. Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council supports the proposal to expand the school subject to the parking issues being resolved.

Views of the Governing Body

9. The Governing Body support the proposed expansion to accommodate the increasing number of primary age children in the local community. The Governing Body believes that primary education should be delivered locally and therefore children who live in Aldington village should not be required to travel to another school which would potentially be the case if the expansion is not approved.

Views of the Pupils

10. Views were gathered at the school council meeting and subsequently in individual classes. After careful consideration of the proposal the overwhelming view is that expansion will be good for the school if managed within the context of a village school. A summary of the pupil views is attached as Appendix 4.

Views of the Local Childrens Trust Board

11. The Local Childrens Trust Board fully understand the pressure on local services and schools caused by the rapid expansion of Ashford. The Board has always understood the need for additional pupil places in certain parts of the District and acknowledge the Area Education Officer would have researched all possibilities and concluded that Aldington PS was one of the most appropriate schools to alleviate this pressure.

Views of Highways

12. Kent Highway Services are working with the Parish Council and the local Member to look at current issues in the vicinity of the school and throughout the village.

Views of the Area Education Officer

13. (1) This is a popular and successful school, located in a village where housing development is taking place. Expansion is necessary to ensure sufficient school places for local children.

(2) A single age structure offers advantages in curriculum delivery, stability of friendship groups and extends the range of skills within the staff group as numbers increase.

Resource Issues

Capital & Revenue

14. (1) Two classrooms will need to be provided, together with additional toilet provision and hard play space. £94,000 is available from Developer Contributions towards the costs of additional accommodation; the remainder would be made available from the Capital Budget. The school will not need additional accommodation until September 2012.

Human

(2) Additional teaching and support staff will be required. The school's budget will increase annually in line with the increase in pupil numbers. The school will also receive one-off reorganisation funding of £7,041 for each additional class for furnishing.

Proposed Timetable

15. If it is decided that a public notice should be issued in respect of this proposal, the following timetable is likely to apply:

Issue public notice	7 October 2011
End of representation period	17 November 2011
Decision by Kent County Council	November 2011
Implementation	1 September 2012

Recommendation

16. The views of the School Organisation Advisory Board are sought on the issuing of a public notice to expand Aldington Primary School from 140 places to 210 places.

David Adams
Area Education Officer
Mid Kent
01233 898559

The Local Member is Andrew Wickham.

Background Documents:

None

Previous Committee Reports:

School Organisation Advisory Board report - 20 May 2011

Public Consultation Document



Kent County Council would like to hear your views on a proposal to expand Aldington Primary School from 140 places to 210 places.

**Date of Public Meeting:
Monday 27 June 2011 at 7pm
at Aldington Primary School, Roman Road,
Aldington, Ashford TN25 7EE**

This document is available on:
http://www.kent.gov.uk/education_and_learning/plans_and_consultations/consultations.aspx



Table 1 Projected number of primary aged pupils in the area	School places available 2010-11	2010-11 (A)	2014-15 (F)
Total pupils within 2 miles	336	336	401
Surplus / deficit places within 2 miles	-	0	-65
Total pupils within 3 miles	581	576	707
Surplus / deficit places within 3 miles	-	5	-126
Forecast roll data based on projections made in Summer 2010			
(A) Actual (F) Forecast			

Table 2 Projected number of reception year children in the area	Reception places available 2010-11	2010-11 (A)	2014-15 (F)
Total reception year pupils within 2 miles	48	48	65
Surplus / deficit reception year places within 2 miles	-	0	-17
Total reception year pupils within 3 miles	83	83	107
Surplus / deficit reception year places within 3 miles	-	0	-24
Forecast roll data based on projections made in Summer 2010			

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PLEASE WRITE YOUR COMMENTS BELOW

If you require this document in another format please contact your school

1. THE PROPOSAL

Kent County Council would like to expand Aldington Primary School by 10 places per year group, taking the total capacity of the school from 140 places to 210 places. The school would then admit 30 pupils per year. The expansion would be gradual with the additional places likely to be created annually to accommodate reception aged pupils only. The first intake of 30 pupils per year would be from September 2012.

Aldington Primary School is popular. Over 60 families applied for the 20 year R places at Aldington School for September 2011; 29 as first preferences. The school's last Ofsted report (May 2011) showed it to be 'good with outstanding features'. The proposal is, therefore, in line with the expectation of expanding popular, successful schools.

We have asked the School to admit 25 pupils into year R in September 2011 to ensure that all children from the village have places. Options are being explored for an extension to the school by September 2012 using available funds from Developer Contributions. The school will not need additional accommodation for September 2011.

We are undertaking a public consultation to seek the views of the wider community on this proposal. The Public Consultation Period will run from 15 June to 26 July. There will be a public meeting on 27 June 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 26 July 2011.



2. THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL SCHOOL PLACES

The school planning data contained in Table 1 on page 4 shows that there are currently no spare primary school places within two miles of Aldington Primary School. Forecasts show that there will be a shortfall of 65 places by 2014. Table 2 shows forecast figures for children aged 4 years old in the area (i.e. Reception aged pupils). There are currently no spare places and there will be a shortfall of 17 places by 2014.

3. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Following the Consultation, all views received, either by post, e-mail or at the Public Meeting, will be reported to the School Organisation Advisory Board.*	7 Sep 2011
The Cabinet Member decides whether to continue with the proposal. If so, a Public Notice will be published in a local newspaper, at the school and in public places like the library. During this time comments and objections can be made about the proposal. The Public Notice will run for 6 weeks.	Public Notice: 7 Oct 2011 - 17 Nov 2011
The Cabinet Member considers all responses made and makes a decision whether to go ahead.	Dec 2011
If a decision cannot be made by the Local Authority then the matter will go to the Adjudicator.	Dec 2011 - Feb 2012
Implementation	Sep 2012

* 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.**

4. HOW TO GIVE YOUR VIEWS

Complete and return the response form to:

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

Come to the Public Meeting at the school on 27 June 2011 at 7pm.

Email 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).

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.



Public Consultation Response Form : Aldington Primary School

Please return no later than 5pm on Tuesday 26 July 2011

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

Do you agree with the proposal? Yes No

I am: *A Parent/Carer; Member of Staff; Governor; Student; Other interested party
.....(please state). * Please delete as appropriate

Name:

Address:

PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ALDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Summary of written responses

Consultation documents distributed: 300

Responses received: 31

	Support	Against	Undecided	Total
Parents/Carers of pupils	13	6		19
Members of staff	1			1
Governors	3			3
Pupils				
Local resident	3	3		6
Interested party	2			2
Total	22	9	0	31

In support of the proposal

- One form entry is something we have always aspired to, but no larger as we want to keep our small school ethos.
- Expansion is clearly needed to accommodate the increasing number of children in the village and save them needing to travel (2)
- I am in favour of the expansion, but parents/carers must be encouraged to cycle or walk when possible by reducing the speed limits within at least a one mile radius of the school.
- Expanding the school to 210 places is a very good idea as this gives one class for each year group and makes the school a viable size.
- The school is a very important part of the local community. Parents, teachers and friends fought very hard to maintain the school 15-20 years ago when numbers dropped to around 70 pupils. This would be a good reward for their efforts.
- I wish your project success and feel proud of being a member of Aldington community. However, please consider a crossing, perhaps a lollipop person. And could the school hall be extended as when children perform plays etc numbers wishing to watch such events are strictly curbed.
- This is a very good school which is popular with parents and the housing developments (actual and proposed) mean that there will inevitably be the need for additional spaces at the school.
- I hope the proposal will be approved. The only concern I have is around traffic management. I hope that the Highways Department can help. Traffic calming measures should not be difficult to introduce. Additional parking could be provided either at the school or by turning the grass verge just past the school (which parents park on) into a properly constructed lay-by.
- I am in support of the proposal but concerned about additional traffic and the safety of the children. Solutions might include using part of the school grounds as a turning and dropping off point or provision elsewhere, ie the Eco Centre. A walk from the Eco Centre should not be a problem and would provide both parents and children with a little exercise.
- Aldington Primary is an excellent school and if expansion is required to serve local need it should be done. It would be a shame for local children to have to travel to another school. (2)

- I am in support but with traffic outside the school already a problem at peak times this proposal will make the area even more congested. Although this is not of immediate concern it will become so in the future.

Against the proposal

- At present we feel the children get that bit extra “one to one” time with the teacher as there are not so many children in the class.
- Concerns about the extension: encroaching on outside amenities and building works would be noisy when children are working.
- Children from outside the village were given places when they were available and now their siblings attend the school. If this were to stop then there would be enough places for local children.
- Expanding the school [by 70 places] would change the ethos of this small village school with a great sense of community and atmosphere. Perhaps it could expand slightly without changing this.
- If the school were to expand it would be a shame to use mobiles.
- Concerns around additional traffic in the mornings.
- Concerned re road safety. Parking at the school during mornings and afternoons is extremely dangerous. Visibility is poor with cars parked on a bend. (3)
- I would fully support this proposal if parking or a drop off area was included.
- Worried about the extra need for parking and the extra traffic brought into the village.
- We joined Aldington because it was a village school – small and intimate. It is our nearest school.
- The village and the school have grown over the years. To enlarge it in its present position is not practical. Aldington needs a new modern school with more room, better security and better access for all. In the future the school may have to increase in size again and then what will you do?

PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ALDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Summary of the Public Meeting held on 27 June 2011 at Aldington PS

Approximately 40 people attended the public meeting including parents, governors and other interested parties.

Issue or Comment	Response
No concerns around the school growing but I have concerns re traffic problems and the Village Hall car park usage. The afternoon groups in the Village Hall (mainly senior citizens) cannot park in the Village Hall car park. Something needs to be provided in the village.	Parking concerns are acknowledged. The Village Hall and the school can work together to find a solution. Obtaining planning consent is a statutory process and the traffic and local road networks will be considered by planners. The School Travel Plan will need to be revisited and we need to find a way of minimising traffic and encouraging parents to be respectful to residents in the village.
My children cycle or walk to school but the national speed limit applies from just outside the village, even past the new houses. Could Highways look at reducing the speed limit to 30mph?	Parish Council should look at this first. Local residents can lobby Highways and their County Councillor. Residents could monitor the situation – eg speed-watching.
It's important for all children in the village area to come to the village school. The school is making great efforts to get children walking or cycling to school. It's a good school. High quality of buildings and site. If it is developed then the expansion must be to a similar standard.	
The proposed expansion comes at a critical time for my 8 year old child. How would the plan be implemented and how would it be phased? Would we have mobiles? If so, that's a retrograde step. What would happen after 1 September 2012?	The school are taking 25 children in September 2011 which will involve re-jigging classes around. If 30 pupils are admitted in 2012 the school will need an additional classroom and would move to a 6 class structure. Then, as cohorts go through, the juniors would split into 4 classrooms. It will take about 3 years or so. We have additional funding from developer contributions towards the cost of a permanent building, but if we were to use mobiles they are very unlike the "old" mobiles. They are now high-quality with a 60 year life-span; they would be of a high standard.
If you use modular classrooms would you provide covered walkways to the school?	Won't know at this stage. We are looking to provide a permanent extension to the school.
Regarding moving the speed limits – it would be helpful if KCC will help.	We will report back to Highways and Transport. In the meantime you can talk to Andrew Wickham, your local councillor. [Andrew Wickham agreed to help.]
Will you build one classroom, then further	Hope not to do so. Hope to build both together.

Issue or Comment	Response
down the line build another one?	
Where would the extension be in relation to the school? And if they were mobiles where would they go?	Permanent classrooms likely to be on the left hand side of the school [looking from the road]. We would need to consider where mobiles would go (if we use them).
Will you extend the hall to accommodate the extra pupils?	No. We would need to add ancillary features – toilets, hard play area etc.
What about lunches in the hall, with 70 more children?	That will be a school management issue – two sittings, packed lunches in another room etc.
The school recently undertook a consultation with parents about how children are allocated into classes. Will they use the same system or age-based classes?	Ultimately age-based. During the first few years the school will continue with the mixed-age structure. The headteacher explained that if the proposal goes ahead, in 2012 the school will have YR, Y1 and Y2 in separate classrooms and mixed in the juniors. They will use the same procedures as currently for finding the right class for the right child and look at this yearly.
If the school expands to 7 classrooms would children share resources until you can afford new resources?	The school will receive re-organisation funding of (currently) £7,000 per new classroom. They will also receive additional revenue funding as children come through, ie, in September 2011 the extra 5 children would provide additional revenue funding.
How many children will come out from Ashford? Some come now from areas like Park Farm – that's 6 or 7 miles away. Is it for local children or just Ashford overspill?	Our forecasting methods use Health Authority birth data and historical figures / trends. We take parental preference into account as well. I cannot say that the 70 places will fill only with local children. I have had discussions with the governing body about how to ensure that Aldington has a primary school in the future. There are more and more pressures on schools' budgets now. We know that 1 form entry schools are more secure than slightly smaller schools. It's a trade-off – a few people coming to the school from outside the village means we are more likely to retain the school. It's a balance.
We moved here one year ago. The intake of 20 made up my mind to move here so that my child could be taught in a smaller group.	The headteacher explained that the school has 5 classrooms; pupils are in classes of 30 now. They are taught in mixed age-group classes.

PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ALDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Summary of pupil responses

A vote was taken by 72 of the children in the school. 54 children (75%) were in favour of the proposal and 18 were against it.

In support of the proposal

- If new children come to the school you can have new friends and there will be more children to play with at playtime.
- Because we are a good school we would teach more children.
- You won't get separated from your friends in the same year.
- It will be good practise for secondary school (2)
- New teachers
- The school would be bigger
- There might be an upstairs
- There will be more resources
- Teachers with specialisms to assist with the curriculum
- More parent support for PTFA raises more money and more land for fete.
- Would not have to split classes for literature and maths as one lesson = one class
- More recommendations to other people making the school popular
- It would be better for the environment if a second floor was built rather than expanding onto the land
- We could have a class per subject rather than per teacher, ie specialise in science or PE then we would get expertise in the teaching
- There would be two sittings for lunch
- No splitting of friends twice in a school life
- We would not repeat work as we would all be working on the same subject and the work would be different each year.
- There will be more choice of students in a year group to compete against other schools. There may be enough musicians for an orchestra.

Against the proposal

- We need to think carefully where to put the new building – not over the pond. Maybe have an upstairs in the school.
- There will be more children in the hall for assembly and you might be squashed.
- It will cost money to build new classes
- Only one more class so the school does not get filled up too much
- Need to buy more equipment, calculators etc.
- More noise while moving around the school – ie to ICT
- Would need to buy more land for a bigger field.
- Some village children are turned down due to lack of space
- More power would be needed. This would cost more and we are an Eco school
- Small schools are more personal, like being part of a family
- More staff would need to be employed

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By: Sarah Hohler, Cabinet Member for Education , Learning and Skills
Lorraine O'Reilly, Interim Director – Education, Learning and Skills

To: School Organisation Advisory Board – 7 September 2011

Subject: PROPOSAL TO EXPAND CHALLOCK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report presents the results of a public consultation on the proposal to expand Challock Primary School from 140 places to 210 places.

This paper should be read in conjunction with the report to School Organisation Advisory Board of 20 May 2011

Introduction

1. (1) The School Organisation Advisory Board, at its meeting on 20 May 2011, supported a recommendation to consult on the proposed expansion of Challock Primary School from 140 places to 210 places.

(2) This report sets out the results of the public consultation, which took place in June and July 2011.

The Proposal

2. (1) The proposal is to expand Challock Primary School by 10 places per year, bringing the total capacity to 210 places, to provide one form of entry, with up to 30 places per year group. It is proposed that the school formally expands for September 2012.

The Consultation

3. (1) A consultation document, a copy of which is attached as Appendix 1 was circulated. This circulation includes local Members, Ashford Borough Council, the Member of Parliament, the Diocesan Education Boards, head teachers in the Ashford district and local residents. The school had enough copies for all staff, governors, parents and carers. Approximately 300 copies of the public consultation document were circulated, which included a form for written responses.

(2) A public meeting was held at Challock Primary School on 11 July 2011. Mrs Valerie Dagger, KCC Member, chaired the meeting. Mr Simon Webb, Area Education Officer was in attendance. Approximately 70 people attended.

Responses to the Public Consultation

Written Responses

4. (1) 67 responses have been received, of which 38 are in favour, and 29 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 as Appendix 3.

Views of Local Member

5. (1) Mr Richard King, Member for Ashford Rural West is supportive of the proposal. He feels it makes sense for the school to be 1fe as, apart from the shortage of places in Ashford, it will help establish the viability of the school.

Views of Local Member of Parliament

6. The local Member of Parliament, Mr Damian Green, has been consulted on the proposal. A response is awaited.

Views of Ashford Borough Council

7. Ashford Borough Council has been consulted on the proposal. A response is awaited.

Views of the Parish Council

8. The Parish Council are in support of the proposal and are committed to help find a solution for the parking. They are working with both the residents and the school to make the situation as best as it can be. The Highways representative for Ashford will be visiting Challock in September to assist with this.

Views of the Governing Body

9. (1) The Governing Body unreservedly support the proposed expansion. The school is popular and the senior management team are excellent. The Governing Body wishes to thank the authority for having the confidence to include Challock in its plans to address the shortfall of places.
- (2) The school is extremely keen to teach the pupils in their discrete year groups and feel that this would be of greater benefit to the children both educationally and socially. Socially, remaining with their peer group is far better for the children. The current split classes can cause demoralisation and upset for some children that do not move “up” with

the rest of their class mates. Becoming a one form entry school will alleviate this unnecessary stress.

(3) Whilst the Governing Body recognises that there are ongoing issues within the local community about stresses resulting from the increased flow of traffic at specific times of the day, the actual/real impact of these as a result of expansion in comparison with the present situation will be minimal. Measures are in place to address and manage these matters and these are being reviewed and improved all the time. The Governing Body's contention is that these matters will not prove an impediment or a persistent barrier against expansion.

Views of the Pupils

10. Overall, the pupils are in favour of the expansion. A sample of their views is attached at Appendix 4.

Views of the Local Children's Trust Board

11. The Local Children's Trust Board fully understand the pressure on local services and schools caused by the rapid expansion of Ashford. The Board has always understood the need for additional pupil places in certain parts of the District and acknowledge the Area Education Officer would have researched all possibilities and concluded that Challock PS was one of the most appropriate schools to alleviate this pressure.

Views of Highways

12. Kent Highway Services are working with Ashford Borough Council regarding additional parking restrictions in the vicinity of the school. These will be advertised and residents will be consulted in due course.

Views of the Area Education Officer

13. (1) This is a popular school and regularly oversubscribed. Expansion is in line with the expectation of expanding popular, successful schools.

(2) A single age structure offers advantages in curriculum delivery, stability of friendship groups and extends the range of skills within the staff group as numbers increase.

(3) It is clear from the public meeting that there were concerns from many local residents that enlarging the school would cause them additional concerns. Some of the current parents appear to be inconsiderate, in the manner in which they utilise the single road entry into the school, at the start and end of the school day.

(4) Within a short distance there is a village hall which has ample parking to ensure that parents could park and walk their children to and from school. There are two 'walking buses' which are very successful, it is expected a third will be developed as a result of the enlargement.

(5) The school will need to address these issues through the production of a school travel plan, where responses to the completion of the document with local residents, staff and pupils will be required.

(6) The Area Education Officer for Mid Kent has agreed to liaise closely with both the Headteacher and Governors to ensure that the School Travel Plan will be robust.

(7) There were many positive comments in respect to the quality of teaching and learning at Challock Primary School and parents felt that by expanding the school to 1FE (210 places) that this would secure the future of the school. This was echoed by both the headteacher and Chair of Governors.

Resource Issues

Capital & Revenue

14. (1) Two classrooms will need to be provided, together with additional toilet provision and hard play space. The school has been asked to admit 30 pupils into year R in September 2011 and would need one additional classroom by that date. It is sensible therefore to provide both classrooms at this point. The estimated costs are £160,000 and provision can be made in the current Capital Budget from funding to be set aside to meet the urgent need for pupil places.

Human

(2) Additional teaching and support staff will be required. The school's budget will increase annually in line with the increase in pupil numbers. The school will also receive one-off reorganisation funding of £7,041 for each additional class for furnishing.

Proposed Timetable

15. If it is decided that a public notice should be issued in respect of this proposal, the following timetable is likely to apply:

Issue public notice	7 Oct 2011
End of representation period	17 Nov 2011
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Implementation	1 Sep 2012

Recommendation

16. The views of the School Organisation Advisory Board are sought on the issuing of a public notice to expand Challock Primary School from 140 places to 210 places.

Simon Webb
Area Education Officer
West Kent
01233 898547

The Local Member is Mr Richard King

Background Documents:

None

Previous Committee Reports:

School Organisation Advisory Board report dated 20 May 2011

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Public Consultation Document



Kent County Council would like to hear your views on a proposal to expand Challock Primary School from 140 places to 210 places.

**Date of Public Meeting:
Monday 11 July 2011 at 7pm
at Challock Primary School, Church Lane,
Challock, Ashford TN25 4BU**

This document is available on:
http://www.kent.gov.uk/education_and_learning/plans_and_consultations/consultations.aspx



Table 1 Projected number of primary aged pupils in the area	School places available 2010-11	2010-11 (A)	2014-15 (F)
Total pupils within 4 miles	1715	1694	1781
Surplus / deficit places within 4 miles	-	0	-66
Forecast roll data based on projections made in Summer 2010			

Table 2 Projected number of reception year children in the area	Reception places available 2010-11	2010-11 (A)	2014-15 (F)
Total reception year pupils within 4 miles	245	248	260
Surplus / deficit reception year places within 4 miles	-	-3	-15
Forecast roll data based on projections made in Summer 2010			

(A) Actual (F) Forecast

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PLEASE WRITE YOUR COMMENTS BELOW

If you require this document in another format please contact your school

1. THE PROPOSAL

Kent County Council would like to expand Challock Primary School by 10 places per year group, taking the total capacity of the school from 140 to 210 places. The school would then admit 30 pupils per year; the first annual intake of 30 pupils would be from September 2012. As the roll increases pupils would have the advantage of being taught in single age classes.

Challock Primary School is popular - over 70 families applied for the 20 year R places for September 2011; 28 as first preferences. The last Ofsted report (February 2009) showed the school to be "good with outstanding features". Expansion is therefore in line with the expectation of expanding popular, successful schools. The Governing Body is in full support of the proposal.

We have asked the school to admit 30 pupils into Year R in September 2011 to help address pressures in Ashford Town and the surrounding villages. The school will be provided with additional classroom accommodation to support the expansion.

We are undertaking a public consultation to seek the views of the wider community on this proposal. There will be a public meeting on 11 July 2011 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 26 July 2011.

2. THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL SCHOOL PLACES

The school planning data contained in Table 1 on page 4 shows that there are currently 21 spare primary school places within four miles of Challock Primary School. Forecasts show that there will be a shortfall of 66 places by 2014. Table 2 shows forecast figures for children aged 4 years old in the area (ie Reception aged pupils). There is a current shortfall of 3 places and forecasts show this shortfall increasing to 15 places by 2014.

3. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Following the Consultation, all views received, either by post, e-mail or at the Public Meeting, will be reported to the School Organisation Advisory Board.*	7 Sep 2011
The Cabinet Member decides whether to continue with the proposal. If so, a Public Notice will be published in a local newspaper, at the school and in public places like the library. During this time comments and objections can be made about the proposal. The Public Notice will run for 6 weeks.	Public Notice: 7 Oct 2011 - 17 Nov 2011
The Cabinet Member considers all responses made and makes a decision whether to go ahead.	Dec 2011
If a decision cannot be made by the Local Authority then the matter will go to the Adjudicator.	Dec 2011 - Feb 2012
Implementation	Sept 2012

* 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.**

4. HOW TO GIVE YOUR VIEWS

Complete and return the response form to:

Simon Webb, Area Education Officer, c/o Mid Kent Office, Kroner House, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford, Kent TN24 8XU Fax: (01233) 898500

Come to the Public Meeting at the school on 11 July 2011 at 7pm.

Email 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).

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.

✂

Public Consultation Response Form : Challock Primary School

Please return no later than 5pm on Tuesday 26 July 2011

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

Do you agree with the proposal? Yes No

I am: *A Parent/Carer; Member of Staff; Governor; Student; Other interested party
.....(please state). * Please delete as appropriate

Name:

Address:

PROPOSED EXPANSION OF CHALLOCK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Summary of written responses

Consultation documents distributed: 300

Responses received: 67

	Support	Against	Undecided	Total
Parents/Carers	16	13		29
Members of staff	13			13
Governors	3			3
Pupils				
Resident	5	15		20
Interested party	1	1		2
Total	38	29	0	67

In support of the proposal

- Fully support the expansion. (7)
- Splitting the year groups can be detrimental for a lot of the children. One class per year will be a positive move forward for the school and will help reduce stress encountered by children and parents at the beginning of each school year. (9)
- In favour but will the school then be able to provide breakfast and after school clubs to help working single parents?
- Great idea. I have one child in the school but can't get my younger child in yet.
- It is an amazing school and expanding it will not affect the ethos, results or general well-being of the school.
- The site is of sufficient size to absorb the increase in numbers without losing outside space as the additional classrooms are being sited on dead space not currently used.
- It is a great compliment, much deserved, to the staff of Challock Primary School that the school is considered good enough to be expanded.
- In favour but concerned about the size of the school building – the hall will not have sufficient space for increased numbers for dinner, assemblies etc. (2)
- The bulk of the people who park around the school are mostly residents of Challock. The majority of parents coming from outside park away from the school with lots of us parking in the village hall car park.
- Parking will always be a problem but our problems are no worse than any other school. 1 hour per day, 5 days per week, 39 weeks per year is 195 hours – 2% of time. It is attitudes and expectations that need to change. (2)
- Whilst most of the local residents will oppose the proposal based on the increase of cars, what did they expect when they bought a house near a school? There is no school in Kent (nor probably in the country) where parking is not an issue. People will just have to get on with it.
- The fire engine attended the summer fete a few years ago and managed to negotiate Church Lane, all the parked cars and the school car park to reverse onto the school playground.
- The idea in the 21st century that the “village school should be for village children” is both naïve and insular.
- The school has two very successful walking bus schemes and numbers using these have increased over the past year. With continued support, new parents will use the scheme. Traffic issues will always be of concern to residents living near any school. This proposal will be of significant benefit to the children which is of paramount importance.

- Surely it is better to have a well rounded population of children than a village empty of cars.
- In the past the school expanded from 3 classrooms to 5 which brought many advantages, including a non-teaching head, more teachers with expertise in all areas of the curriculum and interests which has led to more diversity and opportunity for pupils to take part in clubs, sports and music etc. Parking may be an issue but as a local resident I am aware that a lot of people causing parking problems live within half a mile of the school and should be encouraged to walk or use the car parking facilities.

In support of the proposal but concerns expressed over traffic and parking

- KCC should urgently consider double yellow lines on the bend in Church Lane.
- I would suggest that single yellow lines with time restrictions would solve the parking problem.
- The parking problem does need to be considered. There must be extra parking for the school. (3)
- Parking could be made available outside the local public house.
- Although I am not against the increase in pupil numbers I would guess that few of the new pupils would walk to the school. One may then assume that this would result in a 50% increase in parents driving their children.

Against the proposal

- The village cannot cope with the amount of traffic this proposal will create. Parking / traffic is already bad. (16)
- Increased cars (up to 70 per day) will increase CO2 and damage not just the area but potentially the health of the children.
- Please consider the safety of the residents and children. (3)
- Elderly residents are at risk due to their greater need for emergency vehicles. (4)
- Suggest a risk assessment is undertaken re safety of children in the nearby roads and also for the impact on the environment that an additional 140 car journeys a day would have on the surrounding area.
- I do not believe this proposal to be in the best interests of either the children at the school or the residents of Challock and its impact on both should not be underestimated.
- The villagers should be able to see the Travel Plan showing how the village will handle the extra traffic, before any decision is taken on the expansion.
- I am a resident and parents bringing their children to the school can be rude and abusive. They park their cars across driveways and even on driveways. (7)
- Village children should get to village schools. We had to appeal and found out that many children from towns far and wide were at the school yet we could not get into our local village school.
- Why should our school expand just because non local people desire an education for their children which is not always achievable in more local schools to them. Schools should be built in areas of housing developments in Ashford, ie Goat Lees / Kennington. (6)
- It may cost more but would it not be simpler and more eco friendly to build a new school where it is needed, in Kennington, rather than transfer the problem to us.
- It is clear that this extension is to provide places for children from other villages and I do not approve of this. Parents from Charing say they do not want their children mixing with the council house kids. How obnoxious can some people be?
- The school is no longer just a village school as the majority of children come from all over. I think the school is now in the wrong situation for the amount of children attending and needs to be shut down and rebuilt in a better location with better access, for example on the school governors' or councillors' door steps.
- If the school increases by 35% then the level of education will drop, so will its results and it will lose its reputation as a community school. The school can currently

sustain the demand from the villagers of Challock and very close surrounding areas. The increased demand is coming from people outside the village, and this demand could be accommodated by other schools in Ashford, Faversham and Canterbury.

- The school would need a breakfast and after school club to help cope with additional numbers, especially if parents are travelling some distance. All local childminders are fully booked.
- Bad weather usually causes the school to close as it is at the top of a hill. How will parents from outside the village be able to get there to collect their children when the weather is severe?
- Members of staff park all day in the narrow lane restricting and sometimes obstructing access to our road. Delivery lorries have been unable to deliver due to cars blocking our road.
- As Challock is only a short distance from both Ashford and Faversham it can be an early stop for large commercial delivery vehicles – heating oil, bottled gas, septic tank emptying, building materials etc. This can happen during the school morning rush hour.
- Coaches for school trips reverse down Church Lane and then wait up to 45 minutes for the children to board. They should park in the village hall car park.
- The school hall is not big enough already at lunchtimes and I do not like the idea of two sittings. (2)
- Two classrooms are used for packed lunches and I think it is unhealthy for children to be eating in classes they are in all day.
- 30 children in a year is too many. (3)
- It's a fabulous school with outstanding features and one of these is that the children's classes have small numbers and therefore enables better teaching with small numbers of children. One of my children has learning difficulties; these are helped by smaller classes. I chose the school for this reason and feel that by making the year groups bigger the school will lose its success.
- Increased class sizes will impact on the quality and amount of attention each pupil will receive from the teaching staff and this will lead to a downward spiral of standards across the school.
- Mobile classrooms are not ideal. The winters are severe and children moving between mobile classrooms and the main building could fall and injure themselves which could result in claims against the school.
- I do not believe the school grounds are realistically big enough to accommodate an extra 70 children (perhaps 35-40). (3)
- My main concern is that the dynamics of the school will change.
- Are the teachers 100% behind the expansion and do they believe the children's education and well-being would be much improved?
- I have very little faith in the Education Department's planning. Just a few years ago schools were being closed due to surplus places. I believe this proposal is a quick-fix measure.
- The meeting was not leafleted sufficiently in the village. Residents felt they were not given enough time to air their worries. (3)
- KCC must be very certain this proposal is going through if they are going to spend £200,000 on ground preparation and temporary accommodation.
- We are a village with a good school not a good school with a village.
- Playground noise level will increase and as a shift worker having to sleep during the day this would become unacceptable.
- Children with special learning needs are currently taught once a week by the SENCo in her room. At other times small groups of them are taught by their LSA in the corridor. These children are more likely to have multi-sensory issues and should be taught in a quiet area. Where will the children in the mobile classrooms be taught should they need to be taken out into smaller learning groups? Will they go to the main building?

- Storage is already a problem in the school and this will get worse as the school grows in size. Some sports equipment is even stored in the disabled toilet.
- I was not happy that at the public meeting the chairman of the Parish Council was allowed to speak. This should not have happened. (2)
- There is a strong feeling in the village that this proposal is already a “done deal” which has been helped by the support of the Parish Council.
- I strongly object to the increase. Previous to the public meeting I was asked if I had any objection to the planning application for two additional mobile classrooms to be sited at the school. This was to admit 30 pupils in September 2011. Now I know that this number will increase to 70 over the coming years I wish it noted that I now feel I should have objected. I would suggest that the school be primarily for the village children, and once they had been catered for, only then open places to children from other areas. Challock School need not be an overspill school for Ashford as I am informed that two new schools are being built to alleviate this.
- There will be more litter (sweet wrappers, drink cartons etc).

PROPOSED EXPANSION OF CHALLOCK PRIMARY SCHOOL**Summary of the Public Meeting held on 11 July 2011 at Challock PS**

Approximately 70 people attended the public meeting including parents, governors and other interested parties.

Issue or Comment	Response
<p>Headteacher: The school fully supports this proposal. With our current mixed age groups some parents find it an issue if their child “stays down”. Before this proposal budgets were slashed and we were facing a redundancy situation. This proposal has helped. Larger schools are stronger, smaller schools are quite vulnerable.</p> <p>We take the parking issue very seriously. We are fortunate to be able to use the village hall car park and we often send reminder letters to parents. In the last 5 years we have developed two walking buses – one from across The Lees and one from the car park and as parents come into reception we encourage them to use the car park.</p>	
<p>Chair of Governors: The Governing Body endorses this proposal. The school has an excellent reputation. Our last Ofsted was good with outstanding features and we are striving to make it outstanding all round. The proposal is to enlarge the school a little. It’s not a massive enlargement. Birth rate is increasing. The current size means we are subjected to mixed year groups so constantly struggle with resources, always looking at staffing. We feel that what is gained by the children and the community outweighs any temporary disruption caused by setting that process up. I know that parking is an issue; it’s a perennial problem wherever you go.</p> <p>We try to address the problems – parking on zigzags, bad language etc and we will continue to do so.</p>	
<p>A point was raised by a member of the audience that there was a conflict of interests in allowing the Vice-Chair of Governors to speak as he was also Chair of the Parish Council.</p>	<p>The Chair of SOAB explained that there was no conflict of interest. The Vice-Chair of Governors had declared his position and there was no illegality.</p>
<p>Vice-Chair of Governors: As a parish councillor and a villager I see the educational benefits of the school expanding. The school is vulnerable at this size and the village cannot afford to put the school at risk and therefore I think we should take on the extra pupils. It will still be a village school with a village ethos.</p>	

Issue or Comment	Response
<p>The big issue is the parking and the main problem parkers are the parents who live in the village who seem to think that as they are only parking for 10 minutes they can park where they like.</p> <p>I know there has been abuse to people living in Kiln Close from parents – all we can do is educate those parents.</p> <p>Wholeheartedly endorse the proposal on behalf of the Parish Council, as a parent and as a villager.</p>	
<p>This so-called public meeting has been kept very quiet. I came across a leaflet by chance. It's not just the parking; it's the increased traffic – double the number of vehicles. I call it now the “Mad Mother's Run”. You are taking your life in your hands. It's not about 200 people in the school; it's about 800 people in the village. It affects the village.</p> <p>I totally agree with the structure of the school – how each year would be better off separate. It's a wonderful school and I would hate to see it go, but the rest of the village must be taken into account.</p>	<p>People who receive a copy of the Consultation Document are those linked to the school – parents/carers, staff and governors. There is little facility to leaflet drop to all residents in any area. This is advice received over many years – just parents/carers, staff and governors of the school.</p>
<p>I refute that the traffic problems are caused by residents, they come from Kennington. They cause a very serious problem prior to 9am and at 3pm. It's not just the area outside the school but all the way to the Lees. The headteacher has tried to address this but it has not worked.</p>	<p>School will have to put together a School Travel Plan. Governing Body will need to address the comments regarding extra vehicles and children walking. For example, a third walking bus.</p>
<p>The figures on the document (1715 places and forecast of 1781 children) show a shortfall of 66 places. If you provide 210 places here it does not tie in with the facts on the back of the consultation document.</p>	<p>The 1715 places are from all the local rural primary schools – the ones within 4 miles.</p>
<p>Why choose a radius of 4 miles, why not 10 miles or more? What was the rationale behind that?</p>	<p>A 4 mile radius was chosen so it does not completely encompass the whole of Ashford town centre. 4 miles takes you very close to the edge of Ashford but also brings in the local rural primary schools.</p>
<p>Great fan of this school but what will happen to the class sizes following the expansion? It's good to keep small class sizes as children get more attention.</p>	<p>Would agree with your comment on small classes to a point but it is the quality of teaching and learning that is important. If proposal goes ahead it will be an increase of 10 pupils per year for the next 7 years.</p> <p>The school currently has 5 classes all of which have 30 children in them and we try not to exceed 30.</p> <p>The school was very vulnerable before being asked to take extra children. From September 2011 Year R will be 30, then discrete year groups of 20.</p> <p>The school currently has 5 classes with 30 pupils in each class and these are mixed age-ranges, which is not ideal.</p>

Issue or Comment	Response
	<p>Teachers can teach mixed age-ranges but a single form of entry is ideal for teachers and pupils. If the expansion goes ahead with the two new classrooms there will still be 30 in each class but they will all be the same age-range.</p>
<p>We don't have that number of children in the village. Most of them come from Kennington. Why can't parents moving into this village get their children into this school? People from Kennington cause the problems.</p>	<p>All parents have the opportunity of putting four preferences for schools they might wish their child to attend. Challock received 70 applications for places in September 2011, 28 as first preferences. If more applications are received than places are available then oversubscription criteria is applied. (Looked After Children, sibling links, distance etc.)</p> <p>When children move into the village during the year there can be problems. KS1 pupils – there cannot be more than 30 in a class. KS2 – not the case and can expand junior classes if headteacher and governors agree.</p> <p>In exceptional circumstances we can over-ride KS1 legislation, eg a LAC. Second most common way to exceed the Published Admission Number is when the parent goes to an independent Appeal Panel who can direct the child into that year group.</p>
<p>This village is an accident waiting to happen. I am assured that the traffic will be taken care of. It's not been taken care of to date. How can you guarantee this with an additional 60 vehicles? Emergency vehicles would have real problems getting through when the cars are parked all along the road. The most dangerous time is the afternoon. Children rush out to the cars, some mums want to chat, and some mums want to get home – quickly. One day a child is going to be killed and it will be a child. Probably a village child walking to school. The abuse is very bad. My wife and I have been on the receiving end of this several times.</p>	<p>This is why the School Travel Plan has to be written. Agree there will be an increase in traffic and accept your point. Doubt whether more than 30-35 cars can use the entrance to the school but realise this may not answer your query. Emergency vehicles: the fire brigade would, if needed, push those vehicles out of the way. The points raised about traffic are consistent with all schools across Kent. There is no magic solution to traffic control at drop-off and pick up times. We will have a School Travel Plan, we will try to educate the parents about parking and appropriate behaviour. If we (governors, us, all of you) feel this is a bigger issue then the local PCSO could be asked to patrol on a regular basis at certain times to try to control parents and the behaviour of parents. No one can really control the way people talk to each other. I've been abused when I've been visiting schools.</p>
<p>I am a police officer but do not go out in uniform trying to sort out the traffic problems. I've received abuse. I agree entirely with previous comments. The infrastructure of the village does not present itself for emergency services.</p>	

Issue or Comment	Response
I consider that increasing the school by 50% is a major increase. It will reduce the play area. Twice as many children in half the amount of space.	When the school was built it was built to accommodate a 1fe primary school. Playing field regulations say we will have enough space for 210 children. The mobile will be placed where the “mound” currently is. We will be making use of dead space.
The school is not an overspill for Ashford and that’s what it’s becoming.	We cannot control where parents send their children. They have the right to express a preference. Some parents come from Charing which is odd as that is further away than Kennington.
What percentage of children have come from the village and surrounding villages? And what percentage has come from Kennington in the past? If the school is increased in size what percentage will come from Kennington? Schools should be built at Goat Lees, Trinity Road etc. We should not be attracting those people to come here and cause problems.	
I’ve been here since the 1960s. It’s always been a good school. The school has always had good results. It is not at risk in my opinion.	Any school below 210 pupils are the first schools at risk if numbers drop. A few less pupils in a smaller than 1fe school can lead to redundancies. We will secure the future of the school for years to come by making it 1fe. The increase is slightly under 50%. In the time it will take the school to grow to 1fe the LA will put pressure on the school and the Governing Body re the parking issue.
There are schools planned at Repton Park and Goat Lees, which is 6 miles away. Do the figures include these schools?	The schools at Repton Park and Goat Lees are to meet the significant demand from new development in those areas. We want to ensure that children can go to their nearest local school.
Where will the children be eating? Currently they use classrooms and the hall. Will the hall be made bigger? When the school has functions the hall is barely adequate for children and parents now – what will happen in the future? The Harvest Festival was held at the local church and there was standing room only. Will you need to submit more plans for more space?	The school will trial different methods at lunchtime and use the village hall for performances etc. We could, for example, do a harvest festival for infants and one for juniors.
I know you will build on the “mound” but there will be more children in the space. My son has special needs. The school was worried about him being knocked over. The SENCo is part-time at the moment, will her hours be increased?	The school will consider the need for additional hours for the SENCo as children come into the school.
When there are 30 pupils in a class will there be more support? More TAs? What will be the ratio of teacher or support staff to pupils?	Classes are 30 now, so there will be no change. As the school grows the school will look at additional support. The school will consider the needs of all children, not just SEN children.

Issue or Comment	Response
My child is in Y2 and currently split with a Y1 class. In the juniors there are classes of 20. Will those classes stay at 20 while my child is there or can you add 10 additional children?	The expansion will be a rolling through process (unless there is a casual admission). Plan is that current classes will roll through the school and the PAN of 30 will roll up through the school. Additional staff will be provided as needed.
I am in support of the proposal but why is the decision about the expansion not made until December when the mobile will be in place from October?	There were 28 applications for reception this year and the LA asked the school to take 30. The LA agreed to provide additional accommodation. The mobile will be temporary until the formal consultation ends and formal decision is made. If the public consultation stops at any stage in the process then the accommodation will be needed for the 30 children arriving in 2011. It would be removed after seven years.
By KCC spending probably £250k on a mobile classroom will that in any way influence the decision on this proposal?	No. The need to expand is for the 28 applicants who wanted places in the school. We have to respond to that. Future government legislation is likely to say expansion of the school will come first. The cost of the mobile classroom is around £120k. It's a significant sum but we have to do it because local parents want their children to come here.
I am a parent and a midwife and I can assure you that there will be no difficulty in filling the extra spaces needed at this school. I fully support the proposal. The parking is going to be a big issue, but that's the only issue and I support the proposal.	
If the mobile does not arrive until October what happens in September and up until the mobile arrives?	The school will move things around. The SENCo room will be used to accommodate 20 children temporarily.
I think this is an excellent idea for the school. Casual admissions will be accommodated. It's better for children to be with the same age group. Hothfield school closed two years ago. The headteacher has already talked about redundancies at this school. Just because a school is good won't protect it going forward.	

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PROPOSED EXPANSION OF CHALLOCK PRIMARY SCHOOL

A sample of pupil responses

Year 1 pupils:

It's a good idea because sometimes we get confused because we have to remember if we are split or not to go over to Year 1. It will be easier to remember, just having one teacher for our year group, because we have two now when we split.

The classrooms on the mound will be ok. It will be very quiet there, and it goes straight onto the junior playground and we will go on the field to go to the infant playground.

Year 3 pupils:

We think that it's a good idea to have the classes separate, because there'll be less people in the class and they won't have to do different work.

We aren't allowed to use the mound, so we can put the new classrooms there. We need to get any frogs off the mound though and put them somewhere muddy and damp and make a habitat for them.

We are looking forward to being in Year 4 on our own. But we do like Year 5 still though, because they are our friends.

Year 5 pupils:

We think it's better because they might not know who they are going to be working with in exams for their age group. They will get used to working with their own age group. Some children in different year groups might find our work too hard for them.

The teachers will find it better to work with just one year group, because if you have two year groups being taught in the same class, one year group might be taught more.

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By: Sarah Hohler, Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills
Lorraine O'Reilly, Interim Director – Education, Learning and Skills

To: School Organisation Advisory Board – 7 September 2011

Subject: PROPOSED PRIMARY SCHOOL AT REPTON PARK –
MODIFICATION OF PROPOSAL

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report is to inform Members of the latest position relating to the proposed primary school at Repton Park, Ashford

Background

1. (1) In January 2008 the Local Authority approved a proposal from three named individuals, from Homewood School and Sixth Form College, to promote the planned primary school at Repton Park, Ashford. The approval was subject to several conditions including: (i) formation of The Homewood School Trust and (ii) The Repton Park Residents Association to be added as a Trust Partner.

(2) Repton Park Primary School is due to open on 1 September 2012.

The Modification

2. (1) Homewood School and Sixth Form Centre is due to become an Academy on 1 September 2011 and will therefore not be able to form The Homewood Trust as originally planned.

(2) There is, as yet, no residents association on Repton Park.

(3) The Temporary Governing Body for Repton Park School has indicated that under the circumstances outlined above they would prefer the school to be a Foundation school without a Trust. This should afford the future governing body with a greater range of options regarding its future status.

(4) The details of this proposed modification have been discussed with the Department for Education who, in principle, are happy with the modification. This modification is not therefore viewed as a significant change to the original proposal.

Recommendation

Members of the School Organisation Advisory Board are asked to recommend that the Cabinet Member for education, Learning and skills agree to the change of status of the school from a Trust school to a Foundation school

David Adams

Area Education Officer, Mid Kent

Tel : 01233 898559

David.adams@kent.gov.uk