

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>