

Public Consultation Document
GREEN PARK COMMUNITY
PRIMARY SCHOOL



Date of Public Meeting: Tuesday 1 April, 7.00 p.m.

**Venue: Green Park Community Primary School
(former Melbourne site)**

Kent County Council would like to hear your views on the proposed change of age range for Green Park Community Primary School and the closure of the maintained nursery unit with effect from 19 October 2008.



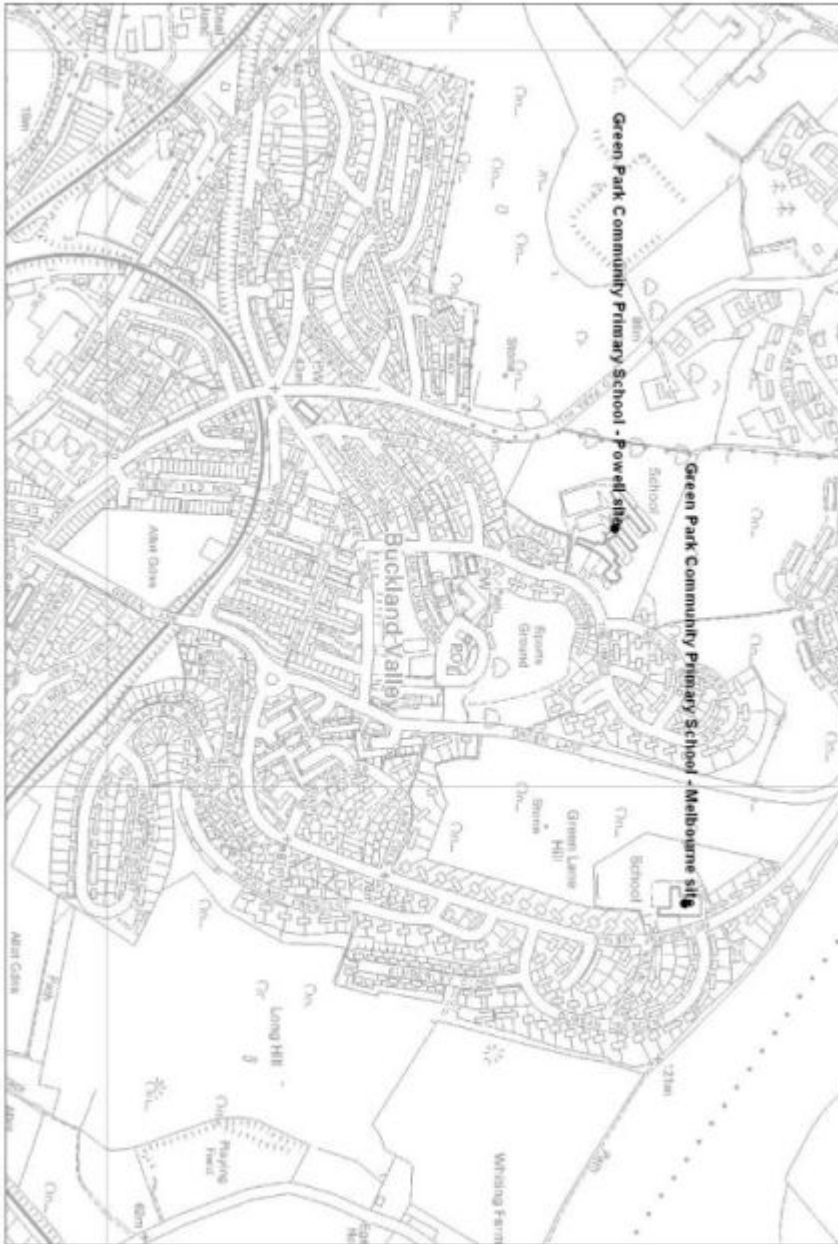
Dear Parents/Carers

Kent County Council consulted you in 2006 on the proposal to amalgamate The Powell School and Melbourne Community Primary School. It was proposed at that time that the newly amalgamated school would provide for children aged 4 to 11 and not include a maintained nursery unit. Following the Adjudicator's decision to modify the proposal it was agreed that the nursery unit would remain open while the Melbourne site remained in operation and Green Park Community School would therefore provide for children aged 3 to 11.

From September 2008 the school will consolidate onto the one site at The Lincs. It is therefore now necessary to bring forward a proposal to change the age range of Green Park Community Primary School and to close the maintained nursery unit.

This document contains full details of the proposal and you will see on page 9 how you can respond to this consultation. I can assure you that all comments received will be carefully considered before decisions are made.

Dr Ian Craig
Director (Operations)
Children, Families and Education



MANAGED BY INFORMATION
SERVICES
KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

CURRENT LOCATION OF GREEN PARK COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL (2 SITES)

GREEN PARK
KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

1. INTRODUCTION

On 14 March 2007 the Schools Adjudicator approved the proposal to close Melbourne Community Primary School and The Powell School with effect from 31 August 2007 and to establish a newly amalgamated school from 1 September 2007. The original proposal was that both schools should be consolidated onto the site of The Powell School from that time. The new school would have an age range of 4 to 11. The proposal therefore encompassed the closure of the existing nursery unit on the Melbourne site.

The Adjudicator modified the proposal published by the Local Authority. The proposal to amalgamate the two schools with effect from 1 September 2007 was approved. However, the Adjudicator determined that the newly amalgamated (Green Park) school should initially operate on split site locations. This was intended to allow time for adaptations to The Powell site to be properly planned and implemented and for the needs of the children with physical disability, including those in the Physical Disability Unit at the Melbourne School to be taken into account.

In consultation between the Local Authority, the headteachers of the two existing schools and the Adjudicator it was agreed that the consolidation onto a single site would be deferred until September 2008. Following discussion with the Local Authority, the Adjudicator therefore made a further modification to the originally published proposal by determining that initially, the age range of the new school should be 3 to 11 and not 4 to 11, effectively allowing the nursery unit to continue until the Melbourne site was closed and mainstream provision consolidated on the site of the former Powell School.

Plans are now in place to make appropriate improvements and adaptations to the former Powell site to enable consolidation to take place from September 2008. It is therefore necessary to bring forward a proposal to change the age range of the newly established Green Park Community Primary School from 3 to 11 to 4 to 11, thereby closing the maintained nursery on the former Melbourne site.

2. BACKGROUND

The maintained nursery unit opened in September 2005 and since that time has always been significantly under-subscribed. There are currently 14 children occupying part time places although the nursery has the capacity to provide 52 part-time places.

There is no space to accommodate the maintained nursery unit on the former Powell site. Moreover, the nursery unit is under-used and there is private pre-school provision (Kidease), located next to the former Powell School. To retain the maintained nursery unit on the Melbourne site would pose significant management and logistical difficulties for the headteacher and staff of Green Park School, once the mainstream school had vacated the former Melbourne site from September 2008.

Apart from the Kidease private nursery which offers 40 pre-school places, pre-school provision, including both nursery and full day care provision is already available locally through the provision made by the Umbrella private nursery, which is part of the offer available through the Buckland Children's Centre. The Umbrella provision currently offers morning and full day care provision for up to

.....continued on Page 6

BACKGROUND cont.....

45 children (a maximum of 24 at any one time) and is located in St Nicholas Church Hall on the Buckland Estate. The quality of the accommodation and facilities available are inferior to those available within the existing maintained nursery unit. Umbrella has been looking for alternative accommodation. Use of the facilities on the former Melbourne site would meet a pressing community need and enhance the facilities available to local pre-school children.

The current minimum age for admission to the maintained nursery unit is 3 years old. Umbrella currently provides for children from age 2 years. Umbrella, as the provider for the Children's Centre, needs to offer provision for babies and with modest adaptations to the maintained nursery unit (to provide baby changing facilities, etc) they would be able to provide for children aged 0 to 4.

3. THE PROPOSAL

The proposal therefore is to change the age range of Green Park Community School from 3-11 to 4-11 and to close the maintained nursery unit with effect from 19 October 2008 (end of Term 1).

Subject to that proposal being agreed, discussions would be progressed with the Umbrella pre-school provider to ensure that the excellent accommodation currently used by Green Park nursery remains available for use by Umbrella as part of the local Children's Centre offer. This would secure continuing use of this excellent facility for the benefit of the community and there would continue to be pre-school provision on the former Melbourne site. Technically however, this alternative use of the nursery building does not form part of the statutory proposal to change the age range of Green Park Community School.

4. WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THE STAFF AT THE EXISTING MAINTAINED NURSERY UNIT?

There is only one teacher currently working in Green Park nursery unit in addition to three part-time teaching assistants. The school is already undertaking a staff restructuring in preparation for the move to a single site from September 2008. The intention is that the nursery teacher will be redeployed within the mainstream school from that time.

The teaching assistants supporting the existing nursery are included within the overall restructuring taking place at the school. As a result of the restructuring there may be a need to reduce hours for teaching assistants. However, there will be no compulsory redundancies for teachers or teaching assistants at the school or in the nursery.

5. WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THE CHILDREN CURRENTLY ATTENDING GREEN PARK NURSERY UNIT?

From September 2008 Umbrella has guaranteed to provide a place to any of the existing pre-school children attending Green Park nursery who may need a place from that time.

6. WHAT IMPACT WOULD CLOSURE OF THE NURSERY UNIT HAVE ON THE AVAILABILITY OF PRE-SCHOOL PROVISION?

There would be an overall reduction in the number of places as the 52 part time places offered at the maintained nursery would no longer be available. However, the majority of those places have not been taken up and the existing nursery is seriously under-utilised.

7. FREE NURSERY PROVISION ENTITLEMENT

Children aged 3 and 4 have an entitlement to 12.5 hours of free pre-school nursery provision per week (soon to rise to 15 hours per week). Subject to the availability of places this could be accessed through the private provision (Umbrella) which it is planned to relocate to the existing nursery facility.

There is already a Service Level Agreement (SLA) between Kent County Council and Umbrella in relation to the services which Umbrella contributes to the Children's Centre offer. The SLA would be reviewed to ensure that it affords protection to parents seeking to access their minimum statutory entitlement and that they would not be disadvantaged in doing so. Umbrella offers full day care provision. Parents wishing to access additional services beyond their statutory entitlement would pay for any additional services which they require.

8. HOW TO GIVE YOUR VIEWS

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

- **Complete and return the response form to:**
Martyn Doole, Area Education Officer
East Kent Education Office, Clover House
John Wilson Business Park, Thanet Way
Whitstable, Kent CT5 3QZ
(forms must reach us by 6 May 2008)

- **Come to a public meeting at Green Park Community School (Melbourne site) on Tuesday 1 April at 7.00 p.m.**
 - ◇ An elected Member of Kent County Council will chair this meeting, at which all interested parties will have an opportunity to put forward their views.
 - ◇ Officers from the Local Authority will also be present to clarify points of detail.

- **Email your views to: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk**

9. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

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

CONSULTATION AND DECISION MAKING TIMETABLE

Consultation period begins	13 March 2008
Public Meeting at the school * (former Melbourne site)	1 April 2008 7.00 p.m.
Final date for written comments	6 May 2008
School Organisation Advisory Board*	7 May 2008 10.30 a.m.
Cabinet Member decision to issue a Public Notice	End of May 2008
Approximate dates of Public Notice period	13 June to 25 July
Determination by Local Authority	August 2008
Adjudication if required	Sept/October 2008
Proposed implementation	19 October 2008

* **These meetings are open to the public.**

The School organisation Advisory Board meeting is held at County Hall and can be watched by Broadband via the kent.gov.uk website.

Public Consultation Response Form

Proposal to change the age range of Green Park Community Primary School from 3-11 to 4-11 years by closing the maintained nursery unit.

PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN 6 MAY 2008

To: Martyn Doole, Area Education Officer
East Kent Education Office, Clover House
John Wilson Business Park, Thanet Way
Whitstable, Kent CT5 3QZ
Fax: 01227 772290

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

Do you agree with the proposal?

Yes

No

The parent/carer of a pupil at the school

A parent/carer of a pupil at the maintained nursery unit

A governor of the school

A member of staff at the school

Other interested party (please state interest)
.....

A member of staff at the maintained nursery unit

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

PLEASE WRITE YOUR COMMENTS OVERLEAF

My comments are as follows:

This document is available on:

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

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