

From: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform
Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director of Education and Young People's Services

To: Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee
15 December 2015

Subject: Proposed changes to Wouldham All Saints CEP School (Tonbridge & Malling)

Decision number: 15/00092

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: Education Cabinet Committee – 4 December 2013;

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Divisions: Malling Rural North East (Peter Homewood) and Tonbridge: (Richard Long and Christopher Smith)

Summary: This report sets out the results of the public consultation on proposed changes to Wouldham All Saints CEP School (Tonbridge & Malling)

Recommendation(s): The Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on the proposed decision to:

Issue a public notice to:

(i) Relocate Wouldham All Saints CEP School to a site adjacent to Hall Road and expand the number of places from 210 to 420 for 1 September 2017.

And, subject to no new objections to the public notice:-

(ii) Implement the proposals for 1 September 2017;

(iii) Allocate £7.95 million from the Basic Needs budget, which will be met in part by the capital receipt from the current Wouldham All Saints CEPS school site and £4.43 million from developer contributions;

(iv) Authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support in consultation with the Director of Governance and Law to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council; and

(v) Authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts.

1. Introduction

1.1 As the strategic commissioner of school provision, the Local Authority has a duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places for the residents of Kent. This duty applies to special school provision, as well as mainstream settings.

These proposals reflect KCC's aspirations to increase the number of SEN school places across the County, as set out in Kent's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2015-19.

- 1.2 Wouldham All Saints CEP School has recently celebrated 150 years of established education. The school environment and ethos is very different now to 1865 but the basic principle of working hard to get every child to reach their potential is still a guiding force.
- 1.3 The school has grown significantly over recent years and is now over-subscribed and the roll is expected to be under pressure in the coming years and so the governors have created a proposal to ensure a sustainable and promising future for education in the area. The Governing Body of Wouldham All Saints CEP School, with the support of the Diocese of Rochester approached KCC to request that the school be considered for relocation and expansion.
- 1.4 The Governing Body of Wouldham All Saints CEPS with Kent County Council (KCC) and the Diocese of Rochester consulted on the proposal to relocate the school to a larger site located approximately 0.65 miles south of the existing school and at the same time to increase the school to two forms of entry.
- 1.5 It is proposed that the school would be rebuilt on this new site as a two form entry primary school expanding from 210 to 420 school places; with the possibility of increasing to three forms of entry in the longer term should there be a local need for this. If the proposal goes ahead the school would permanently admit up to 60 children into Year R from September 2017 and in subsequent years.
- 1.6 The new school site would be significantly larger than the current one offering increased outside space and parking provision. The site would be acquired through a planning obligation with the developers of Peters Village to the south of Wouldham; this development will also contribute significantly to the construction of the new school buildings; offering a rare opportunity for a successful school to gain new modern facilities on a comfortably sized site. The new school site sites between Wouldham Village and Peters Village and will continue to serve the pupils from Wouldham Village.

Proposal to establish a Satellite provision of Ridge View School at Wouldham All Saints CEP School for 48 students with moderate to severe learning difficulties from 1 September 2017

- 1.7 Kent County Council's strategy for children and young people with special educational needs and who are disabled (SEND) identified the need to add capacity across the county. The SEND Strategy shows how we will be creating 209 extra places in special schools and 164 in mainstream schools.
- 1.8 Further to the successful implementation of Satellite classes of special schools located within mainstream schools KCC is proposing to establish additional classes for Ridge View School within the proposed new location of the Wouldham All Saints CEP School site. It is intended that the Satellite have its own accommodation which will be fully integrated into the new plans for Wouldham All Saints CEPS and will operate on the Ridge View School

model. Pupils will remain on the role of Ridge View schools and it will be staffed by Ridge View School staff and pupils attending the satellite will continue to have access to the support they need.

- 1.9 The proposal to establish a Satellite provision is linked to and contingent upon the relocation and expansion of Wouldham All Saints CEPS.
- 1.10 Wouldham All Saints CEPS is being asked to host a new Satellite provision for up to 48 pupils with moderate to complex learning difficulties. The Headteacher and Governing Body at Wouldham All Saints CEPS are happy to host the satellite and are confident that staff from Ridge View School will bring the relevant expertise and skills to meet the needs of the children, for the benefit of both schools.
- 1.11 An assessment of the individual needs of the child will identify that they are suitable for Satellite provision at a mainstream school. For example, those children who will benefit from having some opportunities to join in mainstream school activities for either social situations i.e. lunchtime clubs, breaks etc. or for taught subjects such as Maths, English, PE or any area relevant to the individual child. The Headteachers and Governors at both schools will be invited to take part in the discussions about which pupils are most appropriate and should be admitted. All of the children in the Satellite will have met the entry criteria for Ridge View School and will be on the roll of Ridge View School whilst attending the Satellite.
- 1.12 Ridge View School provides outstanding education, as recognised by Ofsted. The School has established outreach services which support all the mainstream schools within the Tonbridge and Malling District. Ridge View School is a vital part of KCC's strategy for ensuring special schools are at the heart of their communities so enabling many pupils with SEN to remain within their local mainstream school. To continue to provide this service Ridge View School must remain within the District of Tonbridge and Malling. The proposed relocation and expansion of Ridge View School would facilitate an increase in, and greater utilisation of, training facilities and shared resources to benefit all schools within the District.
- 1.13 KCC recognises the significant importance given to parent/carer views in the Students and Families Act reforms of SEN and Disabilities which came into force from September 2014 and has looked to ensure they are involved in shaping and influencing strategic decisions that affect their students and young people. Therefore, we undertook a consultation with parents at Ridge View School and a full range of stakeholders on these proposals.
- 1.14 KCC's statutory decision making process for the Ridge View Satellite is referred to in a separate report on proposed alterations to Ridge View School.

Existing school site

- 1.15 The Rector and Churchwardens of Wouldham All Saints' Parish Church, as Trustees, own part of the Wouldham All Saints school site. The Trustees with the support of the Rochester Diocesan Board of Education have provided agreement in principle to reinvest the value of the school site into the new school in exchange for an unencumbered transfer of the freehold title of the equivalent replacement new school site. KCC will seek to maximise the

potential funding that can contribute to providing the best possible facilities at the new school. This may include some redevelopment of the existing school site; if redevelopment were to proceed then this would be subject to separate consultation and any proposal would be required to meet with Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council's planning approval.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 KCC is proposing to relocate and enlarge Wouldham All Saints CEPS by 30 places taking the PAN to 60 (2FE) for the September 2017 intake and eventually a total capacity of 420 places.
- a. Capital – The proposed project is for the existing 1FE school to be rebuilt as a 2FE school with the infrastructure for potential expansion to 3FE in the future. The proposed scheme also incorporates a new SEN unit which will be a satellite hub of Ridgeview Special School in Tonbridge. The SEN hub consists of four classrooms, two for both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, each being able to accommodate 8 to 12 pupils. The proposed site is adjacent to a proposed residential development named Peters Village. Outline planning permission was granted on the 10th May 2006 consisting of the formation of development platforms including residential development and a mixed use village centre (including A1, A3, B1 community facilities). The nearby village of Wouldham has its own 1FE primary school, however the school is on a restricted site and would be unable to cater for the increased in population. It is therefore proposed that the school would be relocated and expanded on a site on the northern edge of Peters Village. The total cost is estimated to be in the region of £7,950,000. The costs of the project are to be allocated from the Basic Need Capital Budget which will be supplemented by substantial Developer Contributions and the capital receipt from the existing Wouldham All Saints CEPS school site. The costs are estimates and these may increase as the project is developed. If the cost of the project is greater than 10% the Cabinet Member will be required to take a further decision to allocated the additional funding.

Developer Agreement

Agreement has been reached on Heads of Terms with the developer Trenport (Peters Village) Ltd to sell to KCC the site for a 3 form entry school for £1, serviced and accessed via a vehicular bell mouth.

On the transfer of the new school all obligations concerning Education Contributions and Education Land as set out in the May 2006 Section 106 Agreement will be cancelled and new obligations entered into to provide KCC with a total of £4.43 million by the end of 2018. The payment dates have been agreed in principle with Trenport.

- b. Revenue
- i. The school will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis.

- ii. Growth funding will be provided annually for the new Reception Year class for three years. This will include a £6,000 contribution towards the set up costs of each class.
 - iii. The costs of the satellite unit would be met from the Dedicated Schools Grant, with funding being provided to Ridge View School to run the provision. A detailed agreement will be set out in a Memorandum of Understanding, which will be agreed and signed by both schools.
- c. Human – Wouldham All Saints CEPS and Ridge View School will appoint additional teachers and support staff, as the school size increases and the need arises.

3. Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement (2015-2020) Policy Framework

- 3.1 These proposals will help to secure our ambition “to ensure that Kent’s young people have access to the education, work and skills opportunities necessary to support Kent business to grow and be increasingly competitive in the national and international economy” as set out in ‘Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council’s Strategic Statement (2015-2020)’
- 3.2 These proposals reflect KCC’s aspirations to increase the number of SEN school places across the County, as set out in Kent’s Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2015-19.

4. Consultation Outcomes

- 4.1 Approximately 400 hard copies of the public consultation document were circulated, which included a form for written responses. The consultation document was distributed to parents/carers, staff and governors of both schools, County Councillors, Member of Parliament, the Diocesan Authorities, local libraries, Parish Councils, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, and others. The consultation document was posted on the KCC website and the link to the website widely circulated. An opportunity to send in written responses using the response form, email and online was also provided.
- 4.2 A drop-in session was organised on 14 October between 4.30 and 6.30pm at Wouldham All Saints CEPS.
- 4.3 Following the closure of the consultation period 31 positive responses were received, 8 were negative and 10 were undecided bringing the total to 49 responses. The majority of responses received were positive including a response from the Leader of Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council indicating the Borough Council’s strategic support for this project at this stage. The full response and a summary of all written responses are attached at Appendix 1. The Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform has been passed a copy of the full set of responses for his consideration.

5. Views

- 5.1 The Local Members for Malling Rural North East and Tonbridge have been consulted about these proposals.

5.2 The View of Tracey Crouch MP, Chatham and Aylesford

I am grateful to the Council for giving me the opportunity to submit a response and for engaging with the local community throughout the consultation.

Having considered the proposals, I would like to register my support for the relocation of the school. The current school is in need of renovation to accommodate growth, due in no small part to the excellent provision by the Head and teaching staff as well as general population changes, but lacks capital funding to do so.

With the development of Peters Village I believe this is an ideal opportunity to expand a school already rated as “Good” by Ofsted and therefore welcome the prospect of new, modern facilities on a purpose built site that will help teaching staff deliver an outstanding education for local children. I am also encouraged that a key part of the proposal is for pupils to have sufficient outdoor play spaces suitable to their needs, something that is significantly lacking at the current school site.

5.3 The View of the Rochester Diocese Board of Education

The Rochester Diocesan Board of Education has considered the proposals carefully. It welcomes and supports the proposals for the re-location and extension of Wouldham All Saints Church of England Primary School. The Board of Education believes that this proposal will provide the additional school places which will be much needed by the local community and at the same time, will improve the quality of educational provision and facilities for the children already attending the school.

5.2 The View of the Headteacher and Governing Body of Wouldham All Saints CEPS

Wouldham All Saints is very excited about the prospect of relocating and expanding the present provision within the Wouldham area.

The school has grown considerably over the past few years and is now operating at capacity within the first four years of our age range. The building is very cramped in places and additional space to deliver effective provision is becoming an ever increasing issue. The age of the Victorian building, alongside a small number of sanitary facilities, including not having kitchen facilities, mean that the present school building is in need of serious capital investment to ensure it is fit for the demands of modern-day education.

The school is also very keen to be involved with a fully integrated specialist provision enabling children with particular individual needs to be able to share in the outstanding facilities that are being proposed. This will see the new location becoming a hub of support for schools within the area and especially for our River collaboration group which, collectively, have already achieved good results from closer working in the area of Special Educational Needs.

With expected population growth as well as new transport links across the Medway Valley we are expecting demand for places to exceed our current capacity and so are pleased to support the idea of a school design that may be further expandable in the future as and when required.

Travel to and from our current site is also becoming a greater issue as the numbers of children rise. There is very limited opportunity for parking around the school and the narrow lanes are a frequent cause of concern for many

local residents. A new site has the opportunity for sensible travel planning for all to benefit from.

Re-locating will give the opportunity for all of these challenges to be overcome whilst still retain the ethos of the school.

5.4 The View of the Headteacher and Governing Body of Ridge View School

Ridge View school are very keen to provide a range of educational experiences for their pupils. The development of a satellite provision within a mainstream primary school will be an exciting opportunity for pupils. The purpose built SEN environment within the school will support pupils to access relevant mainstream experiences whilst also providing the levels of support that these pupils require. For staff and the leadership team it is an opportunity to develop professionally by both sharing and gaining skills and knowledge within and beyond Wouldham All Saints CEPS.

5.5 The View of the Head of SEN Assessment and Placement

Establishing a primary satellite of Ridge View School at Wouldham will increase the opportunity for the most able to benefit Ridge View students to benefit from learning alongside children of the same age. Through their children's individual assessments and discussion about placements, a number of parents and carers have asked the Council to provide the broadest range of provision so that they have a choice of a local school. They also wish to ensure the staff in the school have received the training and support needed to understand what can act as a barrier to learning. The location of the satellite will mean that children from the furthest point of the district to Ride View may no longer need to travel in order to access specialist teaching. The space will be used by Ridge View pupils and has been designed with their needs in mind to enable flexible grouping and smaller areas for highly specialist intervention such as speech and language therapy. It is envisaged that the satellite will also support outreach to other schools through the work of specialist teaching and learning service and the local inclusion forum LIFT.

5.4 The View of the Area Education Officer

The Area Education Officer for West Kent fully supports this proposal and, having considered other commissioning options, is of the belief that this is the most sustainable solution. Wouldham, All Saints CEPS has an inclusive and welcoming ethos. Ridge View School is recognised for its expertise in providing outreach support to mainstream schools. There are clear benefits to both schools through a partnership.

6. Proposal

6.1 These proposals are set out in accordance with Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Kent County Council intends to make prescribed alterations to relocate Wouldham All Saints CEP School to a site adjacent to Hall Road and expand the number of places from 210 to 420 for 1 September 2017.

6.2 The proposed alterations to Ridge View School and Wouldham, All Saints CEPS are subject to KCC statutory decision making process and planning.

6.3 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed as part of the consultation. To date no comments have been received and no changes are required to the Equality Impact Assessment.

6.4 There will be an impact on KCC's property portfolio with the value increased.

7. Delegation to Officers

7.1 The Officer Scheme of Delegation; under Appendix 2 part 4 of the Council's Constitution, provides a clear and appropriate link between this decision and the actions needed to implement it. For information it is envisaged, if the proposal goes ahead, that the Director of Property & Infrastructure Support will sign contracts on behalf of the County Council.

8. Conclusions

8.1 This proposal will create an additional 210 places at Wouldham All Saints CEPS for students and eventually 48 SEN places in line with Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement 2015-2020 Policy Framework' and the 'Commissioning Plan for Education – Kent' (2015 – 2019).

9. Recommendation(s)

The Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on the proposed decision to:

Issue a public notice to:

- (i) Relocate Wouldham All Saints CEP School to a site adjacent to Hall Road and expand the number of places from 210 to 420 for 1 September 2017.

And, subject to no objections, not already considered, to the public notice:-

- (ii) Implement the proposals according to the dates identified above;
- (iii) Allocate £7.95 million from the Basic Needs budget, which will be met in part by the capital receipt from the current Wouldham All Saints CEPS school site and £4.43 million from developer contributions;
- (iv) Authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support in consultation with the Director of Governance and Law to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council; and
- (v) Authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts.

10. Background Documents

10.1 Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement 2015-2020 <http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/corporate-policies/increasing-opportunities-improving-outcomes>

10.2 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2015-19

http://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/16236/Commissioningplan-for-education-provision-in-Kent-2015-2019.pdf

10.3 Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment
www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations

10.4 Strategy for Children & Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities <http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/childrensocial-care-and-families-policies>

11. Report Author

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12 Relevant Director

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Summary of Written Responses

Proposal to:

- **Relocate Wouldham All Saints CEP School to a site adjacent to Hall Road and expand the number of places from 210 to 420 for 1 September 2017.**

Consultation documents (hard copies) distributed: approximately 400
Responses received: 49

	Support	Against	Undecided	Total
Parents/Carers	10	2	5	17
Governors	2			2
Members of Staff	11			11
Other Interested Parties	8	6	5	19
Total	31	8	10	49

In support of the proposals

Parents/Carers

Agree

- Really exciting moving forward for the school, greater facilities and opportunities for the children and the community.
- This would give better low maintenance building and divert funds back to education.
- Fantastic opportunity for the school to grow and better meet the needs of our children and a growing community. Would like to see it have its own sports field which is essential as part of this development.
- The children will benefit from the additional facilities and space as long as the existing Wouldham All Saints CEPS ethos is maintained.
- It would be great if a field is included in the plans of the new school – shame to lose the space.
- Jelly Beans is not included in plans for the new school, it would be great if this could move into part of the old school?
- Jelly Beans Pre School – better if space within new school area – easier for parents to do pick up and drop offs in the same general area.
- Keen for the new school to maintain the connection with All Saints Church.
- Hope school trips will continue but wonder if this will be able to happen with double the children and only 2 minibuses.
- Would like to see sibling entry priority system continue.
- Like to see some improved walkways from Wouldham to the new school. Currently the high street has very narrow pathways and this will not be able to cater for so many families walking to school.
- Consider a wide path built through the recreational ground and the out through the High Street to Oldfield Drive needs a concrete or similar covering otherwise it will be muddy in the winter months with the level of people using it.
- Important that the school and its staff can continue to serve the local community for many years to come and it is obvious that the current infants building will struggle to do so.

- Aware of children who have not secured a place at the school and it is important that the new school can cater for the local community – increased intake is a step in the right direction.
- Adequate parking for parents to drop/pick up children.
- Pedestrian crossing required on dangerous corner at Hall Road/High Street.
- A larger school better prepares children for the size of a secondary school and makes it less scary.
- Important that parents are kept up to date through the whole process as well as being invited to get involved in shaping plans and layouts.
- Staff must be given ample time to set up new spaces in order to make the transition for our children as smooth and exciting as possible.

Member of Staff

Agree

- This is the only way to ensure high quality provision at Wouldham All Saints CEPS as it would bring up to date accommodation and the potential for increased provision whilst providing more potential growth in the future.
- Facilities on the current site are not able to sustain increased population and there is no capital investment available for improving without providing additional places. The school is currently the lead school for the River Collaboration and the proposal will help provide a central recourse base for working with the other schools especially with the involvement of River School and the specialist provision on site.
- This is an amazing opportunity for our school to have a purpose built up-to-date building in which we can educate the children for the future. Our current building is nowhere near big enough anymore and is beginning to show many signs of its age.
- The new building will enable our fantastic school to go from strength to strength, providing greater facilities and teaching opportunities.
- Looking forward to fantastic facilities for the children, inside and outside the new building. More opportunities for further learning.
- Excited by the plans but unsure about the impact the SEN Unit will have on the rest of the school.
- Having worked at the school for considerable amount of time and watched it grow considerably I think a whole new school environment can only benefit the children. The ethos of the school will remain. It is a really exciting prospect.
- Happy with proposals, look forward to confirmation of details of specialist provision and how it is integrated into the school.
- Agree with proposals but would like the school name to remain the same.
- Expansion would offer more space and better facilities for the children.
- Our school is continuing to group and develop. More and more children and enjoying the excellent all round education offered by Wouldham All Saints CEPS. A new larger school with new resources and space can only be a huge positive to all our children and mean we can extend our school community to new children and their families.
- Due to major increase of housing and population in the area, building a new, modern community school is acceptable rather than refurbishing the existing school. The new school will be accessible to all this side of the river and across the river with the new bridge.
- Concern about the general infrastructure around the area, safe roads, pavements, cycle routes, doctors, health centre, local community shop and post office. Not negatives for the school but points to consider.

- The budget needs to equip the school inside as well as the skeleton of building, ICT, meeting room, quiet room, kitchen outdoor equipment etc. Money needs to be secured for this project to accommodate all financial costs.

Governors

Agree

- We need a new school and this seems to be the best solution - to have a purpose built new facility.
- Concern about what happens to the old site.
- Concern about the satellite unit – wholeheartedly in favour of AEN pupils being in mainstream, however, size of satellite – would like to see incremental growth to 48.

Other Interested Parties

Agree

- The move will provide additional space for extra-curricular activities and literacy/numeracy support groups to work.
- Extra-curricular activities provide enhancement to an already busy curriculum and can support additional learning.
- This proposal will be a great benefit to the children that will attend this new school and will also help to integrate the existing village of Wouldham and the new village, Peters Village.
- Request that draft plans be shared in advance to planning and that consideration is given to drop-off and pick up, light pollution and fencing.
- Whilst the current school is in an ideal location it would be a great shame if this opportunity is not taken for the development of a village school and moving it into the 21st Century,

- **Response from Nicholas Heslop, Leader of Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council:**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposals for a new school at Wouldham. I am responding in general terms to the consultation from a strategic community viewpoint and I appreciate that the planning matters to deliver elements of the proposals will be for the County and the Borough Councils to address in their respective roles as Planning Authorities.

I am familiar with the background to the proposals and linked to the provision of some new and excellent facilities to replace the current school at Wouldham and the opportunity to combine this with addressing the primary education needs arising from the new development at Peters Village. Overall this strikes me as a very forward looking and strategically sensible way in providing for future primary educational needs in this area of the Borough and it is commendable that the parties concerned have grasped this opportunity.

I am particularly pleased that the initiative for the project has arisen from the highly regarded governance and management team in place at the existing primary school in Wouldham which should give significant confidence to the local community in the success of the project and the continued improvement of primary education facilities in this locality. It is also particularly pleasing to see the prospect of significant enhancement of education facilities running in parallel with the new development at Peters Village – a fundamental element of accommodating growth in local areas.

There will, I am sure, be much detail to consider as the project moves forward and we look forward to being involved with that locally. At this stage I would like to indicate the Borough Council's strategic support for the proposals and wish success to all those who are promoting the scheme.

Undecided/did not indicate whether in support or against

Parents

- Not opposed to the school relocating but nervous about it losing its identity and being called something else other than Wouldham All Saints CEPS.
- Concerned about current school site.
- Do not want Wouldham to merge with Peters Village or for name to change.
- Believe the use of the term 'adjacent to Hall Rd', is a deliberate ploy by Trenport to get around the promise that the field on Knowle Rd would not be built on, and would remain rural, screening off the new estate with an avenue of trees. On top of encouraging the use of the High St, (one of our main concerns being the pre-school in the village hall having to enter and leave via an unpaved St) it will lead to indiscriminate parking, blocking the main arterial route in and out of the village. If a new school must go in this area, what is the matter with the plot 200 metres away in the pit, which is dedicated for a school.
- Whilst not categorically against a new building, have reservations as to where it is proposed to be built. We fought against the greenway on the grounds that the increase in traffic will be detrimental to the village.

Other Interested Parties

- It is not clear that the school needs to move but defer to governors in their judgements that the school needs to move and increase in capacity as they are much closer to the situation.
- Comments about the financial merits of the proposal, in releasing the previously identified school site to Trenport. Suggestion this will allow Trenport to build 100 more homes in Peters Village and that this solution allows KCC to retain control of the school rather than having to build an academy as is the requirement for a new school.
- Support KCC's proposal that the school starts at 2FE and is expanded to 3FE in the future. Peters Village is double the size of Wouldham.
- Need to improve the parking away from the high street by putting in car park at the end of Portland Road and by surfacing and lighting and CCTV for the recreation car park. This will enable longer yellow lines for passing places in the high street giving it a higher traffic capacity.
- Support the idea put forward by several Parish Councillors to have a cycleway through the recreation and across the tramway.
- The pre-school will be out of capacity and needs a new site as does the Village Hall for its other users.
- Old school site should be redeveloped and pay for a new village hall build on the strategic gap opposite the recreation ground.

Against the proposals

Parents

- I live here because I love the quaintness of the small village school. If I wanted a larger school I would live in a town like Gravesend.
- A village school is very attractive as it meets the needs of pupils that a large school will not.
- Wouldham will lose its identity and will merge into one town.

- This proposal may be best for the school's future but not for Wouldham as a village.
- Comment that the family are sad about the loss of the school, suggest a separate Peters Village School is built.
- Concerns expressed about the language in the consultation document.
- Concerned about KCCs intentions about the land the schools stands on. Do not want more housing in the village. More facilities are required.
- Concerned about what consideration has been given to Jelly Beans Pre School.
- Very soon Kent will lose all of its rural areas and will not be the 'Garden of England'.
- Concerns expressed about the deal made with Trenport. Progress is good but not at the detriment to the children who love the school.
- Unclear on how to access the site and if all building work will be complete prior to any classes being transferred.
- The traffic for 400+ cars needs to be carefully managed.
- Would like to know why Borstal, Burham, Eccles & Aylesford all get to keep their small village schools.
- This proposal will encourage children from a wider catchment area.
- Disruption to children's education due to building work is significant.
- Encourage KCC to look at Walderslade reports from/during/post the building work.
- In general see the potential but have serious concerns which with proper planning can be achieved.

Other Interested Parties

Against

- Although agree that the present school is too small for a growing community do not agree with the intended relocation of the site. We were led to believe that the cornfield was to be left to arable as a definitive hap between us in Wouldham and the new Peters Village.
- Concern of size and no differentiation between the two villages.
- Have no doubt that Mr Fitter will rise to the challenge but would prefer separate Infants and Juniors. Build a Junior school on the new playing fields to enable physical education to go back to being performed on the recreational ground.
- Prefer the original plans for a separate Peters Village Primary School.
- Concerns around parking, picking drop off specifically crossing Knowle Road.
- If school expands the sense of community and togetherness will be lost which sets the school apart from the surrounding area.
- Concerned about additional traffic which will be caused by the proposed Satellite provision at Wouldham CEPS.
- Disagree with the proposal, money should be put into failing schools in order to stop pupils migrating to Wouldham, thus freeing up places for local children.
- Children coming from out of area, travel by car which is not good for the environment.
- Expect within a couple of years of the school moving the school field and the new part of the school will be built on.
- Would hope that the buildings and field would be gifted to the Village. This would provide for a Dr Surgery and hall for public use. If pre-school moved into a larger space. If the pre-school moved to School Lane there wouldn't be enough time to collect children from Jellybeans then get them to school if the finish time remains the same. This would result in more mums using cars which is not what Wouldham needs.

- Wouldham All Saints CEPS is very unique and special. The atmosphere is superb, where all members of staff, parents, children who know and care for each other; also professionals from outside i.e. pre-school and childminders know each other and work together. Many parents come to Wouldham because of this and the fact it is a small village school, with an excellent reputation and its important in the community. The school has old values of manners and behaviour. Each child is treated as an individual. Whether they have problems or they are high flyers as stated in its Ofsted report. This will be lost if it becomes bigger or merges with another village.
- As a member of the community in the Village this proposal has to be the right thing for the village as a whole not, just the school.
- Do not want to deprive children of their best Education, Wouldham All Saints CEPS has been until now, outstanding. This would still be the case if the school was not moving.
- If Wouldham All Saints CEPS closed a big part of the community will be lost. The younger families yet to start school will not be aware of this big plan.
- A bigger school is not always best.
- The headteacher of Wouldham All Saints CEPS and a few governors are for this proposal. However, it does not mean that they will not move on one day, as all people do for their own careers. But when a school moves away it would never be replaced. In 150 years, no one has ever said the school needed to be relocated.
- Why move a 150 year heritage from such a village as Wouldham.
- The old school building needs repair so why has the landlord not kept its repair up to date?
- Small communities like Wouldham Village thrive on having a school and church.
- There is only one reason I can see that Peters Village want to poach this school, to make their houses sell a lot better.
- All our villages have had their own school and I would like this to continue. The only reason I can see for this proposal is money.
- Concerned that the few remaining pockets of green space are being suffocated with continual development.
- Do not feel that Peters Village warrants a new school, with Burham and Eccles undersubscribed at the moment and a new school opening at Holborough Lakes.
- Concerns about road safety, Hall Road and surrounding infrastructure.
- Concerned that the expansion could reduce the appeal and success of the school.
- Understand that a larger school can often attract better staff by offering a better career structure and having enough pupils for specialist staff. There are two neighbouring schools if managerially linked could overcome these issues.
- KCC will lose a valuable resource for the future if they close the Wouldham All Saints CEPS site. Surely it is better to have two separate sites serving the two villages, both of which could be expanded, if required, to allow more flexibility in educating the children of future residents of both villages.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,

Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

15/00092

For publication

Subject: Proposed Relocation and Expansion of Wouldham All Saints CEPS (Tonbridge & Malling)

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform I propose to agree to:

Issue a public notice to:

(i) Relocate Wouldham All Saints CEP School to a site adjacent to Hall Road and expand the number of places from 210 to 420 for 1 September 2017.

And, subject to no new objections to the public notice

(ii) Implement the proposals according to the dates identified above

(iii) Allocate £7.95 million from the Basic Needs budget, which will be met in part by the capital receipt from the current Wouldham All Saints CEPS school site and £4.43 million from developer contributions.

(iv) Authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support in consultation with the Director of Governance and Law to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council

(v) Authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts.

Should objections, not already considered by the cabinet member when taking this decision, be received during the notice period a separate decision will be required in order to continue the proposal in order to allow for proper consideration of the points raised.

Reason(s) for decision:

In reaching this decision I will take into account:

- the views expressed by those put in writing in response to the consultation;
- the views of the District, Borough and Parish Councils, the local County Councillor; the local MP Governing Bodies of the schools, Staff and Pupils; schools from the surrounding area
- the Equalities Impact Assessment and comments received regarding this; and
- the views of the Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee which are set out below

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

15 December 2015

14 October 2014

The Committee endorsed the Kent Commissioning Plan, which identified a need for additional places

4 December 2013

Education Cabinet Committee were asked to endorse the actions to implement key proposals set out in the SEND Strategy.

Any alternatives considered:

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2015-19 explored all options and the expansion of this school was deemed the suitable option.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

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Signed

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Date