

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).