

Notes of the consultation Event regarding the Proposed Expansion of Euxton Primrose Hill Primary School - 27th January 2015

Local residents of Primrose Hill Primary School

Between 2.30 – 3.30pm they are locked in their house. They only notice the chaos the parking brings to the area in the afternoon as parents appear to drop their children off much quicker in a morning – they don't stand around chatting. Pavements are being ruined with cars parking on them, which is illegal, but the police ignore it. They raised concern about the number of cars that double-park and also make the pavements impassable, making parents with children and prams have to walk on the road. The residents stated that they have had parents park across their driveway. Concern was raised regarding emergency access, should this be required at the pick-up time. They explained that the bin wagon struggles, and regularly has to reverse back out of the road as school drop-off time.

They raised concerns about the parents of pupils at the school giving an example of a parent throwing a cigarette butt over their garden wall, and when they were asked to pick it up by them, the parent swore at them. They also raised the issue of the noise the children make on their way out of school, not the general chatter but the screaming at the top of their voices.

They made the suggestion that what happens at their Grandson's school in Warwickshire should be considered – a school bus collects children and drops them at school, therefore, cutting down on traffic. Could the authority offer this service? A further suggestion was made that should parents need to call into school for any reason they should park at Spar, to prevent blocking the road for longer.

As a final point the residents raised concern that should the school double in size, would this not affect the schools Ofsted rating, as they wouldn't like to see this happen to the school.

Parents of a Y1 pupil at Primrose Hill Primary School

Initially when they found out that the school was proposing to expand they were really concerned - they love the school and don't want it to change. They explained that their child likes the intimate feel of the school and is thriving here. They love the school, it was their first choice and they chose to move to the area of Euxton because of the school. They explained that the school has a small community feel and all of the teachers know all of the pupils. They asked if the school doubles in size will it still have the same feel.

The parents explained that they feel that due to the huge housing development on Buckshaw that the residents and schools of Euxton are bearing the brunt. They feel the developers at Buckshaw have been too greedy and haven't catered for the increase in pupils that their developments will produce – Euxton has 4 primary schools for it's size, why has Buckshaw not? They asked what will happen with high schools and how will they cope eventually.

The parents raised concern that Primrose Hill may lose good staff as they may have chosen to work in a small school. They also asked about the development of the school, the plans and timescales. They stated that parking is a huge issue and stated that they feel very sorry for the local residents. They asked what had clinched the deal for the governing body.

Local resident, grandparent of pupil at Primrose Hill and Chair of Euxton Council & Local resident and Vice-Chair of Euxton Council

Both have no problems themselves with the proposed school expansion. They raised the issue of bad parental parking, but accept that this is not the school's fault. They did however raise concern for the local residents who have to cope with the traffic problems at dropping-off and picking-up times – they did state however, that resident driveways are not blocked.

They both stated that the planning of Buckshaw development is appalling. The question was raised of whether the additional site for Buckshaw is in the Group 1 land and if so is it the old 'burning ground?' (Land inside a ring of trees). If so the land is extremely contaminated. They both expressed disappointment that LCC had not bought the additional land required at Primrose Hill earlier, as they are members of the Local Development Framework and felt other land could have been saved from development plans by Chorley District Council had the timing been different.

They asked about the planned building programme at the school and also asked whether car parking provision would be increased.

The suggestion was made that LCC should investigate buying access land to the school from the farm down the road which would allow access to the rear of the school to help alleviate parking problems in a residential area.

Local resident and parent of pupil at Primrose Hill

The parent/resident asked whether full consideration had been given to building a new school at Buckshaw, rather than expanding Primrose Hill and Buckshaw Trinity CE/Methodist School. She also asked if there is a guaranteed need for long term and sustained places in the Euxton area, but especially at Primrose Hill.

The parent/resident expressed her disappointment that Buckshaw did not get the 2 school sites which they should have done and a developer/Chorley Borough Council should still be made to find a solution.

As a parent she really appreciates being able to walk her child to school, however she raised concerns that if children are coming to the school from Buckshaw they will have to travel by car, causing worse parking problems. She explained that the volume of traffic and parking is a huge issue. Parents park on the pavements making it dangerous walking to school as you have to walk on the road. This will surely worsen when the school doubles in size.

Parent of pupils in Y3 & Y5 at the school & potential future pupil from September 2015

The parent asked about the schedule of work including the plan for the build year. He also asked what safeguarding practices would be used for the reception children, as he was concerned that they may be able to walk straight out onto the road. The parent enquired whether the reception class pupils would have a covered access to get them from the mobile classroom to the main school building whilst work was being undertaken. He asked how the toilet facilities in the mobile classroom would cope with 60 reception children. The parent asked whether there will be two reception classes of 30 pupils each or one large reception class with two teachers.

The parent expressed his surprise that the school had picked the youngest group of children to be removed from the main school building and put in the mobile. He also raised his concern for the reception children who will have 12 months of disruption.

The parent asked whether the hall would be big enough for the after school club and would the after school club be expected to take in higher numbers once the schools new intake comes into play. He raised environmental disruption whilst the building work was undertaken – windows being open in summer distracting children with the noise.

The parent asked about the development plans as the school doubles in size – what steps will be put in place to monitor the performance of the school once the expansion has happened? He also asked if the governing body had seen any phased budget plans.

The parent enquired whether the expansion will all be on one level, as he has lived through people re-levelling sites and big plant machinery is required. He asked if this work could be done over the summer holidays so the large machinery can be off site when the children are back at school.

The parent asked if it was felt that the school would struggle to retain its staff. He explained that there is a very good staff/parent relationship and if this is maintained he feels everyone will be happy.

The parent stated that the drop-off and pick-up time at school is an accident waiting to happen and it is only a matter of time until something does, unless the road is altered. He suggested that parents should only be allowed to park down one side of the road, or make the road one way only.

The parent asked what was the logic behind not doubling up the new expansion at Buckshaw.

The parent ended by saying in general he supports the expansion his concern is that he is really happy with the school and wants this to continue.

Parents of pupil in Y5 and child hopefully in Reception in Sept 2015

The parents expressed concern regarding parking at the school which is a huge problem – you can't walk on the pavement as cars are parked on them so you have no choice other

than to walk on the road. They also feel that more pupils will come to the school from Buckshaw, which will mean there is an increase in traffic to make the problem worse.

The parents asked why the authority chose to expand this school and not the other schools in the area. They asked whether a lot of people applied to attend Trinity CE/Methodist when it first opened.

The parents also enquired about whether the building will be developed during school time when children are in attendance at the school; how long the expansion work is likely to take and whether the building will all be on one level.

Overall the parents expressed their understanding to the reasons why Primrose Hill needs expanding. They did make the suggestion that the parking problems could be improved if a school bus could run from Spar to the school.

Parents with 1 pupil at the school and 1 due to start in September

The parents asked the following questions:

How will the school be managed?

Will it affect children starting in September?

What will happen on the first day in September with 59 other pupils starting?

How will the tables/sets integrate going forward in KS1?

The head teacher and school advisor spoke to the parents answering queries about how the school will be set up. The parents reviewed the draft plans; once they had seen them they had no further concerns.

Parent of pupil in Year 2 at the school

This is the parent's third child that is attending Primrose. She feels the small school ethos is important and would like it to stay that way. Likes it as a small school

The parent expressed concerns about education, play provision and playground. Twelve months ago her child suffered a playground accident, with more children running around this may become more of an issue.

The parent expressed concerns about traffic and with the size of the car park and issues with residents.

School has a before and after school club, so there will be more teachers. They use the before and after clubs.

SEN – her child has a SEN, small school helps with the SEN

Will more people be travelling from Buckshaw? If so this will result in more traffic.

There is no traffic control, eg a zebra or pelican crossing or lollypop person for residents on the opposite side of the road.

There was concern that there will be a building site during school hours, with machinery, noise and workmen. If the work is not done during school hours, there will be an impact on noise for local residents at weekend and after school. Will the workmen be CRB checked?

The pond must stay, the school has Eco school status and the pond is part of that.

It is important that the school stays stable.

The pupils are arriving home saying how wonderful it will be, they are being preached to only hearing one side of the story.

Will there be any use for the land behind the pond?

Head teacher and Chair of Governors from another Euxton primary school

The head teacher explained that she was interested in finding out more about the proposal and how it may impact on plans for their area. Balshaw Primary are awaiting feedback regarding their expression of interest in aligning their PAN via the Capital Programme. (She was advised that a meeting regarding this is taking place on 30th January). The head explained that at present the school is in limbo as they are short of space and want to add a studio but do not wish to proceed until clarification on this issue.

The school is not opposed to the expansion of Primrose. However, they do have some concerns about how expansion at Primrose could impact on Balshaw. The pupil access representative provided the latest preference information, which provided reassurance as did future projection figures.

Parent of pupil at the school

The parent asked the following questions:

Why not a new school on Buckshaw?

Where would the money for a new school come from?

Where does the data (Projections) come from?

How will an expansion impact on local area and residents, e.g. traffic and parking?

How will new staff be integrated?

Design plans and timescale was also discussed.

The parent stated that he is not opposed to the expansion.

Parent of pupil in Year 6

The parent enquired about why there are no plans for a new school.

The parent also expressed concerns about the dynamic of the school. She was particularly concerned about staff wanting to leave and the ethos of the school being lost. The school advisor and chair of governors advised that the development of leadership within the team is already happening and the staff are supportive of the expansion. The chair of governors advised that there is no intention to have an infant and a junior school.

The head teacher joined the meeting and gave some details about how the ethos of the team will be maintained. For example, full assemblies will continue.

The parent explained that she had some concerns about the level of traffic. The chair of governors advised that they are considering further provision of the walking bus service.

The question of why there is not more provision on Buckshaw Village was raised. The parent questioned why housing building is still taking place if the Chorley Borough Council cannot ensure school places are available. An overview of the education contribution methodology for housing developments was provided.

Design and re-modelling was discussed. The parent wanted to know how the new build would blend in with the old build and also about disruption to school.

Local resident

The local resident lives next to the school and is predominantly concerned about traffic flow and parking in the area. The Capital Development Officer advised that a traffic assessment would need to be carried out if the proposal proceeded to the planning application stage of the process.

The resident feels that the expansion at Primrose Hill is only to accommodate additional pupils from Buckshaw Village. He enquired about why a new school is not being established on Buckshaw Village.

The resident explained that he is not opposed to the school expansion, on the condition that traffic and parking issues are seriously mitigated.

The chair of governors recorded details of the resident's concerns regarding current traffic issues.

Safety concerns were also expressed regarding having construction taking place while the school is in operation.

The resident also suggested that the police should be consulted on the expansion proposal.

Parent of Year 3 and Year 1 pupils at the school and child due to start at the school on 1st September

The parent enquired about how the ethos of the school would be maintained. The chair of governors provided details of how this would be achieved by the head, governors and the members of staff.

The parent was concerned that the school planned to accommodate the next intake of reception pupils in the den. He felt that this would make the youngest pupils feel removed from the rest of the school. He suggested that it would be better for older pupil to be located in the den. The head teacher provided details of how integration of the youngest pupils would be achieved.

The parent expressed concern that some of the build work would take place during term time.

Parent of Year 3 and reception pupils at the school and local resident

The parent enquired about how the proposed building work would be managed and also whether the resource space available would be increased in line with the increased number of pupils.

The parent asked whether LCC had considered spreading the pressure across all Euxton schools rather than just one.

The safety of pupils during the building phase was a concern for the parent.

The parent sought assurances about how the ethos and standards of the school would be maintained. He also sought assurances that the staff are supportive of the expansion proposal.

Traffic and safety was a concern for the parent. He asked that providing an additional access road to the school be considered.

The parent also suggested that LCC should consider knocking down the school and building a new school in its place.

Parent of Year 4 and Year 2 pupils at the school and parent of pupil due to commence school in September

The parent asked how using the den for the reception pupils will operate.

The parent also enquired about whether additional resource space would be provided in line with the increased number of pupils.

Concern was expressed regarding increased traffic on the estate.

The parent was concerned that the school would not have the same feel if it was made larger.

Concern was also expressed regarding the short length of time for the building work.