

PRIMARY EXPANSION IN THE SOUTH OF THE BOROUGH AND MALDENS AND COOMBE AREAS

STATUTORY CONSULTATION RESPONSES AND LOCAL AUTHORITY RESPONSE

There were two separate consultations for the South of the Borough and Maldens and Coombe area. These covered the expansion strategy for two additional Forms of Entry in the South of the Borough area and four additional Forms of Entry in the Maldens and Coombe area.

South of the Borough area

In total, 66 responses were received regarding the plans to expand south of the Borough Primary Schools by 2 Forms of Entry. There is strong support of the Kingston Primary Strategy to expand existing schools (74% in favour), with a majority in favour of each of the proposals to expand the schools identified in the strategy. There was however stronger support for the expansion of Ellingham than Lovelace. The full results and a summary of the comments received are outlined below.

Maldens and Coombe area

In total, 183 responses were received regarding the plans to expand Maldens and Coombe Primary Schools by 4 Forms of Entry. This showed a majority (57%) in favour of the Kingston Primary Strategy but a smaller level of support than in other areas of the Borough. Of the four schools identified the strongest support was for expanding Corpus Christi and Malden Manor Primary schools. Fewer than 50% of respondents supported the expansion of Christ Church New Malden and Burlington Infants/Junior. The full results and a summary of the comments received are outlined below.

Pre Planning Application Consultation

Unlike for the Surbiton and Kingston Town areas, this statutory consultation coincided with the pre-planning application consultation for the whole Borough. This may reflect the lower number of responses received as stakeholders had two opportunities to provide their views on proposals. The pre-planning application consultation is designed to specifically address issues relating to design and impact on infrastructure in the local area. Although respondents had the opportunity to raise such issues also through the statutory consultation process.

NB: Respondents had the option of not answering any question they did not wish to. Therefore the total number of responses for each question varies. Percentages may be rounded up or down to the nearest tenth of a decimal point so may therefore not add up to 100%.

Expansion of Primary Schools – Consultation results and summary responses

1. Do you agree with the Kingston Primary Strategy to provide an additional 13.5 Forms of Entry (405 places) across the Borough from September 2011?

Response	South of the Borough	Maldens and Coombe
Yes	73.8% (48)	56.5% (95)
No	13.8% (9)	23.8% (40)
Undecided	12.3% (8)	19.6% (33)
Total	65	168

2. Do you agree that as part of the strategy to provide sufficient places, the following schools should be expanded in September 2011?

School	Yes	No	Undecided	Number of responses
Ellingham 1 to 2 FE	65.1% (41)	31.7% (20)	3.2% (2)	63
Lovelace 2 to 3 FE	52.5% (31)	25.4% (15)	22.0% (13)	59
Christ Church (New Malden) 2 to 3 FE	43.7% (76)	42.5% (74)	13.8% (24)	174
Corpus Christi 2 to 3 FE	56.4% (97)	30.8% (53)	12.8% (22)	172
Malden Manor 2 to 3 FE	58.4% (97)	12.7% (21)	28.9% (48)	166
Burlington Infants/Juniors 3 to 4 FE	46.3% (76)	27.4% (45)	26.2% (43)	164

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS – SOUTH OF THE BOROUGH AREA

COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSALS:

Need to expand schools and increase choice:

- Right proposal to expand schools in this area. Ellingham would seem a good choice, given its location and demand for places. Providing places for local children is a must, in line with Kingston's walking to school policy preferences
- It makes sense to expand existing schools rather than build new ones providing expansion can be delivered without impacting on the current performance in the schools
- Extra places are needed and there is no site to build a new school in the area.
- Increasing the size of existing, popular schools is better for pupils as they already well established
- Offers the chance to allow more local children to attend these excellent schools
- There are insufficient places in the area
- The two schools identified seem sensible candidates for expansion.
- Concerned if my child was unable to obtain a place at our first or second choice school and without this expansion this is a distinct possibility
- Important to invest in primary schools which have nurseries also for children's development and social skills.

Sustainability:

- Providing places for local children is a must, in line with Kingston's walking to school policy preferences

Capital Investment:

- Expand the school but provide the capital investment sorely needed

COMMENTS RAISING CONCERNS / OPPOSED TO PROPOSALS:

Size of school and impact on infrastructure:

- Roads will become heavily congested with parked cars as a result of the parking restrictions that are in place near the school.
- There is a lack of space at Lovelace in the school hall for dining or assembly purposes and the school clubs are now under pressure from extra demand. The expansion also means not enough car parking space for staff, which results in more of the school's green space being destroyed
- With increased numbers of parents and visitors to Ellingham, this may make access, traffic and parking problems worse
- Concerns on the parking situation if the school is expanded the extra classes is going to increase traffic as parking at the moment is horrendous
- Access to and from Ellingham via Harrow Close will be a big problem as there is no parking available. Ellingham road cannot cope with the volume of traffic currently and is dangerous both walking and driving
- 3FE is too large for a primary school in this area

Impact on Education:

- Increasing the number of places at Ellingham will cause a number of issues. Currently, children are flourishing at Ellingham due in part to the one form entry and the inclusive and nurturing atmosphere of the school will be compromised by doubling the size
- The Ellingham School site is not suitable or big enough to hold twice as many children as it currently has and with the footprint of the new school plan being bigger the children's outside play space will be significantly reduced
- The Ellingham Primary site is absolutely tiny and currently crams the children onto an adequate site and to double the number of children there is ludicrous
- The children will be disadvantaged than they already are because they will have less outside space than one form entry Chessington schools
- Expanding of the Ellingham site would be inappropriate and it would mean the school being overcrowded and is not big enough to cope with anymore students
- It will be too disruptive for the children whilst the building work is taking place. The children will suffer and so will their education
- Loss of outdoor play area space at Ellingham
- Lovelace has expanded enough and the Kingston should focus on the number of staff and children already there and allow smaller schools to expand

Other:

- Closure of Moor Lane School has had a detrimental effect in the area. Refurbish and reopen this school instead of expanding Lovelace and Ellingham
- The expansion proposal has been a fire fighting activity following the mistake of closing Moor Lane School. Ellingham is simply not big enough to accommodate another form of entry
- Although I agree with the rebuild of Ellingham Primary, it is totally unrealistic that the rebuild can only be considered if the school agrees to double the number of pupils that will attend
- Castle Hill School is more suitable for expansion. Ellingham school would appear more suitable for special needs
- A Roman Catholic Primary is required in the South of the Borough

LOCAL AUTHORITY RESPONSE TO ISSUES RAISED – SOUTH OF THE BOROUGH EXPANSION

1. Those in support of the proposals agreed with the need for additional school places, and supported the schools proposed for expansion. There was stronger support for the expansion of Ellingham Primary than for Lovelace (65% compared with 53%), but more undecided respondents for Lovelace (22%).
2. The main reasons cited by those not in support of the proposals reflect the issues raised in consultation meetings, principally concerns regarding the overall impact on schools with additional pupils needing to be accommodated on the same size site as present (particularly at Ellingham Primary), and the impact on the surrounding area due to increased traffic.
3. Schools have only been proposed for expansion if the additional pupil numbers can be accommodated on the school site in compliance with government guidelines. The accommodation changes that are currently being designed will need to not only ensure that sufficient additional accommodation

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is provided, but that the remaining external space is appropriate for the increased size of school. It may be that schools will need to introduce staggered play times etc but this will be considered at each school by the management team, and is not unusual in primary schools.

4. Government guidelines set out in Building Bulletin 99 (BB99) recommended school site sizes. These guidelines provide for schools both on standard sites with playing fields onsite, and a smaller 'confined' site size to include all school buildings, outside curriculum and play area, and car parking with assumed offsite access to playing fields for Key Stage 2 pupils. Schools are typically located on confined sites in urban areas where land is at a premium, and many Kingston primary schools are on confined sites.
5. Ellingham Primary School site is 7130m² which is below the BB99 guideline recommendations for a two form entry school on a standard site of 15,440m². It is however 29% above the size recommended for a two-form entry school on a confined site (which is in the range of 4,600 to 5,500m²).
6. Some respondents raised concerns regarding the impact on pupils whilst building works are undertaken. The Local Authority is confident that by working in partnership with the schools and a core project group including the architects, project managers and contractors appropriate arrangements will be made to ensure that pupils are not adversely affected by the building works. This approach has been used at a number of Kingston schools in recent years, and the learning from projects is shared between schools to inform future developments.
7. A number of respondents indicated that the Local Authority had partly created the shortage of school places in the Chessington & Hook area through the establishment of Castle Hill Primary School following the amalgamation of Buckland Infant and Moor Lane Junior Schools' with the consequential reduction from three to two forms of entry. In addition some local residents were unaware that the Moor Lane site was now occupied by the Integrated Disabled Children's Service and felt that the site should be used to create a new school. L&CS officers acknowledged throughout the consultation that when this decision had been taken the increased number of children in the area had not been identified and advised that the playing fields at the Moor Lane site are still in use, are classified as local open space and a commitment had been given that the land would not be built on.
8. There are currently four Roman Catholic schools in the Borough, but none in the South of the Borough (the nearest is Our Lady Immaculate at Tolworth). The Southwark Archdiocese approached the Local Authority to request that consideration be given to establishing a new Roman Catholic school in the South of the Borough as part of the Primary Expansion Strategy. The absence of a suitable site in the area to develop a new school on has meant that this issue has not been progressed, and it is proposed to expand Corpus Christi Primary School in New Malden.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS – MALDENS AND COOMBE AREA

COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSALS:

Need to expand schools and increase choice:

- Places are very limited. Would support the expansion of other schools if I knew more about them or had links with them.
- Need for more local non faith school places
- Should be greater general community access to local faith schools
- Concerned at not being able to obtain place at the school of our choice due to insufficient places.
- If extra spaces are needed it is essential. New schools are a better option but extra classes are crucial if this can't be done.
- Every child should have a place in their local school.
- Important that children are able to attend a school within walking distance from their home. Not obtaining a place in a good local school will have a huge impact on families and their school experience.
- If there is need for additional places in schools in the borough I support that because it is important that every child should get a good education
- These are the best options due to lack of sites for a new school
- It is necessary to provide school places for the community and I support the expansion of Corpus Christi
- The expansion of Corpus Christi will be beneficial to those who arrive into the country that are practising Catholics

Capital Investment:

- To ensure any schools expanded have the appropriate financial support to make it a success
- Corpus Christi has a huge field. It has the necessary space to carry out further expansion and therefore believe this is a great project

Other:

- Should be a fair admissions policy for all applicants. E.g. being able to address the issue of people taking on short term lets etc to get into the 'right' school.
- Good idea to provide more places at existing schools provided this does not reduce outside play area.
- Completely agree need to add additional forms of entry but am not qualified/understand detail as to which schools are to be expanded
- Some schools may not have the space in their current boundary for the expansion. It may be necessary to acquire neighbouring plots.

COMMENTS RAISING CONCERNS / OPPOSED TO PROPOSALS:

Size of school and impact on infrastructure:

- Regarding expansion at Christ Church and Corpus Christi, the main concern is the safety in that there are long standing unresolved traffic issues associated with schools within Coombe Vale Ward
- Local area around Elm Road and the Groves is unable to cope with the current pupil levels at the schools yet alone further expansion

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- Additional traffic congestion will arise in adjacent streets at school start and finish times
- Placing of two schools so close together in such a small area will inevitably cause some chaos and a new site for Christ Church, in not such a congested area, would surely be better for everyone concerned
- Unconvinced by the statistical evidence that so many extra places are required. The relocation of Christ Church Juniors to the field beside Corpus Christi, plus the expansion of Corpus Christi itself is ill considered and will cause more traffic congestion
- Loss of green space meaning the area will be over developed and the increase in the traffic
- Believe there is a shortage of school places in the area
- The schools do not encourage walking/cycling to school to prevent further traffic congestion

Impact on Education:

- A child's first experience of school should be in a small welcoming family environment, not a large primary impersonal complex
- Compromising the recreational space, reduces the green space to the detriment of the pupils' wellbeing
- The crucial factor in the success of a school is the leadership of those in charge. The leadership will not be available at Christ Church due to the deputy head of the Infants is leaving at the current head teacher is retiring which will leave the school very vulnerable to failure from inadequate leadership at a crucial time
- The proposed Junior site will be even further from the Infant sites which will not helping parents who have children at both sites and making joint Infant and Junior internal events hard to administer
- I do not agree that we should lose our recreational space for a different school when we ourselves are proposed to be extended
- Burlington School would be expanded beyond a comfortable capacity by becoming a 4 form entry, and alter the structure which leads to its appeal

Other:

- Malden Parochial should be expanded to 2 form entry so that all the local schools are equal sized
- There is no room for expansion on any of the schools listed and feel you should look at building a new school centrally so all children have access to it
- The demand for places is for community schools e.g. Coombe Hill, not for the Christian schools. Clearly Coombe Hill should be expanded not the other less popular schools due to many parents preferring non-denominational education
- An outstanding school should be made available to more local children
- If faith based schools are expanding, then there should be an agreement to allow the school proximity factor to be the determinant of access to the additional places. The new places must be made available to all and free from selection on religious grounds

LOCAL AUTHORITY RESPONSE TO ISSUES RAISED – MALDENS AND COOMBE EXPANSION

9. In broad terms those in support of the proposals agreed with the need for additional school places and recognised the current difficulties some families have in securing a local preferred school. A higher number (97) supported

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expansion at Malden Manor Primary and Corpus Christi, with fewer (76) supporting expansion of Christ Church New Malden Primary and Burlington Infant and Junior Schools'. There was a relatively large proportion of respondents who were undecided regarding the proposals to expand Malden Manor and Burlington Infant and Junior Schools'.

10. The majority of comments opposed to the proposals related to the implications for the surrounding area of expanding both Corpus Christi Primary and Christ Church New Malden Primary, and concerns about the proposals for Christ Church New Malden Primary remaining across two sites.
11. There was some concern raised, and a significant minority undecided, regarding the expansion of Burlington Infant and Junior Schools' to four form-entry, although the definite opposition was less than that received about Latchmere Primary (also proposed to expand to four form-entry). This may reflect the experience of more parents at Burlington Infant School which has hosted two bulge classes in both September 2008 and 2009. Information regarding research into the potential impact of increasing school size was described in the report to the Executive on 8 June and is available on the Kingston website:
www.kingston.gov.uk/browse/education/schools/school_expansion.
12. There were a number of comments requesting a new school in the area or expressing a concern about the extent to which expansion of faith schools in Maldens and Coombe would not provide additional capacity in the area for children whose parents did not meet the faith criteria or did not wish to send their child to a faith school. It is acknowledged by the Council that it would be preferable to identify a site for a new school but this has not been possible. It has therefore been necessary to propose expanding existing schools, which then limits the options to the pattern of schools that already exist in an area.