

Surbiton Expansion – Final Comments

<p>Unless there is an issue with the size of the school site not permitting this, St Matthew's should be a 3 form intake like proposals to Grand Avenue School.</p>
<p>There are LOADS of children who arrive by car in the morning making the school area very unsafe. An increased size would only increase the number of vehicles arriving. The school will also become a building site AGAIN; my kids have had this disruption once already!!</p>
<p>There is a clear need for additional places in the borough. Taxpayer's money should be preserved by using existing facilities/premises wherever possible, rather than unnecessary new builds which are expensive, and demand consideration in terms of transportation, developmental control and could have a great detrimental effect on the environment and congestion/safety. This is of course, subject to the commitment to maintaining teaching standards at the school concerned and ensuring that the welfare of pupils is placed at the top of the agenda in terms of planning, how the additional places are to be incorporated.</p>
<p>There is much pressure on schools in the Surbiton area. This would go some way to alleviate this unacceptable situation!</p>
<p>The standards have fallen so far at Grand Avenue that the need to expand it must be questioned. The current head teacher, Mrs M Barrington is NOT up to the job of running an enlarged school.</p>
<p>I don't believe that the expansion of Grand Avenue puts extra forms in the right place in the borough. It is out of the way unless you live in the immediate vicinity. Expansion would generate many additional car journeys that cannot be combined with other reasons.</p>
<p>I strongly support building on the unneeded half of the hospital site, for the following reasons. 1. Funding: Hard fought emergency funding has already been obtained from Central Govt. 2. Planning: a planning agreement has already been drawn up with the Kingston NHS for the joint development of a polyclinic and primary/nursery school. 3. Size: it's the only site available that meets Govt minimum size recommendations. 4. Location: the site is closest to the area that has historically suffered from unmet demand, i.e. north Berrylands, Cranes Park / Burney Avenue. The best way to minimise congestion is to locate school places close to where they are needed, maximising the numbers walking to school. The hospital site will be very popular with working parents commuting from Surbiton Station. Instead of a triangular home-to-school-to-station commute, parents will be able to do the drop-offs as they go straight to the station. 5. Delivery Date: it is the only permanent solution deliverable by 2012. 6. Future Needs: The hospital site provides capacity for the Surbiton town area, as well as Berrylands. The town centre is likely to see continued growth in new housing. Indeed, there are plans to build more than 200 apartments on the station car park site, almost next door to the proposed new school site. --- Drawbacks: I don't think that the council's plans go far enough to fully solve Surbiton's shortfall in primary school places. At last year's consultation meeting, RBK said that they needed 150 extra places annually in Surbiton. The new school will provide only 60 of these, with a further 30</p>

at Grand Avenue and 15 at St Matthews giving a grand total of 115, i.e. 35 short of the 150 required. RBK presumably seek to address this shortfall by providing an additional 30 permanent places at King Athelstan in central Kingston, but surely these could be provided closer to Surbiton at either St Matthews or Christ Church. It is clear from scatter maps that the shortage of places in Central Surbiton is exacerbated by local children being displaced from Christ Church by those from further afield on religious criteria. Given this, it makes more sense to expand Christ Church, not Grand Avenue. Additionally, St Matthews has the largest of all sites; and could easily accommodate a 90 pupil per year intake.

I think that a number of schools should be considered for expansion, and although I agree with the two schools above, don't know why they are the only two listed.

I don't think that the area that most needs more school places would be served by an extra form all the way down at Grand Avenue. It seems that the top end of Berrylands and Cranes Park most need fair access to Primary School places.

450 places are required.

450 places are required NOT 405. Why the new is school not 3 form entry or another school expanded as in the original proposals?

If a C of E school is to expand, local humanists and other non religious families and teachers, hope that it will operate non discriminatory admissions and employment policies. Our preference generally will be for new and expanded secular inclusive schools, with non discriminatory RE and PSHE for example.

My only concern is increased traffic. Grand Avenue needs parking restrictions and/or traffic calming scheme.

It seems that St Matthews school currently has limited facilities (such as school hall) to accommodate further expansion. The school benefits from having space that the children can play outdoors. This should not be taken up with expansion. If a new school is built at Surbiton Hospital, this should suffice.

I believe there is a real need for this expansion. My daughter will be starting St Matthews C/E this September and we found really stressful, the not knowing if your child is going to get a school place, given that there are not enough places in the area.

I believe the best site for the new proposed primary school would be the current adult education building on Holyfield Road. As this was a former school it is already fit for its purpose and would be ready for opening sooner than building from scratch. I think the Surbiton Hospital site is unsuitable due to the location i.e. busy road. This would be better suited to the adult education site to be transferred there instead.

It is good as demand increases obviously.

These children will need to be given a space. So the above action is necessary. My child benefitted from the extra spaces.

I am a bit concerned that moving to 3 form entry at Grand Avenue will create too big a school. However, I recognise the need for more school places.

The planned 3 FE for Grand Avenue would go against the Council's "Promoting Sustainable Travel". Priority should be given to borough residents in advance of those out of borough.

St Matthews should definitely be moved to 2 from entry as soon as possible. 1 and half form entry is hard to manage and has potential for conflict with parents. Grand Avenue has only just been rebuilt; does this mean those children have to go through more disruption?

I believe that St Matthews C.O.E does not have the investment required to turn it into a 2FE school so that it can continue to deliver its excellent teaching to the community whilst maintaining a quality environment for children to learn in.

On grounds the expansion of Grand Avenue School is unacceptable. The expansion of some 50% would be damaging to the educational standards, the amenity value of the current school and cause unnecessary congested to the local area. There is no evidence that educations standards are improved by large primary schools. These mega primary schools are equivalent to many secondary schools of just a few years back. Surveys by parents show that they prefer smaller, not larger schools. The site is too small for an additional form and will lead to an overdeveloped and congested site. The outdoor play area would also be below the minimum set out in government guidelines. Indeed, the LEA's attempts to downplay the significance of these guidelines may leave the LEA vulnerable to having its decision judicially reviewed. The local roads are also already too congested to accommodate a 50% increase in the size of the school. The local residents are also against the expansion of the school.

I am opposed to the segregation of children by religion. Northern Ireland has shown how social cohesion is impaired by religious schooling.

St Matthews School is large and has the capacity to expand a little with no detriment to the efficiency of the school. Don't know much about Grand Avenue but I have heard it is large and very popular so lots of parents want to send their children there.

St Matthews should become a full form entry school. Grand Avenue large unused green space around the school and brand new facilities.

St Matthews and Grand Avenue schools are too full already and cannot take any more children. A new primary school should open in Surbiton.

I have not personal knowledge of Grand Avenue but firmly believe that the 3 form should only happen if the school has enough outdoor space once any building expansion is complete to allow the children to access the playground at the same time (different year groups playing together)and does not compromise the education experience for the children.

Where possible and feasible the school above should be expanded to meet growing demand.

Because there is a shortage of school places.

As the school stand at the moment there are very few activities for the children to do in the plain and bare playgrounds. If you add more classes to this school there will be even less

space for the children to play in at break times which i feel is wrong as their play is a key part of their character building. The new school building was built on the playground with a view that when the old school was knocked down this would be converted into replacement playground. This has not happened an if you planned expansion goes ahead won't happen making it even more cramped!

Instead of expanding existing old school build a new one. One of the two above is a church school which limits non Church of England parents and Pupils! Set new higher standards in a new school.

Certainly Agree in the case of St Matthews cannot be light that a school has just a 1 and half entry when there is so much demand for school places in the area.

Grand Avenue has the space to expand St Matthews is in a very popular geographical area and is currently small than other local primaries.

Agree with expansion of Grand Avenue because there is enough land to build on.

I think 2 form entry schools are better than one form. I do not know if Grand Avenue need more places are they sustained.

Not satisfied with the validity of data on projected need for school places.

I am currently waiting for the outcome of my application for a reception places for my son in 2010. It is incredibly stressful worrying about the shortage of places and the impact if younger sibling from temporary bulge classes who have priority over my son for places. I would not wish this worry on anyone and the best way to resolve it is to provide a permanent expansion of school places.

I have a child who will be due to start school in September 2011 and have been concerned about the availability of local (walking distance) school places following the problems with the availability of places and will provide some flexibility within the system to allow a degree of parental choice over schools.

Can you maintain the art Deco/ modernist features at the site especially the lettering on the Ewell Road Building?

St Matthews should be expanded further.

I don't know Grand Avenue School so can't comment.

Grand Avenue has just completed a large building project and further disruption is unfair. Also there are enough non English speaking children at the school already. This increase will only add to that number.

I feel the expansion will compromise the school grounds. The play area of the school will be reduced if pre-fab buildings are put in place in the playground. Already the school suffers with having no large green space for the children to enjoy.

Grand Avenue has the most space of the local primary schools to expand and is in a good location to enable sufficient pupils to be able to walk to school/use public transport

To make sure that enough parking for increased staff is included - as well as drop off/pick up points for parents. A lot of parents will still drive to school!

Nursery Places also need to be taken into consideration. My daughter may not get into Tolworth despite being less than 1/2 mile away this year an account of the number of siblings taking priority.
Having expanded even temporarily small schools without the necessary space, the council has managed to find places for all the children but the quality of the education has dropped considerably.
Because of growing population in the borough we need to expand our Primary schools for the need to cover the essential needs for the children. So I strongly agree to expand the Surbiton Primary Schools
Re Grand Avenue: Concerns that the schools will once again have a separate site/building for upper and lower primary children. A great shame for the children that have already been through the New Build, Many are now likely to be educated in the grotty old building. Its going to need a great deal of money to make it look good!
Undecided due to the fact the school has undergone a lot of change recently. All classrooms set up in twos. How successfully is it going to be adapted so that 3 forms can work together in each year group? Are the old buildings going to be used for infants juniors- will it revert back to separate defeats infant/juniors?
Grand Avenue has space for a small expansion and should have been rebuilt as a 3 form entry school. Do not agree with large primary schools and do not believe that expanding currents schools is the right action.
My daughter is 1 and I would like to think that when she is school age there will be a place available for her.
2 form entry is easier to manage than 1.5 from a parent point of view.
Well something has to be done, this is the recommendation so yes I agree rather than disagree that it should be followed through, as there isn't really another option.
As St Matthews has had a 90 intake this year and so can't continue with the mixed years it makes sense for it to move to 2 form entry.
The Grand Avenue School is in such a residential area, the traffic congestion would become a huge issue for the residents on and around the school. It is already a concern as some parents do not follow road parking rules. A good percentage of parents work and have to use a car. I believe Grand Avenue would have to become a "home zone" to accommodate extra pupils.
Both schools above are very good school and have site capacity got expansion
I think increasing a 2 form entry school to 3 form entry makes what used to be a personal atmosphere change to very impersonal. I believe new school are preferable to this instead of unbalancing established schools. I am truly against expansion of Grand Avenue.
Grand Avenue is now big enough to take the extra class and they should have done this from last year.

No expansion of Grand Avenue school unless the following are also planned: - 1. Proper catering facilities to be provided. 2. A school pool that can be utilised by all local schools.

St Matthews should expand to 3 FoE on grounds of available space.

Expansion should be at performing schools that have the space to absorb the extra pupils without threatening their character. The options in Surbiton for this are limited. A new primary serving Surbiton in a safe, well serviced site, not the Surbiton hospital site, would also be a good solution.

1) New primary school at Surbiton Hospital so very close to St Matthews that further places here not needed. 2) Noise and disruption of building work will have a significantly negative effect on the learning and experience of existing pupils. 3) Existing pupils will be exposed to dust, chemicals, building materials which pose serious health risks.

I'm not sufficiently engaged to comment on details e.g. numbers. I must trust that those employed by RBK in this field have the skills/knowledge needed. Expansion should take place where there is sufficient space for children to study and play (indoors and outdoors).

I think more spaces should be added to Maple School too which is much more central and within a walking distance to a lot of parents, who would have to alternatively drive to a further afield school.

I had to go through a school appeal to get a place for my child at St Matthews C of E and I wish there were more places available so parents would not have to worry about class size.