

Responses from Public Notice

Response 1

Sent: 17 June 2016 15:49

To: Schoolconsultation

Subject: Wollaston Primary School Expansion

Dear Sir / Madam,

I understand that you are currently in the process of a consultation regarding the expansion of the Wollaston Primary School. I am writing to express my thoughts and concerns (not necessarily objections!) as a neighbour of the school and resident of the village.

With two children myself, I very much agree with the principles of children being able to attend the school in the village that they reside as I did myself. That said, I have some initial concerns by the increase in capacity of 33% to the existing school.

I have three main concerns

1 Traffic / parking / speeding

I live at _____ and the end of my garden backs onto the school playground (tarmac area). Generally we have no issues with the school itself but there are already issues that exist regarding access to the school and parking in the immediate vicinity

The main roads that are affected;

- College street
- South Street
- Queen street
- Saint Michaels Lane

The predominant issue is the parking. Unfortunately in modern society many parents now need to commute to work and as a result this means that a large number of children are dropped off at school by parents in the car on their way to work. The same applies at pick up time.

The majority of parents park along College street, adjacent the playground on South street, the bottom of Queen Street (where it meets college street) and St Michaels Lane. There is already a shortage of parking spaces in these locations as a result of the current school capacity. A 33% increase is likely to have a serious impact on traffic movement and the availability of parking.

Existing issues includes;

- There have been countless occurrences of parents from the school parking inconsiderately half across or completely blocking local residents driveways. I was actually prevented from leaving my property to pick up my daughter from Grendon as a parent had parked across my drive making me 15 minutes late.
- A small number of instances where people have actually parked on other residents driveways.
- Parents also use private driveways for turning around.

- There are a large number of drivers who drive far too quickly for a built up, residential area where children may be crossing the road.
- College street in particular is a small narrow street and due to one side of the road being used for parking this creates problems when cars travelling in opposite directions meet with no space to pull in and give way to the opposing car. This leads to people pulling onto driveways or having to reverse back the other way (it can be carnage!)

If the expansion of the existing school is to go ahead then serious consideration needs to be given to the additional traffic and parking requirements otherwise it is inevitable it will impact upon the local infrastructure and residents.

Measures that may improve the parking and traffic situation include;

- Additional parking on-site for staff (I doubt the current provisions are sufficient as it is)
- One way system
- Traffic calming measures and speed restrictions (30mph is not slow enough)
- White lining of driveways for local residents with driveways

2. Economic benefits

At some point the existing primary school is going to reach a point whereby it cannot be extended any further to accommodate the demand. Is spending another £1.2m on top of what was spent only a few years ago in the best long term interest for the school when you consider that a new primary school for approximately 400 children can be built for around £5 – 6 million.

Based on the current demand for school places, how much spare capacity will the school have after these works are completed and what is the anticipated year on year increase in demand for places?

Is this new proposal a short term fix and would a new school on the grounds of the secondary school (where space and access is less of an issue) a better long term investment? Also worth considering the running and maintenance costs for the existing school vs the potential savings from a newly built school.

3. Impact of the building structure

More of a query than a concern at this stage. What are the physical building structure proposals?

- Where is the new block likely to be situated and how close to the existing residents will it be?
- Will it eat into the already small car park and lead to further traffic / parking issues?
- The new building is proposed to be two storey so which way are the windows going to face?

My intent is not to be obstructive as in principle I support the notion to provide sufficient school places for local children. I'm all for that but I feel it is important to make our thoughts known as this is such a large increase / change to the existing school and it is likely to have a significant impact on us and our neighbours.

Look forward to hearing from you regarding the above

Regards

Response 1 – further email

Sent: 28 June 2016 17:51

To: Schoolconsultation

Subject: RE: Wollaston Primary School Expansion

Hi Jackie,

Thanks for your reply.

I've had a chance to read through the documents using the link you provided thank you.

It is not evident from any of the information provided that an assessment of the viability of a new school has been undertaken. The cabinet member decision (section 5) states "This is not viable; there is no site available". Could I have access to any work that has been done to establish this please?

I read in the "PROPOSAL TO EXPAND WOLLASTON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL" document on the county council website that the school is anticipated to be full again by 2024 (only 6 years after the new works will be completed and used by the school). So what happens then?

In terms of the traffic and parking problems you state "that the school are looking at measures they can take to address traffic and parking concerns and that they are looking at measures they can take to address these, including updating their travel plan, encouraging children to walk where possible, asking local businesses if they have parking which staff can utilise and staggering start and pick up times to reduce traffic at peak times". However, Response 8 (produced by the school) actually highlights the fact that the school are already implementing these measures already. It would appear that the problem still exists based on 315 children so we can only expect these to get worse upon completion of the expansion. In the school response they also state that its only adding another two classrooms but it's also adding an additional 33% of children to the school.

Local businesses have problems with their own parking already so I would be keen to know which businesses are agreeing in principle to giving them spaces> also specifics such as how many and for how long? What if the business changes its mind or changes ownership?

I also struggle to see how staggering school start times can be effective. In the instance where the child is being dropped off / picked up has siblings?

At this stage I've raised my concerns and we shall await the planning and highways approval process. There are a number of us neighbouring residents that shall be campaigning for significantly more to be done to prevent further traffic and parking problems than the "measures" that are currently being discussed.

Thank you again for your time responding to my email.

Many thanks

Response 2

WOLLASTON PARISH COUNCIL

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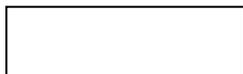
Dear Sir/Madam

Proposal to increase the permanent capacity of Wollaston Community Primary School

With reference to the Statutory Notice published informing of the proposal to expand the capacity at Wollaston Community Primary School, I write to reiterate that Wollaston Parish Council is fully supportive of your proposals as we wish to ensure local children are able to attend their local primary school. As you will be aware, our Neighbourhood Plan has now been inspected by an Examiner and one of the main issues the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group wished to be addressed was that the Primary School can accommodate any future development in the village.

We look forward to receiving further details from you once the next stage of proceedings commence.

Yours faithfully



Angela Young
Clerk to Wollaston Parish Council