

Responses from Statutory Notice period

Response 1

Dear Ms Desmond,

As the ward councillor for Swanspool Ward, Wellingborough, I met with Lucy Deakin, the Headteacher of Croyland Community Primary School, to ask her opinion of the proposed extension of All Saints School. As the proposed site is approximately 200m from the entrance to her school, I wanted her understanding of paragraph 5

" it is not anticipated that the proposed extension will have any detrimental effect on any other educational institution in the School's vicinity"

as the proposed extension is inside the traditional "catchment" area for Croyland Community Primary School.

How was this opinion reached when the Headteacher of Croyland School has not been consulted, neither has the Headteacher of Croyland Nursery School or The Toybox Nursery in Croyland Road?

Having spoken to Lucy, I would like to make the following observations and comments:

Firstly, Croyland School is a two form entry school for 4 - 11 year old pupils and on the same campus is Croyland Nursery School. The school prides itself on being a school for the local community, which is 0.29 in the deprivation index, and according to Ofsted, the pupils make good progress in their learning. How will the future of those living on the Croyland/Kingway estate, which is one of the most deprived in Northamptonshire, be improved by the building of this extension? Could the former swimming pool site on Croyland Road, be utilized in a more creative way to benefit the people living in the area.

The proposal states,

"The Head Teacher and Governing Body aspire to offer additional places to parents who have expressed a preference for All Saints, including families who favour the ethos of a church school and those who reside in the local area."

The Headteacher of Croyland School is not worried about her parents moving to the new school, if it is built, because she is confident that she is providing a good education for the children and as a well established school, many parents have personal connections with it. Is the local area the Kingsway/ Croyland Estate or the local area to the existing All Saints School? I am interested to know where the developments are, that will provide S106 grants towards the cost of the extension.

This proposed extension to All Saints School is to meet the demands of families currently unable to get a place in the Castle Street site. Therefore pupils will have to travel across the town, increasing congestion and decreasing safety for pedestrians who already use Croyland Road, a major thoroughfare to Wrenn School, Frairs School and Wellingborough School. Will the building of this extension fulfill the current policy of encouraging children to walk to school and encouraging a healthy lifestyle?

All Saints School prides itself of being a "popular church school and is oversubscribed each year." As a Voluntary Aided School, the church is at the heart of the school community and the site in Castle Street is close to the church building and easily accessed as a teaching

resources and place of worship for the school community. How will this work, when the proposed extension is built? Will the church still be central to its identity?

As a Borough Councillor, I am well aware of the need for affordable housing and look forward to the development of Stanton Cross as a welcome extension to the town. A new school, will be needed on that development and this is where Peterborough Diocese and the Methodist Church have shown an interest. Surely it is in the east of the town that All Saints School should be looking to develop and extend, for that is their community, and it is from the new houses in the Senwick Road estate, that the new families are to be found.

Yours sincerely,
Valerie Anslow, Councillor for Swanspool Ward.

Reply Sent:

Dear Cllr Anslow

Thank you for your response, which will be incorporated as part of the Cabinet report in January. As you will be aware, school places in Wellingborough town are very limited. There is particular pressure on Reception and Years 1, 4 and 5 and several schools have already been extended, including Redwell, Victoria and Oakway Academy. A bulge class has been added at Oakway Academy for this academic year due to demand for Reception school places in the town. Despite this, there is still not enough capacity within the town to meet demand and permanent additional capacity is required.

Croyland Primary has been visited previously regarding sufficiency of school places in the town and a consultation process regarding the expansion has been completed with all primary/secondary schools in the town informed, via email, as well as it being on the NCC website. Further details, including responses, were published in the Cabinet Member Decision report in October, and can be located on the NCC website.

The increase in capacity at All Saints has been delayed to September 2018 as the previous date of September 2017 is no longer achievable. The Cabinet report for January will contain further detail.

Response 2

Whilst recognising the need for increased places for primary school aged children in Wellingborough, this proposal has a number of flaws.

1. It will be sited well away from the main school
2. There is another school in close proximity - Croyland Primary
3. Croyland Primary serves the local community - an All Saints annex, away from the main site, will not.
4. It will be another disruption to the all-through provision, which was on the Croyland site, and which has been dissipated by NCC's changes to pre-school provision.
5. Albeit a planning matter, traffic is already bad in that area at school opening and closing times. Having another school there will exacerbate the problem.

I am unsure whether the Croyland schools have been consulted.