APPENDIX 3

Possible permanent expansion of Pupil Places at Pierrepont Gamston CE VA Primary School, West Bridgford

Consultation Responses Analysis:

Number of consultation leaflets distributed approximately 400

	No. of responses received Agreed	No. of responses received Disagreed	No. of responses received Didn't Know
Parent/Carer	9	7	3
Governor	1	0	1
Staff	0	0	0
Pupil School Council of Pierrepont Gamston Primary	1	0	0
Other	3	7	0
Unspecified	0	2	0
TOTALS	**14**	**16**	**4**
Where reply forms indicated more than one type of respondent, only one has been included in the table above using a priority order of 'parent/carer', 'governor', 'staff' and then 'pupil/other'.			

Comments/Issues/Points raised within Written/Electronic/On-line responses:

The decision making process

- In disagreeing with the proposed expansion, serious concerns and opinions expressed that a proposed expansion of Pierrepont Gamston school is not suitable citing that:-

    - it would result in a serious reduction to any outdoor activities
    - the school site is not big enough to safely accommodate the effects an expansion would have on playtime sessions or sports
    - the surrounding roads are not adequate enough to cope with any potential construction and increased staff and parental vehicle traffic
    - vehicle parking is already difficult and the roads treacherous in winter; feelings expressed this being likened to an accident waiting to happen

- Opinion expressed there was not enough information to provide an informed response
- Opinion expressed that the proposal was a huge increase on a small school
- Opinion expressed there are other options to consider for increasing pupil places, citing a proposed school development elsewhere in the Rushcliffe area could be increased in size
- Clarification sought on whether the potential of developing other sites or new builds have been explored
- In disagreeing with the proposal, clarification sought on how robust were the predicted numbers of future pupils, and what happens if these decline
- Although expressing support for the proposal, concern raised and clarification sought on whether there were plans to change traffic control in the vicinity of Pierrepont Gamston Primary
- In supporting the proposal, opinions expressed that all schools in the area allegedly had oversubscribed school capacity issues which was felt needed addressing, citing that new families allegedly continue to move into the surrounding localities
- Concern raised that another local school allegedly also needed its accommodation improving and opinion expressed that a County Council strategy was needed to meet its needs too

Staffing matters

- Concern raised that the expansion might lead to a lowering of educational standards, citing there would be less adequately provided experienced staff for all pupils

- Clarification sought that extra teachers would be employed to maintain smaller class sizes

Building and site related issues

- Concerns raised about car parking and traffic issues that were felt already existed in the school's vicinity. In particular, it was alleged many parents 'double-park' on both sides of the roads making passing by vehicle almost impossible. Opinion then expressed that a proposed school expansion would only exacerbate the situation.
- It was felt that parking restrictions need strongly implementing ie 'double-yellow' lines, if the proposal goes ahead
- In strongly disagreeing with the proposed expansion, concerns raised by residents adjacent to the school's site about the impact the proposed new expanded premises and on-site school parking will have on them and their properties, citing that allegedly:-

    - vehicles will be parked on school land that will be above the height of residents' fences
    - noise and pollution levels from the vehicles will escalate substantially ie banging of doors and starting/revving of engines, particularly if car park used out of school hours
    - there would be an increase in pedestrian traffic
    - vehicle headlights will shine directly into rear of houses' living areas and main bedrooms
    - there would be an intrusion on residents' properties adjacent to the school site, affecting privacy, natural light, and a potential lowering of house values
    - any additional external artificial lighting around the school premises would be intrusive on neighbouring residential properties
    - there would an unsightliness concerning the close proximity of the school's refuse area

- Clarification sought that if the school's new car park is constructed on the existing embankment, what safety measures are being proposed
- Opinion expressed that it was very unlikely that the existing provisions of on-site drainage at the school will be adequate
- Opinions expressed about possible apparent solutions to the alleged car parking issues, citing that:-

    - the flat ground to the right of the school could be used in lieu of the embankment, therefore no loss of residents' privacy
    - there is sufficient room to develop to the front and rear of the school
    - on-site portable buildings could perhaps be relocated to free up land for the proposed school expansion

- Clarification sought on whether the above-mentioned potential solutions had been considered and if so, why were they rejected

- Although expressing support for the proposal, concern raised about parking in the school's vicinity, particularly on corners and junctions on the local roads
- Concerns raised about existing school facilities not being adequate enough to cater for the proposed increase in pupil places, citing that areas such as the hall/dining and playground would also need expanding
- Support expressed for the proposal providing the expansion is proportionate to the size of the school's existing site and surrounding amenities for vehicle parking and potential additional traffic flow

Financial issues

- Clarification sought on where the funding for the proposed expansion was being sourced

Pupil, Curriculum and Community related issues

- In disagreeing with the proposed expansion, it was felt Pierrepont Gamston Primary would lose its 'charm' of being a school of a certain size catering for pupils in close proximity to it
- Opinion expressed that the 'kids club' is constantly full and an assumption made there is no further capacity to take in extra children. It was therefore suggested this facility would need to be enlarged.
- Opinion expressed that providing additional classrooms would have a detrimental effect on the school's existing facilities, citing this would create a claustrophobic learning environment which it was felt wouldn't help pupils or staff
- Feeling expressed that having more pupil places available at Pierrepont Gamston Primary to enable more children to attend their local school, is an excellent idea
- Comment made about three separate incidents of damage to a local resident's car, allegedly due to the existing lack of appropriate parking when school children are 'dropped off/picked up' in the vicinity of Pierrepont Gamston school
- In supporting the proposal, opinion expressed that Pierrepont Gamston Primary is a lovely school and central to the Gamston community, citing that all local families should be involved with it if they wish to
- Clarification sought on whether the proposed expansion would lead to mixed year groups; ~~a~~ feelings expressed of having reservations about this potential class arrangement
- Opinion expressed that the proposed expansion will affect the current equilibrium of the school
- Feeling expressed of not being convinced that the small family/Christian ethos approach will be achieved, due to the extent of increase in pupil places
- In supporting the proposed expansion, opinions expressed that the additional pupil places are needed for the community to meet future demand

- Comment made of having moved to the West Bridgford locality because of the good schools, citing that other people will do the same
- Feeling expressed as to what extent independent ‘Free Schools’ in the Rushcliffe area might ease pressure on pupil numbers in County Council maintained schools
- In supporting the proposal, opinion expressed it will increase the school’s strength and diversity and it was felt the school had been previously oversubscribed
- Although expressing support for the proposed expansion, concern raised that the additional places should only be offered to in-catchment children, thereby serving the needs of the local community
- Support expressed for the proposal, citing that the additional pupil places would bring opportunity for the school to enrich its offering to its children through a broader staff team sharing ideas
- Opinion expressed that the proposal would help in providing a wider range of extra curricular activities
- In expressing support for the proposed expansion, concern raised there are not enough reception places for pupils who don’t have siblings at the school already
- In disagreeing with the proposal, concerns raised about the potential disruption to children’s education and the impact on local residents during any proposed build work on the school’s site
- Concerns expressed that the proposal could lead to the school operating mixed age classes