

## APPENDIX 4

### Possible permanent expansion of Pupil Places at Round Hill Community Primary School, Beeston

#### Consultation Responses Analysis:

Number of consultation leaflets distributed approximately 600

	No. of responses received Agreed	No. of responses received Disagreed	No. of responses received Didn't Know
Parent/Carer	9	26	16
Full Governing Body of Round Hill Primary	1	0	0
Staff (including other local schools)	0	6	3
Pupil School Council of Round Hill Primary	0	1	0
Other	0	2	1
Unspecified	0	3	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>21</b>

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/carers', 'governor', 'staff' and then 'pupil/other'.

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

### **The decision making process**

- Opinions expressed and clarification sought that as other local primary schools allegedly had many spare pupil places available, why expand Round Hill Primary
- Feeling expressed that the County Council should seek to redefine school catchment areas in order to utilise alleged spare places in other schools, rather than simply build more places in a popular location
- Opinion expressed that Round Hill Primary is a popular school on a large site so expansion would seem sensible
- Opinions expressed there was not enough information to provide an informed response. It was felt there should be a fresh consultation carried out with much more information.
- In strongly disagreeing with the proposal, feelings and concerns expressed that it was a large increase for an already large school, and that it wasn't appropriate for a primary school to be too big, citing that time will tell if this affects both current and future pupils' development
- Clarification sought on why Round Hill Primary had been chosen to be expanded rather than other alternative local schools, and on whether all these schools were full
- Opinion expressed that another local school could have been considered for expansion rather than Round Hill Primary, citing there would be no need to provide expensive additional buildings or on-site car parking spaces, therefore saving the local tax payers money
- Clarification sought on whether expanding primary schools created spatial problems for secondary schools
- Clarification sought on whether plans for the expanded premises will be able to be viewed as part of the consultation
- Clarification sought on whether an alleged reduction in Round Hill Primary's PAN (Published Admission Number) had been analysed to see how this had affected pupils' academic results
- Opinions expressed that smaller schools are better, and a suggestion made that perhaps a new primary school should be provided in the Beeston locality, rather than expand Round Hill Primary
- In disagreeing with the proposal, opinion expressed that more effort should be made to improve other schools and make them more attractive, rather than enlarging popular ones
- Feelings expressed of not being consulted properly, citing that information given at the consultation 'drop-in' session held at the school, allegedly suggested that decisions about the expansion and mixed class groups had already been made
- Opinion expressed that the timing of the process for consulting, planning and building work for the proposed expansion, does not

appear to be sufficient to achieve an implementation date of September 2014

- Clarification sought on whether the County Council had considered approaching the Nottingham Catholic Diocese about establishing a new Catholic primary school in Beeston, citing that as the alleged nearest one was located 5 miles away in a neighbouring education authority, local school places were allegedly taken up by children whose parents/carers would find it impractical to send them to this alternative school
- In expressing support for the proposed expansion of their school, Round Hill Primary's governing body also expressed the wish to receive appropriate information about what facilities are going to be built as soon as this was available, and in any event, to receive this information prior to any formal proposal being published
- Opinion expressed that a completely purpose built rebuild of Round Hill Primary on the school's same footprint with overall smaller class sizes, was felt to be a good way to make the school bigger and better
- Opinions expressed that given the information provided to-date about the proposed expansion, the County Council hadn't done enough work to understand the impact such a large expansion will have on the school
- Clarification sought on whether there will be sufficient pupils to fill the additional places proposed at Round Hill Primary without affecting other local schools. Opinion then expressed that it would be counter-productive to spend money on expanding one school if it had a negative effect on other good schools in the area.

### **Staffing matters**

- Clarification sought on what financial resources would be available for staff increases, so that current provision is not diluted
- Opinion and concern expressed that the focus of the school's senior management would be diverted from improving the school, as they focus on the proposed expansion
- Opinion expressed that more children will mean more staff who can provide increased expertise and experience, thereby offering pupils the best opportunity to learn
- Clarification sought on how Round Hill Primary's teachers felt about split classes and the proposed expansion in general

### **Building and site related issues**

- Opinions expressed that the school's existing hall is not adequate in size to accommodate a whole-school assembly
- Comments made that the school's dining hall is currently too small and children have to eat in classrooms
- Concerns raised that the proposal would put a strain on Round Hill Primary's alleged already overstretched essential school facilities

- Comment made that indoor physical education facilities are currently insufficient at Round Hill Primary, citing that junior-aged pupils are allegedly having PE lessons outdoor but are weather dependent
- Clarification sought on how the increase in numbers would be accommodated, and would this lead to large increases in junior-aged class sizes, citing that these classes are allegedly already large
- Clarification sought on how many new buildings would be involved, where would they be located on the school's site and was the proposed expansion relating to a response to any requirement for special needs
- Opinions expressed that the school currently has a reasonable amount of outdoor space/playing field that is fully utilised, but concerns felt if a significant portion of this was lost to accommodate 25% more pupils
- Suggestion made for the provision of a new school staff room, as it was felt the existing one was not adequate in size
- Opinions expressed about school access routes: it was felt that the width of pedestrian gates, pathway to main school playground, drop-off points and temporary parking needed to be taken into account if the proposal goes ahead
- Although support expressed for the proposal, concerns raised that this was based on :-
  - minimising the potential impact on pupils from any build work
  - providing appropriate teaching and general facilities for the increase in pupil numbers
  - minimising the potential impact on existing outdoor space and resource areas
  - minimising the use of temporary accommodation
- In disagreeing with the proposal, opinions expressed there is already an alleged lack of parking spaces to accommodate any extra staff, and a lack of on-street parking for potential additional parent/carers vehicular traffic, citing this would create extra chaos in the locality which is allegedly already congested
- Opinion expressed that parents/ carers and pupils oppose building on school playgrounds, grassed areas and fields
- Suggestions raised for the County Council to possibly consider utilising other alternative local accommodation instead of expanding Round Hill Primary
- In disagreeing with the proposed expansion, comments made that pupils have already suffered by the impact of previous building work on Round Hill school's site and in its locality, without the need for more disruption. Clarification sought on how these concerns are being addressed.
- Opinion expressed there is a risk the school's music, cookery and computer rooms will be lost to make classroom space, and clarification sought on whether these and other existing school facilities will be increased
- In disagreeing with the proposal, opinions expressed there would be a loss of outside hard and grassed areas, and the school's wild 'Green

space' that had allegedly already been reduced by the construction of the Pearson Centre

- As a possible solution to providing additional classes instead of physically expanding Round Hill Primary, suggestion made of using the on-site Pearson Centre and other alternative existing internal school areas
- Concern expressed that if the proposal proceeds, the existing playgrounds for the younger and older pupils should remain separate

### **Financial issues**

- Support expressed for the proposal providing there is necessary funding for the expanded premises and resources
- In disagreeing with the proposed expansion, opinion expressed that it was cheaper to expand an alleged already overcrowded school rather than provide a new one elsewhere in the locality

### **Pupil, Curriculum and Community related issues**

- Reference made to a previous reduction in the school's pupil admission number and a feeling expressed that a proposed increase seemed a backward step
- Opinions expressed that a pupil admission number of 75 would mean mixed year group and split classes, with allegedly, all the complications this brings
- Feeling and opinion expressed that the size of the school expansion would have a negative effect on the safe, caring and friendly character of Round Hill Primary
- Clarification sought on how class numbers would be affected and how the new places would be spread across the school's age ranges
- Opinions expressed that the independently run 'Roundabout Club' located on Round Hill's school site, would need to increase its capacity as it was allegedly already oversubscribed with a waiting list and wouldn't be able to meet the potential demands of more children attending
- Opinions expressed the proposal is well founded, citing that Round Hill Primary is a popular school and pupil places need to be provided locally
- Disagreement with the proposal expressed citing that it would allegedly lead to mixed classes being taught, and feelings expressed that this would be detrimental to the pupils' education
- Concerns expressed that mixed age groups would mean a loss of specialist resources, and resulting in a lack of focus from teachers on very specific needs of children of a certain age
- Opinion expressed that if the proposal went ahead, there was a risk of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children becoming separated, which it was felt to be contrary to Round Hill Primary school's ethos where allegedly all year groups mix and know each other

- Opinions expressed that even at its current size, the small, friendly and community feel of Round Hill Primary is becoming less personal, citing that to expand the school will see this intimacy disappear
- Observation expressed of noticing how pupils transferring from smaller sized primary schools into secondary schools have better behaviour patterns and settle into secondary education easier
- Opinion expressed that any additional school places should only be available for pupils residing in Round Hill Primary's catchment area
- Clarification sought on where is the evidence to show that Round Hill Primary's educational performance can be maintained by combining Year groups
- Opinion expressed that an up-to-date Round Hill Primary school travel plan should be prepared if the proposed expansion goes ahead
- Clarification sought on whether there is any experience of how mixed Year groups would work; how do teachers differentiate between pupils' abilities; and how would the school ensure that pupils in mixed Year groups are not educationally disadvantaged