

APPENDIX 2

Proposed permanent expansion of Pupil Places at Arnold Mill Community Primary School

Consultation Responses Analysis:

Number of leaflets distributed approximately 600

	No. of responses received Agreed	No. of responses received Opposed	No. of responses received Didn't Know
Parent/Carer	12	10	5
Governor	6	0	0
Staff	3	0	0
Pupil/Other	0	1	0
TOTALS	21	11	5
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

- Clarification sought on why the school wasn't built bigger when first relocated to its present site

- Opinion expressed that 'bigger' is not always better
- In strongly opposing the proposed expansion, opinion expressed that it was unfair for Arnold Mill Primary to completely shoulder this burden
- Opinion expressed that as Arnold Mill's class sizes have been annually rising, how could expanding the school help this situation
- Clarification sought on whether the County Council plan to reduce class sizes across the whole school. Opinion then expressed that large classes are noisy and provide a less than ideal learning environment.
- Opinion expressed that road safety is a big issue and clarification sought on whether any thought had been given to this
- Clarification sought on why Arnold Mill Primary will have to cope with further changes when the school had already been affected by a period of massive upheaval during its relocation from Church Drive in 2008
- Opinion expressed that the expansion proposal should be scrapped by the County Council, or at the very least reviewed, with the provision of new school places being shared across all primary schools in the Arnold area
- Comment made that more detailed information on possible disruption to pupils' education during any building work and potential traffic implications in the surrounding area, would be needed to be able to make an informed view on the proposed expansion
- Opinion expressed that the consultation meeting held at the school should have been conducted in the evening to enable working parents to attend without having time off work
- Clarification sought on whether the school's previous premises located on Church Drive had been considered for use as a school again, rather than expand Arnold Mill Primary
- Opinion expressed that the consultation leaflet circulated to interested parties was partly unclear, citing that some of the proposed additional school places were to allegedly accommodate children already in school
- Opinion expressed that it is vital that the design of the proposed expansion should be carefully planned, so that the new spaces match the proposed published admission number and net capacity for the school

Staffing matters

- Comment made that the teachers at Arnold Mill Primary do a fantastic job in trying to meet the needs of each child when faced with over-subscribed classes, and opinion expressed that the proposed expansion could exacerbate this situation
- Clarification sought on whether additional teachers and lunch time staff would be employed as a result of the proposed school expansion

Building and site related issues

- Opinions expressed that the expansion of the existing premises would have a detrimental and adverse effect on school facilities already provided for children currently at the school
- Concerns raised and opinions expressed about current daily inconsiderate and potentially very dangerous and hazardous parking during school term-time when alleged parents/carers drop-off/collect their children from Arnold Mill Primary
- Clarification sought on where the extra pupils will be facilitated in an already over-subscribed school hall during whole school assemblies
- Concern raised over lunch and playtime management if additional children were to be admitted emanating from the proposed school expansion
- Opinions expressed that the school's communal areas like the hall are too small for the current pupil numbers, and concern raised that the parking situation in and around the school site has never been addressed
- Opinion expressed that class sizes within the school are too large already, making discipline difficult to control
- Clarification sought on whether the proposed new classrooms will be built in an environmentally friendly way
- In opposing the proposal, opinion and concern expressed that a potential increase in children attending the school will only make traffic flow around Arnold Mill Primary's locality even worse than it allegedly is already

Pupil, Curriculum and Community related issues

- In supporting the proposal, comments made that Arnold Mill Primary is an excellent and welcoming school and the more families that can benefit from being in the school's family the better
- Concerns raised and opinions expressed that as certain classrooms are already over-subscribed, the effect of admitting more children as a result of the proposed expansion will make the situation worse
- Opinion expressed that the school's Afterschool and Breakfast clubs will become over-subscribed if more school places are provided
- Opinion expressed and examples suggested about how current parking issues around the school's locality could be addressed; additional school crossings and double-yellow lines, monitoring inconsiderate parking by CCTV cameras with follow-up procedures by the police
- Feelings expressed that providing more school places would hopefully make existing classes smaller
- Comment made that alleged more new houses on Calverton Road would mean increased numbers of children of primary school age. Opinion then expressed that Arnold Mill Primary has sufficient land so could extend its premises further.

- In supporting the proposal, comment made that as the school is already over-subscribed the extra classrooms would provide adequate teaching spaces for pupils, especially as it was felt there is a steady stream of children requiring places at the school
- Feelings expressed that the proposal would ensure a popular school can continue to provide a good education for its community, and reduce the large class sizes throughout the school
- Opinion expressed that mixed year groups can be a positive experience for children
- In supporting the proposal, concerns raised that as Arnold Mill Primary's capacity to accommodate pupils is allegedly already full, a proposed expansion of the school is vital

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