

**School Place Planning Strategy 2014 – 2018 - Summary of Principles:**

**Principle 1:** *We will only undertake expansions with good or outstanding schools where leadership is secure.*

**Principle 2:** *We will promote federations between primary schools, both to address quality issues and to address the future viability of one form of entry schools.*

**Principle 3:** *We will actively consider two-site schools and 5FE schools where there is leadership and management capacity.*

**Principle 4:** *We will develop local capacity to sponsor or promote new schools, working with academies in the primary sector.*

**Principle 5:** *We will work towards the amalgamation of separate infants and junior schools.*

**Principle 6:** *We will not currently seek to develop more all-through schools.*

**Principle 7:** *We will expect expanded and re-structured schools generally to meet government guidance on space standards but be prepared to consider innovative design solutions to achieve this.*

**Principle 8:** *We will seek to minimise disruption to schools during expansion and support school leaders to manage the challenges.*

**Principle 9:** *We will continue planning primary places using planning areas.*

**Principle 10:** *We will as far as possible incorporate proposals for additional primary school places into new regeneration schemes.*

**Principle 11:** *We will consider expanding voluntary aided schools only where there is local Brent demand, working with the relevant partners.*

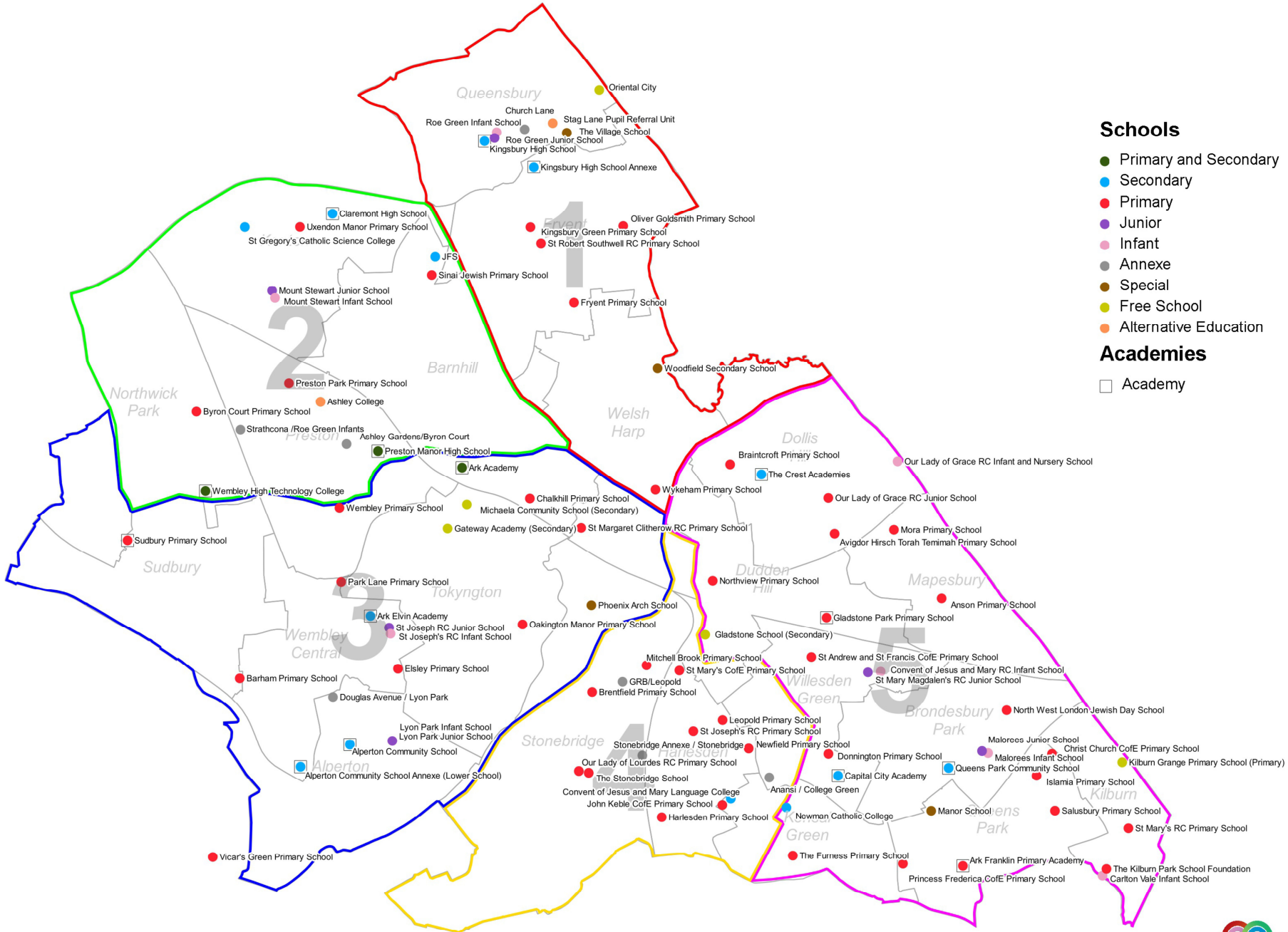
**Principle 12:** *We will continue planning secondary school places on a borough wide basis with the ambition to make Brent's secondary offer attractive to all parents.*

**Principle 13:** *We will consider how community benefits from school facilities can be maximised when we expand or build new schools.*

**Principle 14:** *We will consult with local communities as part of the planning process to minimise/mitigate the impact of new school developments.*

**Principle 15:** *We will build inclusive provision into expansion and new school proposals and work with neighbouring on the planning of special school places.*

**Principle 16:** *After assessing educational suitability, schemes for expansion or new schools will be judged in terms of value for money and deliverability.*



**Schools**

- Primary and Secondary
- Secondary
- Primary
- Junior
- Infant
- Annexe
- Special
- Free School
- Alternative Education

**Academies**

- Academy



## A Public Consultation

# Proposed Expansion of Byron Court Primary School to 5 Forms of Entry by September 2015

### 1. Introduction

Byron Court Primary School is a community school located in the northern half of the borough. It has a planned admission number of 630 places (3 forms of entry i.e. 3 classes in each year group) for boys and girls between the ages of 4 – 11. In addition from September 2014 the school agreed to take an additional Year 2 temporary (bulge) class on site and two additional temporary classes (bulge) for Reception aged children off site in temporary accommodation known as Ashley Gardens. In summary there are 660 places on site and 60 places off site, making a total of 720 for the 2014/15 academic year.

Currently, the demand for school places in Brent, as with many outer London boroughs, is increasing. The demand for primary places in the north of the borough specifically has led to the proposal to expand Byron Court Primary School on a permanent basis.

Therefore Brent Council in partnership with the Governing Body of Byron Court Primary School is consulting with staff, parents and the community on the option to expand the school by two forms of entry (2FE). The expansion will provide an additional 60 places (2 classes) in each year group (420 new primary places in total). The increase of 60 places (2 classes) in each year group commenced on a temporary basis (2 bulge classes) at Reception age during this academic year (Ashley Gardens) and will rise to Year 6 by September 2020. In the event of permanent expansion being approved, these places would continue to be available each year within the main school site.

**You are invited to two meetings to discuss the proposals at:**

**2pm and 6pm Wednesday 3 December 2014  
Byron Court Primary School Hall  
Spencer Road, Wembley, HA0 3SF**

Alternatively you can give your views in writing or online. Full details can be found in this document.

## 2. The proposal

Brent Council is proposing to expand Byron Court Primary School, Spencer Road, Wembley, HA0 3SF by two forms of entry (420 additional places), taking the school capacity from 630 permanent places (Year R – Year 6) to 1050 permanent places (Year R – Year 6). The school will become a 5 forms of entry school (5FE).

Byron Court Primary School took a temporary/bulge Year 2 class in September 2014 taking their current total number of places to 660. In addition Byron Court Primary School agreed to accommodate Ashley Gardens (off site) which has 60 Reception places, bringing the total number of children for the 2014/15 academic year to 720 of which 150 are Reception age – see the table below.

If the proposal to expand is approved the increase in number of permanent places at the school will be gradual until the maximum of 1050 is reached in September 2020 as illustrated in the table below:

Table 1: Number of pupils in each year group in each academic year

Date	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
Sep-14	150	90	120	90	90	90	90	720
Sep-15	150	150	90	120	90	90	90	780
Sep-16	150	150	150	90	120	90	90	840
Sep-17	150	150	150	150	90	120	90	900
Sep-18	150	150	150	150	150	90	120	960
Sep-19	150	150	150	150	150	150	90	990
Sep-20	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	1050

## 3. Why expand Byron Court School?

- The Brent school place planning strategy has a criteria only to expand Good and Outstanding schools according to OFSTED classifications (Office of Standards in Education).
- Byron Court Primary School was classified as an Outstanding school by OFSTED in April 2012.
- In addition Byron Court Primary School received a Teaching School designation from the National College of Teaching and Leadership and the Department for Education. Teaching schools give outstanding schools a leading role in the training and professional development of teachers, support staff and headteachers, as well as contributing to the raising of standards through school-to-school support. In order to become a teaching school Byron Court Primary School had to provide evidence of successful partnerships as well as excellent leadership with a proven track record of school improvement. Both the headteacher and the school needed to meet stringent criteria.
- By expanding to 5 forms of entry (5FE) Byron Court Primary School will be providing local opportunities for more children to attend outstanding provision and to enable the school to deliver beyond simply providing an education.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a Teaching School Byron Court will also offer future teachers and leaders professional development.</li> <li>• For planning purposes the borough is split into 5 different regions (planning areas) so that local demand can be calculated. Byron Court Primary School and 7 other Brent schools providing primary provision fall into planning area 2. Three of those 7 schools have already been expanded in recent years and the Council is in talks with three of the remaining schools about expanding. Without any additional places in planning area 2, there would be a shortage of 93 Reception places by September 2015, 91 by September 2016 and 104 by September 2017.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Construction</b></p> <p>The proposed accommodation for the expansion by 2FE would be of a permanent high quality construction adjacent to the main school building. It will be designed to optimise educational standards and include leading class facilities that will maximise the learning and teaching environment e.g. greater natural light, optimal room sizes, direct circulation both around the building and linking with the outside space. The main building will remain largely as existing, however several older temporary classrooms will be demolished and replaced along with additional teaching accommodation in a new building to the North side of the site adjacent to the existing building. Building work is expected to start in Autumn 2015 (subject to planning permission) and will be complete by September 2016.</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>The growing number of primary school pupils</b></p> <p>The number of children seeking a primary school in Brent is increasing year on year. This is due to several factors e.g. the renewed popularity of Brent schools, the inward migration of families into the borough, the new housing developments throughout the borough attracting new families and the rising birth rates. As a result, in areas of high demand there are insufficient school places.</p> <p>The pressure of increasing demand is already evident with few places available in Brent's 61 primary schools. Brent Council is supportive of the proposed expansion of Byron Court Primary School to help address the shortage of primary school places.</p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>New primary school places</b></p> <p>In March 2014 the Local Authority consulted with all primary schools in the borough to explore the possibility of increasing the number of school places. It has been evident that the demand for Reception places would be greater than the number of available places. This assessment was based on the number of on-time and ad hoc admissions applications received by the Local Authority, the current forecast of student numbers and local factors such as feedback from schools.</p> <p>The Local Authority has reviewed capacity constraints at all primary schools and identified the maximum need for school places in the local areas. Discussions have taken place with schools which were suitable and willing for expansion. This was followed by an initial feasibility assessment.</p> <p>Since 2005 the Local Authority has analysed the increased demand for school places and created a programme to increase primary places through permanent expansion of schools and temporary classes across Brent. The table below demonstrates how</p>

many permanent and temporary primary places have been created since September 2006.

Table 2: Number of additional places created in Brent since 2006

<b>Total number of additional places (Reception to Year 6)</b>	<b>Permanent places (Reception to Year 6)</b>	<b>Temporary places (Reception to Year 6)</b>
5729	3746	1983

## 7. We would like to hear from you

Brent Council and Governors of Byron Court Primary School are at the moment consulting all interested parties including parents and staff at the school, all schools in Brent and neighbouring boroughs with an aim to receive feedback on the proposal. This consultation is the first step in the process of possible expansion; a further consultation on the proposed building works and planning application will also take place around Spring 2015.

We would welcome your views on the proposal to expand the school by 2FE. If you have any comments that you would like to make in relation to this proposal, you can either use the attached tear-off response form or write to:

**Judith Joseph**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Brent Civic Centre**  
**Engineers Way**  
**Wembley**  
**Middlesex HA9 0FJ**

**Or**

Send an email to: **[judith.joseph@brent.gov.uk](mailto:judith.joseph@brent.gov.uk)**

Copies of this consultation document are also available at the school reception.

Alternatively, this document can be downloaded from:

<http://www.brent.gov.uk/currentconsultations>

A limited translation service can be provided for this document on request to [judith.joseph@brent.gov.uk](mailto:judith.joseph@brent.gov.uk)

All written comments must be received by:

**Wednesday 24 December 2014**

8. You can also attend a public meeting for parents, carers and the community which has been arranged to discuss the proposed expansion of Byron Court Primary School.

Date: Wednesday 3 December 2014

Time: 2pm – Community, local residents and Parents

6pm – Community, local residents and Parents

Venue: Byron Court School Hall  
Byron Court Primary School  
Spencer Road,  
Wembley, HA0 3SF

9. The procedures for reorganisation

Brent Council in partnership with Byron Court Primary School intends to meet with staff, parents and the local community, to receive their views.

If, after the consultation, the school’s Governing Body decides to proceed with the expansion then a statutory proposal will be published in the local papers and will also be placed at public places e.g. local library and on the main entrances to Byron Court Primary School.

Thereafter a 4 week representation period will commence during which anybody can write to make formal representations on the proposals. Representations can be in the form of support, suggestions or objections to the proposal. All representations will be presented to Brent Council’s Cabinet Committee which will make a decision on the proposal.

Table 3: 5 stages for a statutory proposal for an excepted school expansion:

Consultation	Publication	Representation	Decision	Implementation
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Not prescribed (minimum of 4 weeks recommended)	1 day	<b>Must</b> be 4 weeks UNLESS related to another statutory proposal which has a 6 week representation period	The Brent Cabinet must decide the proposals within 2 months	No prescribed timescale – but must be as specified in the published notice, subject to any modifications agreed by the Brent Cabinet

**10. Consultees**

This document is being sent to:

Byron Court Primary School: parents, staff, governors and student council  
All maintained schools and Academies in Brent  
Brent Council  
Westminster Diocesan Education Service  
London Diocesan Board for Schools  
London Borough of Ealing  
London Borough of Barnet  
London Borough of Camden  
London Borough of Harrow  
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham  
London Borough of Westminster  
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea  
Local Resident Associations  
All Councillors  
Local Member of Parliament  
All Brent Customer Service Shops  
All Brent Libraries  
All Brent Children Centres  
Sport England  
Secretary of State, School Organisation Unit  
Local private nurseries  
Any trade unions who represent staff of Byron Court Primary School  
Representatives of main trade unions in Brent  
Early Years and Family Support Service  
Early Years Quality and Improvement Team  
Parent and Toddler groups in the area



# Byron Court Primary School Consultation Response Slip

Please tear off and return by: **Wednesday 24 December 2014**

I agree / disagree with Brent Council's proposal to expand the school by two forms of entry (2FE) to 5 forms of entry (5FE). *Delete as appropriate*

**Comments:**

*(Please use the back of this form if you require more space)*

**Signed** .....

**Parent / member of staff / other** .....*please specify*

**Please send to:**

**Judith Joseph  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Brent Civic Centre  
Engineers Way  
Wembley, Middlesex, HA9 0FJ**

**Or email**                    [judith.joseph@brent.gov.uk](mailto:judith.joseph@brent.gov.uk)

## Comments continued:

### About you

By answering the following questions, you will help us ensure that we deliver a fair service to all our community. You do not have to give us this information, but we hope you will. All information will be treated in the strictest of confidence and will only be used to monitor and improve Brent Council services.

### Gender (please tick one):

Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	Female	<input type="checkbox"/>
------	--------------------------	--------	--------------------------

### My age group (please tick one):

16-24	<input type="checkbox"/>	25-34	<input type="checkbox"/>
35-44	<input type="checkbox"/>	45-54	<input type="checkbox"/>
55-64	<input type="checkbox"/>	65-74	<input type="checkbox"/>
75+	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

### Which one of these groups do you feel you belong to (please tick one)?

Asian Indian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Asian Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asian Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/>	Asian Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black African	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mixed White and Black Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed White and Black African	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mixed White and Asian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
White British	<input type="checkbox"/>	White Irish	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Ethnic Group	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Byron Court Primary School Public consultation meeting  
to expand from 3 forms of entry to 5 forms of entry**

**Wednesday 3 December 2014- 2pm.**

**Panel members:**

Naresh Gandhi – Chair of Governors  
Martine Clarke – Headteacher  
Martyn Pendergast - Interim School Improvement Lead  
Judith Joseph – School Place Planning Officer  
Emma Sweeney - Capital Projects Manager  
Two Byron Court Primary School Governors

**48 Attendees.**

- Naresh introduced and gave background details as to why the school is proposing to expand.
- Emma spoke about the building and showed slides.
- Martine spoke about the lack of space in the school and the poor facilities including :
  - fragmented site
  - small PE hall
  - dilapidated huts
  - poor weather hinders the day due to poor outdoor facilities
  - fragmented play areas
  - Martine explained what a teaching school is.

**Questions and statements**

**Premises and play space**

1. Don't use the same consultants as Wembley High Technology College.
2. Byron Court School is 100 years old and needs to have improvements, increased students would amount to losing playground space.
3. **Response** - There is no need to reduce playground space. The expansion creates an opportunity to reopen with greater numbers. At the moment the field becomes waterlogged. The drainage problems will be resolved with the expansion.
4. The new premises would be too close to the boundary of some Norval Road residents. They were purchased due to their south facing gardens.
5. How long will it take to build?  
**Response** - 12 months to build and we would always build away from learning areas.
6. Rooftop play areas?

**Response** - Unsure about rooftop play areas.

### **School size**

7. 5FE is too big

**Response** - there are bigger schools outside of Brent. The school will have bigger space.

8. Could you not have a split school at Ashley Gardens permanently?

**Response** - Ashley Gardens is a temporary structure with temporary permission for use.

9. 5FE is a good thing.

**Response** - Yes it is a good thing it is a special school.

10. Records show smaller schools are better.

Large schools can be successful due to good leadership, teamwork and good organisation. The school will also be zoned.

11. You said 3FE was the optimum size for a primary school when you first arrived as headteacher.

**Response** - That was then with the facilities we had.

12. Where are the children coming from?

### **Parking and traffic**

13. More children means more staff. Where will they park?

**Response** - There would be extra parking for teachers.

14. Spencer Road is a nightmare already with people parking in residents' drives what will happen when the number of children increases?

15. Private drives are always full of parent cars when school opens and closes.

16. What are the traffic plans?

**Response** - one option is to open up the rear entrance to the school and organise 'soft starts' with children coming earlier and at different times.

17. Local residents could block parents in, with our own cars as a protest and see how they like it.

18. Parking abuse it is not acceptable. There are already intimidation and litter problems. There needs to be naming and shaming of parents, letters and signage. Parking permits will not reduce problems as there is no one to police them and it would cost us residents money.

19. The school has done everything they can to curb the mis-parking; teachers can only do so much. In the USA some teachers come early and ensure parents drop and drive to keep the traffic flowing could we trial something like that here?

**Response** - Martine- would like to aim for a travel gold award and so will be creating a walking bus. The school also plans to open a new entrance to the school.

20. When will you open the Nathan Road entrance?

21. What about a one way road?

22. Will there be a proper transportation plan?

**Byron Court Primary School Public consultation meeting  
to expand from 3 forms of entry to 5 forms of entry  
Wednesday 3 December 2014- 6pm.**

**50 Attendees approximately**

**Panel**

Naresh Gandhi – Chair of Governors  
Martine Clarke – Headteacher  
Carmen Coffey – Head of Pupil and Parent Services  
Judith Joseph – School Place Planning Officer  
Emma Sweeney - Capital Projects Manager  
Governors from Byron Court Primary School

**Questions and statements:**

1. Is it a done deal?

No but it is a good opportunity as currently

- classrooms are small
- the hall is too small
- facilities are not great
- performance, arts and sports will improve
- we can't use facilities in winter months, expansion will lead to better equipment and open the rear access

2. Why Byron Court?

The strategy reports states 2017 demand is already here. Byron Court is the only teaching school in the borough. The school wants this expansion.

3. Can't we refurbish without expanding?

Not entirely

4. How many children are out of school today?

There are many reasons for lack of school places and children without school places

- Expansion of homes
- New arrivals
- GLA indications
- High volume of applications
- High demand in the whole of Brent
- There's been a shortage for at least 5 years in the north of the borough
- In Reception there are 73 children without a place
- Catchment areas

- Byron Court is oversubscribed
  - Overcrowding
5. Traffic congestion is getting worse and the council is not taking notice of what residents are saying. Residents in Spencer, Abbotts, Norval and Nathans Road will suffer. The abuse is disgusting, traffic is horrendous. It is the same in Luton there are more cars now.
6. There are concerns about the emotional developments of children at this school e.g. bullying.

The headteacher's vision is to keep the high standards and community feel of the school. The answer will be zones and additional facilities will meet all those needs.

7. Two professors state social interaction is not good in large schools
- There are concerns about children on the estate without a chance to get into a school.

8. The school needs an upgrade but not at the expense of expansion

The local authority needs value for money there will be many benefits

- House prices are likely to go up with it being an outstanding school
- Outstanding provision will be offered to more pupils
- There will be better sports provision
- There will be more sports in the hall

9. Limited space for cars

10. A van was parked outside a drive for 4 months

11. Public health should be informed of the consultation

12. Teacher training should not be in schools

Times have changed

- Institute is for the area. It can work
- Training is now done in schools
- We can work with schools that need help

13. How many 5FE schools are there in Brent? In the community?

This would be the first 5FE school in Brent

14. How can you maintain standards and better facilities?

We have a very committed strong team

15. Will the health and safety expand?

Yes

- More information is required
- Each year group will get extra space
- Better toilet facilities

- Adult learning tools
- Better staffing areas

16. Not all staff are positive will the responses be kept confidential?

Yes

17. What will the design be like?

The field is too wet in winter. We will open the back entrance on Nathans Road

- There will be a wild life area
- The current staff room would become an adult learning area
- The hall could be at the radio station
- Modern community

18. How big would a nursery be?

There are no plans for a nursery at the moment

19. Queens Park Community School has land around all 3 sides, could you build there?

There are already three all through schools in the borough. We would not pursue any further all through schools

20. There is already a new primary school at Wembley High Technical College, They should have mentioned this Byron Court expansion during the Wembley High Technical College consultation.

Nothing was proposed at that time,

21. Sport England want play areas to be rented out for the community we should not have traffic, noise and floodlights etc. 7 days a week.

After school usage needs to be looked into with a feasibility study on our other school activities.

22. Where will year 3 be?

23. How high is the second floor of the building?

Nothing is decided yet. It is part of the planning process

24. Will we have access to planning studies?

Yes

25. Will there be policing of traffic?

Traffic handling details will be offered at the next meeting there will also be a consequences of abuse meeting.



### **Petition letter received 117 times against the expansion of Byron Court School**

As a resident living nearby, we disagree with Brent Council's proposed expansion of Byron Court from a three-form entry to a five-form entry school.

The school currently has 630 enrolled children, but it is planned that the number will increase to 1050. We feel that swelling the pupil numbers by such a large amount will be detrimental to our children for the following reasons:

- 1) The fundamental character of Byron Court will change from being a nurturing, close-knit neighbourhood school to a large, impersonal one.
- 2) The space available per child, both inside and outside, will reduce - despite the plans to redevelop the site. The consequences include less exercise for our children and greater risk of accidents such as collisions between children.
- 3) Research has indicated small schools get better academic results and that teachers have a more positive attitude about their responsibility for students' learning and students subsequently learn more.
- 4) Research has also shown smaller schools have higher rates of student participation and that students who participate in activities at school have higher achievement, higher self-esteem, attend school more regularly and have fewer behavioural problems. Currently at Byron Court school clubs (such as football/multi-skills/cooking) are over-subscribed and run on a first come-first served basis, participation in school plays and playing instruments is limited to a few, and increasing the number of students will only worsen this problem.
- 5) Research has also indicated small schools promote better behaviour and larger schools (1000 plus students) have been linked with an increase in bullying, crime and violent behaviour.
- 6) Larger schools are also more prone to sickness and epidemics, as the chance of infected children being at the school obviously goes up, which will lead to children missing more school time.
- 7) Traffic, road accidents and congestion will increase which will endanger children and increase their exposure to abusive behaviour from inconsiderate parents.
- 8) The traffic problem on the estate will already be worsened with the creation of Wembley High Primary School nearby next year, and it would be made much worse if the school was to nearly double.
- 9) Proposed work on the school is currently estimated to take a year, which will disrupt the childrens' education and which also has health and safety and traffic implications.
- 10) There is no other school in Brent which is five-form entry, and Byron Court was only recently increased to a three-form entry. At the time, parents were assured by Mrs Clarke that it would not be expanded further and had reached full capacity.

We fully understand the predicament that the school is in. It is desperately in need of new facilities and upgrading, which we fully support. However it seems that funding for redevelopment will not be given unless the huge number of additional students are taken in. This we feel is grossly unfair, and effectively blackmail.

Quite aside from this, there is almost unequivocal dismay from the local residents in the immediate vicinity of the school, as they are already upset with a lot of inconsiderate parents parking badly around the school.

## Byron Court informal consultation data analysis - 20 November 2014 to 24 December 2014

Total Responses = 334

Table A

Theme Number	Frequency of themes	Percentage	Rank
1	148	6.2%	
2	146	6.1%	
3	163	6.8%	
4	132	5.5%	
5	159	6.6%	
6	136	5.7%	
7	33	1.4%	
8	151	6.3%	
9	175	7.3%	
10	125	5.2%	
11	37	1.5%	
12	18	0.8%	
13	22	0.9%	
14	210	8.8%	
15	260	10.9%	1st
16	4	0.2%	21st
17	140	5.8%	
18	9	0.4%	
19	185	7.7%	
20	24	1%	
21	119	5%	
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>2396</b>	<b>100</b>	

It is important to bear in mind the Petition against the expansion accounts for 35% of all responses. Therefore any topic which was listed on this petition has a very large number of responses compared with topics that are not listed on the petition. For example theme 15 has the highest number of responses (260) whereas theme 12, implication of long distance travel on children, has only 18 responses. Whilst each individual petition is highly important to this data analysis, naturally the repetition of certain topics on the petition leads to their high level of representation throughout the responses.

### The overall tone of the points made in the responses

After assessing the popularity of each theme it was necessary to unpack the nature of the responses. These themes generated a mixture of responses which were graded as **positive** (for the expansion), **concerned** and **negative** (against the expansion). However the vast numbers of responses were negative. Examples of all three types of responses can be found in Appendix 7.

Table B

Theme Number	Positive responses to expansion	Concerns about expansion	Negative responses to expansion	Total
1	0	1	147	148
2	0	2	144	146
3	4	5	154	163
4	1	2	129	132
5	9	6	144	159
6	0	2	134	136
7	1	0	32	33
8	16	6	129	151
9	1	0	174	175
10	1	0	124	125
11	0	0	37	37
12	0	2	16	18
13	0	0	22	22
14	1	2	207	210
15	0	1	259	260
16	0	0	4	4
17	0	2	138	140
18	1	0	8	9
19	0	1	184	185
20	0	0	24	24
21	0	0	119	119
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2330</b>	<b>2396</b>

In most cases there is a direct correlation between the frequencies of themes and the frequency of negative responses. This could be attributed to the great disparity between the percentage of responses for the expansion 9% and the 89% of responses against the expansion (if you combine the disagree data with the petitions.) What is significant is that the positive responses, concerns and negative responses derive from all data regardless of whether the respondents agreed, disagreed or were inconclusive.

These grades enable a greater investigation into which areas were particularly troubling for respondents. Despite the fact that traffic is the single most popular theme, by assessing popularity of each theme in their groups it is clear educational issues were the most frequently mentioned. This was followed by environmental concerns. However the area with the greatest number of *negative* responses was transparency with 100% of all comments on previous promises by the head teacher being negative. The second highest number of *negative responses* was environmental concerns; 99.2% of all comments on environmental issues were negative. On the contrary the need for schooling (themes 8 and 9) had the greatest number of positive responses (5%). This was followed by education with 2% of comments on education being positive.

In sum, though there were a large volume of responses in-depth exploration of the areas these responses emanate from indicates the highest levels of support for expanding Byron Court are rooted in the scarcity of school places and the ability to provide an 'outstanding' education for more pupils. Whilst we cannot discount the high volume of disagreement stemming from environmental, health and safety and community apprehensions it is submitted greater consultation with the community and thorough exploration of safety in planning- particularly managing traffic- could result in an overall more positive view of school expansion.

### Sample of quotes and letters against the expansion (informal consultation)

- *"I would be strongly opposed to the proposed extension to the school. It would have a detrimental effect on the estate with increased traffic, litter etc. we already have enough bother with Wembley High School. They are building a primary school at Wembley High so why do we need one so near? Why are Brent intent on ruining this estate? A modern two storey building in the middle of the estate will not add anything to the surrounding area". Ref D60*
- *"The current school community does not reflect the primary school age population of Sudbury Court Estate, therefore there are already many pupils coming into the area from other parts of the borough causing considerable disruption to the roads around the school and its access routes twice every day. One has to live on the estate to understand the extent of this problem. It necessarily follows that any expansion to the school will exacerbate this situation, as pupils will be travelling from even further afield. We understand that the borough has an obligation to provide primary education for all its primary school age children, also that the size of the site would make it a candidate for expansion. However, any decision must also take into account the position of the school, ie right in the middle of a residential area, much of which is designated as a conservation area, where access to the school from other parts of the borough is extremely difficult. This is particularly so due to the width of access roads, and the fact that its location is right at the northern end of the borough. In addition, the effects on the environment, and in particular the infrastructure, i.e. roads built in the nineteen twenties when there was little traffic, and not designed for such usage, will be considerable, and should be avoided wherever possible. We do believe, therefore, that this proposal is quite inappropriate, and that alternative sites should be looked at more vigorously." Ref D90*
- *"The school currently prides itself to have 42 languages spoken in the playground. It would appear that the focus of the school is on giving more attention to migrant children rather than promoting traditional values and as a result neglecting British born children. The expansion which will result in an intake of more migrant children from further afield will no doubt be to the detriment of the education of the local British born children." Ref D78*
- *"An expansion of an outstanding school could have a detrimental effect on pupils as teacher/pupil ratios would be higher than at present and I feel an outstanding school would find it difficult to maintain that status. I believe that all schools should be looked at when an expansion programme is being considered and Brent Council should look into why certain schools are failing and work towards getting them into a High/Outstanding classification thus giving all children in Brent an even platform for their development and progress." Ref D86*
- *"I appreciate that Byron Court is in need of repair and modernisation of buildings but this is a separate issue and does not need to be dependent on school expansion as there is already value in meeting the needs of the 650 pupils currently served by the school.*

*During the public consultation meeting I attended, members of the could not robustly defend the projected pupil number for Brent, when taking into account the places opening up at Wembley Primary [Wembley High Technology College] on East Lane – has the capacity of this new primary school been fully factored into the projections?*

*....The physical location of Byron Court in the middle of a residential area bound by a railway line on one side and Northwick Park on another, means there only two 'entrances' into the estate – via East Lane or via the John Lyon Roundabout. These routes, in and out, are already congested with the current number of pupils being driven to school from outside of the estate. When also considering that commuters are parking for South Kenton Station on Norval Road and Nathans Road, the almost doubling of pupil numbers by 2020, is impractical from a logistics and traffic control perspective." Ref D171*

- *“We believe other schools in Brent have been approached and turned this model down and therefore cannot see any rationale why Byron Court could not do the same. Other schools have also agreed a 4 class model – therefore we cannot understand why Byron Court has to be 5 when it clearly does not have the physical capacity. .... There are only 17 schools out of 17000 in the country with 5 entry...” Ref D37*
- *1) Primary schools are meant to be small. There is a reason why they only have two classes in each year group, rather than four, five being the size of an average sized secondary school. It would be overwhelming for the children and it would make the process of adjusting to school life even more difficult than it already is for them. You cannot think of children as simply as a quota that you have to fill.*  
  
*2) The school is on a very small, narrow, residential road, as opposed to a main road. Spencer Road is simply not built to have such huge volumes of traffic coming in. There is no space. The plan is unsustainable. Every school day currently there is a huge line of traffic forming down this narrow road, cars trying to squeeze into parking spaces and blocking drives, leaving residents in danger if they need to leave their house in an emergency. I cannot imagine how bad the situation will become if you expand the school and there is, subsequently, more than double the amount of children and, thereby, cars, traffic, and noise and air pollution. It will not make a difference if you open the back gate on Nathans Road as has been suggested previously. Nathan Road is similarly a narrow road and it is already congested with people parking there when they get the train from South Kenton station.” Ref D21*
- *“Byron Court is a small, family orientated school which we chose for those reasons. To expand to 5FE will change the whole feel of the school. There is bound to be a negative impact on my child’s learning and education, due to building work and stretching of existing resources. I do not want more children who do not have English as a first language to have extra attention that my child will lose out on. The neighbouring roads and infrastructure are not built to accommodate a school the size that you propose, which will create more congestion locally. I oppose this expansion whole heartedly but do not expect that parents concerns will be taken into consideration at all. We are extremely disappointed.” Ref D30*
- *“I understand that there is a need for greater spaces in the borough. I would strongly suggest that the expansion of the Byron Court Primary site in Spencer Road is limited to a four form entry school rather than five form entry. The local area will be unable to cope with the increased traffic from the extra 210 children. Given that there are three other remaining schools in talks to expand it is sensible that the extra 60 places per year are allocated to one of these other schools. A brand new three form school is already opening on the site of Wembley High Technology College, situated at the end of The Fairway which means that there are now new places to meet additional demand in the immediate area.*  
  
*I urge you to consider the impact on the local area, and the school itself. I have had three children attend Byron Court Primary (two still attend) and have personally seen the wonderful atmosphere where teachers know most of the pupils by name and encourage each pupils to do their best in their individual way. The school is in desperate need of updating but it appears that Brent Council are only allowing this in exchange for an unreasonable increase in pupil numbers! It would be a real shame to dilute the ethos of this school and find results declining due to this forced increase. Please consider amending the proposal to a four form entry to retain the school results, and limit the impact on pupil safety and result on the surrounding area.” Ref D179*
- *“I find it totally perverse that Brent's own Planning Enforcement within Sudbury Court is so strong to ensure the estate maintains its heritage and character but you are proposing to build an ultra modern building to house the additional pupils. Residents routinely have planning applications refused if they attempt to build something looking too modern. The integrity of the planning system and Brent decision makers is in jeopardy by the application of double standards, i.e. one rule for the residents who must ensure they do nothing which would alter the character of the estate and a different set of rules when the council wants to erect a public building.” Ref D162*
- *“There has been and always will be a need for primary school places so why haven’t more of the “Titan” 5 form entry primary schools been built in all urban areas and been hailed as the best form of primary*

education? Precisely because the concept is not educationally sound for young children who require a smaller, nurturing environment and not to be in a school the size of a secondary school with huge number of staff, many buildings to negotiate and limited contact with staff and pupils from other year groups.

5 form entry primary schools are overwhelming environments that do not pay significant regard to the development of young children. The accepted ethos of a primary school is that of providing a seamless transition from home to school where pupils quickly become familiar with all adults in a secure and nurturing environment and where they can gain confidence, develop skills and are known and recognised by all staff. How can this happen in a school of 1050 pupils?" Ref D103

Dear Judith

We are both local residents of a child at Byron Court School  
We are writing to object to the proposed expansion of Byron Court from a 3 to 5 form entry school.

We have several reasons for this:

1. Numerous studies support that primary schools of smaller size perform better in many aspects such as academic performance, student participation and community participation
2. The academic standard at Byron Court may suffer. Byron Court has been declining in it's position in the Brent league tables and an expansion may compound this.
3. The educational impact is uncertain as less than 0.5% of schools in the country are of 5 form entry so there is very little evidence to support if this will succeed.
4. Russell Hobby (leader of National Association of Head Teachers) in 2012 said that "... there are limits to how far a primary can grow and still retain the ethos that makes it special and welcoming to young children. Primary heads are more than capable of handling the logistics, but it is the culture and pastoral care that are at issue". He then went on to say "Primaries can run well at 500 or even 700 pupils, but then you're stretching it."
5. Smaller schools encourage better behaviour and less bullying.
6. At the start of the 2014/2015 academic year 7 unfilled reception places remained at the school. This shows that the demand for places is not high and it makes no sense to expand such a school.
7. Although throughout Brent there will be a shortfall of school places, this is more acute in other areas of Brent. The initial GLA figures predict a short fall of places in planning areas 2 and 3 in Brent, however the GLA do overestimate demand (London Borough of Brent School Expansion Strategy 2014-2018, page 35)
8. The location of the school is in an area where the primary catchment is residential area with no new property developments. Hence the number of residential units is stable. The demand for places is not likely to increase significantly.
9. Traffic congestion in the area is already very significant. An influx of several hundred cars will worsen this as the area was not designed to support such a level of traffic – many of the additional students are likely to come from father afield in the borough.
10. Brent Council launched it's own Green Charter in February 2012. In the charter you are asking us to walk children to school. However as many children are likely to come from further afield they are more likely to be brought to school by car, this will increase air pollution and the carbon footprint for Brent. Both will be detrimental to the health of children in the area.
11. In the document London Borough of Brent School Expansion Strategy 2014-2018 one of Brent's aspirations is that 'Children should be educated close to home' (page 5) – this will be less likely with the proposed expansion
12. In the same document (London Borough of Brent School Expansion Strategy 2014-2018) another aspiration is that Schools should work with their local communities, and Principle 14 states 'We should consult with local communities as part of the planning process to minimise/mitigate the impact of new school developments'. There is much objection in the local community (Sudbury Court Estate) to the expansion and this will severely hamper community relationships if local opinions are not heard and acted upon.

We do hope that you take our views into consideration when deciding on the future of the school.

Regards

Ref D112

Dear Judith

As a resident leaving nearby, we disagree with Brent Council's proposed expansion of Byron Court from a three-form entry to a five-form entry school.

The school currently has 630 enrolled children, but it is planned that the number will increase to 1050. We feel that swelling the pupil numbers by such a large amount will be detrimental to our children for the following reasons:

- 1) The fundamental character of Byron Court will change from being a nurturing, close-knit neighbourhood school to a large, impersonal one.
- 2) The space available per child, both inside and outside, will reduce – despite the plans to redevelop the site. The consequences include less exercise for our children and greater risk of accidents such as collisions between children.
- 3) Research has indicated small schools get better academic results and that teachers have a more positive attitude about their responsibility for students' learning and students subsequently learn more.
- 4) Research has also shown smaller schools have higher rates of student participation and that students who participate in activities at school have higher achievement, higher self-esteem, attend school more regularly and have fewer behavioural problems. Currently at Byron Court school clubs (such as football/multi-skills/cooking) are over-subscribed and run on a first come-first served basis, participation in school plays and playing instruments is limited to a few, and increasing the number of students will only worsen this problem.
- 5) Research has also indicated small schools promote better behaviour and larger schools (1000 plus students) have been linked with an increase in bullying, crime and violent behaviour.
- 6) Larger schools are also more prone to sickness and epidemics, as the chance of infected children being at the school obviously goes up, which will lead to children missing more school time.
- 7) Traffic, road accidents and congestion will increase which will endanger children and increase their exposure to abusive behaviour from inconsiderate parents.
- 8) The traffic problem on the estate will already be worsened with the creation of Wembley High Primary School nearby next year, and it would be made much worse if the school was to nearly double.
- 9) Proposed work on the school is currently estimated to take a year, which will disrupt the childrens' education and which also has health and safety and traffic implications.
- 10) There is no other school in Brent which is five-form entry, and Byron Court was only recently increased to a three-form entry. At the time, parents were assured by Mrs Clarke that it would not be expanded further and had reached full capacity.

We fully understand the predicament that the school is in. It is desperately in need of new facilities and upgrading, which we fully support. However it seems that funding for redevelopment will not be given unless the huge number of additional students are taken in. This we feel is grossly unfair, and effectively blackmail.

Quite aside from this, there is almost unequivocal dismay from the local residents in the immediate vicinity of the school, as they are already upset with a lot of inconsiderate parents parking badly around the school. The introduction of permits, one-way systems, and staggered school opening times will only prolong the misery. In addition, building plans will negatively impact on the residents' properties.

All at No. x Norval Road, North Wembley, HA0

Ref D26

## Sample of quotes and letters in support of the expansion (informal consultation)

- *“This expansion will provide more children the opportunity to be taught in an outstanding school by outstanding teachers. It will improve the facilities and provide a better learning environment, which will further improve pupil progress. The school in its current state is not fit for purpose in many cases. Children are entitled to a good education in an environment that is conducive to learning which enables individuals to meet their full potential.” Ref A1*
- *“.....Surely it can't be right that in our country, we don't have enough spaces to educate all of our children. If we need to expand to give all children an equal opportunity in life, then it's something that has to be done.” Ref A3*
- *“I wish to register the fact that I agree with the Council's decision to expand the school in the way proposed. I am a neighbourhood resident and my own children went to the school. I recognise that there will be short term disruption in the neighbourhood and possible longer-term minor detrimental effects but consider these to be significantly outweighed by the necessary provision of additional educational resources. I therefore disagree with the published views of the SCRA of which I am a member.” Ref A26*
- *“Expand staff resource and knowledge across the school. Incorporate and immerse more staff and students in an outstanding school. Allow more students from the local catchment into the school.” Ref A5*
- *“I think it is essential that all children receive the best possible education and I believe that we deliver that at Byron Court. It saddens me when new families join us who have had their children at home and out of school after months while they wait for a school place. I think it is important to provide a school place for all children and the expansion of Byron Court is a step towards this.” Ref A9*
- *“This is an important and very necessary improvement to the school and will enable more pupils to benefit from outstanding provision. It will also support the school to deliver high quality professional development for teaching and support staff as a teaching school. The current learning environment cannot meet these demands and is an inadequate and dated learning provision for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.” Ref A4*
- *“Recent infrastructure development, and the consequential demographic changes in the borough of Brent provide a strong justification for the expansion of Byron Court Primary School expansion project:*

*Mayor of London has identified the Borough of Brent (Wembley) as a major opportunity area in need of new re-generation. ....*

*Located at a 10 minutes drive from Byron Court School, the Wembley Stadium complex and the old Exhibition Centre, have been home to many iconic British events since 1924; two Olympic Games, a football World Cup, Live Aid and performances by countless bands and artists have taken place here. This makes a good case for infrastructure development. ....*

*This transformation is turning Wembley Park into a great place to live. More than 500 homes have already been built and a further 475 are currently under construction in North West Village. This will increase demand on school places in Brent. ....” Ref A8*

Dear Judith

I support the expansion of Byron Court Primary School by two forms of entry. We need all the school places we can get.

Regards

Ref A23





**Frequently Asked Questions and Comments Version 3  
for the proposal to expand Byron Court Primary School from 3FE to 5FE by September 2015**

	<b>Questions and Comments</b>	<b>Responses</b>																		
	<b>Demand for school places</b>																			
1.	Why do we need more school places at Byron Court Primary School?	<p>261 Reception applications were received for September 2014. Byron Court Primary School only has 90 places therefore the school was over subscribed by 171 places.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Pref School</th> <th>Byron Court Primary School</th> </tr> <tr> <th><b>Row Labels</b></th> <th><b>Count of Preference Rank</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Preference 1</td> <td>78</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Preference 2</td> <td>67</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Preference 3</td> <td>51</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Preference 4</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Preference 5</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Preference 6</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Grand Total</b></td> <td><b>261</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Each applicant is asked to list up to 6 schools of their choice, ranked in order of preference.</p>	Pref School	Byron Court Primary School	<b>Row Labels</b>	<b>Count of Preference Rank</b>	Preference 1	78	Preference 2	67	Preference 3	51	Preference 4	23	Preference 5	23	Preference 6	19	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>261</b>
Pref School	Byron Court Primary School																			
<b>Row Labels</b>	<b>Count of Preference Rank</b>																			
Preference 1	78																			
Preference 2	67																			
Preference 3	51																			
Preference 4	23																			
Preference 5	23																			
Preference 6	19																			
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>261</b>																			

2.	Only 78 children put Byron Court down as their first choice school for 2014 Reception entry. This means that not enough children to fill even the current Reception intake put it down as their first choice.	Every preference that parents make is a valid preference regardless if it is first, second, third, fourth, fifth or sixth preference. All the places that were available for September 2014 are full.
3.	Only 29 children within the stated catchment area for Byron Court took a Reception place at the school in 2014.	All community schools in Brent have catchment areas. These exist to give priority to children living within certain streets. It doesn't mean that children living outside the catchment don't live close to the school.
4.	Wembley High Technology College is already creating 840 places, so why do we need more?	The 840 places at Wembley High Technology College will come on board over a 5 year period. Eventually the school will have 120 Reception places but for September 2015 that number is restricted to 90 Reception places.
5.	There is no evidence that there is a shortage of school places in this area.	<p>The expansion is designed to meet future demand as well as current demand. Children arrive in the local area at anytime during the academic year, therefore there needs to be available spaces. The table below demonstrates the current lack of vacancies in the schools surrounding Byron Court Primary School as at December 2014 in all year groups.</p> <p>* Ashley Gardens (Byron Court) is a modular accommodation situated on a different site to Byron Court. It is large enough to accommodate 60 pupils and is being used as a temporary provision for Reception children who do not have a school place. Ashley Gardens (Byron Court) opened on 22 November 2014 and as at 26 January 2014 has 22 pupils all of Reception age.</p>

<b>Planning Area 2 - 2014/15 Academic Year</b>										
	<b>Total number of places in the school</b>	<b>Vacancies</b>								
		Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	<b>Total</b>	
Byron Court	660	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	
Byron Court (Ashley Gardens) *	60	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>40</b>	
Sinai Jewish Primary	630	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	
Mount Stewart Infants	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	
Mount Stewart Jnr.	360	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	
Preston Manor	360	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	<b>1</b>	
Preston Park	780	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>	
Uxendon Manor	450	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>	
Wembley Primary	840	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	
<b>Spare capacity</b>	<b>4440</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>44</b>	

**Planning Area 3 - 2014/15  
Academic Year**

	Total number of places in the school	Vacancies							
		Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
Ark Academy	420	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barham	750	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chalkhill	480	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Elsley	420	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lyon Park Inf.	360	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lyon Park Jnr.	480	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Oakington Manor	630	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Park Lane	420	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Joseph's RC Inf.	210	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
St Joseph's RC Jnr.	280	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Margaret Clitherow	210	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Sudbury Primary	840	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Vicar's Green (Ealing)</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Wembley Technology College	60	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
<b>Spare capacity</b>	<b>5665</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>

6. There are 4 or 5 primary schools within a short distance of this estate so surely there are enough school places for everybody that needs one?

The table below demonstrates that even with the 90 Reception places at Wembley High Technology College (planning area 3) by September 2015 we still require an additional 123 places in Reception if we follow the Greater London Authority projection of a demand of 723 places.

<b>Planning Area 2 - 2015/16 Academic Year</b>	<b>Reception</b>
Byron Court	90
Michael Sobell Sinai	90
Mount Stewart Infants	90
Mount Stewart Jnr.	0
Preston Manor	60
Preston Park	120
Uxendon Manor	60
Wembley High Technology College	90
<b>Capacity</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>Demand (GLA projections)</b>	<b>723</b>
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>-123</b>
<b>Number of classes required for Sept 2015</b>	<b>-4.1</b>

7. What is the demand for school places for future years?

**Demand for Reception Places for planning area 2 and 3**

<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>Planning Area 2</b>			<b>Planning Area 3</b>		
	<b>No. of places</b>	<b>Projections</b>	<b>Shortage</b>	<b>No. of places</b>	<b>Projections</b>	<b>Shortage</b>
<b>2015/2016</b>	630	723	-93	895	947	-52
<b>2016/2017</b>	630	721	-91	895	1,003	-108
<b>2017/2018</b>	630	734	-104	895	1,034	-139
<b>2018/2019</b>	630	739	-109	895	1,054	-159
<b>2019/2020</b>	630	738	-108	895	1,064	-169
<b>2020/2021</b>	630	734	-104	895	1,072	-177

The above includes the 90 places at Wembley High Technology College in Reception

for all academic years  
 The above does not include additional places at Byron Court, Uxendon Manor or any free schools.

8. Where do these children live?

The table below shows how the 90 Reception places on the main site at Byron Court were allocated for September 2014 and the furthest distance that the pupils travel.

The furthest child lives 4.45km away from the school. That child was offered a place because they already had a sibling in the school. It could be that the family moved away once the first child was in the school.

Within the catchment area the child living furthest lives 1.45km away.

<b>BYRON COURT PRIMARY SCHOOL</b>		
<b>2014 RECEPTION TRANSFER</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Furthest Distance offered in meters</b>
Special Educational Needs (SEN) Places	1	
Children In Public Care	0	
Social Medical Reason	0	
Sibling Connection	28	4450
In Catchment Area	27	1450
Any Other Applicant	34	2357
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>90</b>	

Total Applications received for Byron Primary for Reception 2014	<b>261</b>	
--	------------	--

The tables below show the straight line distance children (who were on roll at the time of the termly Pupil Headcount was done) travel to school by miles and kilometres. These tables do not include the children currently at Ashley Gardens as they were not on the school roll at the time.

SCHOOL	YEAR GROUP	PUPILS	DISTANCE TO SCHOOL (in miles)							
			0-1 miles		1-2 miles		2-3 miles		3+ miles	
Byron Court Primary School	R	89	78	88%	8	9%	2	2%	1	1%
	1	90	74	82%	10	11%	4	4%	2	2%
	2	106	69	65%	27	25%	5	5%	5	5%
	3	90	66	73%	13	14%	6	7%	5	6%
	4	90	74	82%	10	11%	3	3%	3	3%
	5	90	65	72%	15	17%	5	6%	5	6%
	6	90	74	82%	9	10%	5	6%	2	2%
BYRON COURT TOTAL		645	500	78%	92	14%	30	5%	23	4%

SCHOOL	YEAR GROUP	PUPILS	DISTANCE TO SCHOOL (in kilometres)											
			0-1 km		1-2 km		2-3 km		3-5 km		5-10 km		10+ km	
Byron Court Primary School	R	89	45	51%	40	45%	1	1%	2	2%	1	1%		
	1	90	50	56%	32	36%	2	2%	5	6%	1	1%		
	2	106	39	37%	48	45%	7	7%	7	7%	5	5%		
	3	90	49	54%	22	24%	8	9%	6	7%	3	3%	2	2%
	4	90	47	52%	31	34%	6	7%	3	3%	2	2%	1	1%
	5	90	52	58%	23	26%	4	4%	8	9%	3	3%		
	6	90	52	58%	29	32%	1	1%	7	8%	1	1%		
BYRON COURT TOTAL		645	334	52%	225	35%	29	4%	38	6%	16	2%	3	0%



9.	<p>I am unclear why the other 60 primary schools in Brent are unable to take the children living closer to them. I am of the accepted opinion that no child should need to travel further than 2.5km (1.5miles) to school. <i>Ref D2/3</i></p>	<p>Some parents choose not to send their children to the nearest school to where they live (for reasons of preference e.g. a faith school).</p> <p>Some families move residence but keep their children in the school.</p> <p>Most primary schools in Brent are full. If a child requires a place after the start of the academic year they will be offered a place at the nearest appropriate school with a vacancy.</p>																																								
10.	<p>Do you have data on Brent population increase? <i>Ref D2/3</i></p>	<p>According to the Brent Equality &amp; Research Intelligence Team the population data for Brent is as follows:</p> <p>2001 – 263, 500  2011 – 311,000  2014 – 319,000  2019 – 329,000 – projection  2024 – 339,500 – projection</p> <p>The increase in Brent from 2001 to 2014 is 21%. This is significant when compared to a 19% increase in London and 10% increase in England for the same period.</p>																																								
11.	<p>On the Sudbury Court Estate we have not experienced a significant increase in the number of children by 66.7%. Hence the estate has not expanded. <i>Ref D2/3</i></p>	<p>The table below shows the year on year increase in primary school children on roll in Brent schools in Planning Area 2 from 2011 to 2014 and the expected increase up to 2024.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>PA</th> <th>Year</th> <th>4 to 10</th> <th>5 to 10</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>2011</td> <td>3,787</td> <td>3,201</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>2012</td> <td>4,145</td> <td>3,484</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>2013</td> <td>4,148</td> <td>3,499</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>2014</td> <td>4,410</td> <td>3,737</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>2015</td> <td>4,606</td> <td>3,897</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>2016</td> <td>4,767</td> <td>4,044</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>2017</td> <td>4,899</td> <td>4,177</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>2018</td> <td>5,012</td> <td>4,278</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>2019</td> <td>5,132</td> <td>4,393</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	PA	Year	4 to 10	5 to 10	2	2011	3,787	3,201	2	2012	4,145	3,484	2	2013	4,148	3,499	2	2014	4,410	3,737	2	2015	4,606	3,897	2	2016	4,767	4,044	2	2017	4,899	4,177	2	2018	5,012	4,278	2	2019	5,132	4,393
PA	Year	4 to 10	5 to 10																																							
2	2011	3,787	3,201																																							
2	2012	4,145	3,484																																							
2	2013	4,148	3,499																																							
2	2014	4,410	3,737																																							
2	2015	4,606	3,897																																							
2	2016	4,767	4,044																																							
2	2017	4,899	4,177																																							
2	2018	5,012	4,278																																							
2	2019	5,132	4,393																																							

2	2020	5,161	4,423
2	2021	5,219	4,485
2	2022	5,241	4,512
2	2023	5,230	4,507
2	2024	5,218	4,499

12.	Extra children will require extra facilities such as toilets, services (drains), deliveries of food, stationery etc. These services will cause further disruption to the adjoining properties. <i>Ref D2/3</i>	<p>As part of the building design toilets and drains will be correctly provided to serve the increased pupil numbers.</p> <p>The design would look to facilitate off road deliveries in a way that offers minimal disruption to the local community and the school operation.</p>
-----	--	---

	<b>The Ethos of Byron Court School</b>	
--	--	--

13.	If the school expands the fundamental character of the school will change from being a nurturing, close-knit neighbourhood school to a large, impersonal one.	The character, ethos and values of the school will remain unchanged as they are integral to the leadership of the school and our families who buy into this ethos.
-----	---	--

14.	Byron Court School is currently rated by OFSTED as Outstanding. This is because the pupils are taught in a calm and pleasant environment with space to run and play on grass, to have school gardens and outdoor sports. Bigger is not better.	<p>Byron Court was rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted in March 2012 because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Leadership and Management are outstanding</li> <li>- Teaching and Learning is outstanding</li> <li>- Standards and Achievement are outstanding</li> <li>- The Behaviour and Safety of pupils is outstanding</li> </ul> <p>Whilst an environment needs to be conducive to learning and overall provision, it would not limit these judgements.</p> <p>The Staff and Governors of the school no longer feel that the environment meets the needs of our pupils or Teaching School role because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The infrastructure is too fragmented and dated to accommodate modern</li> </ul>
-----	--	---

		<p>technology, which would better prepare our pupils for their future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The learning spaces are too cramped to fulfil our ambitions for assemblies, performances, sports, the arts and extra-curricular activities as well as before and after school provision.</li> <li>- The adult learning environment is no longer adequate for staff Preparation, Planning and Assessment time or for whole staff meetings or teaching adults such as Initial Teacher Training Students, Newly Qualified Teachers or future leaders as part of our Teaching School role.</li> <li>- The external buildings are beyond repair and not located in such a way that the flow and organisation of the school is fragmented and inefficient in a number of ways – this desperately needs modernisation.</li> </ul> <p>Size is not a determinant of success, Ofsted has looked at outstanding schools of all sizes and concluded that what makes a difference in these outstanding schools is excellent leadership, team work, quality of teaching, assessment, values, aspiration and inclusion and this is what typifies Byron Court.</p>
15.	<p>Will the levels of Outstanding values and teaching staff remain? <i>Ref D4</i></p>	<p>The track record of Byron Court has been to recruit excellent and competent teachers. To drop these standards is not an option as Byron Court needs to remain outstanding in all aspects of its provision to continue to hold its Teaching School status. Our current staff is more likely to remain if we expand and provide them with further opportunities to develop their skills and responsibilities. It is easier to attract the best teachers into a larger outstanding school than smaller schools with lower gradings. This is because there is more expertise, creativity, variety and opportunity for development and progression. This is further enhanced at Byron Court through the Teaching School status and the additional professional development opportunities this provides.</p>
16.	<p>How will the school cope with the level of non English speaking families who will take the majority of these places? <i>Ref D4</i></p>	<p>London is now very much a multi-cultural and cosmopolitan city and this diverse population will continue to grow. The short documentary conducted by the BBC ‘The School with 42 Languages’ gives a brief overview of how we manage our diverse community and the importance we bestow on ‘unity’ and mutual respect. We value and celebrate this diversity and believe that it enriches our learning experiences. We have many successful strategies in place to promote effective learning, which benefit all children. Staff get regular training and Research and Development opportunities to broaden their skills and knowledge and increase their expertise. This results in a</p>

		positive outcome for our pupils. Children learn and adapt quickly and our staff have high expectations of all our pupils as well as each other. We aim to provide our pupils with the best possible primary education they can get in order to improve their life chances which is critical to their future success.
17.	Will the school play an active role in integrating these families into the community and school? <i>Ref D4</i>	The school will continue to play an active role in integrating our communities. We have bi-lingual Parent Support Advisers who are a link for our varied communities. The majority of our staff speak more than one language and they use these skills to integrate our families and to help them understand the expectations, values and ethos of the school. We believe that Byron Court staff demonstrate their expertise in creating a harmonious learning environment, which is evidenced in our playground and classrooms on a daily basis and has been sustained over time.
18.	Residents would be more accommodating if the increase was for only 50 – 100 more children but not 400 (by 2020). <i>Ref D55</i>	If we were only to accommodate an additional 50 – 100 places in our school, we would need to increase the numbers of pupils in each class and this additional number would not substantiate an additional classroom. Our classrooms are already much smaller in size than the space required in modern classrooms. Adding additional seating and desks would create a health and safety issue and limit movement around our current learning spaces.
19.	Byron Court is a community school and should remain a community school. <i>Ref D44</i>	Byron Court is a community school and will remain a community school. The Governors and staff have no ambitions to become an Academy or a Free School.
20.	What is the Council's definition of a community school?	<p>The majority of state schools are 'maintained' by the Local Authority. All maintained schools follow the national curriculum, national pay and conditions, and are overseen by the Local Authority. There are four main types of maintained schools. Their differences are over:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who employs the staff;</li> <li>• Who owns the land and buildings;</li> <li>• And who controls the admissions arrangements.</li> </ul> <p><u>Community schools</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o What are they? Schools run entirely by the Local Authority.</li> <li>o How are they run? The Local Authority employs the staff, owns the land and</li> </ul>

		<p>buildings and determines the admissions arrangements.</p> <p><u>Foundation and trust schools</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o What are they? Schools run by their governing body.</li> <li>o How are they run? The governing body employs the staff and sets admissions criteria but must adhere to the Authorities Admissions Code of Practice. Land and buildings are usually owned by a charity or by the governing body.</li> </ul> <p><u>Voluntary Aided schools (VA schools)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o What are they? Faith schools are usually VA schools.</li> <li>o How are they run? The governing body employs the staff and sets admissions criteria. Land and buildings are usually owned by a religious organisation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Voluntary Controlled schools (VC schools)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o What are they? Like VA schools but the Local Authority runs the school.</li> <li>o How are they run? The Local Authority employs the staff and sets admissions, but the land and buildings are usually owned by a charity such as a religious organisation.</li> </ul> <p>Source: new schools network</p> <p>Other categories include Free schools and Academies.</p>
	<b>Large Schools</b>	
21.	Five forms of entry is too big for a primary school creating a completely different kind of community more appropriate in size for a secondary school. <i>Ref:</i>	It is debatable whether a 5FE primary school is too big. Many primary schools in the country now have 1000 + pupils. The physical and operational organisation within schools of this size is critical to their success. Byron Court is run very effectively as a result of strong organisational, operational and managerial systems. Strong leadership ensures rigorous systems are embedded across the school.
22.	There is no other school in Brent which is 5FE (form of entry) and Byron Court was only recently expanded to 3FE. At the time parents were assured by Mrs Clarke that it would not be	Byron Court was expanded to 3FE in September 2011. This was the maximum expansion we could facilitate within the buildings we had available and included a single classroom expansion on top of an existing flat roof building which was financed by Brent. We were unable to expand the school to 4FE without further substantial financial input from the LA. This was not offered to us as an option at the time, despite the request being made by the governors. At this time, it was sufficient to

	expanded further and had reached full capacity. <i>Ref group letter</i>	spend energy on modernising the existing buildings and operating on 3FE. This small expansion however, did not improve our sporting or dining facilities as this was beyond the scope of the school's budget.																											
23.	If the school is expanded it means it will no longer be a local amenity but will be opened up for children from further areas resulting in more traffic and making the area busier than it should be for local residents. <i>Ref D19</i>	You will find that the existing pupils at the school come from within the local catchment area. This catchment area continues to expand further and the LA needs to plan ahead in order to have sufficient school places for its children. This will affect all schools in London and beyond. The traffic does need an effective management plan and the school is working with the appropriate bodies to establish this. The school also wishes to work with the residents to improve this situation further and recognises that it is a real issue that needs to be addressed in the design of the expanded school.																											
	<b>Small Schools</b>																												
24.	Research has indicated that small schools get better academic results and that teachers have a more positive attitude about their responsibility for students' learning and students subsequently learn more. <i>Ref group letter</i>	<p>Some small schools struggle too. Research indicates that it is strong leadership and management which achieve better academic results.</p> <p>Brent has 9 primary sector schools which are four forms of entry (4FE) i.e. four classes in each year group. All 9 schools have an OFSTED rating of Good (2) or Outstanding (1) as at December 2014.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th><b>Four forms of entry (4FE)</b></th> <th><b>OFSTED rating</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Barham Primary School</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Fryent Primary School</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Lyon Park Infant School</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Lyon Park Junior School</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>Preston Park Primary School</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>Roe Green Infant School</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>Roe Green Junior School</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>Sudbury Primary School</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<b>Four forms of entry (4FE)</b>	<b>OFSTED rating</b>	1	Barham Primary School	2	2	Fryent Primary School	2	3	Lyon Park Infant School	2	4	Lyon Park Junior School	2	5	Preston Park Primary School	2	6	Roe Green Infant School	1	7	Roe Green Junior School	2	8	Sudbury Primary School	2
	<b>Four forms of entry (4FE)</b>	<b>OFSTED rating</b>																											
1	Barham Primary School	2																											
2	Fryent Primary School	2																											
3	Lyon Park Infant School	2																											
4	Lyon Park Junior School	2																											
5	Preston Park Primary School	2																											
6	Roe Green Infant School	1																											
7	Roe Green Junior School	2																											
8	Sudbury Primary School	2																											

		9	Wembley Primary School	2
		<p>Brent has 15 primary sector schools which are 3FE of which one Requires Improvement (3)</p> <p>Brent has 26 primary sector schools which are 2FE of which two are Inadequate (4) and four Require Improvement</p> <p>Brent has 9 primary sector schools which are 1FE of which one Requires Improvement (3)</p> <p><u>OFSTED ratings</u>  1 = Outstanding  2 = Good  3 = Requires Improvement  4 = Inadequate</p>		
25.	<p>Research has shown smaller school have higher rates of student participation and those that participate in activities at school have higher achievement, higher self esteem, attend school more regularly and have fewer behaviour problems. <i>Ref group letter</i></p>	<p>When researching larger schools, you will be able to read that size is not a barrier to delivering good education and care. Our class sizes will remain the same and children’s play will be zoned to provide age appropriate play areas as we have now, only more fit for purpose and conducive to constructive and imaginary play. Dr Philip Noden, a research fellow in education at LSE, has evidence to show that pupils were less likely to be bullied in large schools, because of the diversity and scope for building friendships that they offer.</p> <p>The quality of teaching is more important than size and small schools struggle to find quality staff as they provide insufficient scope for development. Our staff will be larger, which means that our teams will be even more creative and effective than they already are, as they will have the diversity of strengths, skills and talents to keep our provision inspired and at the forefront of thinking. Good staff will wish to stay for longer in order to receive the opportunities to achieve their full potential.</p> <p>Furthermore, larger schools have greater capacity of resources, both human and financial, to offer its pupils the best cutting edge education that will prepare them for life in the future. Maurice Galton, emeritus professor of education at Cambridge</p>		

		University, says that by having greater financial flexibility, large schools can offer more subjects and extra-curricular activities. It is also a well-known fact that smaller schools in the country are falling behind in standards and cannot recruit high calibre staff or even headteachers, which is resulting in poorer outcomes for pupils and closures or amalgamations of schools.
26.	Currently at Byron Court school clubs such as football, multi skills, cooking) are over subscribed and run on a first come first served basis, participation in school plays and playing instruments is limited to a few and increasing the number of students will only worsen this problem. <i>Ref group letter</i>	Currently the lack of physical space in the school is limiting participation of clubs and peripatetic music lessons. Pupils will have <b>more</b> opportunities to develop holistically in a larger school as it will be able to provide more and better extra-curricular experiences and support. The larger staff will make it easier to facilitate wider opportunities for pupils within a more modern, bespoke learning environment that can offer cooking facilities, better ICT, improved Music and performance facilities and of course more sport in larger and improved spaces.
27.	Research has indicated small school promote better behaviour and larger schools (1000 plus students) have been linked with an increase in bullying, crime and violent behaviour. <i>Ref group letter</i>	See response to Q22.
28.	Larger schools are more prone to sickness and epidemics as the chance of infected children being at the school goes up which will lead to children missing more school time. <i>Ref group letter</i>	Public environments, whether large or small, will be a breeding ground for infections. Children build resilience through exposure to the external environment and this is an important developmental process that will build a more robust constitution.
	<b>Expand another school or build a new school somewhere else</b>	
29.	There are other schools which should be expanded e.g. Uxendon Manor. <i>Ref D44</i>	The LA has had a programme of expanding primary schools since 2006 in order to meet the large demand of school places.  Brent has 61 schools which provide primary age education. Of those 31 have already



		expanded or taken bulge classes (temporary classes) since 2006. 8 are currently considering expanding or taking bulge classes, the remainder are either faith schools (which work with their own Diocese) , are already at their optimum size for their site or require improvement and therefore should not be expanding at this stage.
30	There are 4 to 5 other school all within a short distance and you have already allowed WHTC to build a new primary school and you also allowed the conversion of Brent Town Hall into a French school. Where does it stop? <i>Ref D55</i>	Brent Council predict a growing need for primary school places until 2020, unless these predictions are revised and decreased. It is our legal duty to provide a school place for every child in Brent and schools will have to continue to expand to supply this need.
31	Why are you not looking at ideas such as turning the driving range/Blue Zenar into a school? It's a good location, is not situated in the middle of a residential area, the roads are wide enough to cope with the traffic and you could probably satisfy over 700 spaces for schooling. <i>Ref D55</i>	Local authorities have lost the power to plan and build new maintained schools, because the Government says that any new school must now be an academy or free school. Yet free schools depend upon a provider coming forward to propose a new school in a location of their choice, which may be in an area with surplus places rather than one where there is additional need.
	<b>Lack of Space</b>	
32.	I urge the proposal to be amended to an increase of one form to a four form of entry school and object the original proposal as the physical space around the school is limited. <i>Ref D179</i>	A comprehensive feasibility exercise has been undertaken by the LA and there is more than sufficient space available.
	<b>Planning issues</b>	

33	There is a covenant for the Sudbury Court estate and this undertaking to expand Byron Court School would certainly breach the covenant. <i>Ref D41</i>	There is no similar covenant on the Byron Court Primary School land.
	<b>Infrastructure</b>	
34	My house backs on to the school playing fields and a two storey building will be unsightly and not be in keeping with the 1930s architecture. Our garden already floods very badly so any further building will potentially worsen this problem. <i>Ref D22</i>	The current flooding also affects the use of the school fields, this will be reviewed and addressed as part of this scheme.  Planning policy dictates there is a comprehensive impact assessment completed to include mitigating action as necessary.
	<b>Traffic congestion</b>	
35.	I object to the proposal due to the congestion of traffic in the locality and surrounding area; parking over drives and on yellow lines; getting abuse from drivers and physical threats when you approach them to move. This has increased substantially in the last 10 to 15 years. <i>Ref D1</i>	As part of this project we have started looking at traffic solutions in the area and how these could be implemented. A shortlist of options is being worked on to be further discussed with the Sudbury Court Residents Association working party.
37	Construction works will have a serious impact on the surrounding roads, affecting their occupants and the neighbourhood in general. <i>Ref D1/2</i>	The construction period will see an increase in construction traffic. Any restrictions on this will be enforced through the planning process. These are usually limited to fixed hours to minimise disruption.

	<b>Parking</b>	
38	Will there be adequate street parking for staff? Ref D2/3	There will be additional parking made available within the school site for staff so as to alleviate the pressure on the surrounding road.
	<b>Disruption</b>	
39.	I am unclear how any new construction can proceed without the disruption of the existing pupils' education. This will undoubtedly affect the present staff equally. Ref D2/3	Safety of pupils and staff is of utmost importance to both the school and the council and this will be thoroughly considered during the planning of the construction phases. The new build will not encroach on the current learning spaces and there will be no disruption to the existing classes on site. A new canteen will be built before the old one is removed. The external play area will be temporarily reduced to accommodate the works, but this will provide added interest to our pupils, who will be able to see their new school come into being. There are also opportunities to enhance learning through the duration of the build as contractors commonly sign up to educational programmes to allow pupils to understand the building process and the many specialists that input to the finished product.
	<b>The Consultation Process</b>	
40	This has not been a public consultation. Not everybody on our estate has been fully informed let alone informed at all. Ref D44	<p>1500 hard copies of the consultation document was issued and distributed. In addition the Sudbury Court Resident Association distributed copies and made residents on the estate aware of the consultation. Approximately 300 email copies were issued. In addition notification of the consultation was put on the Brent consultation website and the Byron Court Primary School website.</p> <p>Two public meetings were held on Wednesday 3 December at 2pm and 6pm and both were well attended.</p> <p>Over 300 responses to the consultation were received. A typical school expansion consultation would normally generate around 40 responses.</p>
41.	The public consultation document was not distributed to all residents in the estates. Ref D44	1500 hard copy documents were distributed to local residents in the estate. Due to financial constraints it was not possible to provide a copy to every household. The Local Authority did try to work with the Sudbury Court Residents Association to reach

		as many people as possible.
42.	If a planning permission submission is being prepared, does this mean the current education consultation is meaningless as the Brent Council cabinet are planning to proceed to the planning permission stage regardless of any objections received?	<p>There are two ways of completing the school expansion process:</p> <p><b>Option 1</b> Spend 6 months on the education consultation hopefully with a positive decision (subject to planning permission) and when complete then spend the next 6 – 8 months working on the design of the building and then seek planning permission. This process would take over a year to complete and would generate many questions during the education consultation as to what the new building is going to look like.</p> <p><b>Option 2</b> Start the education consultation but simultaneously start the design of the building and prepare plans for the planning permission consultation. The advantage of this option is that it takes half the time as the work is progressing side by side. The disadvantage is that it is the riskier option because if the education consultation does not go through the design costs and planning permission costs are wasted as the project would have to stop immediately. It is a risk the council is prepared to take in order to gain the school places that are required by September each year.</p>
43.	What are the next steps of the statutory consultation?	<p>There are 5 stages in an educational statutory consultation</p> <p>Stage 1 – Informal consultation (November / December 2014)  Stage 2 – Publication of the statutory notice(15 January2015)  Stage 3 – Formal consultation Representation (15 January – 12 February 2015)  Stage 4 – Decision – most likely to be Monday 16 March 2015  Stage 5 – Implementation (if the decision is yes to the expansion and planning permission is granted also)</p> <p>The decision to grant the school permission to expand and to grant planning permission is made by the Brent Cabinet made up of Lead Members (Lead Councillors) who up to this point have had no involvement in the consultation.</p>

## **Statutory Notice**

### **Alteration to Byron Court Primary School**

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(3) and 21(2) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (as amended by the Education Act 2011) that the Governing Body of Byron Court Primary School intends to make a prescribed alteration to Byron Court Primary School (Community), Spencer Road, Wembley, HA0 3SF (Department for Education number 3042006). The school has no nursery provision.

Byron Court Primary School is a community school with a planned admission number of 630 places (3 forms of entry i.e. 3 classes in each year group) for boys and girls between the ages of 4 – 11. In addition from September 2014 the school agreed to take an additional Year 2 temporary (bulge) class on site and two additional temporary classes (bulge) for Reception aged children off site in temporary accommodation known as Ashley Gardens. In summary there are 660 places on site and 60 places off site, making a total of 720 for the 2014/15 academic year.

Brent Council in partnership with the Governing Body of Byron Court Primary School is consulting with staff, parents and the community on the option to expand the school by two forms of entry (2FE) to become a 5 form entry school (5FE). The expansion will provide an additional 60 permanent places (2 classes) in each year group (420 new primary places in total). The increase of 60 places (2 classes) in each year group commenced on a temporary basis (2 bulge classes) at Reception age during this academic year (Ashley Gardens) and will rise to Year 6 by September 2020. In the event of permanent expansion being approved, these places would continue to be available each year within the main school site. If the proposal to expand is approved the increase in number of permanent places at the school will be gradual until the maximum of 1050 is reached in September 2020. The temporary places will officially become permanent places.

The enlarged Byron Court Primary School will continue to offer mixed provision for pupils in Reception to Year 6 and the school will remain a Community school.

The proposed accommodation for the expansion by 2FE would be of a permanent high quality construction adjacent to the main school building. It will be designed to optimise educational standards and include leading class facilities that will maximise the learning and teaching environment e.g. greater natural light, optimal room sizes, direct circulation both around the building and linking with the outside space. The main building will remain largely as existing, however several older temporary classrooms will be demolished and replaced along with additional teaching accommodation in a new building to the North side of the site adjacent to the existing building. Building work is expected to start in Autumn 2015 (subject to planning permission) and will be complete by September 2016.

The Local Authority has completed a feasibility study which confirms that the provision of two additional forms of entry primary provision is possible within the current school site, subject to planning permission. All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to these proposals have been complied with. There will be no change to the existing Special Educational Needs arrangements at the school. There will be no change to the current admission arrangements at the school.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Judith Joseph, School Place Planning Officer, Children and Families, London

Borough of Brent, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley, HA9 0FJ. Email: [judith.joseph@brent.gov.uk](mailto:judith.joseph@brent.gov.uk)

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal any person may object to or make comments on the proposal in writing by sending them to Judith Joseph, School Place Planning Officer, Children and Families, London Borough of Brent, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley, HA9 0FJ. Email: [judith.joseph@brent.gov.uk](mailto:judith.joseph@brent.gov.uk). The last date for representations is Thursday 12 February 2015.

**Signed: The Governing Body, Byron Court Primary School**

**Publication Date: 15 January 2015**

### **Explanatory Notes**

- **All children currently on roll at Byron Court Primary School will remain pupils of Byron Court Primary School.**

## Byron Court formal consultation data analysis-

15 January 2015 to 19 February 2015

Total Responses = 265

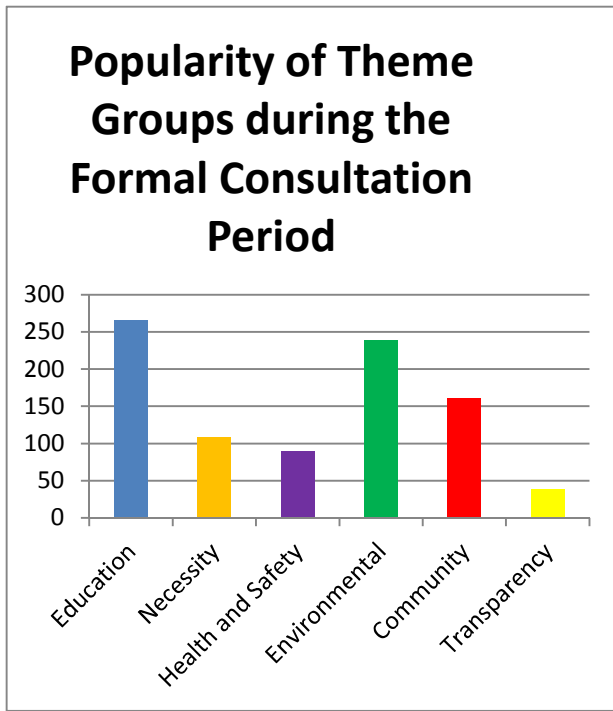
Table C

Theme Number	Frequency of themes	Percentage	Rank
1	19	2.1%	
2	49	5.4%	
3	75	8.3%	3
4	22	2.4%	
5	48	5.3%	
6	8	0.9%	23
7	19	2.1%	
8	23	2.5%	
9	86	9.5%	2
10	24	2.7%	
11	42	4.7%	
12	23	2.5%	
13	23	2.5%	
14	73	8.1%	4
15	143	15.9%	1
16	5	0.6%	24
17	12	1.3%	
18	9	1%	
19	59	6.5%	
20	19	2.1%	
21	0	0%	
22	26	2.9%	
23	54	6%	
24	3	0.3%	25
25	38	4.2%	
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>100</b>	

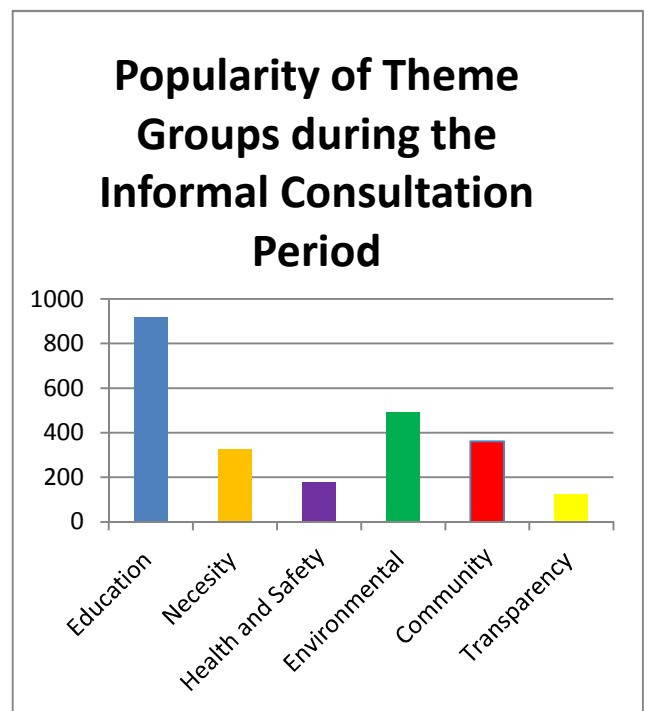
At this stage of the consultation process the core of concerns largely remained constant with the informal consultation. Traffic remained the most frequently mentioned theme. However the second phase of consultation raised dialogue on the consultation process itself, and its consequences on the relationship between the school and dissidents. 4.2 per cent of respondents' views were about the consultation process as opposed to the merits or demerits of the expansion. Despite this there was also a growth in concerns over the practicalities of managing a 5FE school. A new theme emerged based solely on the administrative process and there was in depth consideration of explicitly educational themes.

A clear comparison of the popularity of themes in both stages of the consultation can be found by analysing Graphs A and B below.

Graph A



Graph B



**The Overall Tone of the Responses**

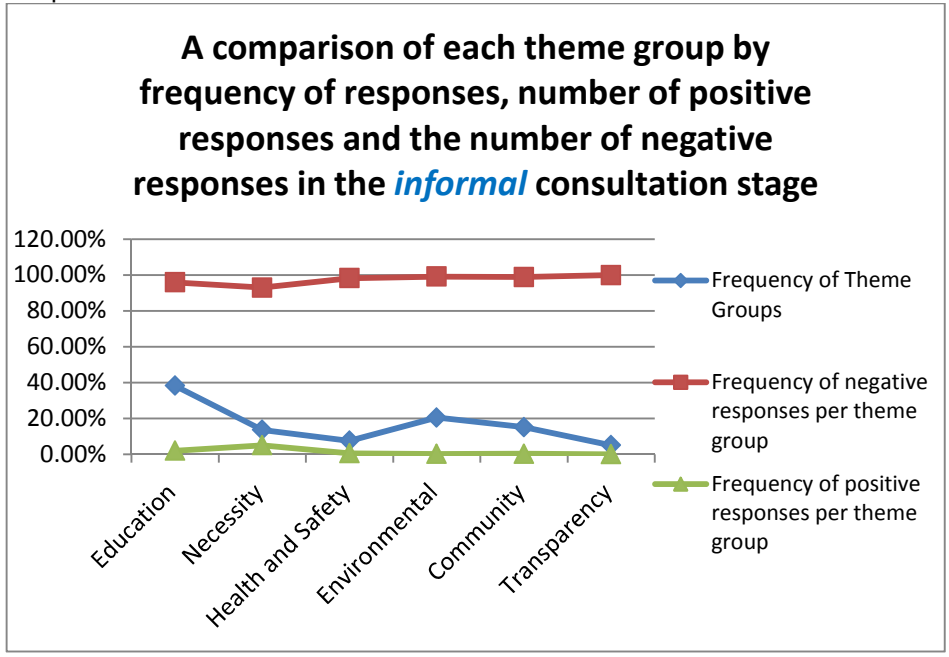
There was also a shift in how themes were responded to.

Table D

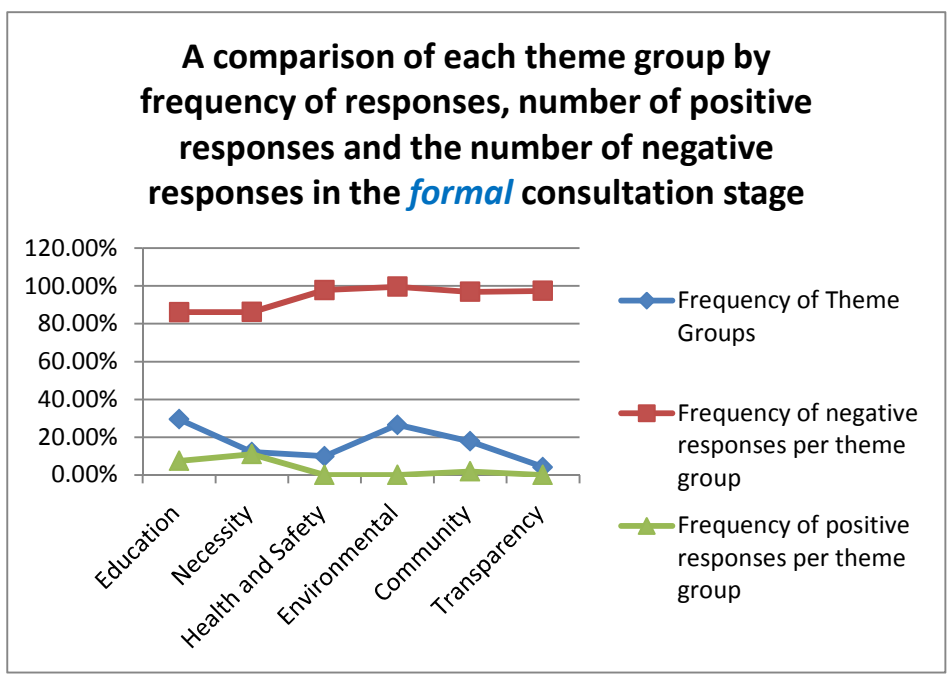
	Positive responses to expansion	Concerns about expansion	Negative responses to expansion	Total
1	0	2	17	19
2	4	2	43	49
3	4	2	69	75
4	2	2	18	22
5	9	8	31	48
6	0	1	7	8
7	1	0	18	19
8	12	0	11	23
9	0	3	83	86
10	0	1	23	24
11	0	0	42	42
12	0	1	22	23
13	0	1	22	23
14	0	0	73	73
15	0	0	143	143
16	0	1	4	5
17	0	0	12	12
18	1	0	8	9
19	0	1	58	59
20	1	0	18	19
21	0	0	0	0
22	0	0	26	26
23	1	0	53	54
24	0	0	3	3
25	0	1	37	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>902</b>



Graph C



Graph D



## Sample of quotes and letters against the expansion (formal consultation)

- “Their proposal, in paper, is righteous in that they seek to educate more children and wish to expand the school in order to do so, therefore, unless greed and personal gain play a factor they cannot be blamed for trying. However in trying to achieve their righteous goal, the leadership at the school is causing much upheaval. They are severing their links with the local residents, the majority of whom are against the expansion.” D5
- “In December 2014, Ms Martine Clark, when asked if she had visited any other 5 form entry schools, admitted that she had not and that her research had come by just reading an article in the Guardian on the internet. Shocking. Again beyond belief.” D6
- “Byron Court is already an outstanding school so surely such large amounts of money would be better spent helping other schools which are no. Additionally why jeopardise that success (already achieved before the current head arrived) by totally transforming the school?” D13
- “Having 42 languages is not actually so wonderful, if many of these language speakers have little or no English skills. In mixed ability classes, this compounds already difficult learning environments since higher achievers may not reach their full potential and middle achievers, as well as lower abilities may not receive as much help as they deserve when they are trying to learn with limited language skills” D16
- The proposed buildings will have a considerable negative effect on the natural light to the neighbouring houses, as well as destroying the habitat of birds, squirrels and other garden animals.” D24
- “A few months ago my daughters car was crashed into by a parent’s car coming out of Spencer Road onto Abbott’s road causing a huge amount of damage to the rear door which my grandson was right next to. Also, two years ago our cat was thrown up into the air and killed by a parent speeding past our house after picking her children” D36
- “From a personal point of view, as both a parent and now a grandparent, I would not want any child of mine to attend a school as large as that which is proposed. Since this consultation started I have spoken to no one in favour of this proposed expansion; it is felt that small children will be intimidated and overwhelmed by being thrust into such a large and bewildering new world which could have a lasting ill effect on their future education. These feelings should not be ignored because these people have not quoted from various studies etc. which have taken place- they should be taken into account because that is what they want for their children and, therefore, should form the basis on which the service is provided.” D41
- “As a teacher who has taught in both large and small secondary schools I have observed that larger schools become impersonal. Pastoral care and discipline becomes more difficult when a school is bigger, Most children can cope at Secondary age, but younger children would be much more likely to struggle in such a large school. This will inevitably have a negative impact on results.” D42
- “There is a lot of talk on expanding the school that is situated in a densely populated area. If you cannot expand the surroundings with in the school then the government has no right to expand the school. It’s just like depriving the existing school kids of the free open space and making them like chickens stuck in mechanical confined spaces. If that is the way the government want to

raise our future sportsmen, politicians, scholars, doctors, engineers etc. then I would rather lose the government than sacrifice my child's educational upbringing." D43

- "The Sudbury Court Estate is a very happy, successful, multi-cultural residential area which should be used as a blueprint for modern Britain. An expansion on the scale proposed could jeopardise the future of the children living on the Estate and would certainly be a blight to the residents in the area bringing extra traffic and parking problems which cannot be solved." D46
- "After careful consideration, I wish to object against this school extension in its current proposal...I am not against this school extension in principle, but I object to the lack of attention that is brought by the Council to the issues raised by local residents, including myself, in relation to the discrepancies existing between the information provided by the school during the consultation process and their actual plans as communicated via other channels." D49
- "I am also concerned about the health and safety of my children as they are travelling to and from school. The traffic in the local area is already dangerously busy and congested, and this is before Wembley High Primary has even opened. The area cannot cope with the large volume of traffic this school expansion will bring." D55
- "The current level of traffic is a serious safety issue. The roads surrounding the school are heavily congested making it very difficult to see children as they walk through parked cars not only on the roads but also on the pavements." D65
- "Due to the vicinity of the South Kenton Station which backs on to our garden we already have to endure the heavy traffic and congestion of people parking on Nathan's Road and of course the constant flow of traffic during school times when parents are picking up their children. By the school expanding further this will create more congestion and pollution and completely destroy the beauty of this lovely estate." D67
- "I am not in favour of these plans because the noise will increase. I work at home on some days and have heard a lot of noise coming from the school which has increased over the years. It makes it hard for me to do my work" D68
- "What do you say to the architecture enthusiast like myself that appreciates the look of the Sudbury Court Estate and its village-like appeal? Is this not the very look that gives our homes the escalated house prices that we are now enjoying? One might argue that the school might not technically sit in a conservation area, however, erecting additional buildings in the middle of a residential area will have a detrimental effect on us all. Are the residents of the Sudbury Court Estate being consulted on possible designs so that we can ensure the heritage of our area is kept or is it, as I assume, a design commissioned by the most unimaginative architect that can bring a functional building for a few hundred kids to squeeze into?" D72

- “As a former student, I firmly believe that the smaller size of the school was its main advantage. While I was a student each child was carefully monitored and looked after to ensure that they were progressing and increasing the total number of students can only make this process more difficult” D76
- “The parents bringing their children from far by car are not concerned by local residents’ welfare and by blocking driveways, verbally abusing, and parking carelessly cause anger and frustration already which will increase with even more parents bringing in their kids from far” D84
- “When there are 150 children in one year group the opportunities to participate in different activities like school play, concert, choir, being in a school team will be really hard. My child goes to Byron Court and I still remember the time when he wasn’t selected for his school football team he was so angry and upset. Competing with 90 children is hard and you can imagine the tough competition children will have to face with 150 children” D89
- “It appears Brent Council and the Byron Court School management have not done their homework properly. Until they get all their facts right and unbury their heads out of the sand they must not think for a moment to embark on a venture to squander millions of tax payers money simply to satisfy their egos. It is the Council’s responsibility to look after the interests of residents. The general feeling among the community is that the Council are completely ignoring the concerns of local residents.” D100
- “Byron Court School might have the grounds to build up brand new classrooms, a new dinner hall and a new sports hall but what about the playground? It will stay the same size. We think it would be unfair to the children as well as dangerous to have such a big number of children playing at the same time in such a confined space.” D103
- “I disagree and strongly object to the Council’s proposal to expand Byron Court Primary School from 3 forms of entry(3FE) to 5 forms of entry(5FE). The questions and concerns I presented in response to the first part of the consultation(informal) have not been addressed. I am therefore re-submitting them with additional concerns and comments in anticipation of answers. At present Brent Council has still not satisfied their obligations to parents and residents throughout this consultation process.
  1. There has been and always will be a need for Primary School places so why haven’t more of the “Titan” 5 form entry Primary Schools been built in all urban areas and been hailed as the best form of primary education? Precisely because the concept is not educationally sound for young children who require a smaller, nurturing environment and not to be in the school the size of a secondary school with huge numbers of staff, many buildings to negotiate and limited contact with staff and pupils from other year groups.
  2. My understanding is that only Good/Outstanding schools are being proposed for expansion. Would it not be more feasible to propose expansion for Satisfactory/Good schools, providing them with more support and resources to enhance their level and, as a result, give a greater number of children the opportunity of being educated in an Outstanding school environment? This would then make Brent an area of Outstanding education across the borough rather than focusing on “hotspots.”
  3. Residents and parents have been made to believe the Executive headteacher Mrs Clark, that Byron Court school is being held to ransom by Brent Council. Improvements to existing facilities and a new build will only be forthcoming if 5FE is accepted by Mrs Clark and governors. Is this correct? Surely if a school is in such dire state of repair the DFE should be informed and the school closed as the pupils and staff are at high risk on Health and Safety and Environmental grounds?
  4. There are many concerns regarding the magnitude of the proposed expansion and impact on welfare of the children attending both now and in the future. It appears that very little research

has been carried out by Mrs Clark...she has stated in a meeting that the level of research and information came from The Guardian articles posted on the internet. Surely this is totally inadequate?

5. Why have parents and residents not been informed of the actual number of pupils to be attending Byron Court School as a result of the expansion? Mention has only been made of 3FE and 5FE. Fortunately, interested and informed residents have provided the numbers to all parents 630-1050 (Without a Nursery!) Letters sent from Byron Court School to the parents have appeared to be deliberately withholding this information in the hope that parents will not be made aware of the extent of the increase in pupil numbers and the huge impact of expansion on their children.
6. Turnover of pupils in 5FE schools is very high. A recent documentary focusing on Britain's Biggest Primary School has stated they have a turnover of 300 pupils per year, 5 times the national average and there is a constant flow of new pupils in each class. The negative and disruptive effect on existing pupils will be huge and does not present a settled and consistent learning environment for all concerned whether pupils or staff.
7. Research has stated that due to the numbers of pupils in 5FE schools various measures have had to be implemented- staggered play times resulting in constant noise throughout the day disrupting lessons and disturbing those children working in class whilst others are playing.; staggered lunchtimes to manage the volume of children having lunch with some pupils having lunch at 11:30 and others at 1:30. Surely this isn't good for the health and wellbeing of the child in addition to the implications on their concentration and learning?
8. It will inevitably be argued that a larger school with more staff will enhance the social development and experiences of pupils. However young children (and especially these with learning difficulties, social and emotional difficulties, and behavioural difficulties) need stability and consistency. At present a class of Year 1 pupils at Byron Court have 7 adults working with them each week- 2 class teachers, a teacher for Spanish, a Music teacher, an IT teacher, a class TA and a TA supporting SEN pupils. This is a high number of adults even for the most able child to cope with, so what of the less able?
9. Negotiating a 5FE school will prove difficult for the young child. From personal experience teaching in a Secondary school having similar numbers of pupils as that planned for Byron Court, even older students experienced difficulties and were overwhelmed by their environment. There will also be lesson time lost through movement to other areas with young children. A lesson may well be seen as 1 hour in duration on a timetable but once a class has lined up ready to enter the classroom, had the register taken, lined up again ready for moving to another area of the school, negotiated corridors and possibly stairs, settles at their tables in the new room, the lesson is inevitably shortened by 10-15 minutes or possibly longer but on paper the timetable looks good!!!
10. There are grave safety concerns for the high number of pupils on such an enclosed residential site. On Tuesday February 3<sup>rd</sup> there was a gas leak at the school and pupils had to be evacuated from the main building. If the incident had escalated and it had been necessary for pupils to leave the site due to fire or gas explosion how long would this have taken with 1050 pupils moving off site, navigating more corridors and fenced off zoned play areas? Plus how would emergency vehicles access the site through the narrow and congested estate roads and transfer any injured to the already pressurised Northwick Park hospital (the only A and E in the area.) A disaster waiting to happen!!!
11. I take issue with Mrs Clark's sweeping statements in a letter to parents stating the merits of 5FE/large schools over smaller schools. Smaller schools can, and do, achieve. They DO facilitate opportunities for pupils and DO recruit a high calibre of staff. Her comment that "smaller schools are falling behind in standards which is resulting in poorer outcomes for pupils" is highly derogatory from someone in her position and is totally uncalled for in her argument in favour of larger schools. I am certain that many Headteachers and staff in smaller schools would deem these comments as extremely unprofessional and misinformed. Also, as a consequence of her statements, there may be anxious parents who will believe that standards can only be maintained and good staff retained if the school is 5FE. Her comments are therefore misleading and may cause distress to parents.

12. Regarding the impact on residents and the local community, the expansion and construction works will have a massive impact on the surrounding roads and lives of the residents. This is not being a "NIMBY", it is a fact, and Roads as you are aware on this estate are very narrow and already congested. Parents are already parking illegally and this past two weeks I have witnessed 3 near misses where children and adults could have been involved in road traffic accidents requiring ambulance support. Further to this, access for the emergency vehicles would have been impossible.
13. 5 form entry Primary Schools are overwhelming environments that do not pay significant regard to the development of young children.
14. Points 14-32 have been repeated from this respondent's objection in the informal consultation.

D106

- "where are these pupils coming from if numbers are down at Byron Court... you will see the numbers dwindle even further as it has now lost its 'community' school feel" D108
- "there is no need for more primary school places within buggy-pushing distance of the school. Places at Byron Court School are not fully taken up at present. The new primary school being built at Wembley Technical College half a mile away on the same residential estate will expand the primary places available, as will that at Preston Manor in the same catchment area." D114
- "Parking, parking, parking. I live in Spencer Road and my life is restricted by the school pick up time in the afternoon. I have to fit my outings, even if it is only a supermarket trip, to avoid this time. Things can only get worse." D120
- "First preference for BCPS was only 78, for 90 places: it is evident that BCPS is not a school of choice due, presumably, to its difficulty in access by bus. It is misleading to say it is oversubscribed by 171 places as anything over 78 is not a first choice." D123
- "I've heard there are plans to build on the playground not only will that reduce play space for the children but [it] means all neighbours whose gardens back onto the field will have their privacy invaded by the buildings and floodlights and passing individuals." D127
- "Turnover in big schools is high and as a catchment area for schools grow, the likelihood of children moving in and our also grows. This has an effect on the overall results for the school" D141
- "I have spoken to teachers that teach at 4 form schools. Universally they feel that it is too big, they don't get to know the kids and all think it's utterly ridiculous that this school is planning to expand to 5 forms. If most teachers don't enjoy teaching in a 4 form school how does the school management think they will attract the best teachers to Byron Court School if the school expands? Currently the school cannot manage the additional capacity at Ashley Gardens...it will be harder to supervise so many children, with implications on bullying and accidents, and their mealtimes and playtimes will be difficult to manage. There are few primary schools in the country that are 5 form entry. The educational outcomes are totally unknown. There is inevitably going to be a negative effect on the academic standards at the school." D144
- "The speed at which the building work is expected to be completed (one year) will mean that the school will be a 'major disruption' and a complete building site not suitable to have hundreds of children, teachers, parents (and residents) on site/ in the area on a daily basis during school term time." D145

- “It is important our children are happy at school and are able to accept all the challenges we place before them. Equally important is that ‘behaviour continues to be exemplary and students are making outstanding progress in the core subjects’...this can be quickly lost if the school expands to become 5 form entry.” D145
- “all the evidence points to a growing obesity problem and bringing children in from outside the locality will mean that children and parents will not walk and spend more time in cars in the school run. There is bound to be an increase in respiratory illnesses contracted by children...This is also an educational issue as studies have shown that active children perform far better in school” D148
- “The educational case for expansion has been largely based on Byron Court being an outstanding school, which they have accredited largely to the leadership’s excellent management, which they assume will continue to be excellent despite expansion other changes to the school. Firstly I’d like to question putting so much weight on One Ofsted evaluation that took place over a mere two days three years ago...Ofsted inspections themselves have been regularly criticised by a range of relevant organisations...to base a decision on a subjective judgement made over a mere two days, that took place three years ago seems foolhardy. The only other official measure is primary league tables, and Byron Court has been steadily slipping down these ever since that Outstanding report.” D151
- “The school currently already has terrible problems with traffic, which is not only a huge burden on the local residents, but also creates a bad environment for children attending the school in terms of personal safety, as well as a nurturing environment.” Seeing adults swearing and abusing each other on a regular basis is not suitable for children aged 5-11.” D152
- “I also strongly disagree with the behaviour of the head in holding assemblies with the children to ‘sell’ all the new facilities to them so they can come home and badger parents to support the proposals...as a parent of course we want the best possible facilities for our children, but it is completely unreasonable that we should be forced to accept such an unfeasible expansion that the local infrastructure cannot sustain in order to have a canteen building with a leaky roof finally replaced” D163
- “Emergency services, delivery vans, waste disposal vehicles and residents would be limited to access their desired destination to certain times of the day”D191
- “educating the children should be the Council’s priority. The head is ambitious for her own gain and forgetting what children need” D192
- “my son is in Reception in Byron Court, since he joined the school in September his class has not had a regular teacher. Every week there have been new faces. This is because the school is so busy in an expansion programme that it is failing to provide children with regular adequate teaching. If this expansion carries on it will only further hinder my son’s semi-adequate teaching.” D206
- “I am one of the parents at the school and I think the school should be left as it is. I believe having more children will cause safety issues. I have a daughter in Reception who struggles with understanding and has disappeared from the little playground and ended up in the big playground. Thankfully the school is small enough and teachers/helpers found her before she got hurt. Now if the school was large it would have taken longer to find her and she would have been knocked down by bigger kids because it is crowded. I believe it will be hard to manage over 1000 kids in that space. “ D217

### Sample quotes and letters in support of the expansion (formal consultation)

- “Due to the continuing demand for school places for children in Brent it is vital to expand outstanding schools such as Byron Court” A1
- “the school needs to expand, the facilities need to be improved.” A7
- “I am a teacher at the school and do share some concerns regarding the logistics/impact over the coming years in terms of building work/noise/environment. However, I am confident that local views and concerns will be taken into consideration as a result of the consultation. Overall, I feel that the expansion will open up more opportunities for both staff and pupils at the school now and in the future.” A9
- “The present community needs the biggest which may be beneficial even for those that disagree” A12
- “I hereby support the proposal to expand Byron Court Primary school for the betterment of our children’s education, as it is the most important priority.” A15
- “I agree with all actions that are in favour of children in this school” A16
- “the school will benefit from all the new improvements to grow from a great school into a unique learning centre that should be top of the range to compliment the tradition that Byron Court has of being an example of how schooling should be done.” A20
- “I think the new sports hall/canteen, all- weather play surface is great for the school and the children. The children within the community will benefit from a great school with great teaching.” A30
- “the expansion is a great idea. It will benefit the community and the children within. The chance of better facilities for an already well established school can only improve the education the school already provides. I look forward to seeing a new canteen, sports facility, all-weather play surface and theatre/hall. Byron Court is a very good school, with great teaching staff and other children within the community should also be able to have a chance to have a great start in school education as both my boys have received from attending this school. The expansion can also provide more jobs within the community and help other schools within Brent to modernise and maybe provide space for the local community to come together by parent events- as the school already does, but due to the size of the hall unfortunately it is only a limited amount of parents that can attend, however bigger facilities mean more and more of us can attend and come together.”A36
- “Initially I was against the expansion as I chose this school for my daughter who is currently in reception mainly because it’s one of the smaller schools in my locality. I actually dismissed Sudbury Primary School because it’s a four form school! How I regret this decision! Having seen the state of Byron Court I feel that it is in dire need of modernisation and therefore support the expansion to four forms of entry NOT five” A41