

DRAFT Notes to the public consultation meeting at Uxendon Manor Primary School,

Vista Way, Kenton, HA3 0UX, 7pm on Wednesday 6 May 2015

Present:

John Parry, Headteacher

Chair of Governors

Deputy Headteacher

2 Staff Governors

Tunde Awofolaju, Local Authority

Judith Joseph, Local Authority

Approximately 29 attendees made up of local councillors, residents and parents

Issues raised:

Consultation process

- Some local residents did not want to talk about educational issues preferring to spend the time discussing infra-structural matters. They said the consultation document did not mention that infra-structural issues would be dealt with within the planning permission consultation.
- Some residents brought up the fact that there was a statutory consultation two years ago and nothing happened. [Back in 2013 the governing body did not agree to move to the publication stage of the consultation.]
- Two residents said the back page (response sheet) of their consultation document was missing). Complete copies were given out at the meeting.
- One person questioned why this meeting was being held at 7pm in the evening, which in their opinion was far too late. We explained that with other consultations a 6pm start was considered too early.
- Some residents pointed out that the consultation document states Brent Council is supportive of the proposals stating the council should be neutral. [The Council is working with the governors of the school in partnership]
- Residents questioned why the consultation involves neighbouring boroughs and trade unions. [School expansion consultations in Brent spread further than the local area. The trades unions represent staff who could be affected by the by the proposal.

Education / demand for places

- Where has the greatest demand in the borough been and where have other expansions taken place? [Map of school expansions and bulge classes was shown]
- The residents stated that the number of children in the Kenton ward has not increased so why would the Council increase the number of places in Kenton where there is no demand. [Births and migration have increased in most of the borough. School places are not increased on a ward basis]
- Residents expressed their fear that children will be bussed in from other wards
- How will Uxendon compare to other schools once it is expanded?
- What percentage of the current pupils live within the catchment area?
- Where is the educational value in this proposal?

Community hall / construction

- Use of hall for community use – some strongly objected stating the disruption would be unbearable, whilst others felt it would be a good facility to have
- Nothing has been built yet
- Why can't a new school be built?
- Different governments might have different policies
- Should be able to see the architectural plans. Shape the nature of the design
- Community usage, what do you have in mind? The hall will be for the school to use also. Benefits of an expansion is the community use of the hall. The community can decide not to have it. Good example from a parent was for orchestral practice in the hall
- I live near the school. Several years ago the community use went on until 11pm. Do not want that again.
- Parent governor stated that the governing body fought for the hall to be changed and it was eventually granted.
- Parent governor – parents could use the hall also – plays
- When wanted to build the nursery some residents objected but equipment on the back of my fence, now want to build on that side. The noise from the nursery and dining hall is horrific. The noise echoes. We will insulate against noise where we can
- The proposal is to have one storey new build and a two storey new build further on
- What works are going on at the moment? Had to change some of the rooms around
- The school has indeed come a long way. Parents have had an input. Expansion will take away a lot of personal character. What if things go wrong. Response – economies of scale. Expanding from 2FE to 4FE is better value for money
- Is the council blackmailing you by not investing in the school other than at 4FE?
- If not 4FE we won't have money. We sued the have 2 year groups together with mixed groups. Most schools in Brent have maximum of 30 pupils per class

Traffic/ noise/ congestion/ parking

- I cannot see any increase in parking spaces in the plans – this level of detailed design is not included as yet.
- Teachers are parking in the streets now. Doubling the numbers of teachers will double the parking.
- Community cannot take more traffic, no public transport around here. We don't want double yellow lines or CPZ. How will we solve the problem?
- Do you liaise with traffic. Claremont ancillary and 6 form and through traffic. Response – done a traffic assessment two years ago projecting what traffic will look like. Have proposed different plans for traffic
- Why are parents driving - drop and drive
- Shaftesbury Avenue entrance opened but now get support teachers parking outside houses. Teachers parking opposite with loud music at 7.30am.

John Parry, Headteacher

- Pupil mobility has reduced over the past 5 years – about 80% of the pupils go on to Claremont High School
- Most children live within one mile of the school
- There is a waiting list in every year group for this school
- There are 510 children in the school right now including 60 part time nursery children
- There will be 120 Reception places available for September 2015. 98 places have been allocated so far and the remaining will be filled with late admissions
- Bigger can mean better. League tables show larger schools can do well
- Results in the last 3 years have been high
- Some areas of the school site cannot be used in the winter
- We still use the swimming pool in the summer
- There are plans to significantly increase the car parking space on the site – draft drawings at the moment

Deputy headteacher

We are fortunate and passionate about our jobs and the school. We have a good team. We will not allow children to miss out. We want to keep the school ethos. We will have a challenge. We have an Uxendon brand. There are on going discussion about the school hall.