Uxendon Manor Primary School informal consultation responses received – 25 May 2015

Agree = 15

Disagree = 13

Undecided = 07

Total = 35

<u>Agree</u>	Response number reference	Comment	Parent/ member of staff / other	Gender	Age group	Ethnicity
Agree 1	U4	We support this expansion in order to provide school places for Brent's children with the proviso that existing staff workloads are not increased and that any new buildings are safe and fit for purpose.	Brent Teachers Panel	F	55-64	White British
Agree 2	U6	I fully support the expansion of Uxendon Manor Primary School by 2FE.	Councillor			
Agree 3	U7	Barnet welcomes expansions in neighbouring boroughs that help to alleviate primary school places pressure in neighbouring boroughs, particularly where this also can contribute to alleviating primary school places pressure in Barnet. I understand that the expansion is not anticipated to significantly affect Barnet's pressure.	Barnet Council			
Agree 4	U13	Thank you for your email. In fact I only wish to have put in record that I fully approve of the proposal to expand Uxendon Manor School from a two-form to a four-form entry school as suggested in the Consultation document.	Councillor			
		I understand that there is a serious need for more school places in Brent, Uxendon Manor is fortunate in having the space to expand and although "school run" problems are not unknown already in the area, there is much less congestion near Uxendon Manor School than in many other areas in the borough.				

		At the same time, I do feel that strenuous efforts need to be put in place to persuade parents who insist on driving their children to school that they should pay attention to the needs of other children and wherever feasible their children should be encouraged to walk the final part of the journey to school - up to a quarter of a mile should be more than possible for most children. I hope the expansion can be achieved as soon as possible and with as little inconvenience to local residents (among whom I am one!) as can be managed.				
Agree 5	U15	I agree with Brent Council to expand the school by two forms of entry (2FE) to form a 4FE school Comments:	Local resident	Male	55-64	White British
		My only concern is the impact on local traffic congestion during school arrivals and departures. I'm thinking in particular of the section of Regal Way between Westward Way and Lindsay Drive, where cars are usually parked on the west side, reducing the road to a single lane. The section often gets dead-locked and vehicles are driven onto pavements causing damage and endangering pedestrians. I believe it would help to have a single yellow line on both sides in that section of Regal Way, preventing parking for an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon.				
Agree 6	U20	No comment	Parent	Male	45-54	Black African
Agree 7	U21	No comment	Parent	Male	35-44	Asian Pakistani
Agree 8	U22	No comment	Parent	Male	25-34	White British
Agree 9	U23	No comment	Parent	Female	25-34	White Other
Agree 10	U24	I believe this is a fantastic idea as our school is not only too small for the amount of pupils we have at present, but the area is expanding in population so it only makes sense for the school to expand.	Parent / staff	Female	35-44	Black Caribbean

Agree 11	U25	No comment	Parent	Female	25-34	Other Ethnic Group
Agree 12	U26	No comment				
Agree 13	U27	No comment	Parent	Female	25-34	White Other
Agree 14	U28	There will be more places for the children.	Parent	Male	25-34	White Other
Agree 15	U29	We do support the expansion if it will provide spaces for children and better facilities for those already at the school.	Local resident	Female	55-64	Asian Indian
<u>Disagree</u>	Response number	Comment	Parent/ member of staff / other	Gender	Age	Ethnicity
	reference		Starry other			
Disagree 1	U1	No comment	Parent	F	25-34	Asian Indian
Disagree 2	U2	 Worst locations: not enough parking Not good for residents as will be congested. Already our driveways are blocked when parents come to drop the kids in the morning and afternoon. Roads around [here] are narrow i.e. Regal Way / Vista Way. It will be a nightmare for the residents. Already two schools exist for local kids. You should look at different areas or less pollution and traffic congestion for the local area. 	Local resident	M	55-64	
Disagree 3	U3	It is too crowded as it is and the car parking will be almost impossible so please stop the expansion.	Parent	М	45-54	Other Ethnic Group
Disagree 4	U8	There is already insufficient parking for teachers currently working at the school and the plans do not allow for sufficient extra parking. Teachers parking in Regal Way and Vista Way already inconvenience us and I understand that there might not be extra parking for teachers under the new plans i.e. every extra teacher who brings a car will be parking in	Local resident	М		

		the street.		
		2. At school starting and leaving times there is already an issue with parents causing traffic congestion in surrounding streets. Doubling the number of pupils will only exacerbate this. It will also create extreme parking issues. Even if you suggest that parents take/fetch children on foot, there is no way to enforce this (we live in a society that has more two-car households than zero-car households).		
		3. Providing extra school spaces will actively encourage an influx of people to migrate to Brent from elsewhere in the UK and overseas. So although the extra places might in the short-term provide the facilities for more pupils, by providing so many new places you will attract ever more pupils to attend Brent Schools. Where are you going to stop? Within a few generations you will have concreted over our parks and Brent will not be the green borough it now is. I have lived in Brent virtually all my life and was educated at Brent primary and secondary schools. It is only a matter of time before Croatia and Serbia also join the EU and providing extra school spaces will only encourage extra demand that cannot be readily met. This will also have the knock-on effect of creating housing overcrowding.		
		4. There is a synagogue in Shaftesbury Avenue and this frequently has activities during midweek evenings. I do not think that sufficient consideration has been given to traffic issues when there are also school activities. The synagogue has an ageing and falling membership and is likely to become a mosque or other place of worship within a few years. If it becomes a mosque this will produce other issues re parking and traffic, especially every Friday.		
Disagree 5 and Disagree 6	U9 and U10	My family and I are very concerned about the proposed expansion from 420 places to 840, in addition to 60 nursery places, taking the total number of places to 900.		
		Our objections to the proposed expansion are as follows:-		
		1. The two entrances to the school - one from Shaftesbury Avenue and the		

other from Vista Way are both dead end roads	
2. The streets leading to the school are very narrow	
3. There is minimum space to turn vehicles safely	
4. Vehicles often have to mount the grass verges	
5. Pedestrians, including children, will be put at higher risk	
6. Risks made worse by proposed Council cuts to Lollipop staff patrols	
7. There is already too much congestion leading to and from three large secondary schools in the vicinity	
8. On occasions there are serious stand-offs, as well as road rage, as drivers don't always give way	
9. The roundabout at the junction of Lindsay Drive, Falcon and Imperial Way is frequently very congested and prone to flooding	
10. The top of Regal Way can be hazardous in icy cold weather	
12. Shaftesbury Avenue is not built to take HGV's / heavy traffic	
13. There are few parking places for dropping off children and school hazard parking restrictions are often ignored	
12. Even with the present level of congestion it is frequently very difficult for us/residents to get our vehicles out of our drives to go to work, attend appointments, etc. This will be much worse if the proposed expansion goes ahead	
13. Congestion and road rage is exacerbated by the bin collections on Tuesday and Wednesdays	
14. Emergency vehicles will also experience delays	

		My family and I therefore vehemently object to the proposed expansion of the school.	
Disagree 7	U12	As a local resident living on Shaftesbury Ave, opposite the park, I must be honest and say I disagree with this proposal. My reasons:	
		1. Too much school traffic on this road, parents seem to think they own the road and park wherever they want including outside residential driveways. My driveway has been blocked twice by parents picking up children to the extent that I could not get my car out to take my baby for her immunisations and subsequently missed the appointment.	
		2. Having been a student of Uxendon Manor as a child, the large playground and green fields were what I looked forward to at break times and lunch times, the sheer fact that it was all there to explore made going to school that much more enjoyable.	
		3. The improvements being proposed should be done to enhance the quality of schooling and its experience for the existing children, as opposed to using it as a selling point to increase capacity.	
		4. What are the effects of having a "mega" school in the local community and for the residents who live here? Ultimately, we are the ones who will have to deal with the extra cars and the extra people, not to mention the noise and disruption caused by construction.	
		5. The construction of a completely new school to cope with the limited number of school places should be considered instead.	
		6. If the number of migrants and residents in Brent are more than schools can cope with, consider this when housing is offered. House people with families outside of Brent in areas where they are able to get school places, why does the council need to over populate areas and increase demand of local surgeries, hospitals and schools to the detriment of existing residents?	

		7. Demolish the swimming pool on site, build a new indoor swimming pool with disabled access so local schools can hire it to teach children swimming. Open it to local residents on weekends so the local community can benefit. I'm assuming the expansion of the school will mean the swimming pool will no longer exist. 8. When schools are expanded to make sure migrant families have school places, the standard of teaching falls as the level of English spoken decreases, to the detriment of other children. I am saying this from experience. A school in a different borough went from "Good" to "satisfactory" after a flood of migrant children as English was not spoken as a main language, and some of the existing children within the school were not encouraged to reach their full potential as the majority of children had not reached the level of basic education for their age. Perhaps money should be spent on having special classes for non English speaking children to bring them up to the level they should be at, and offering support to these families so they can support their children's learning at home too. Quite often these parents struggle to help with homework and in turn their children struggle to keep up. I really do not want this expansion to go ahead and do believe that a better alternative should be sought. Existing schools should be left to their capacity and new schools should be built to cope with demand, such as the Ark Academy in Wembley. The Council is encouraging the regeneration process in Wembley, but how many hotels does the area really need? How many more cramped flats does it need? Surely a new school from reception to 6th form is something the area actually needs. Build the mega school which Brent needs and leave the existing good quality schools as they are.		
Disagree 8	U16	I set out my main objections to the proposed expansion of Uxendon Manor Primary School as follows: 1. Uxendon JM+I School was built as primary school to provide places for children from the local Kenton community. It is some distance from Underground stations and is not served by any local public transport. The nearest bus stop is for the 183 bus on the Kenton Road. Therefore, the		

main means of getting to and from the school is either by walking or by private transport. The school is served by a main gate for parents and pupils on Shaftsbury Avenue and a smaller side gate from the path joining Brookfield Crescent and Falcon Way. There appears to be no evidence provided as to a projected increase in the primary school population in what would have been the normal catchment area for Uxendon Manor so I can only assume that Uxendon is expected to take pupils from further afield and therefore this raises the issues of transport to and from the school and therefore a traffic impact study on the local area including Shaftsbury Avenue, Vista Way, Falcon Way/Cranleigh Gardens, Brookfield Crescent and Lidding Road.

Without such a traffic impact study I object to the proposed Planning

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- 2. Uxendon has limited playground and playing field facilities. There appear to be no proposals to increase these facilities which, within a few years, would have to cope with a projected doubling of the school population. I believe there are Health and Safety issues that need careful study before a proposal of this kind is given the go-ahead.

 Without evidence as to how these play facilities will be increased/utilised with an increased school population I object to the proposed expansion of the school.
- 3. Toilet facilities Uxendon sadly has suffered from inadequate toilet facilities for as long as I can remember. What proposals are there to modernise and increase the toilet facilities for a doubling of the school population?
 Without firm evidence and financial commitments on these matters I object to the proposed expansion of the school
- 4. An area of the school's grass playing area backs onto the Wealdstone Brook. So do our gardens at the end of Brookfield Crescent. During heavy rain this Brook has been known to flood the playing field area which adjoins the Brook. There needs to be a report from Thames Water not just about the position of the surface and sewage drains in the area but their findings about the condition of these drains and the impact increased drainage in the area will have on these drains. The professional

		study of the impact of the possible flooding of the Brook on the proposed expansion of the school included with the Planning Application indicates a 1 in 1000 year possibility of flooding. Since we have had two floodings of the Wealdstone Brook into the school grounds and paths that provide access to the school grounds and paths that provide access to the school at the Northern end in 2014 alone we cannot take the findings of this study seriously.		
Disagree 9	U18	I disagree with the proposal to expand the school by two forms of entry, as I feel this would make the school too large and may result in loss of outdoor playing facilities, which is vital for children's health. I am concerned that doubling the size of a primary school to 840 places, will make the school a very daunting prospect for young children, particularly those with special needs. Children with anxiety disorders, would be unable to cope with such a large number of children. Whilst there may well be a need for additional school places in Brent at the present time, are they really needed in this catchment area? Brent Councils own statistics show that in April 2014 of the 90 places allocated at Uxendon Manor, 16 of the allocated places were in the catchment area. Mount Stewart School and Uxendon Manor Primary School are situated within a short walking distance of each other. The combined total of school places at these schools should be sufficient for this area. There is no public transport near this School, so this will inevitably mean more traffic nuisance. I agree the temporary classrooms should have been replaced a long time ago, but the new school hall for community use is un-necessary. We already have other schools, The Kulanu building and Kenton Hall, in Woodcock Hill, plus religious buildings, available for community use, which are all underused. This is not needed in this area. To double the size of the school will have an impact on the surrounding area. The playground on the Park is already inadequate and cannot accommodate the numbers of children when they come out of school.		

Disagree 10	U30	There will be increased noise for residents. The children can be heard at playtimes some distance away. Without public transport, there will be traffic chaos if there an additional 420 car journeys. Shaftesbury Avenue is a dead end and it is extremely dangerous where the cars need to reverse at the end of Shaftesbury Avenue, especially with children wandering across the road behind the cars. Parking will become an issue with such a large increase in cars, due to no public transport. Despite Brent Councils claims that there is plenty of on street parking, this is no longer the case. The increase in rented properties in the area means that there are often many cars at one address and residents are no longer able to park outside their own houses. Residents of all adjoining streets should be consulted on any planning application. A recent planning application for temporary classroom accommodation at Uxendon manor, failed to consult residents in Regal Way, Vista Way and Shaftesbury Avenue. Big school with different people make children not happy and not to each other, even the adults like the school as it is.		Female	35-44	Mixed White and Asian
Disagree 11	U31	I believe a school with lower number of students can perform much better and the education system at the present time can not afford such expansion.		Male	45-54	Asian Other
Disagree 12	U32	The school at the moment is smaller in size due to the area, in comparison to other primary schools i.e. Mount Stewart, Roe Green etc.	Parent	Female	35-44	Asian Indian

		By expanding, the children WILL NOT have sufficient space to move around during classes/playtime and lunchtime. This will impact both staff members and pupils. It will also increase obesity etc. The school has a very positive, happy nature. At the moment the staff know the children well enough to identify who they are and which class they belong to on an individual basis. With a 2FE this will be very different.				
Disagree 13	U33	The parking around the school at the beginning of the day and the end of the day is already manic. I don't see how this isn't going to seriously cause mayhem throughout the day.	Local resident	Female	35-44	White British
No Decision	Reference Number	Comment	Parent/ member of staff / other	Gender	Age	Ethnicity
No Decision 1	U5	I see that building work should be completed on the above by 2017. We live on Regal Way which is very near Uxendon Manor. I am very concerned about potential parking matters. I am a pensioner and in three years time I will be aged 73 and would be extremely upset if visitors to my home have any problems at all with parking.	Local resident	Female	65-74	
No Decision	U11	This is in reference to the public consultation document we were given by Uxendon Manor Primary School regarding the proposed expansion of Uxendon Manor Primary School. Please find below our responses as parents of a child going to this school, as well as being a Parent Volunteer and members of the PSA, Parent Council and a parent support group for this school. Although, we agree with the school to be expanded to four forms of entry, we strongly do not agree with Brent Council intending to start this from September 2015. In our opinion, this should start once the expansion of the school has been completed. The reasons are as follows:	Several		35-44	Chinese

- 1) Currently, there are no additional rooms/space available within the school to house the additional 60 children. Also, as the children from Reception move up the year group, where are these children going to go? Please note, the school is already struggling with space, due to:
- a) The loss of the Music room, which has now been used for the temporary Reception bulge class, the school agreed to take in September 2014.
- b) The severe flood damage to the Nursery building back in January 2015, these children are now located in the school library. The school has informed all parents and carers the Nursery building will be open again in September 2015.
- c) Since September 2015, Parent Council, PSA and parent support groups at the school have had difficulty getting available rooms to hold meetings.

In addition, parents and carers were advised by the school at the end of March 2015, that the two huts which are currently now being built in the playground are provided by Brent Council to compensate for the rooms lost, due to taking in a 3rd Reception class. Personally, building the huts at this late stage in the academic year is inconvenient for all concerned. This should have been built before the school agreed to take in the 3rd Reception class.

Please note, due to the above points, this has already had some impact on the children, staff, parents and the community.

- 2) The building work for the expansion of the school is not expected to start till early 2016 and to be completed in 12 months. Therefore, the following queries have arisen:
- a) Although there are two huts currently being built, it is unclear if this will be to house the additional two forms of entry in September 2015. However, how can Brent Council justify starting the four forms of entry in September 2015, when the school in not fully equipped to have additional children?

No Decision 3	U14	b) Why is the building work to be started during the school term? If this happens, this will seriously affect the running of the school and there will be implications of health and safety of the children and the staff, as well as the parents, carers and the community. My greatest concern is the children's studies will be greatly affected by this disruption. c) With all the building works going on, how do Brent Council propose the children have PE lessons both outside (school grounds) and in the main school hall (this is now being demolished to build a new one), as well as playground time? Plus, there will be no school assemblies, concerts and sports day, which are a vital part of school life. 3) With the additional two forms of entry, there will be an increase in traffic around the area. The main concern will be road safety. How does Brent Council plan to tackle the increase in congestion? Currently, there are already road safety issues. I refer to council's expansion proposal, building work is expected to start in early 2016, and complete in 12 months. I shall be grateful if you could clarify the following: 1. Council plans to allocate 120 pupils in reception in Sep 2015, where exactly will you put the 60 extra pupils? (Sep 2014 total 450, Sep 2015 total 510) In temporary hubs? 2. New storey modular building is linked to the main school building, is that means the new building will occupy part of the playground? Where shall		
		the 510 pupils play? 3. Commute to this school is not easy, no bus stop nearby, lots of parents drop their kids by private cars. There isn't enough parking place now. If you decide to expand school, any plan for parking space? 4. Will school recruit more teachers? How many teachers for each class will you promise? 5. Building work will carry out in school hours or after school?		
No Decision	U17	Thank you for your presentation on the 6th May 2015 at Uxendon Manor Primary School. I attended the meeting but I'm afraid I left the meeting more confused than when I arrived and have been left undecided as to whether I agree or disagree with the proposed expansion. I appreciate that	Parent	

the meeting was only to present the initial proposal, however, I believe your case would have been better understood if you addressed the following areas below rather than just focusing on the obvious primary school place shortage. I would have expected all of these topics to have been laid out in the project plan for the Byron Court Primary School expansion and these could have been extrapolated for this case as well in order to gather initial opinion.

Would it be possible to hold another parents and residents meeting covering all the areas below together with any other areas you might have uncovered so that we can get a fuller picture of how the proposed expansion is to be implemented and what is the benefit to the school/community rather than just to the council?

Areas that I can think of that need to be addressed are:

- (i) Physical Challenges How is the school going to deal with this in the expansion and what is the benefit to the existing children? That is, loss of playground space, insufficient hall space, insufficient dinning area, insufficient storage etc Also, can we see the plans as well?
- (ii) Disruption How is the school going to deal with this while building work is being carried out? This is very important as we do not want any disruption to the pupils learning while building is going on. We like to see any evidence you have from any other studies you have carried out detailing how school's deal with this? Temporary huts is NOT the answer.
- (iii) Staffing Issues What is the school's strategy on hiring the right staff in all areas of the school while the school is expanding each year? Recruiting the right staff is very important as opposed to any staff. Will the school governors be involved in this? Can other concerned parents be involved in the recruitment process?
- (iv) Leadership Issues There will be significant demands on the senior leadership team while the project is going on. How will they cope with this on top of their current work load? What is the business continuity plan should the headteacher or the school senior leadership team (SLT) decide

to leave while building is going on? I would would like to see financial penalties in place to entice the SLT to see the job through to completion should the plan go ahead.
(v) The ethos of the school should remain unchanged - How will the school implement a "School within a school model" so that existing pupils do not feel daunted by the expansion and also provide the same quality of teaching that a smaller school can offer? Can the school be broken up into physical areas e.g reception, year 1, year 2 etc?????
(vi) Pastoral Support - What type of pastoral support will the school offer existing pupils to? E.g. Access to teachers, a mentoring program, play leaders etc to help existing and new pupils (as well as new teachers) integrate.
(vii) Increased Traffic / Congestion /Parking Problems - How will the council address the increased traffic in the narrow streets in the surrounding areas around the school? I do not believe that the study carried out in 2012 is still relevant. Examine the traffic congestion at the junction of Regal Way and Lindsey drive each morning, it is very dangerous to pupils and adults alike trying to cross the road.
(viii) Consultation and communications - How is the council and the school going to keep the parents and residents informed of the changes. Up to now, communication between parents/residents and the council has not been clear leading to anxiety among parents and residents? A more detailed method of communication is required is order to keep everyone abreast of developments.
(ix) Project implementation - The school and the council have not been clear on how the project is going to be implemented. This is very important. Would the governors and SLT be able to send round a handout detailing this to all parents/residents?
(x) Pupil Place Planning - The council have shown that the birth rate is currently expanding in Brent but what is going to happen when the birth rate and migration falls in Brent? How are the additional staff going to be

		funded/reallocated or will they be made redundant?				
		(xi) DRB Checks - Should the project be approved, what guarantee can the council give the the workmen on sight will be approved to be working on a site where children will be present? Will all workmen be DRB checked.				
		In summary, I feel that the school have not communicated properly what is the benefit to the children's education should the expansion go ahead (apart from the obvious). I think another meeting should be arranged between the SLT, the council and parents/residents to spell out in detail how the proposed expansion is to be carried (addressing the issues raised above) out before any decision is to be made.				
		At the end of the day we want the best for our children and we should not get in the way of progress, if this can be proved to be the best solution otherwise we should leave the status quo.				
		I hope this note gives you some food for thought for future discussions and I would be more than willing to meet with Mr Parry and yourself to further understand the plans.				
		Finally, would it be possible to see the plans for the Byron Court Primary School expansion and, in particular, what the parents thought. As far as I can see, on the Brent Council website, all the parental comments disclosed have been objecting to the expansion there but the expansion still took place.				
No Decision 5	U19	I have consulted with officers in Camden, considered location and any potential impacts and we have no further comment or objections.	Camden Council			
No Decision	U34	Very good luck for everyone. Good luck!	Parent	Female	35-44	White Other
No Decision 7	U35	No comment given	Parent	Female	35-44	White Other