

**Prescribed Alterations (Maintained School) Consultation on Proposals to Expand
Bitterne Park School**

Responses Received Statutory Consultation 17 November, 2014 – 15 December, 2014

One response was received over the course of the statutory consultation period

1 **Email received on 8 October, 2014** **Joshua Chambers (local resident)**

Support indicated **YES**

I have attached my feedback about the expansion of Bitterne Park School. I wondered if there was any information as to how the new buildings would be carried out.

Via attached response form:

It's a well needed and, clearly, a well-planned proposal. My concern would be the local community with building work, as I know there was considerable resistance to work done on the 6th form and on proposals some years ago about AstroTurf on the top field.

Moreover, will there be enough space for students to go during break and PE?

Response sent 16 November, 2014

Dear Mr Chambers,

Thank you for your reply to the current consultation on the expansion of Bitterne Park School.

At this stage we have no plans or final decisions on the physical expansion or rebuild of the school. The Education Funding Agency (EFA) has asked us to first consult on the notional rise in places before it will draw up any plans. As such all we are seeking comment on at this stage is whether there is agreement to the principal of expanding the number of school places.

If this is approved then, under the Priority Schools Building Programme, the EFA would create and submit plans to the Council's planning department as normal. At the planning stage the public will get an opportunity to make comments or objections to the proposed plans and this will then include plans on the impact of any work on the local community.

As to your query about space for students: The government's own Building Bulletins for Schools (in particular BB103) give precise details of the net area required for any school with a base figure and an area per pupil on roll. They also specify the type of area (i.e. social, hard play and playing field). Section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 also places considerable restrictions on the change of use or disposal of school playing fields

Appendix 3 – Comments on / Objections to the Proposal

Your concerns have been noted and your reply will be included in the information passed to Council Officers and Councillors and will help them make their next decisions.

Responses Received Pre-Statutory Consultation 6 October, 2014 – 10 November, 2014

Eleven responses were received over the course of the pre-statutory consultation period

1 Email received on 8 October, 2014 Mrs Beth Hall (local resident)

Support indicated

IN PRINCIPLE

I am emailing with regards to the priority build programme at the above school having received a letter through the post and visited your website.

I am a little confused how you can be carrying out a consultation when no plans have been released and very little information? What are we supposed to be feeding back on at this stage? I am concerned that the feedback you receive in the next few weeks will be very positive and used as part of the proposal when actually it is positive feedback to the idea in principle rather than positive against any actual plans?

In principle a new school is obviously needed to provide enough school places in the city, however the location of the new school on the current site is of concern due to the lay of the land as you move towards the school playing field which is significantly lower than where the current building sits.

I look forward to viewing the plans and receiving more detailed information so I can comment more accurately on what is proposed.

Response sent 8 October, 2014

Dear Mrs Hall,

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the expansion of Bitterne Park School.

The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 state that a Local Authority (or Governing Board) must consult on any enlargement of premises which would increase the capacity of the school.

At this stage we have no plans or final decisions on the physical expansion or rebuild of the school. The Education Funding Agency (EFA) has asked us to first consult on the notional rise in places before it will draw up any plans. As such all we are seeking comment on at this stage is whether there is agreement to the principal of expanding the number of school places.

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objections to the proposed plans.

2 Email received on 9 October, 2014 Mr David Sims (other, not specified)

Support indicated NO

I have read the outline proposals for the redevelopment and increased capacity at Bitterne Pak School and feel the idea is ridiculous. The impact of such a large expansion of the school would have a major impact on local residents. In particular the additional traffic would cause significant problems to an area that is already heavily congested each morning.

The school is close to two of only a few river crossings from the east of the city, both Cobden Bridge and Woodmill Bridge are an absolute nightmare at 8am –8.40am. What further disruption would such an expansion cause? Has this even been considered?

It seems unfair that you want to create spaces for people who live out of catchment regardless of the impact it will have on those that do! The overall standards within the school appear to be falling, as it recently lost its outstanding status from ofsted, it is no coincidence that this has happened since the enlargement of the school to include a sixth form. As it stands there are simply too many children at the school which has resulted in poor organisation within the school and an overall drop of standards. As a direct result the children's education is suffering. This is not a reflection of the building, simply that the school has become too large and the staff are simply unable to cope, further capacity would only compound these issues.

This type of redevelopment would have a significant impact on the children who currently attend the school. Whilst those looking to join in 2018 will look forward to a shiny new building in which to commence their secondary education, the children currently at the school will suffer significantly from the massive upheaval of major redevelopment works. The timing could not be worse, as those who will be most effected (the current pupils) will be the ones who have the added pressures and difficulties of facing the new style GCSE exams which are due to commence in 2017. This would seem to be grossly unfair as it is bound to impact on their overall secondary school education and potentially their life choices.

Ultimately this plan represents desperation from the local council who have failed to plan and maintain the infrastructure of the local schools for many years. It seems crazy that there is now concern over the level of school places when just a few years ago schools were being merged or closed due to a fall in student numbers! This shows the short-sighted planning of the council and highlights incompetence at every level. What other choices have been/are being considered to deal with these problems? Your reply is awaited with interest.

Response sent 9 October, 2014

Dear Mr Sims,

Thank you for your response to our current consultation on the expansion of

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Bitterne Park School. Your comments on traffic congestion and the impact on pupils will be passed on for consideration before the next phase of statutory consultation begins.

With regard to your impression that standards at the school are falling; it is true that Bitterne Park School's most recent inspection moved the school from Outstanding to 'Good with Outstanding Features' but praised the school for being "a vibrant and highly motivating school in which students flourish." Rather than being linked to any expansion at the school, the inspection came at a time when the grading system for schools was changed and all schools are being held to a higher standard. At Bitterne Park School, in 2014 68% of pupils gained 5 A*-C GCSE grades including English and Maths, which is above the national average and individual results in English, Maths and other subjects show the school continues to offer the very best level of education to its pupils.

You are correct that a fall in pupil numbers a few years ago saw the Local Authority close and merge some schools. The nature of forecasting school numbers from birth data means we can only plan five years ahead for entry at Year R. When numbers fall or rise the council has to show that school places constitute value for money. The expansion at Bitterne Park is part of a longer term expansion of schools which is being considered by Southampton City Council.

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| 3 | Email received on 10 October, 2014 | Mr Gary White (other, not specified) |
| | Support indicated | NOT STATED |

Hi just wondering whereabouts on the existing site the new school is proposed to be built and what impact this will have on the existing houses and roads surrounding the site.

Response 10 October, 2014

Dear Mr White,

Thank you for your query regarding the placement of the new school building at Bitterne Park School.

At this stage we have no plans or final decisions on the physical expansion or rebuild of the school. The Education Funding Agency (EFA) has asked us to first consult on the notional rise in places before it will draw up any plans. As such all we are seeking comment on at this stage is whether there is agreement to the principal of expanding the number of school places.

If this is approved then, under the Priority Schools Building Programme, the EFA would create and submit plans to the Council's planning department as normal. At the planning stage the public will get an opportunity to make comments or objections to the proposed plans.

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| 4 | Email received on 2 November, 2014 | Rachel Watson (parent/carer) |
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Support indicated

NO

I would like to comment that Bitterne Park School is already the largest secondary in Southampton, and not in the area of highest density of children or anywhere close to the highest birth rate. If the reasoning is because of the reputation of BP, then I would say, put more resources into other schools so they are just as good. My son attends BP, and my younger son is starting next year, but I am worried the disruption and expansion will not contribute to a stable and high quality education for them.

Response sent 2 November, 2014

Thank you for your reply to the current proposals for prescribed changes to Southampton Schools. Your comments will be passed to the School Organisation and Strategy Manager.

If your reply has been received by the published date for final submissions, it will be included in the information passed to Council Officers and Councillors and will help them make their next decisions.

5 Email received on 2 November, 2014

David Turner (other, not specified)

Support indicated

NO

I object to this expansion on the general principle that the school is already too large. If it is not possible to create a new school due to shortage of sites, then smaller schools should be expanded. However, with the need for a school in the city centre, consideration should be given to the Meridian TV site.

Response sent 2 November, 2014

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If your reply has been received by the published date for final submissions, it will be included in the information passed to Council Officers and Councillors and will help them make their next decisions.

6 Email received on 2 November, 2014

Molly Martinson (local resident)

Support indicated

NO

My family and I have lived next to the school for around 10 years, however due to the constant construction work over the road we have decided to move. If it's not one project it's another and the plans are to build on the field where the house overlooks changing the whole dynamic of the house. Also due to the extra pupils there will be less parking on our road, more children screaming and more litter in our front garden. I suggest that if you do decide to allow the school to build yet another building opposite these houses

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their should be some sort of compensation to the residences who are being forced to move.

Response sent 2 November, 2014

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If your reply has been received by the published date for final submissions, it will be included in the information passed to Council Officers and Councillors and will help them make their next decisions.

7 Email received on 2 November, 2014 Ian Woodland (local resident)

Support indicated

NO

Parking around the school has become more and more difficult for residents at dropping off and picking up times. So far no thought has gone into this and with the addition of a 6 th form it has become worse. If an event takes place in the evening local residents could be blocked out of parking in front of their homes for 2/3 hours. Dimond Road outside the 6th form is worst with Newton Road, Hillside Ave And Castle Rd badly affected. Copse View Road also becomes badly affected at peak times

Response sent 3 November, 2014

Dear Mr Woodland

Thank you for your reply to the current proposals for prescribed changes to Southampton Schools.

At this stage we have no plans or final decisions on the physical expansion or rebuild of the school. The Education Funding Agency (EFA) has asked us to first consult on the notional rise in places before it will draw up any plans. As such all we are seeking comment on at this stage is whether there is agreement to the principal of expanding the number of school places.

If this is approved then, under the Priority Schools Building Programme, the EFA would create and submit plans to the Council's planning department as normal. At the planning stage the public will get an opportunity to make comments or objections to the proposed plans and this will then include plans on the impact of traffic on the local area.

Your concerns have been noted and your reply will be included in the information passed to Council Officers and Councillors and will help them make their next decisions.

8 Email received on 7 November, 2014 Andrew Brunnen (other, not specified)

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Support indicated

NO

We have no objection to a new building, providing adequate provision is made for staff parking and that pupils do not lose their outdoor sports areas and that any new building will contain adequate kitchen and dining rooms for all the pupils.

Response sent 7 November, 2014

Dear Mr Brunnen,

Thank you for your response to the initial consultation at Bitterne Park School.

The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 state that a Local Authority (or Governing Board) must consult on any enlargement of premises which would increase the capacity of the school.

At this stage we have no plans or final decisions on the physical expansion or rebuild of the school. The Education Funding Agency (EFA) has asked us to first consult on the notional rise in places before it will draw up any plans. As such all we are seeking comment on at this stage is whether there is agreement to the principal of expanding the number of school places.

If this is approved then, under the Priority Schools Building Programme, the EFA would create and submit plans to the Council's planning department as normal. At the planning stage the public will get an opportunity to make comments or objections to the proposed plans.

9 Email received on 8 November, 2014

Ann MacGillivray (local resident)

Support indicated

NO

I would like to object to the expansion of Bitterne Park Senior School it does not consider the local residents or community or the impact that this will have on it. I would like to object to the current recreation land being built upon the underneath of this ground is not stable, it still contains the old "Brick Kilns" that are situated beneath. I do not believe that this schools recreation land will be replaced and I object to part of Riverside Park being taken in lieu of this. The rebuilding schools programme has taken over various tracts on previously undeveloped land whilst the schools that have been moved out of have not been returned to a natural environment this is not good for the environment of people or the planet!

Separately, via weblink

Rating: Very Poor [1] Comments: Where is the opportunity for people who do not use computers to object or comment? I see no opportunity for those with an impairment to comment either. Your page suggests that this proposal is already going to happen this does not lead to fair consultation! The final stage is to take the proposal, and all responses from the consultation, to the Cabinet, who will make a decision on whether to approve these proposals. In which case we might expect a Cabinet decision by February 2015. The additional places should be available for September 2017.

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Response sent 10 November, 2014

Dear Mr Jenks,

Thank you for your reply to the current proposals for prescribed changes to Southampton Schools.

Your support has been noted and your reply will be included in the information passed to Council Officers and Councillors and will help them make their next decisions.

11 Email received on 10 November, 2014 (Email supplied) (local resident)

Support indicated

NO

As there are other Secondary Schools that are currently under subscribed within the East side of the City of Southampton... Would it not be financially prudent to ensure that all these places are filled before paying the extra expenditure on any expansions to Bitterne Park Secondary School? I, therefore, am one who objects to this proposal especially in times of economic difficulties for all schools.

Response sent 10 November, 2014

Thank you for your response to the current consultation at Bitterne Park School.

The need to expand secondary schools across the City is a response to the recent increase in pupil numbers in the primary sector. As these pupils progress through to the secondary sector, our School Organisation Plan (<http://www.southampton.gov.uk/schools-learning/school-organisation-plan.aspx>) forecasts that extra places will be required in secondary schools (especially at Year 7) by 2018/19.

The expansion at Bitterne Park School (if approved) would be one part of a larger strategy to ensure that Southampton has enough school places for all children who need one.

Your comments have been noted and your reply will be included in the information passed to Council Officers and Councillors and will help them make their next decisions.