

Appendix 4 – Comments on / Objections to the Proposal

Prescribed Alterations (Maintained School) Consultation on Proposals to Expand Springwell School

Responses Received Statutory Consultation 5 January, 2015 – 2 February, 2015

Four responses were received over the course of the statutory consultation period

1 **Email received on 6 January, 2015** **CLLR Mary Lloyd**

Support indicated **Yes**

As a ward councillor, I am well aware of the great job Springwell School does. I'd be fully in support of the planned expansion.

Response sent 6 January, 2015

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.

2 **Email received on 7 January, 2015** **Mr John Denham MP**

Support indicated **Yes**

Mr Denham would like to thank you for your email and is happy to support the proposal to expand Springwell School as he feels it will benefit many children who live in his constituency.

Response sent 7 January, 2015

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.

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3 **Email received on 1 February, 2015** **Ms Clare Patel**

Support indicated **Yes**

Please find below a copy of the original email I sent on December 1 for the pre-statutory consultation. I am sending you this again as part of the statutory consultation as I wish my views to be taken into consideration during this second round of consultation.

Ms Patel's original email is detailed below (1)

Response sent 1 February, 2015

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.

3 **Email received on 2 February, 2015** **Dr Francis Otieno (Parent/Carer)**

Support indicated **Yes**

Please find attached comments on the proposed expansion of Springwell School. Similar to the first consultation process and as outlined in the letter, I am sending this to you as the selected representative tasked with collating and presenting the views of the Parents of the children attending Springwell's resourced provision at Bassett Green.

PDF letter attached – Appendix 4a

Response sent 2 February, 2015

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.

Responses Received Pre-Statutory Consultation 13 October, 2014 – 8 December, 2014

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

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1 Email received on 1 December, 2014 Ms Clare Patel (Parent/Carer)

Support indicated

Yes

I am writing in support of proposals to expand Springwell School, I believe this can be best achieved by building a series of modular buildings on the current site. I am against creating resourced provision co-located on a mainstream school elsewhere in the city.

As a parent of a child at the school I believe expanding the existing Springwell School site is the best option for the following reasons;

1) Pupils will benefit from the school's purpose built facilities; eg excellent teaching spaces, soft play, multi sensory room and swimming pool.

2) Pupils will benefit from the collective expertise of staff centralised on one site.

3) Pupils will benefit from continuity as they will be based at the same site throughout their primary school life.

4) Pupils will benefit from the fact they can enjoy some of the facilities they use during the school week, for example the soft play area and outside play equipment, at the Saturday Fun Club held at the Springwell site.

5) Prospective parents have a chance to see the main school site and speak to the family liaison officer at the Springwell Saturday Fun Club. It's also popular among current pupils' parents.

6) Parents of children with special educational needs are keen to send their children to Springwell School as every year demand for places outstrips demand. Expansion is necessary.

7) Parents of children with special educational needs have enough to worry about. Knowing their child is being nurtured and educated by people with real expertise in the SEN area is a huge comfort.

8) It is well documented that early intervention is vital to help children with special educational needs reach their full potential. An expanded Springwell School would allow more children to reach their full potential.

9) An expanded Springwell School would benefit pupils across the city as the school's outreach team would continue to play its important role supporting SEN pupils in mainstream schools.

10) Children with special educational needs are among some of the city's most vulnerable and deserve to be made a priority. A marker of a civilised society is how we treat them. They deserve the best - an expanded Springwell School site.

I do sincerely hope the council's cabinet agrees the proposals to expand the Springwell School site in March 2015 and that the extra classrooms are ready by September 2015.

Response sent 1 December, 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

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be included in the information passed to Council Officers and Councillors and will help them make their next decisions.

2 Email received on 8 December, 2014 Dr Francis Otieno (Parent/Carer)

Support indicated

In Principle

Consultation on Proposals to Expand Springwell School: Views of Parents at Bassett Green Provision

I am writing to you on behalf of the parents whose children attend the Bassett Green Springwell Resourced Provision in response to the consultation on the proposed expansion of Springwell School. At the parents/teachers/governors meeting held at Springwell on Friday 7 November 2014 (9am), I was selected to collate and present to you the views of the said parents. These views are summarised below. Henceforth, the first person pronoun '**we**' (and similar) refers to these parents.

We wholly welcome and fully support the proposal to expand Springwell School.

Comments on options outlined in the proposal

1. Option 1: Modular buildings on the current Springwell School site

Whilst we welcome this option, it is not our preferred **long-term** solution. We feel that it is a quick fix that is needed in place for the year **2015/16** as a starting point since our preferred **Option #2** (below) involves a lot of negotiations and planning.

2. Option 2: Utilisation of land adjacent to Springwell School

This is our most preferred long-term solution. We hasten to add that by long-term we mean at least the school year **2016/17** this should be in place. We feel that it is crucially important for our children to be located within one main Springwell site. It is in the best interest of the children to readily have access to all resources at the main site rather than elsewhere where they could be watered down due to finances. In addition:

- Pupils will benefit from continuity as they will be based at the same site throughout their primary school life.
- We as parents of children with special educational needs have enough to worry about. Knowing that our children are being nurtured and educated by people with real expertise in the SEN area with the right resources in a stable environment is a huge comfort.
- It is well documented that early intervention is vital to help children with special educational needs reach their full potential. An expanded Springwell School would allow more children to reach their full potential.
- Children with special educational needs are among some of the City's most vulnerable and deserve to be made a priority. A mark of a civilised society is how we treat them. They deserve the best. An expanded Springwell School site

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embodies this.

- We also believe that it boosts the teachers' morale if they worked in one location where they can share resources, collective knowledge and expertise as well as other benefits that arise from working together as a team.

We are of the strong view that Southampton City Council needs to seriously consider this option as the viable, long-term solution for Springwell's future. We urge you to place the needs of all the children at the forefront as you carefully consider this matter. Aware that time is not on our side, we propose that you urgently pursue the matter in order to avoid disruptions to the children's education.

3. Option 3: Addition of resourced provision co-located on a mainstream school elsewhere in the City

We are totally against this option. It is the antithesis of the benefits we outlined in support of **Option #2**. Although we acknowledge that for the year 2014/15 we were the beneficiaries of this arrangement, we do not consider it a long-term solution. It affords no stability to Springwell, is fraught with uncertainty, will confuse and disadvantage the children and will cause mental anguish to the parents and disenfranchise the teachers.

In summary, we urge you to take the bold step and consider **Option #2** as the most stable and viable long-term solution for Springwell school to progress to the next stage of consultations.

Yours sincerely

Dr Francis Otieno

(On behalf of Parents at Bassett Green Springwell Satellite Provision)

Response sent 9 December, 2014

Dear Dr Otieno,

Thank you for your response (on behalf of the parents) to the current consultation at Springwell School. We agree with your view that a long term plan needs to be developed to secure the future provision of SEND places in the City and we are currently working with our colleagues in Health, Early Years, SEND and others to look at longer term forecasting and planning for such places.

Following a review of the responses so far, a decision will be made on whether to continue to the next stage of consultation and your views will be taken into account and carried forward to any final decision next year.