

RESPONSE 1
COUNCILLOR



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24 February 2021

Dear Ann

Re: Proposal to Expand Cheswick Green Primary School

I write further to my letter of 16 December 2020, to object to the proposal to expand Cheswick Green Primary School into a two form entry school from September 2022.

Whilst I recognise that there is a need locally for additional primary school places, I would like to reiterate my objection from December, and add that I am disappointed that Solihull Council has not taken on board the concerns raised by Cheswick Green residents and the Parish Council, and is pressing ahead regardless.

As I stated in December, the proposals would have a huge and unwelcome impact on the highway network, especially on Cheswick Way which is already very congested at school drop off/pick up times, and there is an inadequate bus service or school bus between Blythe Valley and Cheswick Green to safely get children to and from school.

In conclusion, my view is that Cheswick Green School is not a sustainable location to double in size, and the obvious alternative is a new one form entry Primary School at Blythe Valley itself, which would be a sustainable location.

Yours sincerely

Tim Hodgson

Councillor Tim Hodgson
Green Group Spokesperson – Environment and Highways

RESPONSE 2 PARENT / CARER

Sent: 08 November 2020 16:27

As the consultation to expand the school is now open, is the school now going to communicate with parents about this?

I am very disappointed to see that the buildings are set to be single storey so presumably taking up more of the field? I would like to know why this decision has been taken - eg is it a cost or perhaps logistic issue?

If it is someone at the council I need to speak to, a name would be helpful. Obviously I know those are the council's plans but I can see the school has been consulted as it says plans have been amended following school comments.

I would also like to know what timescales will be for this if the plan is accepted and what the plan is for children not to be disrupted as the building work happens.

Sent: 10 November 2020 14:59

Thanks for trying to call me back earlier. I did try to call earlier but I think you're out of the office. I have the following questions before I submit my consultation response:

1. Has the school been told not to communicate with parents on this subject?
2. Why can't the buildings be two storey? If it is a cost issue, what is the cost difference?
3. Will the additional numbers of children warrant a crossing/lollipop person?
4. What are the thoughts on parking? It is already a massive issue.
5. For the access road, will this be a one way system so cars in one way, out the other?
6. Will any trees be cut down?
7. Will the building be eco friendly?
8. Are there any guidelines that are being followed for size of things like classroom/hall/wraparound?
9. Will the space where forest school takes place still be there or recreated if removed?
10. What is the potential timing of this and how will disruption be managed for existing children?
11. Would a new head/management team be sought to lead this new, much bigger school?
12. Can I see plans of the existing footprint of the school please, for comparison purposes.

Sent: 28 January 2021 07:18

I spoke to you previously about this and am so disappointed that in this latest consultation there are no more amendments to the size of the hall, wraparound facilities and any mention of how traffic will be managed.

Am I missing something as these are all things that many of us flagged in the last 'consultation.' Are the council actually taking any of these comments on board or just ploughing ahead with the original plans?

Are you able to set out next steps for their project please (beyond this 'consultation') and when the views of parents and residents will actually be addressed?

Thanks,

Officer Response: 28 January 2021 16:18

Thank you for your email regarding the proposal to expand Cheswick Green Primary School.

The two issues you have raised around the proposed building expansion and the traffic and parking issues were the two main areas raised within the consultation process, the detail of which has been reported to our Cabinet Member on 11 January.

With regards to the design of the building, I can see you have ongoing concerns around the proposals for the building. However, the proposals are in line with government guidance for a 2 form entry school. Appendix B of the Cabinet Member report gave an officer response with regard to the design of the building and did respond to the main concerns raised. Specific reference was made to the hall space and the fact that it currently exceeds the requirements for a 2 FE School. Where the school has specialised curriculum areas already in place, even if these are not required within the guidance, they have been reprovided even if this is through the use of a shared area. The size of the reception classes have been reviewed and revised. Nursery wrap around facilities are included and the school will continue to provide this. This proposal will see a significant investment in the school building, estimated to be in the region of £3,000,000.

With regards to the feedback from the consultation process on traffic and parking this is being used to help shape the possible mitigation solutions that will be required for any planning application. This work is ongoing and will be published as part of any future planning application, which will be subject to its own process. We are working with the School, our transport consultant and colleagues in the Highways and Planning departments to consider the implications of this proposal. This will include considering what mitigation measures are deliverable to support this proposal. A range of options are outlined in the proposal document.

In answer to your question about the process, this consultation will run for four weeks until 25th February, with a view to going back to the Cabinet Member at the end of March. At this point the Cabinet Member can decide to approve the proposal, approve subject to conditions e.g., planning approval, approve subject to modification e.g., the implementation date or reject the proposal. The current timescales for the planning application are for submission in February/March. The planning application is then subject to all the normal planning processes.

If you would like any further information about the proposal and the process please contact me again, either by email or telephone.

Kind regards

Sent: Fri 12 February 2021 13:14

I responded last time so comments remain the same: concerned about smaller classrooms and communal spaces, encroachment onto field and disruption for existing children.

I also feel that the school and council need to have a more meaningful dialogue with parents on what is planned. Letters and emails are not enough.

Traffic mitigations keep being mentioned but we need more detail. The idea of a bus from Blythe Valley is ridiculous and I don't know any parents that would send infants on a bus!

RESPONSE 3 PARENT / CARER

Good afternoon,

My [REDACTED] started Cheswick [REDACTED], a lovely school from what we've seen so far. I disagree with making it bigger, only on the grounds of the traffic it will cause. I've just this second drove past as it's only keyworker children. In school the traffic was horrendous and you are planning on doubling it!

If this goes ahead then you need to seriously think about traffic control, maybe putting in a crossing, parents double park as it is! Very dangerous trying to cross the road.

RESPONSE 4 PARENT / CARER

Please register my objection to the above proposed expansion to Cheswick Green School. I object for the following reasons:

1. The traffic outside Cheswick Green school is already dangerous. It cannot increase without repercussions, i.e an accident.
2. There are literally no parking spaces for people to park when dropping children to school.
3. Children from the new estates would not be able to walk to school, it would be too far. This means a direct increase in traffic, increase in traffic fumes, pollution and carbon footprint.
4. Due to it being a Primary school, the children from the new estates are not old enough to travel alone on a school bus.
5. Any extension will reduce the outside areas available for exercise and outside activity. In a time when we are trying to increase children's activity levels and reduce obesity this is completely contrary to these positive messages.

Thank you

RESPONSE 5 PARENT / CARER

I am writing to object to proposals to expand Cheswick Green school. The traffic on Creynolds lane, Cheswick Way and Tanworth Lane at rush hour is awful with queues often all the way back to the school from the lights. For people in the village trying to get to work

this causes an absolute nightmare with very limited options for alternative routes out of the village. This is not just about additional traffic coming from Blythe valley. My children attend Cheswick Green school and we are able to walk from home. However, I then have to walk back to my car and drive the work. The journey to the Birmingham Business park near the airport can take an hour as I have been known to queue to get to the lights at the end of Creynolds for 20-30 minutes during normal rush hour. Expanding the school is not the answer. A new school to serve the new housing developments needs to be built so children can continue to walk to school and parents can get to work.

RESPONSE 6 RESIDENT

I would like to raise my objections to the proposed expansion of Cheswick Green primary school.

My main concerns are firstly the need for the expansion at this time and secondly the impact on traffic in the village and specifically on Creynolds Lane.

The first point is that there are other schools in the area who may be able to share the increase in pupil numbers but this option does not appear to have been considered. Cheswick green was traditionally below capacity and could absorb some additional numbers without the need for expansion.

The after school club is usually fully subscribed with a waiting list as more and more parents are working and need wrap around care. The new proposals do not allow for an increase in this provision despite doubling students at the school. I'm not sure from the plans if the development actually reduces the space available for the after school provision.

The hall and exercises spaces would also stay the same or reduce (IE the field) in the proposals again despite doubling student numbers. Why hasn't consideration been given to a 2 storey building in order to preserve the green space for the children for their exercise needs?

Including the children from BVP is not practical. There are no pathways for them to walk to school. Putting primary school children into a school bus will not be chosen by parents and is therefore not a solution. All children attending the school from BVP will drive!!!!

The number of additional cars in the village, parking and then travelling up Creynolds Lane will not be acceptable. The impact on surrounding roads and the children's health should not be accepted by the council. The option of park and walk will not be a solution. Working parents do not have time for this. And as I already state, all children from BVP will need to be driven. The lanes from BVP cannot handle this traffic and nor can Creynolds Lane which in non -covid times had queues from the traffic lights back past the Lloyds training centre every morning between 8.00 until 9.30.

SMBC should not accept this proposal.

RESPONSE 7
RESIDENT

Good Day,

I would like to register my objection to the proposed expansion of Cheswick Green School in order to satisfy the requirements of Blyth Valley. Local.

It is a disgrace that when such a large development was planned that no provision was made for provision to service this estate with it's own school, doctors and dentist, shops and pubs as was done in Dickens Heath. Our surgery is already stretched to the limit and it is near impossible to get an appointment in a reasonable time.

With regards to the school expansion then I suggest all councillors on the planning committee take a drive through Cheswick Green during drop off and pick up times in order to see the chaos already created by the number of cars that are parked on both sides half the way down Cheswick Way and surrounding roads. Doubling the size of the school will double this problem. It's already a dangerous situation which impedes traffic flow through the village at these times with small children crossing between parked cars all the way down Cheswick Way.

No-one from Blyth Valley will be able to walk to the school as the road to Cheswick Green from Blyth Valley is a dark and narrow country lane. The talk of using busses from Blythe Valley would also be a none starter as the parked cars impede access of a bus which would then have no-where to park regardless of the fact that no-one would want to put their 6 year old onto a bus.

I would suggest that you use the money earmarked to build a school at Blythe Valley and follow this up by building a doctors surgery there too.

RESPONSE 8
RESIDENT

To whom it may concern.

To expand a school that already has poor transport links and the local land is annually flooding due to poor drainage thanks to recent developments, Bloors, Blythe and Dog Kennel Lane. It's ridiculous.

The local roads are already clogged and no thought has been given what 200 extra pupils will bring. There has been an accident recently and the fire crew couldn't navigate successfully past the school due to car parking.

Eating into the green belt surrounding of the school and Cheswick green is not acceptable to accommodate the Blythe community. Plans should have been drawn up for that site to have its own school system.

I believe alder took now needs to be expressed also.

It just hasn't been thought out fully. And expanding existing is not the answer.
Regards

RESPONSE 9

RESIDENT

Dear Sir/Madam, I object on two bases.

First, parking on Cheswick Way - and surrounding roads, at the start and end of the school day is a safety issue now.

An expansion of the school will exacerbate that.

Secondly, traffic on surrounding roads, in particular, Creynolds Lane and Watery Lane will increase significantly. This is a capacity issue.

Connectivity between Blythe Valley and Cheswick Green is very poor - narrow lanes and no footpaths or cycle paths, and I doubt that parents would use a school bus to transport their Primary age children to and from school.

As Hockley Heath School buildings are old, I would like to see a new school built between they present school site and Blythe Valley, thus serving both communities and releasing land in Hockley Heath for new houses.

RESPONSE 10

RESIDENT

Good Afternoon,

Please accept this email as an objection to the plans to expand Cheswick Green Primary School.

I do not believe the proposed expansion to be a good idea for the local area, the road congestion or the education of children in this area. Whilst I acknowledge the council has a duty to educate, I believe this is being seen as the 'easy' option to meet this need and is certainly not the best long term plan for the area. I believe there is also potential that those making the decisions have personal benefit and gain and as such there is conflict of interest in both this process so far and those individuals being allowed to make such decisions forwards.

Firstly, the councillor responsible for education in Solihull is also the ward councillor for Hockley Heath. This surely is a conflict of interest? Cheswick Green school is stated as the catchment area for the new Blyth development as it is closest to the development. I believe this is not a truthful statement. Hockley Academy is circa 1.9 miles from the development via Kineton Lane and the Stratford road and 1.7 miles via School road past Wedges Bakery. Cheswick Primary is actually 1.7 miles via Illshaw Heath road, a country lane and nearly 3.4 miles via Kineton land and the Stratford road. Hockley academy is therefore actually the closest current school to the Blyth development so should be the catchment for this new development.

I understand no more than a desktop exercise was used to determine Hockley school was not suitable to expand, this I feel may have been done with bias. Hockley and Cheswick school sit on similar footprints so why is 1 considered suitable and the other not and who made that decision? There was also a proposal to knock down Hockley school and build a

new school to service both Hockley and Blyth again I believe this was ruled out but not for the correct reasons and should be revisited by an independent party to all areas.

The current head mistress at Cheswick Green I understand backs this proposal, even though she has potential to retire before the 2 form entry would be full. I understand part of the final salary pension offered would however be based on the potential no. of pupils the school could accommodate. Therefore I'd suggest again that is a potential conflict of interest as the individual backing the proposal has potential personal gain should it go ahead.

The conflicts of interest aside we also object as there is potential to damage the education of the children attending the school, if it is to double in size. Whilst the proposal appears to accommodate additional class rooms, the hall, after school club and several other areas remain at current size and were designed to accommodate the existing no. of pupils. Doubling of pupils will mean these areas need to be expanded also as do the outdoor areas for exercise. The proposal I've seen reduces the outdoor space available at the school, so as it stands would be double the number of pupils with a much smaller outdoor space.

Our main objection to this proposal and should also be a higher priority for the council as it goes against several recent policies would be the additional traffic and congestion this expansion will bring into the area if it goes ahead. Anticipating most parents travelling from Blyth will do so by car and not some form of public or school transport if this proposal goes ahead it will just increase the traffic, congestion and air pollution already seen on Cheswick Way and Creynolds lane. So not only will this potentially damage the education of the children but also have direct impacts on their health! Not to mention the mental health of many residents as we battle against inconsiderate parking across our drives by parents on school runs, travelling along Cheswick Way between double parked cars or sitting for up to half an hour (if not longer) on Creynold Lane to the Stratford road trying to get to work. I know there is a proposal for the council to supply transport from Blyth to Cheswick but I'd suggest most primary school children would not be making use of this service so it is not a solution to a problem that will only be created by an expansion of Cheswick school.

As noted in our previous objection to this proposal, as well as many other peoples, we live in Cheswick very near to the school and have children in attendance there. We are personally affected daily by the school traffic at present and have got into heated conflicts with others on several of the points noted above. We do not see how the council will reduce or solve this by expanding Cheswick Primary and request again that consideration is given back to Hockley Heath or to building a new school nearer the Blyth development.

I'd be happy to discuss any points raised in this objection further and we make our objection in good faith that our views will be taken into account and this is not simply a box ticking exercise by the council for a decision that has already been made.

Regards, (a concerned resident of Cheswick Green)

RESPONSE 11

RESIDENT

My husband and I would like to voice our concerns with regard to doubling the number of children there. The roads are already full of cars when it is time to drop off or pick up pupils. Creynolds lane has great traffic problems in the rush hour and putting a carpark from Creynolds Lane would just make this worse. The village carpark could not cope with school cars as well as people using the carpark for their normal business. It seems to me that Solihull considers Cheswick Green a dumping ground for problems. Why should we have to have a bigger school built when Blythe Valley would be so much better for children to use and they could walk to school. Cheswick green is not a green solution.

RESPONSE 12

RESIDENT

When the proposal to extend Cheswick Green School was announced I was against it. Only because of the expected problems with access and egress. I have lived on Cheswick Green for 51 years and even remember the school being built in 1974. I now live 100 yds away from the school and cannot help but seeing it every time I look out of my windows. As time has moved on there have been many changes at the school as one might expect.

As the young population that came to live at Cheswick Green most of them sent their children to the school. As the occupants and their children got older there became more empty places at the school so places were taken up by children living outside the village. The congestion on Cheswick Way got worse and worse. The fact that the school proposed extension will be doubling in size means that the present congestion will double also, and so will the number of staff cars. The bus route, from Blythe Valley, along Cheswick Way has been going for a long time but now, due to the congestion, the local bus company refuses to travel along Cheswick Way. SMBC pay for the bus but the bus company decide which way they go not SMBC, how strange is that?

At pre lockdown times anyone can see the problems with vehicle congestion outside the school during opening and closing times. Vehicles are parked badly, sometimes across residents drives, on double yellow lines, in other side roads and most park with two wheels on the pavements. All this congestion does not help children that actually walk to the school and have to cross the road.

I was a member of Cheswick Green Parish Council when the last proposal was made to extend the school in 2016/17, which did not happen, and we proposed then that there should be two access/egress provisions. If the school was developed with the present access to be used by infants and the second access, via Creynolds Lane, to be used by junior pupils it would help considerably with the expected congestion.

The second access point would go from Creynolds Lane across SMBC land rented to a local farmer. It would be a double lane wide road with a turning circle at the end as a drop off point. Land could be used by the school gate to extend the open green space for the children.

Regards

RESPONSE 13

RESIDENT

To whom this may concern,

Understanding that there is more homes that are being built in Solihull there needs to be education for the primary age children. However, expanding the school of Cheswick Green School is not the answer I believe.

Flooding – You may not live in Cheswick like I do but we do suffer with flooding there has been times we couldn't get out of the village as all access points were flooded and would have to drive your cars in deep water that could water log your engines.. of which has happened! My house is situated by the stream that runs past my garden, since Blyth Valley being built I have noticed a significant increase in the levels of the stream and on bad rainy days this starts to spill into my garden! I don't know how its going to cope with more buildings being developed near Cheswick let alone the school being expanded taking up more group (less ground to soak up the rain water).

Traffic – It is a nightmare for school traffic you can barely get one car down at a time when the road is double parked adding more cars to the mix is calling for a disaster! Heard that a school bus was in the thinking but I don't think this is the answer as after this for one not all parents are going to use this so increase in traffic is already a guarantee and with this a bus will just block up more of the road for those commuters travelling to work causing more upset and congestion. I also heard that there was going to be a new entrance on the main road coming into Cheswick which is a more of danger hazard than anything! One with young children on an even busier road! And this will inconvenience those daily commuters.

Pollution – More traffic means more pollution.

Resources – having bigger form classes will stretch the resources. The already built parts of the school such as hall, gym are not going to accommodate such an increase in the amount of pupils.

I feel this was a quick fix with very little care or consideration of the education system of the families that are going to live in these new homes. Thinking expanding a school will solve this was very naïve. A new primary school should be built closer to those homes creating more jobs, stability and eco friendly living. A closer school for those homes will decrease carbon emissions due to people can walk and drop of their children.

It may be more money to do that but think there will be more issues in the future with roads, pollution, resources and even flooding that it would be far simpler and potentially cheaper to put effort and resources in sorting out the new homes rather than quick fix. Please take our villages thoughts and opinions and think of the impact this is going to cause us. Its not fair and very irresponsible if this goes through.

As mentioned before I understand that primary school is needed for these new homes with young children, but expanding Cheswick Green Primary School is not the answer it will cause more problems and more money to rectify the effects of expansion.

Many thanks,

RESPONSE 14
RESIDENT

Dear sir

I would like object to the expansion of Cheswick Green junior school as as this is a totally unsuitable site. The road is already congested with some staff cars parked on both sides of the road all day and even worse when parents park at start and finish times.

The local bus is an added problem and it is not uncommon for the traffic to be stationary for several minutes at a time during normal times (not lockdown). The ideal answer would be to build an additional school at Blythe Valley.

Yours Faithfully

RESPONSE 15
RESIDENT

Good morning,

I wish to highly Object to the expansion of cheswick green school.

Kind regards

RESPONSE 16
RESIDENT

Dear Sir or Madam

I have been a resident of Cheswick Green for 20 years and strongly believe that the infrastructure of our village cannot cope with a further expansion to the school.

Although the school is not functioning at full capacity at this time due to Covid, when things were normal, the traffic at the beginning and the end of the school day was horrendous and sometimes it was impossible to access Cheswick Way from Creynolds Lane due to the amount of parked cars.

This will also create a bottleneck at the junction of Creynolds Lane with the Stratford Road by the Plough and not least will mean that Illshaw Heath lane will become a "rat run" for people coming from the new houses at Blythe Valley to get to the school. The junction of Cheswick Way, Illshaw Heath lane and Watery Lane is already classed as dangerous and I can foresee many more accidents there unless there is a substantial change in the road management.

I strongly believe that it would be far better to build a school at the Blythe Valley development which would serve both communities better.

Yours faithfully

RESPONSE 17

RESIDENT

Please accept this email as my objection to the proposed expansion of the school.

I live on Cheswick Way a few properties down from the school entrance.

There is already grid lock traffic at start and finishing times. It is completely unacceptable to double that traffic.

Buses will not be an option as they would never get down Cheswick Way with cars parked either side of the road.

I am at a loss to understand why you are even considering this proposal where there is ample space for a new school on Blythe Valley. There may not be enough children currently in Blythe to fill it . However, Children could travel in that direction as opposed to travelling to our village.

Yes, it is a village with a single intake village school. We do not want or need this to change.

Upon watching the on line meeting which reviewed the proposal I was of the opinion that you had made a decision already and were simply giving the residents lip service. I so hope that this is not the case and that you will listen to the objections being made. Residents do not want this!

Additionally, there are also obvious issues with the plan

The hall for 200 children is the same size for 400 children?

The after-school club for 200 children is the same size for 400 children?

The library for 200 children is the same size for 400 children?

The music room for 200 children is the same size for 400 children?

Please reconsider that expansion

RESPONSE 18

RESIDENT

I wish to object to the proposal for the expansion of Cheswick Green primary School.

Cheswick Green school is a typical "village" school, created to serve the needs of the original village. By doubling the size of the pupil population, the character of the school will be changed in many ways, to the detriment of the quality of education and pupil experience.

The distances to the school from Cheswick Place and from Blythe Valley are such that no primary school age child can walk that far and will therefore need to be driven. This will lead to greater traffic congestion in the school area, and increased air pollution. Although bus services are proposed, no parent will send a child of primary school age on a bus, so they will have to drive them instead.

Creynolds Lane is too narrow to accommodate increased bus traffic and pavement/footpaths are totally unsuitable for child safety. The traffic congestion at the junction of Creynolds Lane and Stratford Road has increased markedly since the opening of Cheswick Place and will increase still further if proposals go ahead.

The proposed increase in parking spaces for school staff is far too small. Cheswick Way and surrounding roads are already restricted by staff and parent parking. There is no suitable "drop-off" space for parents to safely disembark their children. Local residents are already greatly inconvenienced by indiscriminate parking, and this will only get worse.

It is only a matter of time before a child is injured or killed by a traffic collision.

Please reconsider this dreadful proposal to expand the school.

RESPONSE 19 RESIDENT

Please don't go ahead with this.

I live in Beechwood Close, the existing traffic situation is dire at school pick up and drop off, sometimes I can't leave my close for the amount of cars backed up on foxland.

Not to mention teachers and staff parking all day on cheswick way and Foxland close, squeezing out the last few spaces left for residents.

We don't have driveways, we use the roads to park and there just isn't enough space as it is, if you double the school in size you will create huge traffic problems and increased pollution for all the residents living in the immediate area.

RESPONSE 20 RESIDENT

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal to expand Cheswick Green Primary School.

I start by asking why this seems to be being rushed through in the middle of a pandemic when it is extremely difficult for residents to be made aware of what is proposed especially if they are not computer literate. It also seems unreasonable to undertake surveys regarding traffic etc whilst we are in lockdown so people should not be travelling and schools are closed to all except for key workers' children. Hence it is impossible to get a realistic picture of the situation as it will be in normal circumstances.

It seems to me that this proposal has not been properly thought through on educational grounds, but done so that the maximum number of children can be accommodated at minimum cost. The extra building does not increase space in the hall, library or music room and building more classrooms will reduce the amount of outdoor space available for pupils to do sport or play. Our children deserve better than this.

Staff parking is a major issue now. A lack of parking spaces in the school grounds means that many staff (20 cars at least some days) already park along Cheswick Way causing congestion here all day. This situation is likely to get much worse if there are double the number of classes as the proposed extra spaces will not accommodate the extra staff this will mean. On top of this the number of vehicles that already park outside the school and in nearby roads at drop off/pick up times has caused problems for many years, leading to arguments and stand offs with nearby residents whose drives get blocked off. This will be made much worse if most of the extra children come from Blythe Valley as their parents

will almost certainly bring them by car. It is too far for small children to walk from Blythe Valley and there is no safe walking route from there. This will also clog the already busy lanes from Illshaw Heath, the Stratford Road and Creynolds Lane where traffic builds up during rush hours in particular. The provision of a bus from Blythe Valley is not a practical solution for primary age children and parents, by and large, would not be happy to use such a service. The problems with parking on Cheswick Way have already meant that the village has lost a bus service so residents who may be either elderly or disabled now have to walk onto Creynolds Lane and cross a busy and dangerous road if they need to use the bus. This may mean that some residents now find travelling anywhere extremely difficult. Congestion by the school is also a hazard for emergency service vehicles - I personally have witnessed a fire engine struggling to get through. This is not acceptable and could be life threatening.

SMBC claims to be following a green agenda and aiming to go carbon neutral by 2050. This proposal does nothing to help this cause. More vehicle journeys and traffic jams will result in increased emissions and hence increase the carbon footprint. Also vehicle fumes have been shown to increase the incidence of asthma and other lung conditions in children so having more vehicle engines running close to a school will only make the situation worse.

It seems that alternatives have not been looked at properly. I suggest that building a school on Blythe Valley should be re-visited as there is plenty of space there and it is not green belt land. Such a project could conceivably link with Hockley Heath School so that a new two form entry school could be built to serve both communities. This would reduce traffic from Blythe Valley to Cheswick Green and the land on which the current Hockley Heath School stands could be sold off for development within an already built up area, meaning less green belt land needs to be lost elsewhere. Hopefully in this situation more children would be able to walk to school, a much more satisfactory solution for everyone's health.

Yours sincerely,

RESPONSE 21 RESIDENT

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to register my strong objections to the expansion of Cheswick Green Primary School from both the educational and environmental viewpoints.

Before discussing my objections I would like to add that this consultation has been conducted in a way that does not allow access to all residents. The timing is bad, to conduct a policy of this importance during a pandemic seems strange. The

Borough Council has banned the distribution of flyers and seems to assume that all residents have access to a computer and are computer literate. This has caused some consternation in the village. There is a feeling that everything is being rushed through.

I can not agree with the proposals for Cheswick Green Primary School and in fact I can see little of merit in them. I write as a former teacher now retired.

As a mathematician it seems a simple problem that if you double the number of pupils in the school you need to double the size of the school. There is much more to education than just classroom learning. There needs to be a bigger outdoor area for

class & casual games; the library, the assembly hall and recreational area need enlarging and of course staff facilities need improvement. There is little evidence that these aspects will be changed. The site is barely of sufficient size. I foresee a drop

in the overall standards of the children's education.

The environmental impact of any extension to the school will be catastrophic. There is already chaos at the start & end of the day. It surprises me that there has not already been a serious accident. The attitude of some parents is not acceptable as local residents have suffered abuse and threats. The traffic on Creynolds Lane is already a nightmare, any further complications if a new entrance is made off Creynolds Lane does not bear thinking about. The idea of a school bus is a non-starter.

Parents of the youngest children would not entertain the idea and will use cars. A bus journey is too stressful, I know this from my [REDACTED] experience of bullying and verbal abuse. This [REDACTED] caused

considerable distress. I can see no way that this will do anything other than cause an increase in pollution and a further deterioration in air quality.

Furthermore there is already an all day problem of staff parking on Cheswick Way. This is bound to get worse and already causes problems to the elderly and disabled (including myself) as only one bus per hour comes through the village.

This development seems to me to be poorly researched and another case of the all too prevalent lack of care for Cheswick Green. There are other schools and I fail to see why a development of the size of Blythe Valley does not warrant its own school.

I sincerely hope that SMBC will take note of the realistic objections of the citizens that were the people that elected the Borough Council

RESPONSE 22 RESIDENT

To whom it may concern,

I write to convey my concerns with regard to the proposed expansion of Cheswick Green School, having recently returned to live in the village after 10 years. Originally, I lived in [REDACTED] but now live on [REDACTED].

I have 4 children, ranging in age from 36 to 26, who all attended the school.

Some 30 years ago I organised a petition, requested a traffic count, got the Solihull News to write a report in the paper and also involved the local MP in my quest to do something about the safety of children attending the school when arriving and leaving. At that time there were approximately 350 pupils attending and the outcome was that there were not enough pupils attending the school for any additional safety measures to be implemented.

I cited several issues as follows:

- Irresponsible parents pulling up on Cheswick Way inappropriately to 'drop' their children off on the way to work.
- A blind bend to the right of the site entrance on the same side of Cheswick Way.
- The site entrance being a few yards from 2 bus stops that are opposite each other.
- The site entrance being almost opposite the junction of Foxland Close and barely 50 yards from the junction with Creynolds Lane.
- A chronic parking issue on Cheswick Way making it extremely difficult to see any oncoming traffic coming round the blind bend from the right when leaving the site at the end of the school day - most especially the children making their own way to and from school (an essential part of gaining independence in year 6 prior to going to secondary school).
- Parking on the corners and all the way down both sides of Foxland Close.

These issues still exist today and I note that there are cars parked on both sides of the road all day on the section of Cheswick Way from the school entrance down to the Creynolds Lane junction.

I am extremely concerned about the safety aspect that an increase in traffic would have if the expansion of the school was given the go ahead and therefore wish to register my objection to the proposed planning application.

Cheswick Green resident

RESPONSE 23 RESIDENT

Please don't increase the size of our primary school.

I have lived in Cheswick Green for 34 years my children attended this school and now my Grandchildren attend.

I'm not someone that opposes change but the truth of the matter is that this location cannot sustain any more traffic. With the recent new development which has increased the size of Cheswick green it brings with it more cars and families dropping children at school before heading off to work. Cheswick way is very congested at school times and impedes residents leaving the village with traffic backing up on creynolds lane. It also makes it very dangerous for children crossing surrounding roads.

RESPONSE 24 RESIDENT

Sent: 24 February 2021 at 21:53

I am disappointed that the objections to the expansion of Cheswick Green Primary School have not resulted in any alternatives being put forward. Please see below my original objection letter which I wish to restate in this representation.

Yours sincerely
Cheswick Green resident

Sent: 17 December 2020 at 23:50

I would like to express my very strong concern that the proposal to double school places at Cheswick Green Primary School would have a massive impact on the road network, especially on Cheswick Way which is already extremely congested at school drop off/pick up times.

Doubling the number of children arriving and departing from the school, the majority of which would undoubtedly be by car, as there are very poor public transport links and there is no safe walking route from Blythe Valley to the school, would be chaotic. Not only would this bring traffic congestion, it would also increase air pollution on Cheswick Way and the surrounding roads.

The report presented to the Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills states that the expansion is to cater for the additional housing development at Mount Dairy Farm (which is now Cheswick Place) and Blythe Valley, both of which have very high levels of car ownership. Blythe Valley is several miles away and not connected to Cheswick Green by a regular and reliable bus service, nor is it practical or sensible to expect children to walk to and from school from there. There is actually no bus service that runs from Blythe Valley to the school site in Cheswick Way, as the hourly A7/A8 services run directly down Creynolds Lane and miss out the school altogether. This is because the bus operator has indicated that, because of the congestion outside the school, they would not route the bus service along Cheswick Way.

The extra vehicles will add increasing pressure to the surrounding roads. It is already very difficult to drive along Cheswick Way by the School at peak times and it would be incredibly difficult with the amount of traffic this would present.

I feel that Cheswick Green School is not a sustainable location to double in size, and I don't understand why the Council has not considered building a new one form entry Primary School at Blythe Valley itself, which would be a a much more sensible and sustainable alternative.

Yours sincerely,

RESPONSE 25 RESIDENT

Good morning

I am contacting you to again raise my objections for the planned expansion of Cheswick Green Primary School.

I was extremely disappointed that following the first round of consultation, the plans seem to be pretty much guaranteed to go ahead, if the Council meeting was anything to go by. With none of the residents valid concerns addressed at all, or dismissed without much discussion or interest. I will add that the last round of consultation seemed to be made so hard, people struggled to complete without help and guidance.

I again wish my strong objection to be put on record. My concerns are based on that of a current Cheswick resident.

Traffic and parking is even now a problem, even whilst there are minimal children attending school and start and finish times are staggered. Residents driveways are continuously blocked and parking around the school is making crossing roads for local children who walk to school extremely dangerous. This has been a known and ongoing issue for a number of years and is only getting worse. To expand the school to BVP residents, who will almost certainly drive their children to school, will only magnify the issue, causing even more issues for local residents and also increasing pollution from the increased vehicular traffic, which will also impact the health of our children and vulnerable residents.

I cannot convey how strong my objections are to this plan, as every resident I have also spoken to agrees. If this expansion goes ahead, it will be to the detriment of our children and all residents. Traffic will be hugely increased, compounding issues residents were already concerned about pre lock down. Residents access to their own properties will be impeded, children who walk to school will be at a higher risk of being hurt or worse from crossing next to multiple parked and dangerously parked or stopped cars. There will be congestion caused by increase in traffic, which again was already an issue pre lock down and increased traffic will also cause higher pollution damaging our children's and more vulnerable residents health.

It makes perfect sense for children of Cheswick Place to attend Cheswick Green School, which the school can already fulfil. It does not make sense to expand the school to intake children of the ever expanding BVP development. This development should have its own school to cater for the local children, reducing the need to travel by car and cutting pollution in the process.

I really do hope the voices and concerns of Cheswick Green residents are acknowledged and answered this time, instead of being passed over and not given any value whatsoever. That is after all what the consultation process is all about is it not?

Many thanks

RESPONSE 26 RESIDENT

We object to the proposed expansion of Cheswick Green Primary School expansion on the following grounds -

The increase in traffic and congestion in the village and the surrounding roads will cause great problems for the residents, i.e traffic, pollution, parking, more accidents, etc.

Our 3 children went to Cheswick Green Primary School, it was a very nurturing, caring, friendly village school, the children knew everyone which makes the children feel safe and looked after. The idea to expand it just dilutes the whole essence of a Village Primary School. The children will go from feeling valued and individual to feeling they are just a number in a vast pool, from a mental health perspective it is a very wrong idea and we are so disappointed this suggestion has been put forward.

Not happy that Blythe Valley had to be built on, which i'm assuming is the reason for the required expansion, but as it was, these things should be thought through to the extent of providing a school for the children there, not making Cheswick just a huge entity. The children have to grow up and it's a big world out there, secondary schools are a big jump in

size but at least they have had the grounding start at a one form entry primary school, to become themselves, have the confidence to be themselves and are ready by the time they are at the end of year 6 to go up a size in classes but to do it for children aged 4yrs and above just makes the School become a daunting, soulless place.

We absolutely object to this damaging idea.

Kind Regards,

RESPONSE 27
RESIDENT

I object to the proposal above.

Having lived in Cheswick for most of my life, I think this will have a massive detrimental effect on the area as a whole.

Regards

RESPONSE 28
RESIDENT

I am writing to object to this proposed expansion to cheswick green primary school not only will it be a shame for the school that I went to be made bigger and the lovely village school be turned into a bigger school were the friendly aspect be ruined but it will cause mayhem around the village it is already an accident waiting to happen with the teachers parking outside the school all day and the at drop off and pick up even more parked but this will increase and be a danger to people of the village. We move to this village as it was a lovely place to grow up in when I was little and wanted the same for our [REDACTED] but this will spoil the village having people come from else where to join the school causing disruption and the crime is already increasing around the area I really think that it will be a much better idea to build a school doctors etc ont the new build sites .

RESPONSE 29
RESIDENT

Good Evening,

I am writing to express my concern over the proposal to expand Cheswick Green Primary School. I do not feel a solution has or will be found regarding traffic and transport concerns.

The issue still remains that Blythe Valley is not walkable distance to the school meaning most likely all pupils from Blythe Valley will have no choice but to travel to school by car.

We are living in a climate crisis and should be doing whatever we can to help the environment but the suggestions being made will mean more traffic, more pollution and more emissions. How is this in any way good for our children? The suggestion of making transport arrangements for pupils on Blythe Valley seems ridiculous as they are Primary age pupils ranging from the age of three/ four onwards and I can't imagine parents of

feeling comfortable with this arrangement. Imagine sending your three year old on a bus to go to nursery. It is unrealistic.

The truth is that the decision was made to not build a new primary school on the Blythe Valley development without taking into consideration this issue and the impact it would have on the village of Cheswick Green. It is yet another case of houses being agreed and built without the infrastructure to support it and without thinking of the impact to the environment, climate change and global warming. Proposing unrealistic options in terms of transport from Blythe Valley or moving school traffic and parked vehicles to other areas of the village. Neither of these options provide a solution.

RESPONSE 30 **RESIDENT**

We wish to lodge an objection to this planned development.

We have lived in Cheswick Green for 33 years now and have always had issues with the vehicles parking up to drop/collect children from the school. We live in Foxland Close and vehicles are parked halfway down our road at key times making it difficult for residents who have no off-road parking facilities to park their vehicles.

The amount of cars parked as you turn into Cheswick Way by the school is ridiculous the bus can just about get through and should an emergency arise for fire and ambulances to attend they would definitely be delayed at this part of the road.

The majority of new intake at the school will be coming from new builds in the area which means car use would double causing more issues for residents.

The council should have persevered with gaining backing to build a new school on Blythe Valley which would accommodate children from Dorridge and Hockley Heath and also have better access for parents who need to use their cars to get children to and from school.

Our other concern with this expansion is that the plan does not show sufficient outdoor space for the children at break times. The playground currently is limited on space for the amount of pupils attending let alone when the numbers double.

Solihull council need to recognise that Cheswick Green has village status and as such the school is a VILLAGE school we are rapidly in danger of becoming part of the urban sprawl as the green space surrounding us is being eradicated. The council need to start listening to their residents instead of presenting done deals that nobody wants.

RESPONSE 31 **RESIDENT**

I previously responded to the initial consultation exercise regarding the proposed doubling of the size of this local Primary School. I now discover to my great disappointment that it appears as if SMBC seems determined to press ahead with it's plans - despite providing what local residents can only imagine to be a token offer of a further stage of consultation.

I am not in principle against the village having a two form entry primary school - to think so misses the point of my objection completely. My concerns as stated previously focus on its location and the impact it would have on the local environment.

It is clear from the significant and wholly disproportionate increase in housing that the parish has and will continue to have over the next few years that additional school places

will be required. It is however extremely short - sighted of the Council to assume that this proposal will solve all their long term problems.

WHY IS THE PROPOSAL ILL - CONCEIVED?

1) TRAFFIC

At peak times (coinciding with school drop off and pick up) traffic in and around the site already becomes impossibly congested - as would be clear to anyone visiting during the pre - Lockdown times. It is clear upon visiting that a relative minority of pupils and parents walk to the school - the majority are dropped of/ picked up by car. This problem will be exacerbated if the proposal proceeds to conclusion as more families will travel in many from further away.

The Council should be making strenuous efforts to reduce the volume of traffic in the area - not increase it.

2) BUSING

It is naive to assume that families from the expanding BVP development will use a school bus service. Ask any parent in this day and age if they would be prepared to put a 5/6/7 year old in such a situation. I doubt it - hence the additional car journeys. Poor lighting, country lanes with no footpaths (from BVP), winter mornings and afternoons - - all additional safety concerns.

3) LOCAL ROADS

The school site is virtually adjacent to Creynolds Lane - now one of (if not 'the') busiest roads south of the A34. Parents dropping children off in the morning would most likely continue their journey along this road. (the reverse being true in the afternoon) further impacting on the desperate situations witnessed pre - Lockdown.

4) SPEEDING

Local residents have welcomed the recent initiative to create a new 30mph zone around the local accident trouble spot. However this speed restriction along Creynolds Lane does not go far enough. Vehicles travelling along it will without doubt continue to approach Cheswick Way at speeds of 45/50mph+ as they do now - just 30/40 metres from the entrance to the school.

5) TYPES OF VEHICLES USING LOCAL ROADS

The nature of the traffic using the area has changed dramatically in recent years - in particular with regard to the size and weight (as well as speed) of vehicles.

A sample survey I conducted on Friday (19th February) taken for 30 minutes outside the entrance to Cheswick Way between 8.30 and 9.00am (and this during a so-called Lockdown period) identified 20+ HGV type vehicles that were clearly in excess of the stated weight restriction that should be applied to the road - all were travelling well beyond the 40mph limit. A clear danger to young children and their families.

6) POLLUTION

It goes without saying that the area around the school suffers from being in an environment polluted by heavy traffic - sadly everyone does.

The Council should they press ahead with their plans will certainly exacerbate these dangers to children's health. And it is simply not just air pollution- it would be noise pollution too (at least for the next ten years or so until we all drive electric vehicles).

I truly once believed that SMBC was at the forefront of promoting a low carbon future for the Borough,

7) IMPACT ON THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

It is no surprise to learn that in general - individuals, representative organisations - in the community are unanimous in their rejection of this proposal. They can see no sense in it whatsoever. In particular one must feel for those residents living within the immediate vicinity of the entrance. The current situation is already impossible - imagine what it would become if this were to get the go-ahead ??? With the school in its present site there is simply no adequate solution to this problem identified in the proposal and it causes great consternation.

IN CONCLUSION

I trust that I leave no-one reading the letter in any doubt that I believe the proposal to be ill-conceived.

Instead of simply taking a short-term approach to what will become an increasingly demanding problem owing to the dramatic increase of the local population the Council should seek to seek ' invest in the future'. The only sensible conclusion any future enquiry into the wisdom of this proposal would be that SMBC should have - 'invested in a new up to date all purpose two form entry school on the BVP site'. Similar challenges will be faced when it is realised that there will be inadequate medical support in the area (doctors , pharmacies etc).

I ask once again that the proposal is rejected without further consideration. It is clear for all to see that the local electorate view this as the only sensible course of action and it is incumbent upon the Council to act listen and respond accordingly.

RESPONSE 32 RESIDENT

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to object most strongly to this proposal for the following reasons.

When a decision was taken to change the traffic lights system at the top of Creynolds Lane, going into the A3400 Stratford Road from a 2 phase system to a 3 phase system, which basically meant that it was then possible to turn right from Creynolds Lane onto the main Stratford Road towards the M42, this change caused major traffic problems, mainly on Creynolds Lane which could result in a tailback of traffic waiting at the end of Creynolds Lane stretching back past the Lloyds Bank Management Facility. It has been relieved recently but only due to the Covid crisis reducing the traffic. If you increase the size of the

school and include an access Road at the back of the school for drop off and school parking purposes, it will cause mayhem . Basically you will be adding more traffic to an already overlaid traffic situation. With current 21st century trends ,whether or not you like it, parents from Blythe Valley and Cheswick Place will wish to drive their children to the school resulting in massive congestion all around the school area . We already have reported incidents of cars being parked across peoples drives blocking entry/exit whilst they are dropping off children . This is grossly unfair to the residents living all around the school of whom you obviously have absolutely no care for.

A far better solution would be to build a new school at Blythe Valley which will accommodate the children of that new development and possibly children from Hockley Heath as well . This is what I believe you should be looking at doing rather than the plan you have concocted from the interested parties who do not have any care of the effect this proposed change will have on the local community around the Cheswick Green School area.

RESPONSE 33 RESIDENT

I wish to OBJECT MOST STRONGLY to the proposed expansion of Cheswick Green Primary School.

The roads between the Blythe Valley development and this school are either totally unsuitable or already congested.

Expansion would be detrimental to the people living around the school.

Expansion would be detrimental to the health of children attending the school.

Blythe Valley could and should have its own facilities including a school.

Large schools are not conducive to health in times of pandemics such as the present time.

Common sense says Blythe Valley needs a school of its own. The Residents of Cheswick Green have expressed this view from the start of the planning process and their views have been ignored.

RESPONSE 34 RESIDENT

Dear Sir/Madam,

This Expansion is exclusively for the benefit of people outside of Cheswick Green Village and will have no benefit to Cheswick Green residents but will have a major impact on the lives of all residents.

Cheswick Green village does not require an expanded school.

I believe that this is a vanity project for the self-indulgence of the head teacher and governors of Cheswick Green Primary School.

Traffic congestion on Creynolds Lane before the pandemic was already a problem, with delays of up to 20 minutes at peak times. These delays are only going to increase and standing cars will create even more pollution.

Congestion outside the school even now is horrendous due to staff parking and parents at drop off and collection, add up to another 200 cars and Cheswick Way/Creynolds Lane

will be gridlocked with more residents and roads affected and being threatened by “parents” when blocking access to private properties.

Various options are being bandied around by SMBC a possible bus service from Blythe Valley but with only 30% of children coming from there and the rest from other areas, roads such as Tanworth Lane and Watery Lane will be congested. Again, no thought to traffic problems.

SMBC’s commitment to reduce carbon emissions is not evident here!

Expansion of CGPS is being rushed through so as to accommodate children from the new housing development on Blythe Valley, new housing in Shirley and other areas.

A full feasibility study for the building of a new school at Blythe Valley should be undertaken, this could provide a new state of the art school accommodation for the current Hockley Heath school which is outdated and inadequate.

There is also provision for a new two form primary school and early years at site 12(BL2), less than half a mile from the current CGP school; in which case why is the extension required at Cheswick Green?

Resident at Cheswick Green

RESPONSE 35 **RESIDENT**

Objection for the proposal to expand Cheswick Green Primary School.

1. Firstly, can I ask that the person responsible for any agreement to this planning application will at least come out and look at the infrastructure within Cheswick Green for themselves before making any decisions. This is vitally important.
2. I and many others believe this planning is being rushed through at a time when we are in lockdown, for instance there has been no feasibility study for Blythe Valley to have its own school, why has this not been done? We are all fully aware that for any new house builds once the first phase is complete the builders then request more land for yet more housing, so why not build a school at Blythe Valley? Why have all our roads congested with school traffic, isn’t there enough traffic as it is?
3. Cheswick Green Village feeds from Creynolds Lane which is a 40mph zone. When approaching Cheswick Green from the A34 Stratford Road there is also a blind bend before the turning into Cheswick Way, the school is a few hundred yards on the right. Cheswick Way is a small winding road and during school term is congested with teachers parking their cars during the school day.

Are you aware that the school only has 13 parking spaces plus one disabled for its staff at present?

With the teacher’s cars parked on Cheswick Way together with parents dropping off children, this results in double parking, parking on zig zags, parking across residents drives etc. causing absolute mayhem and danger for the children and residents, so much

so that one local bus service now refuses to even come through the village. Another intake of 210 children will be catastrophic for this area and people who use Creynolds Lane as a cut through to the main Stratford Road. Waiting time at the lights at Stratford Road during normal times well exceeded 15/20 minutes with traffic backed up to the Lloyds Centre. As already stated, this road is currently a 40mph zone. The Parish Council have paid for a speed sign to be put around the village and during the month of January and February this sign has been located on Creynolds Lane. I am responsible for the downloads and some of the following speeds have been recorded - 57mph on a Thursday between 15:00-16:00hrs, 54-59mph Wednesday between 13:00-16:00hrs, one car reached 80mph! As you can see in the copy of the table below there are 8.29% speed violations on Creynolds Lane alone.

Evaluation time		08 January 2021,14:00 - 31 January 2021,16:00				
Speed limit	40 mph	Values	Vehicles	Vd[mph]	Vmax[mph]	V85 [mph]
Speed violations	8.29 %	77804	16868	32	80	38
ADT	731					
AYT	266815					
Evaluation direction	Arriving					
Author:						

If you would like more information on the speeds please do not hesitate to contact me.

Have any traffic surveys been done by the council? (I don't mean the survey of someone sitting and driving a van around all the roads in Cheswick Green which we know SMBC have done – a real survey counting cars and on a normal day not during the lockdown).

It's been mentioned that a second entrance on Creynolds Lane may be a possibility but again the problem of congestion will be a major issue. Surely this cannot be safe for the children and parents that actually walk to school or any other motorist. We know that the school will still offer a wrap around service, so this will be used throughout the whole day. A new entrance would have to be incorporated on Green Belt land, at a time when governments/councils are supposedly advising people that they will use brownfield sites. A contradiction in itself. It would also open the field to more housing which Creynolds Lane just cannot cope with.

Cllr Ken Hawkins tweeted that Cabinet Member Ken Meeson indicated that school transportation will be provided for children coming from Blythe Valley to attend Cheswick Green Primary School. Who would allow a child as young as 5 onto a bus, on their own, would you? This is purely an exercise for residents to forget about the traffic problems for Cheswick Green and its residents and would not work. Parents would still use their cars to transport their children to school.

5. It's astonishing that by adding a couple of classrooms for an extra 210 pupils seems adequate. Do the calculations really add up? Will there be enough space for an extra 210 pupils? Classrooms, the hall, all remain the same size, how can that be? Outside playing space will be reduced considerably which is unhealthy for the children.

I think the planning officers need to think logically and realistically about this quick fix strategy.

I would like to object wholeheartedly with regards to the extension of Cheswick Green Primary School, build a new school at Blythe Valley incorporate Hockley Heath if you so wish, but please do not make the residents of Cheswick Green suffer anymore than they do already.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for more details on the speed sign.

RESPONSE 36 RESIDENT

Dear Sirs

I would like to register my objection to the proposal to expand Cheswick Green Primary School.

Over the past few years Cheswick Green village has undergone a huge amount of expansion and change. We live on Coppice Walk and it's like living on a main road at 7:30 in the morning - it was a relatively quiet road before all the new building went ahead. The village doesn't have the infrastructure to cope with this continual change and the roads would not cope with the increased traffic. Leave our village alone and put a school somewhere closer to the new developments on Blythe Valley. The residents of Cheswick Green are strongly against this plan.

Yours sincerely

RESPONSE 37 RESIDENT

It saddens me to hear that this expansion is continuing to the next stage , have you listened to the residents views ? We are NOT in favour of this expansion, And the traffic is already a problem throughout the village and I fear will be gridlocked . The pollution is also of great concern.. as parents from Blythe valley will obviously drive , how many additional cars ??

If you intend to keep building houses on Blythe valley and the surrounding areas wouldn't it make sense to build a school big enough to cope with the constant construction of houses. This seems a quick solution not a long term one . All this continues whilst we are in lockdown, the flow traffic is not a true representation of the vast quality of vehicles that use Cheswick Green as a short cut !! Could you provide me with details as to why you haven't provided children on Blythe valley with a school and an education??

Looking forward to your response.

RESPONSE 38 RESIDENT

Although both consultations provide limited information, it is evident that the additional planned facilities are restricted and arguably, not in keeping with a doubling pupil capacity. The hall, after school club, library and music rooms all remain the same size. Quite clearly, this is not consistent with a good learning environment.

The parking of school staff cars causes much consternation, an issue that could get much worse. While provision for additional parking in the school grounds is included in a feasible study, residents should insist that, despite increasing staff levels, there would no longer be a need to park staff cars on nearby roads and such a practice would be banned by the school.

A recent survey has found that traffic pollution can reduce children's lung capacity by almost 20%. Also, Public Health England's report into air quality, highlights the need to reduce air pollution in the vicinity of schools. Such facts are in the public domain and it therefore defies all logic why SMBC should be proposing a doubling of pupil numbers with an inherent increase in vehicular traffic. This is completely unacceptable and for this reason alone, the proposed expansion should be dismissed.

It is assumed that the key criteria of such an action would be to drop off/collect children. However, with vehicle engines idling and the inherent release of dangerous gases into the air, plus traffic congestion on approaching roads, such a move is likely to have devastating consequences.

As a result of the new housing which is focused in our area, a contribution from developers to reduce the impact of new housing and provide funding for a new infrastructure. With an obvious funding route, it is both fair and logical that BVP should have its own primary school.

The consultation suggests that Hockley Heath Primary school and St Patrick's Academy are, in isolation, unsuitable to accommodate an expansion of this size. However, as a key suggestion was to accommodate the BVP children across all three primary schools, there is no evidence that this proposal has been taken seriously and properly investigated.

RESPONSE 39 RESIDENT

This email is confirmation of my objection of this expansion.

I have lived here for 20 years and only one road away from the school, I have seen first hand how much traffic and how many children are around at peak times.

My road is used as a overflow car park constantly and getting out of Foxland onto Cheswick way is also another battle. You cannot see down the road for cars either side. It is dangerous for children to be crossing as there is a lot of traffic and if there is expansion of the school this will create further danger.

Since the road change of Creynolds Lane, and the traffic lights onto Stratford Road there has been nothing but chaos at peak times. There have been times I have been trapped in the village unable to get out due to the volume of traffic. Yet again further school places will create more traffic and more danger. This whole thing is an accident waiting to happen

I am totally disgusted that this idea has even got to this stage. There is no consideration for residents, children's safety or the environment.

Even if travel was provided. As a mother, there is no way I would put a primary age child on a school bus. This will not be practical therefore parents will need to drive for reassurance that their children arrive safely.

I sincerely hope that this does not go ahead. This area is being ruined gradually and this expansion will further create chaos in Cheswick Green.

Yours sincerely

RESPONSE 40
RESIDENT

Dear Sirs,

I wish to register my opposition to the proposed doubling of size of Cheswick Green Primary School.

I understand that the additional capacity is primarily required to accommodate children from the Blythe Valley Park housing development. Surely if the Cheswick Green school is to be doubled in size then a new school in Blythe Valley is viable. I am appalled that you are contemplating a scheme in which children cannot walk to their local primary school.

In Cheswick Green I see all aspects required to a local community, shops, pub, village hall, school. I see none of these amenities on the Blythe Valley development - why not?

Your Sincerely

RESPONSE 41
RESIDENT

Dear Council

I would like to comment on the proposal to extend Cheswick Green School.

In theory the extension of the school is a good thing , but I am very concerned about the additional traffic that it is going to be coming into the village.

The staff car park needs to be extended either way as many staff already park on the road during the day. Which makes it quite difficult to manoeuvre around.

It's all very well saying a school bus will come from Blythe valley but how much will it be used.

I did wonder if a school could be built on Blythe valley by converting one of the empty commercial buildings no longer being used.

Thanks for all you do

RESPONSE 42
OTHER

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am extremely concerned about the traffic impacts that will be felt by the expansion of the school. The roads around the school before lockdown were exceptionally busy both the back routes and the more main routes in and out of Cheswick Green. The queues at the traffic lights to get onto the Stratford Road at rush hour were ridiculous at times with it taking sometimes 10-15 mins to get through. I don't think there has been enough thought given to the environmental impact of cars queuing and also the danger the extra traffic poses to the children. I'm worried the school will be too crowded and especially concerned that the play areas and outdoor spaces will be compromised. The school hall doesn't appear to be increasing in size nor does the library which seems to be smaller. The school is ideal at the moment for the number of children there and I can't see how more can be accommodated on the same plot. I feel a new school would be more suitable to allow for the ever growing population round the area.

Thanks

RESPONSE 43
OTHER

I object



Cheswick Green Parish Council

Cheswick Green Parish Council

SOLIHULL

Response to Solihull MBCs second consultation on Cheswick Green Primary (CGP) School

February 2021

Proposal to expand Cheswick Green Primary School

The Parish Council (PC) believes that the number of objections to this proposal will be severely curtailed, as it has only been able to inform residents about this consultation via the internet. As per the previous consultation this discriminates against those that do not own/use an electronic device, making these consultations not inclusive and this matter needs addressing, as it is unfair.

Members of the Parish Council would have distributed leaflets through doors however due to COVID19 we have been advised by Solihull Council (SC) not to do so.

The (PC) appreciates the second opportunity to respond to the proposed expansion of the school but unfortunately is opposed to this project being undertaken.

The (PC) is disappointed that (SC) has chosen to refer to the decision of the (PC) in 2016 rather than the decision of 2020. Agenda item 3.10 of the report to Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children of 11th January 2021 states 'The Parish Council considers that the expansion of Cheswick Green Primary School offers the best location to accommodate the demand for primary school places associated with existing and future properties in the area'.

The (PC) would inform (SC) that this decision was taken when the Chairman of the (PC) at that time, had what current Parish Council members consider an interest in this matter and should have withdrawn from proceedings. The Chairman influenced the decision of the (PC) through his position and in that several Councillors had not been in post for long. Furthermore, the same person had fraudulently submitted two 'Call for Sites' to (SC) one of which concerned land adjacent to CGP School. The (PC) would be obliged if (SC) did not refer to this tainted decision in future.

As (SC) has chosen to raise the past rather than the present Councillor Hawkins one of our Ward Councillors opposed the proposed extension but subsequently changed his view. Party (toe the line) politics no doubt, not a "Thatcherite" then.

We were not pleased to read the following message from Councillor Hawkins on 2nd February 2021 which he posted on Twitter. 'Pleased with the reaffirmation by Cabinet member Ken Meeson this evening for school transport to be provided for school pupils who wish to attend the potentially expanded Cheswick Green Primary School'. The word 'potentially' is understood as is the expected outcome of this consultation process by us and our residents.

We cannot understand why so little progress has been made in establishing a project to deliver this proposal since 2016. We the public are now entering into a second round of consultation where we are being asked to comment on proposals that are not fully developed or thought through. It appears that this proposal is accelerating when consideration should - but has not - been given to the views of parents of pupils and local residents. The only way we are receiving anything other than scant information is by asking questions. We hold the view that at the first stage of consultation we the public should have been furnished with details that provided a clear picture and an understanding of what is being proposed. We are of the opinion that (SC) delayed progress to present parents and residents with a fait accompli.

We understand that should this proposal proceed it is likely that a planning application will be subject to a Full Cabinet meeting this April. We are a consultee but would appreciate sight of the plans and other information at the earliest possible date.

The (PC) would welcome a social media meeting with the Councillors involved with this proposal and we have sent them each a copy of our response to this consultation.

We raised several questions with Ann Pearson during this consultation period. Our questions, her replies are in italics and our views of those replies are below.

1. The Headteacher and Governing Body are supportive of the proposal, in principle, and are clear about the benefits that this expansion can provide to current and future pupils. Can you please explain this as this was not our impression from the draft minutes from the Governor Body meeting?

During original desk top feasibility work, Cheswick Green Primary School was identified as one of 3 schools that could meet the demand from the proposed Blythe Valley development. The Governing Body expressed an interest in being expanded at that stage of the process. Desktop feasibility work identified that neither Hockley Heath or St Patrick's Church of England Academy could be expanded to meet the demand from Blythe Valley Park, so Cheswick Green Primary became the identified school for a proposed expansion. Since then the Headteacher and Governing Body have worked hard, in partnership with the Council, to develop a building scheme that can deliver the requirements of the school but meets the budgetary constraints of the Council. At the Governing Body meeting in October 2020, the building design and proposal were signed off 'in principle' by the Governing Body, this meant that the proposal could move forward to public consultation.

However, part of the purpose of the Governing Body meeting in October was to provide further feedback and ask questions about the design and this is reflected in the discussion. At the time of the meeting from which the draft minutes have been referenced, the Governing Body signed off the proposal 'in principle' because the majority of the building design was agreed but still required some further amendments. Work is ongoing and the scheme has move forward again since that meeting. This scheme represents a significant investment in Cheswick Green Primary School of around £3,000,000.

No matter what we are told concerning how this stage of the proposal has been reached, one cannot escape the fact that you cannot reasonably fit a two-form entry into a one form entry school with the addition of new classrooms and by re-engineering existing space. Surely our children deserve a modern education establishment. This is Solihull one of the most sought-after locations to live in this country not an inner-city area.

There were clearly problems with this proposal at the October meeting of the Governing Body with funding also being an issue (see Appendix 1). An investment of £3,000,000 from Section 106 Agreements, however this amount is only a fraction of what was received in relation to Cheswick Place and Blythe Valley (BV).

Finance is the decision-making factor here. As your report states 'An expansion of an existing school is the most cost-effective way of creating the additional 210 places required'.

2. The Headteacher and Governing Body have been integral to the design proposal and have carefully considered the use of the school building as part of this process. Can you please inform us what the benefits to pupils are?

The Headteacher, supported by Governors is continuing to work with the Building Design team to ensure that the final design 'enables staff to provide the same quality of education for 420 pupils as is currently being provided for 210 pupils'. This work has included adapting and improving the design to include the following:

- *Ensuring classroom bases follow the present very successful design (own cloakroom, outdoor access and canopy area directly outside classroom in addition all classrooms will now have their own sink area)*
- *Creating breakout learning spaces around the school*
- *Providing additional meeting and office space*
- *Having enough storage space for curriculum resources*
- *Ensuring there are adequate toilet facilities for children and adults*
- *Developing our Early Years provision for Nursery and Reception*
- *Improving outdoor spaces for play and games*
- *Providing extended space for the hall when needed*

It is important to note that the benefits to pupils, through this expansion, are not solely from the building expansion. The key benefits for pupils are due to the very fact that the school has more pupils on roll which provides increased revenue funding. This was highlighted in the published frequently asked questions document that was published as part of the consultation process.

With increased funding comes greater opportunities to purchase resources to support learning and this includes staffing. This could be through having greater numbers of support staff, through increased training, or by being able to retain experienced staff by offering wider opportunities for career progression whilst staying in the school.

More staff means more curriculum expertise. All the curriculum subjects need to be led by a co-ordinator. In a one-form entry school there can be the need for more subject co-ordinators than there are staff; this can be a challenge. In a two-form entry school key subjects such as English and Mathematics could have two teachers leading to maximise impact. Creating staff teams for planning is very effective and whilst this can be done in phases (FKS, KS1 and KS2), in a one-form entry primary school it is far more effective when done in year groups. This is possible in a two-form entry school because each year group has two teachers and other support staff who can work collaboratively and share new ideas. This can not only improve the outcomes of the children but can also enhance the professional development of all staff.

We agree with the methodology but again as you must be aware there is a lack of space.

Some phrases have been carefully chosen. Creating spaces can only mean within the existing school building. Providing additional office space and storage space, again within the existing space. And improving outdoor space for play and games, is an insult to our intelligence. A significant part of the surface area will make way for classroom construction and the number of pupils using the playground will double.

We are told that the Headteacher and Governing Body have been integral to the process, so why is it our understanding that staff at the school have been forbidden to discuss this matter. And why has the Headteacher refused to discuss this with a parent. We will provide particulars on request.

3. Additional parking provision for staff has been included in the feasibility study. The existing car park will be expanded to provide an additional 14 parking places. Does the 'feasibility study' mean that an additional 14 spaces will be provided?

Do you agree that existing parking is 13+1 disabled space? On the assumption that the total of spaces is 28 how many parking spaces will be required for staff when the school is at full capacity?

The current formal existing parking provision is 44 and the proposed additional parking is 65 to account for 7 additional teaching staff and up to 7 assistant teachers, noting that some may use sustainable modes of transport.

Existing parking is 14 spaces not 44. If 44 spaces were in place when the school was constructed, they have not been evident to our knowledge for 30 years or more. We suggest that you reconsider parking as part of your ongoing traffic consultation and review where sufficient parking for staff can be created, provided or developed. We know where the space will be found, on Cheswick Way or a neighbouring road.

Appendix 3, pages 17-21 show vehicles parked outside the school Monday to Friday. Staff at the school park between 12-16 vehicles per day during the same period. Page 22 depict the same area outside the school during last week's half term, quite a marked difference.

4. Would you please provide a copy of the feasibility study that demonstrated that a new school could not be built on Blythe Valley. What was the number of houses projected for Blythe Valley at the time?

No feasibility study has been undertaken regarding the physical location of a school in Blythe Valley. The issue around the creation of a new school is about the development providing insufficient pupil demand to sustain the viability of a new school. The pupil yield from the Blythe Valley Park development is based on the approved 750 dwellings.

A development of this size is expected to generate approximately 30 pupils per year.

No school takes 100% of its catchment area cohort, the norm in Solihull is on average 50% of pupils – in more rural areas such as Cheswick Green this rises to around 70%. This would generate around 21 pupils per year. It is the pupil yield from both Blythe Valley Park and Cheswick Place that will support the creation of the additional 1 form of entry.

We are astounded that (SC) could be so negligent with regard to the future education of children. Not a single report with options has been presented to Councillors concerning the viability of constructing a new school on Blythe Valley or a new two-form entry school in place of the existing Hockley Heath Primary School. Not even a feasibility study just a desk top exercise on the back of a fag packet. Councillors have merely accepted without question what Officers have told them and from what we can glean from the first consultation our objections met with indifference.

5. What is the scope and over what period will the traffic survey be undertaken.

The Council has appointed a consultant transport and highway engineer to review the proposal and its impact on the local area. Their finding will be developed and scrutinised by the local planning authority ahead of the formal planning submission to ensure that the

proposal meets the Council's various development policies relating to developments within urban neighbourhoods.

The consultant will be required to undertake a transportation assessment suitable to support a planning submission to include (but not limited to) the following:

- Mapping of pedestrian and cycle routes into site from the surrounding areas based on empirical data including details of existing route infrastructure and identification of desire lines across roads.*
- Surveys of (i) on-site car parking demand and (ii) off -street all day demand to identify any displaced parking associated with staff and residents.*
- Observation of surrounding highway conditions during set-down/pick-up periods, this will include how displaced parking affects/inhibits safe access to the School by all modes, the impact on existing residents and highway management.*
- Identification of possible infrastructure improvements to facilitate access into School site from identified walking cycle desire lines including enhanced crossing facilities at principle roads.*
- Identification of possible improvements to mitigate any increased setdown/pick-up on surrounding residential roads, including offer of vehicle access crossings and driveways to existing residents.*
- Assessment of personal recorded injury accidents in vicinity of site and identification of mitigation for any identified issues.*
- Calculation of forecast traffic impact using evidenced based approach for each proposed use e.g. school/nursery facilities based either on first principles or derivation of trip rate according to existing modal splits of staff, visitors, pupil set-down/pick-up from existing school travel plan data and/or parking surveys.*
- Set out net change in trips against existing use.*
- Calculation of forecast parking accumulations using evidence based first principles for proposed use, including visitor parking, using existing parking surveys and modal splits contained within existing school travel plans and new facilities, accumulations based on derived trips rates. For any nursery uses, please note modal split of set-down and pick-up will not follow existing school modal splits due to the greater propensity for parents to drive to setdown/pick-up children.*
- Assessment of forecast parking against existing on-site supply with mitigation proposed to ensure existing displaced parking does not exacerbate existing injudicious displaced parking on surrounding roads. The initial assessments were carried out in December 2020, and the transport statement is being developed under the scrutiny of the local planning authority. The works will be complete prior to the formal submission of the planning application.*

(SC) has commissioned a transport survey during a time when only the pupils of key workers are in school. What possible meaningful data can be derived from such a survey; we look forward to seeing the data prior to the next stage in this process. Irrespective of the outcomes of the traffic survey and current COVID restrictions you cannot mitigate sufficiently to significantly curb the increase in unwarranted cross flow of traffic and the ensuing chaos that will follow. We would appreciate a copy of the commissioned traffic report as soon as possible so that we may compare the results with our own traffic survey.

It would appear that a decision has been taken to provide transport to and from school which would ease congestion if the take up is high. Staggering school attendance hours

will not help, nor will before and after school club attendance and the need of parents to go to work.

6. In view of the significant resident concern, it is noted that an independent assessment of traffic and parking had been commissioned. As families dropping off/collecting young children from BV would be most likely to use their own transport, would you please confirm that the assessment will take account of the additional harmful gases that the expansion would produce. Importantly, would you also please confirm that your recommendation will reflect the Council's carbon reduction targets.

The transport mitigation options will consider the Council's carbon reduction targets. In response to reduced carbon emissions the school has refreshed and implemented a school travel plan to promote sustainable modes of transport.

We suggest that you give serious consideration to the needless crossflow of traffic between Cheswick Green and Blythe Valley. If the revised Local Plan is approved the same can be said of a new two form entry school within Site 12 serving pupils who will mainly not reside in Cheswick Green. Is Cheswick Green to become a primary school hub. We will be interested to see how carbon reduction targets can be met with not only an increase in traffic flow but also a needless increase in cross traffic flow.

7. It is stated that the traffic/parking study will investigate mitigating options which may include an alternative access to the school site. It is assumed that the key use of a second access would be to drop off/collect children from the school. With car engines running in the access road and the inherent traffic congestion in approaching roads, would you please confirm that this will all be taken into account.

The proposed transport mitigation options are currently considering several opportunities that are subject to further investigation, detailed consideration and agreement with the Local Planning Authority. Carbon reduction and congestion will naturally be considered by the consultant transport and highway engineer to adhere to the local planning authorities policy requirements.

Public Health England is promoting the need for pollution to be reduced in the vicinity of schools and yet the implications of the (SC) proposal will be to increase pollution levels.

8. Your feasibility study may have demonstrated that Hockley Heath Primary School and St Patrick's Academy were unsuitable to accommodate an expansion of this size. However, as a key suggestion was to accommodate children across all three primary schools, we see no evidence that the proposal was taken seriously and investigated. Paragraph 4.4 of the Cabinet Member report on 11th January did specifically address the feedback in the consultation regarding the option to accommodate the children across all three primary schools and identified that this was not a credible option, for the reasons identified in the report.

To meet demand from Blythe Valley Park and Cheswick Place developments the Council needs to add additional school places, to ensure it meets its sufficiency duty. Cheswick Green Primary School is the closest school to both developments.

As you will see later in our response (SC) has given no meaningful consideration to credible alternative options.

9. It is noted that the Cabinet Holder for Education is also a Councillor for Hockley Heath. This does suggest a conflict of interests and with this in mind, a reappraisal of allocating children across all three local primary schools is requested.

As indicated in the Cabinet Member report 11th January and the answer to question 8 above, it is Officer's view that this is not a deliverable option to provide sufficient school places in response to the housing development at Blythe Valley Park and Cheswick Place. This view has been endorsed by the Cabinet Member.

We believe that some Councillors involved in this proposal have a conflict of interest.

Below are our detailed objections to this proposal which generally are no different than the previous consultation. However, if this proposal is approved, we do have a recommendation to make with regard to Blythe Valley children travelling to CGP School.

Proposed extension

The proposed extension is only adequate rather than looking to the future. In our opinion while probably meeting the needs to accommodate twice as many children and staff, the facilities do not compare to what was provided in the North of the Borough under 'The Building Schools for The Future' programme. Surely this is an oversight of SC. Is there not sufficient funding from the Section 106 Agreements to provide such facilities?

Members of CGPC have read SC documents in relation to building schools for the future and the 'Primary Schools Strategic Framework' version 1.2 published in 2006. We are concerned that provisions of the 'vision for primary school education in Solihull' do not reflect what is proposed here. The strategic plans (North Solihull) published in 2012/13/14 have good outcomes but will the same be said of our school some years following this proposed expansion?

The proposed classrooms with breakout areas appear to be satisfactory however many other areas of the school are not.

The hall for 200 children is the same size for 400 children?

The after-school club for 200 children is the same size for 400 children?

The library for 200 children is the same size for 400 children?

The music room for 200 children is the same size for 400 children?

The number of toilets has been increased which probably meets the minimum requirements, but could not more modern considerations have been included as part of this project?

The staffroom is too small now yet presumably the number of staff will double. Will staff in an overcrowded room for lunch and meetings be in the right frame of mind to teach?

Is the reception of sufficient size to deal with parents' queries?

Will all school staff be able to park within the school grounds? It is imperative that sufficient car parking spaces are provided for all staff. It is not appropriate that they should have to park outside residents' houses as many do at present.

Will the proposal if approved take into consideration the environment, green credentials and be more eco-friendly? Indeed, would the school environment be a good place for children and staff?

Will current technology be utilised to aid learning? The school was rated as 'Good' following the last two Ofsted Inspections and we are concerned that the standard may slip in the confined spaces of the school should this proposal be approved. The classrooms are adequate; however, it is the other spaces where we have concerns.

We understand the Governing Body have agreed in principle to this proposal which comprises of professional and informed lay persons whereas we as uninformed lay persons foresee insurmountable issues.

Surrounding area and infrastructure

Below is a satellite photograph of CGP School showing the nearby road network. If you are unfamiliar with this location, you will see that there is only one road access to the school. Bear that in mind in conjunction with our objections to this proposal.



Officers of the Borough Council have commissioned a traffic and highways appraisal to assess the impact of this project.

Should this appraisal be undertaken when the school is operating a temporary staggered access and egress whilst the pandemic is in operation. We would expect that the commission should not only include the impact of 200 plus children travelling to and from Blythe Valley, but also the impact of hundreds of children travelling to and from Shirley to

attend the new school proposed as part of the 1000 plus homes to be constructed along part of the length of Dog Kennel Lane and the Stratford Road.

We are aware that a travel survey has been undertaken involving staff and parents of children attending the school. We are concerned that the survey does not include all residents of Cheswick Green in particular residents who live near the school. Perhaps residents and/or other surveys will follow, will they?

Parking outside of the school entrance is and has been a problem for decades. At present at least 1/3 of the children walk to Cheswick Green school but this proposal will also be to accommodate the children living too far away to walk to school. Footpaths from Blythe Valley do not exist. So, with 400 children and the accompanying staff, both classroom support and others, and the increase in HGV delivering to the school the present infrastructure will not cope at all.

We would not object to a 4-metre-wide path with lighting being laid to connect Blythe Valley with Cheswick Green. A possible route for your consideration is depicted in (Appendix 2) which would also provide a link between the two communities and be of benefit to walkers.

Doubling the size of the school exacerbates traffic hazards that cannot be resolved now so how could this be resolved in future? Please be aware that one bus service will no longer travel past the school because of the congestion and therefore elderly residents must alight on Creynolds Lane and walk to their homes. We would point out that a large percentage of residents are elderly and/or infirm.

Appendix 3 contains comments from a resident who lives opposite the school together with some photographs that he has taken.

We would oppose parking restrictions within 100 metres either side of the school gates with a 20-mph speed limit outside the school. The Parish Council has considered this, but it would merely create parking hazards elsewhere. If the road was clearer outside the school, then children would be more at risk from motorists travelling faster.

We would also oppose designated parking areas such as the car parks of The Saxon Pub and the Village Hall. We would expect the management of these premises to continue to allocate their parking bays to the users of their buildings and for users of the nearby Recreation Ground.

Perhaps restrictive parking could be imposed between 8-9am and 3-4pm, but would such a measure be regularly enforced, we think not. In that event a 20-mph speed limit would be irrelevant as traffic would be severely hampered in passing the school. We understand that the pilot of 20-mph zones in close proximity to schools have not generally been successful.

Neighbours nearby the school are being inconvenienced on a twice daily basis, which periodically has escalated into arguments and threats of violence between householders and motorists. These confrontations are generally the result of blocked drives, a situation which will only worsen if these proposals are approved.

Cheswick Way and nearby roads become heavily congested or gridlocked by inconsiderate motorists and the air pollution is hazardous to residents and children.

What may mitigate traffic congestion to some extent is a free bus service from Blythe Valley. Unless the rules have changed a free bus service is not possible, is a subsidised service possible? We assume from Councillor Hawkins recent Twitter comment that approval for this option is certain. Which could mean the expansion is already a done deal and this consultation is merely a tick box exercise?

Presently traffic congestion along Cheswick Way and other roads local to the school is appalling, it would of course be significantly worse if this proposal goes through. It is estimated that at least 150 children will be taken to school by car and the extensive congestion would inevitably flow over into Creynolds Lane.

We understand that consideration is being given to a secondary access/egress to the school, off Creynolds Lane to ease congestion on Cheswick Way. Such a proposal, if approved, will not ease the existing level of congestion on Cheswick Way. Indeed, congestion would increase on Creynolds Lane and create 2 'bottle necks' where 1 'bottle neck' currently exists. The Parish Council is opposed to creating a secondary access to the school.

A path between Blythe Valley has been considered and we are uncertain whether that remains a possibility considering there would be a need for a bridge over the River Blythe. A path runs around Blythe Valley which could be extended to Cheswick Green but what safe route would it follow? Great for walkers but is it likely that a path would be used by children to walk the 2.2 miles to and from school? We have provided a route for a path for your consideration. We believe that not enough pupils would use a path to make this option viable (Appendix 2).

In a wider context consideration should have been given to the increase in traffic from feeder roads on to and through the Stratford Road corridor as part of this consultation. The cross flow of traffic between Blythe Valley and Cheswick Green Primary School would not be necessary if a new school or extension had been constructed on Blythe Valley or Hockley Heath.

School Board of Governors meeting

We have been provided with a copy of the draft minutes of the Board of Governors held on Tuesday 13th October 2020. The debate relating to this matter are shown in Appendix 1.

Having read the content we are adamant that the Board of Governors should not have agreed in principle to the plan.

The following points made during that meeting give great cause for concern;

An old version of a picture of 3D modelling was shared but will be updated and shared with the school?

An Ecologist will do a habitat and biodiversity study?

The design is agreeable at present?

Assumptions are being made about services and exceptions?

White boards are not included but there used to be a fund?

As the ICT suite is being remodelled, the school would have to ask AW about funding for this?

If new computers are needed because of the new building, this is another discussion to be had?

Traffic was identified as a key issue.

Further considerations

This issue will be exacerbated by the children coming from Blythe Valley for which there is currently little or no alternative other than to drive.

Detailed and workable solutions will be required to this issue in order to recommend the expansions and to obtain planning permission.

The continuation of the current staggered starts and finishing times in the school may be required. Unlikely to be favoured by parents once COVID19 abates.

New pupils are likely to come from Blythe Valley who would probably require car trips.

A path from Blythe Valley is being looked at, but there are complications.

Because a new school did not form part of the plans for Blythe Valley, plans need to be made for children to get to school. This may mean that some money would be available for transport.

A bus service from Blythe Valley might be a possibility, but these services are expensive and not always popular with parents.

Part of the planning process would be consultation with local residents and parents.

Transport and highways would be part of this consultation.

The above extracts from the draft minutes do not give confidence that this is no more than an exercise of how can the extension of the school be shoehorned in.

We are of the opinion that the Governing Body accepted what they were being told and did not have any questions or queries which in our experience is unusual particularly when the proposal is double the number of pupils.

We were told that we will have the opportunity to comment on any transport and highways mitigation offered as part of the planning application. Residents do not need a commissioned traffic and highways appraisal to know that whatever mitigation is recommended congestion will be far worse than at present.

This is just another example of no proper thought being given to a large project by the Council.

Alternative Proposal

Under a 'presumption route' the Council is able to make a business case for a new school. We understand that under this arrangement the Council is responsible for the capital cost and revenue set up costs. We agree that creating over-provision of school places has the potential to destabilise the viability of neighbouring schools, but the Councils preferred model is a 2FE (420) place school.

The Parish Council recommends a new one (210) or two form entry (420) place school.

The Council has said 'That no site has been identified for a school at Blythe Valley'. We request that Officers are asked to re-examine Blythe Valley and examine Hockley Heath for a site suited to a one form entry school. Officers will conclude there is sufficient demand for places for a new school to be feasible at both sites. Indeed, should the construction of 90 plus dwellings earmarked for Hockley Heath in the current draft LDP be approved, that development could be commenced in the first stage (5 years) of the plan and further school places for children would be available.

An alternative is to build a new two form entry school at Hockley Heath to replace the existing school which was built following the closure of the original school in 1913.

Either of these two proposals could be financed from Section 106 Agreements arising from the developments at Cheswick Place and Blythe Valley to pay for a new school. Further finance would be available from the sale of land if a new school is built in Hockley Heath.

A new school constructed within Blythe Valley or Hockley Heath would make journeys to and from Cheswick Green school easier and safer for children with the benefit of easing congestion locally. Blythe Valley has a mix of uses including housing and has been effectively removed from the green belt. Hockley Heath has a settlement boundary around it and we would reiterate that there are proposals to remove more land from the green belt. Both areas are also sustainable with good connectivity and transport links. We understand that the Council owns/has an interest in parcels of land within the area.

Solihull Council should be looking to the future education of our children by constructing a new school incorporating up to date environmental, bio-diverse, energy saving and technological advancements.

Summary

This consultation lacks proper detail and expanding Cheswick Green Primary School is an easy option without any recourse to the implications for the local area. It seems that no other options have been given any detailed consideration.

The primary concern of the Parish Council is the expansion of the school with exception to other criteria. Will the school be 'fit for purpose' appears to be a secondary consideration and the impact on residents not a consideration at all.

Residents do not need a commissioned traffic and highways appraisal to know that whatever mitigation is recommended congestion will be far worse than at present.

The Parish Council continues to urge the Borough Councillors to reject the expansion of Cheswick Green Primary School when so many questions posed require answers and seek an alternative location to accommodate the children within Blythe Valley or Hockley Heath.

REMOVED:

Appendix 1

CHESWICK GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Board of Governors

Held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 13th October 2020 by Teams

Appendix 2



Appendix 3

As you know we live opposite the current school entrance and have for around 2 years. During our have experienced several issues with traffic and parking associated with the school run as it stands. I've even stood in the road and directed traffic when a Mexican standoff has occurred!

The biggest issue for us is parents parking across our drive restricting access to our property or guests from leaving. We are not the only people on Cheswick Way in the vicinity of the school who experience this issue. Most properties between the School and Creynolds Lane experience this regularly.

I have looked to address the situation directly with people but having been called racist amongst other things, when all I asked was them to move their vehicle and experienced further repercussions of this I have stopped doing so due to concerns it may impact on my kids.

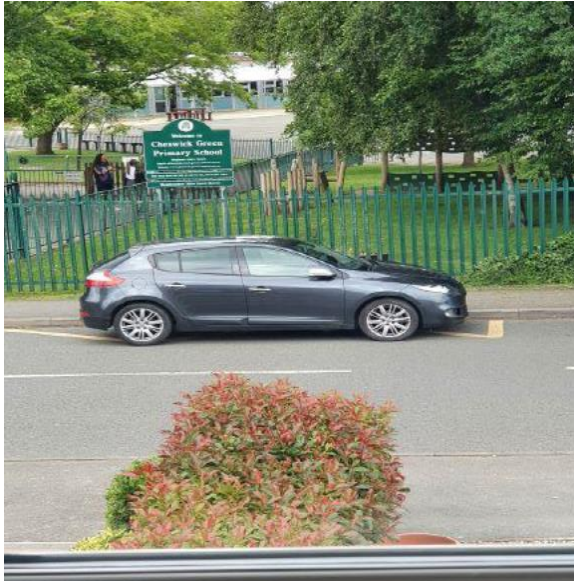
There are 2 further points regularly that are shown in the photos.

The 1st is parking on the Zig Zag and blocking the safe access for others to enter/leave the school.

The 2nd being people parking on the double yellow lines opposite the entrance. It has been indicated that the school suggested to a few who are disabled that this was acceptable, but it is not just them who park there.

When you have a combination of all 3 which is pretty often it totally restricts the flow of traffic on Cheswick Way. Adding yet more vehicles to the school runs is only going to make the situation worse.





Appendix 4



RESPONSE 45

CHESWICK GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

We write on behalf of Cheswick Green residents with regard to your above proposal. We believe that the proposal contains major faults and fails to recognise the geography of the Cheswick Green Parish, especially the semi rural nature of the area.

While we believe that Cheswick Place children should have a right to attend CGPS, we feel that your plan to allocate Blythe Valley children to the same school would lead to significant issues in respect of traffic congestion, parking and pollution. Also, it could easily lead to a reduction in the standard of education

Our key reasons for rejecting your proposal are discussed below:-

1) Although the consultation provides limited information, it is evident that the additional planned facilities are restricted and arguably, not in keeping with a doubling of pupil capacity. The hall, after-school club, library and music rooms all remain the same size. Quite clearly, this is not consistent with a good learning environment.

2) The parking of school staff cars and parents dropping-off children causes much consternation, an issue that would get much worse. While provision for additional parking in the school grounds is included in a feasibility study, we ask for an undertaking that despite increased staffing levels, there would no longer be a need to park staff cars on nearby roads and that such a practice would be banned by the school.

3) A recent survey has found that traffic pollution can reduce children's lung capacity by almost 20%. Also, Public Health England's report into air quality, highlights the need to reduce air pollution in the vicinity of schools. Such facts are in the public domain and it therefore defies all logic why you are proposing a doubling of pupil numbers with an inherent increase in vehicular traffic. Blythe Valley is some 2.5 miles from Cheswick Green and there are no walkways, cycle paths or footpaths. To think that parents bringing children from Blythe Valley would use a sustainable form of transport or put a 4/5 year old on a school bus is a complete folly.

4) It is noted that you are investigating a second access to the school which we assume would be to drop off/collect children. However, with vehicle engines idling and the inherent release of dangerous gases into the air, plus traffic congestion on approaching roads, such a move is likely to have devastating consequences.

5) As a result of new housing in the Cheswick Green Parish, It is noted that you are benefitting from significant Section monies which are intended to reduce the impact of new housing and provide funding for new infrastructure. With an obvious funding route, it is both fair and logical that BVP should have its own primary school.

6)The consultation suggests that Hockley Heath Primary School and St Patrick's Academy are, in isolation, unsuitable to accommodate an expansion of this size. However, as a key suggestion was always to accommodate BVP children across all three primary schools, there is no evidence that this suggestion has been properly investigated.

It is noted that the Council's Cabinet Holder for Education is also the Ward Councillor for Hockley Heath. This does suggest a conflict of interests and with this in mind, a reappraisal of allocating children across all three primary schools is requested. While this is no longer our favoured route, should you continue to reject the building of a new primary school on BVP, then the suggestion would be to the forefront.

CHESWICK GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
21st February 2021

