

Appendix C

Key issues raised on the proposal to expand Cheswick Green Primary School

Consultation Key Issue	Consultation Feedback and Officer Response
Traffic and Parking	<p>Current traffic and parking is intolerable for residents during the 'school run'. To expand Cheswick Green Primary School will double the number of cars, increasing the problem further.</p> <p>Impact of school traffic on local bus service.</p> <p>Parents park and drive inconsiderately, blocking resident's driveways and ignoring current parking restrictions.</p> <p>Road infrastructure is already at capacity and cannot manage a further increase in traffic.</p> <p>There is insufficient parking already, so any increase is unacceptable.</p> <p>Staff park in the road all day as there is insufficient parking on the school site.</p> <p>Officer response – Parking around school sites is always an issue. The local community has expressed a clear view that they feel very strongly about the existing problems of car congestion and how the expansion proposal will seriously exacerbate the situation. Traffic and parking has come forward as the most significant concern from this consultation.</p> <p>The design team for this proposal has commissioned an independent transport assessment as part of this proposal, which is attached at Appendix D. Traffic and parking will be given full consideration by the Planning Committee when considering whether to allow expansion of the buildings on the school site.</p> <p>The national Policy Planning Framework (NPPF) 2019, paragraph 94 states:-</p>

	<p><i>It is important that sufficient choice of school places is available to meet the needs of existing and new communities. Local planning authorities should take a proactive, positive and collaborative approach to meeting this requirement, and to development that will widen choice in education. They should:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) Give great weight to the need to create, expand or alter schools through the preparation of plans and decisions on applications; and</i> <i>b) Work with schools' promoters, delivery partners and statutory bodies to identify and resolve key planning issues before applications are submitted.</i> <p>Planning committee will take into account the proposed mitigation measures as part of their assessment of the proposal. This will include the provision of a bespoke school bus for pupils travelling to and from Cheswick Green Primary School from the Blythe Valley Park development, updating and implementing the School Travel Plan, the use of staggered start/end times between year groups, encouraging the use of park and stride initiatives and the use of before /after school clubs. The Council will also seek the reconfiguration of existing public bus routes from Blythe Valley to Cheswick.</p> <p>Additional parking provision for staff has been included in the feasibility study. The existing car park will be expanded to provide an additional 23 parking places.</p> <p>To address the issue of inconsiderate parking it is likely that the focus on mitigation will be around the implementation of a revised school travel plan and the school's encouragement, particularly at new parent inductions and through parent newsletters for improved behaviours. Note that 72% of pupils on roll live within the Cheswick community which is within walking distance of the school.</p>
Child Safety	Current traffic and parking levels are dangerous for the pupils accessing the school. Increasing the traffic and parking will make matters worse and could result in a serious accident.

	<p>Officer response – The school will be supported by the Council to develop a School Travel Plan using the nationally recognised ModeShift STARS accreditation scheme. This will help the schools identify any potential road safety issues and what measures can be put in place to mitigate them. Modeshift STARS also looks at the whole school community and sets targets and monitors initiatives to increase levels of sustainable travel and to reduce the number of cars.</p>
<p>Pollution</p>	<p>Increase in traffic will increase the level of pollution around the school site.</p> <p>Recent national studies show the need to reduce air pollution around schools.</p> <p>Officer response – The roads in and around the school have not been identified by the council as a priority for monitoring air pollution. Traffic use and levels on the local road network do not present a likelihood for exceedance of air quality objectives. As such the development presents a low risk for significant traffic related air quality impacts or exceedances, either pre or post development. In the event that the expansion were to take place, and should residents continue to raise concerns over air quality impacts, a request to monitor the traffic related pollutant (NO₂) could be made to the council, for a diffusion tube to be installed locally. However, it is considered very unlikely that any significant concentrations will be observed.</p> <p>Part of the solution to reduce any impact on air pollution around the school site is the reduction in car journeys made by those families that can access the school on foot. Currently 72% of the families attending the school live in the catchment area for the school, the majority of which are within walking distance of the school site. The School travel plan will be key to targeting this issue.</p> <p>In addition the Council will provide a dedicated school bus to provide sustainable travel from the Blythe Valley Park development to Cheswick Green Primary School to limit the number of families having to access the school by car.</p>
<p>The new build does not provide enough space for a 2 form entry school. .</p>	<p>The expansion does not provide additional space in communal areas such as the hall, library, ICT suite, food tech room.</p> <p>The art room has been removed.</p> <p>Some classrooms are undersized.</p>

	<p>Officer response - The proposed expansion of the school buildings has been designed in accordance with Government building guidance contained within the Department for Education's Area Guideline for mainstream schools - Building Bulletin 103 which provides guidance on the space required for a two form entry school.</p> <p>The Hall and proposed shared library exceeds the guidance. However a Food Tech Room, ICT suite and Art room do not correlate with the BB103 requirement for a new 2FE School, however it is acknowledged as an existing specialist curriculum provision, therefore this accommodation has either been re-provided within the remodelled proposal, or included within a shared resource space thus not omitted. To supplement Art and STEM curriculum the school has agreed to include sinks within each class base, or with the shared resource space and a dedicated 5m² Art Store has been included.</p> <p>The reception class bases have been revised to achieve the guidance recommendation, all other class bases meet or exceed the area requirements.</p> <p>This proposal provides significant investment in the school building. The Head 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. The Headteacher and Governing Body are supportive of the proposal and are clear about the benefits that this expansion can provide to current and future pupils.</p>
<p>Impact on existing ethos and family feel to the school</p>	<p>Expanding the school will spoil its small family and village school ethos.</p> <p>Officer response – Cheswick Green Primary School is a good school and children do well there. This is as a consequence of the effective leadership and management of the school. By expanding and increasing the size of the school the Headteacher and Governors will extend the current family ethos at the school to a wider group of children, and ensure that all children benefit from the additional opportunities that a larger school can offer.</p> <p>The size of the school is not necessarily the issue but actually how the school is organised. Schools can operate different key stage departments and implement measures such as separate</p>

	<p>play areas and access doors which can make pupils feel part of a smaller environment whilst being part of a larger school.</p>
<p>Impact of the expansion on outdoor space such as the playing field and forest school.</p>	<p>Outdoor space has not been increased, impact on the playing field.</p> <p>Officer response - The feasibility study has shown that the school site is sufficient to meet the needs of a 2FE primary school, conforming to government guidance BB103. An appraisal has been made of the hard and soft play provision as part of the feasibility study and does continue to comply with the areas required under government guidance.</p> <p>A small strip of grass land adjacent to the school will be utilised to support the required developable area, without compromising the sport pitch provision which is protected for the school's curriculum requirements. The plans allow for the required outdoor play space for a two form entry school.</p>
<p>Travelling distances of children at the school.</p>	<p>These places are being added for children that live a long way away from the school and cannot walk to school.</p> <p>Officer response – When the planning application for the housing development was considered, in 2016, the delivery of primary school places was considered. It was acknowledged that the development would not provide sufficient pupil demand to support a new school and that an existing school would need to be expanded.</p> <p>Cheswick Green Primary School is the closest primary school to the Blythe Valley development. The development is located in the catchment area for the School and is the primary school where the families living in Blythe Valley have the highest priority for a place.</p> <p>Feasibility work has demonstrated that Hockley Heath Primary School has insufficient site capacity to accommodate a 2 form entry school and that the buildings at St Patrick's CE Primary Academy do not lend themselves to a two form entry expansion. The issue of travelling distances for families would have been the same if either of these schools had they been proposed for expansion.</p>

	<p>This school expansion proposal will not be able to address the wider implications of accessibility to and from Blythe Valley Park. The proposal will, however, seek to support families with accessing a school place.</p>
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