

PROPOSED EXPANSION TO CHESWICK GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

INTRODUCTION

We are responding to the consultation in respect of the above. It is noted that the doubling of capacity is designed to accommodate children from the new Mount Dairy Farm and Blythe Valley Park housing developments.

EDUCATION STANDARD

Although the school has been awarded a “Good” rating by Ofsted, a number of parents would argue that issues remain which need improvement. Doubling the volume of pupils could easily see the education standard fall and there is nothing in the consultation that provides assurance.

Although the consultation document provides limited information, it is evident that the planned additional space and facilities are restricted and certainly not in keeping with the planned doubling of capacity. An example of this is the hall which remains the same size. Quite clearly, this is an issue and not consistent with a good learning environment.

CATCHMENT AREA

The Residents Association fully support that families from Mount Dairy Farm should be entitled to have their children educated at CGPS. However, as Blythe Valley Park is some 2.5 miles away and without footpaths, cycle lanes or easy accessed roads to Cheswick Green, it is argued that these children should not be allocated to CGPS.

TRAFFIC

A doubling of school capacity would inevitably lead to further traffic congestion in the immediate area. Not only would this be bad for children’s health, but it would also impact on safety. We have considered a rear entrance to the school, but as this would serve to create traffic havoc on Creynolds Lane, it has been withdrawn. Due to irresponsible parking by parents and teaching staff together with the lack of proper attention, a number of minor accidents have already occurred. Suggestions on how the current congestion can be eased are given below:-

- Ban parking outside the school.
- Impose a 20mph Speed limit.
- Create a Pedestrian crossing operating at peak times.
- All teachers and support staff should park in school grounds. However, if this is not possible, then a designated parking area such as the Village Hall/Pub car park is needed.

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RECOMMENDATION

In July 2016, the Cheswick Green Residents Association surveyed local householders on many issues. The survey attracted 237 responses and their preference for primary school education is provided below:-

- Expand CGPS with a rear drop-off point 9.6%
- Build a new school on Blythe Valley Park 86.2%

Having become the dumping ground for Solihull's new housing without any major infrastructure changes, the Blythe Ward is rapidly turning into an urban jungle. The Council will continue to benefit from a significantly increased revenue and therefore logic suggests that Blythe Valley Park should have its own primary school. However, if for whatever reason this is not possible, then children should be allocated to all three local primary schools.

CHESWICK GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

7th December 2020



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