

Appendix 1

PROPOSED NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL KINGSLEY FIELDS

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK RECEIVED

1. Background

The Kingsley Fields development in Nantwich comprises of 1,100 new houses. This development has been identified in the Local Plan which was adopted in 2017 for the period 2010-2030. This site plan includes a 1 Form Entry Primary School.

Cheshire East consistently monitors school places to ensure there are sufficient places for all school age children. An analysis of the latest pupil forecasts has identified the need to provide additional primary school places in Nantwich from 2024 in response to the increasing pupil population and additional pupils from this new housing development. This free school presumption process needs to begin now so additional places will be on offer from September 2024.

The new primary school will form part of a local centre that will include sports facilities and green spaces. This will provide a strong 'heart' to the development and offer the opportunity to create a new place of individual character and community infrastructure.

A phased opening of the school is planned, this will help manage places in the local area in line with housing growth and increased pupil numbers.

Where a local authority identifies the need for a new school, they are required to follow the Department for Education statutory guidance, this policy is called 'Free School Presumption Process, (November 2019)'. In accordance with this guidance the local authority is required to undertake an informal consultation with neighbouring schools, parents, and key stakeholders to seek feedback on the proposal of the new school.

This document provides an overview of the feedback received during the informal consultation and will be used to help the service to formulate and finalise the specification for the new school.

2. Timetable of events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Action</u>
6 October 2021 – 10 November 2021.	Public consultation period begins	A public notice of consultation was issued in the local press.
6 October 2021	5-week Representation Period started	<p>All information made available on the Cheshire East webpages</p> <p>Electronic Survey opened for easy response, or a paper feedback form or direct email available</p> <p>Key stakeholders emailed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local schools • Parents/ carers • Diocese • Local MP • Ward Members • Parish and Town Councils • Neighbouring local authorities <p>Cheshire East Council also undertook an informal consultation with Nantwich Education Partnership to gather their feedback.</p>
19 October 2021	Public drop-in Session	A public drop-in session was held in Nantwich Library which ran from 10.00am to 6.30pm. Officers for the project were available for the whole day to answer questions and record any feedback.
11 November 2021 – onwards	Feedback collated, summarised and reports produced.	Feedback and reports presented to DfE, Directorate Management Team meeting, Education Senior Leadership Team, Corporate Leadership Team as they progress forward to Committee.

January 2022	Publication of specification of new primary school Cheshire East, School Organisation and Capital Team webpages.	
Spring 2022	Publicise the plans for the build of the new primary.	

3. Summary of Feedback

This is a summary of the feedback received during the 5-week representation period, the local authority (LA) response and proposed mitigation measures in response to the comments made.

During the 5-week representation period a total of 26 responses were received:

- **24** did support the proposal and left comments
- **2** did not support the proposal and left comments.

It should be noted that several respondents may have made more than one comment in their response hence the figures quoted will not necessarily equate back to the respondents figure.

4. Summary of Comments

Suggestions coming forward included:

- a wooded area on new school grounds for forest school curriculum
- gardening plot/allotment
- drop off point/parent parking
- children's play area close to the school grounds
- sports facilities
- safe road crossings near the school
- resource provision for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities
- nursery provision
- eco school like one at Kingsmead, Northwich
- cycle and walking routes to Reaseheath, Malbank, swimming baths.

4.1 Comments for the new school

Here are some of the positive comments about the new primary school:

"We need it, get it built."

"A primary school is needed. Our current catchment is Acton Primary - that hosts

OFFICIAL

small class sizes, which will become problematic as more residents move to the development.”

“As Kingsbourne residents with a toddler, we hope to move our son to the school when it is ready.”

“The development already hosts an engaging and outward-reaching community - who want the best for neighbours and the town. I’m confident that many (including me and my wife) would revel at an opportunity to contribute to the school’s success when established.”

“A very good idea.”

“I think it’s an excellent idea for a new primary school by NTFC. With the numbers rising from new housing developments in the area a Primary School would be needed. That’s as long as you’ve done your maths on numbers at surrounding schools like Acton C of E and Millfields so there’s no possibility that the former would close. It’s a wonderful country church school with deep traditions and it would be a shame if numbers dwindled.”

“I support this proposal as a new resident of Nantwich.”

“Happy for this to go ahead good for the area.”

“I would fully support the development of a new primary school as part of the new development - this will both serve the new development and potentially increase parental choice locally as well.”

“I think the school is a great idea. We’re residents of the Kingsbourne estate and planning on having children soon. I can imagine the surrounding schools are already very full and it would make so much sense considering all the new residents on Kingsbourne.”

“I think a primary school is a necessity given the number of houses being built. Especially the fact the houses are catered and ideal for young couples (such as me) who may have children of a primary school age in the next few years.”

“With the intention of starting a family having a new school would greatly reduce stress in finding places in an already oversubscribed area.”

“As a mother of a 1-year-old on the Kingsbourne estate in Nantwich I am worried about what school my little girl will go to. It is important to me that I can walk my child to school, however I am aware that schools closest to us are bursting and it concerns me that she may not get a place. The quality of her schooling is also a concern, increasing class numbers will impact the education of our children negatively.”

“As a Kingsbourne resident who is planning to start a family in the next 4 years, I am extremely for this plan. With the new estate being built, and the national issue on overcrowding in schools, this seems like a great idea!”

OFFICIAL

These comments will be used to help the service to formulate and finalise the specification for the new school.

4.2 Comments against the new school

"What mandate do you have for the extra 1,100 homes, on top of the many thousands already built on our green fields? Why are you destroying our natural environment to boost developer profits?"

"Totally against this proposal it's hard enough at Malbank opening and closing times with cars parking to pick up and drop off without adding a primary school into the mix most of my neighbour's children are already settled in primary schools and by the time this would be built most children would already be in other primary schools."

4.2.1 Mitigation measures

The Kingsley Fields development is a strategic site within the Cheshire East Council Local Plan for 1,100 new dwellings with the inclusion of a 1 Form Entry Primary School.

As the Strategic Commissioner of School Places, Cheshire East Council has a statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of school places for children resident in its area and a commitment to allow local children to attend their local school wherever possible.

Demand for School Places in Nantwich: pupil projections, including the Kingsley Fields development, for the Nantwich Town planning area shows an overall shortfall of places. It is proposed that these additional places will be provided by the establishment of a new 1 Form of Entry Primary School opening in September 2024.

4.3 Comments about facilities at the new school

"In building a new school careful thought needs to be given to special needs provision and a strong EYFS, including nursery."

"I would hope that the new school is going to be eco-friendly. Kingsmead Primary school, Northwich, which I have visited, is great example of an ideal primary school. Here they have an allotment, water that is collected to flush the loos and at lunchtime the teachers all sit with each other and demonstrate how to have basic manners."

"I am a primary school teacher who has recently moved to the Kingsbourne development. I feel the demand is huge for more schools' places. I am planning on having children in the next couple of years and feel school choice will be very challenging if the new school does not go ahead. There is nowhere which is

suitable to walk to. I firmly believe as far as possible primary age children should be able to walk to a school which is in their local community.”

“We would ask for serious consideration to be made of a requirement for the sponsor school to develop a specialist resource provision on the site to address the very high level of SEN within the town. We would request that a clear understanding that this resource provision should be developed with open access to all qualifying children of the town. Places should not be ‘reserved’ for those children who attend the new school or other schools within the MAT that becomes the sponsor. Such an investment would support the long-term requirement for the local authority to meet needs of SEN pupils in the most cost-effective manner. It would provide an opportunity for a centre of excellence to be developed to support the very high number of EHCP and high-end SEN pupils across the town. It would give opportunities for an outreach model to be developed and help to bridge the huge capacity gap which we know the LA is currently experiencing. The opportunity to develop this from the start is a rare ‘gift’ and creative planning could bring about opportunities for other support services to utilise the RP as a base for services which other schools could draw upon. The resource provision would better support the needs of our children and lead to better outcomes for all. Located fairly centrally is allows relatively easy access for all NEP schools to consider split site education for some children and access to support networks and specialist groups to be support our children’s needs.”

“We live just off Waterlode and have children of a primary school age. See our feedback below. Inclusion of Nursery & Pre-School provision - we had to travel across Nantwich for a nursery that we liked. If the intention is to reduce congestion in the town then this would help.”

“Pedestrian crossings next to the school - there is no safe pedestrian crossing at Pear Tree Primary from where parents park at the pub to cross the road. We want it to be safe for young children to cross the road.”

“Outdoor areas in new school - include trim trail, forest school area, gardening area, football/ sport field, storage sheds.”

“Hall size - make sure the hall is large enough to accommodate whole school performances with parents watching. Pear Tree Primary has just had a hall extension because it wasn't built big enough.”

“Children's play area - a community park next to a school works well at Pear Tree Primary.”

4.3.1 Mitigation measures

The proposal is taking a holistic look at the school site. The new school provision is to encourage pupils to walk to a local school with the aim of reducing traffic and travel across town.

The new school will look to ensure that there are sufficient school places for local

children, and as part of the proposal Cheshire East Council will review the need for nursery provision and resourced provision for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities to be provided in the heart of a new community on Kingsley Fields development.

4.4 Comments about Traffic/ Access/ Car Parking

“I support the primary school providing there is sufficient provision for parents dropping off and not clogging up the roads.”

“It is so important to keep children and their families healthy. Do we have cycle routes/ walkways from the school and estate to the local swimming pool? Reaseheath College is also very close. Are there walkways available to the facilities here too? It would be good to encourage partnerships via good cycle routes between Malbank and Reaseheath also.”

“The parking for parents picking up children has got to be well organised. Local primary schools which are located within housing estates such as The Weaver and Highfields both suffer greatly from inadequate access. If a fire/ medical emergency was to occur during pick-up/ drop-off times a fire engine/ ambulance would not get access. Although this is a short period of time during the day, the welfare of the child must come first. You have the opportunity to build provision into your plan. We must not assume that children will all be walking or cycling to school - busy parents on their way to work rarely do this.”

“We believe an estate of this size should have a primary school which is within walking distance of children's homes to avoid additional car journeys. We understand the philosophy of the Kingsbourne estate is to encourage sustainable living patterns particularly in transport terms. The school itself should not be providing car parking for parents' cars.”

“Inclusion of sufficient parking for parents for drop off & pick up - in bad weather parents won't walk so this issue cannot be ignored. Our children go to Pear Tree Primary school and that school relies very heavily on the parking at the Cronkinson pub for parent drop off & collection.”

4.4.1 Mitigation measures

As part of the design development and planning application process there will be a requirement for a transport assessment and development of a School Travel Plan to be commissioned. As part of this assessment a full review of the area around the sited school will be included e.g., vehicular and pedestrian access points, car parking, road safety, encouragement of sustainable modes of transport including cycle and scooter parking, school deliveries and staff parking.

4.5 Comments about Construction Traffic

“The development is already subject to construction due to the progressing phases of the development.”

4.5.1 Mitigation measures

Contractors who tender for the project should be experienced in delivering large capital schemes and this aspect of the selection methodology will be fully investigated as part of the evaluation process. The site access and compound arrangements will be discussed in detail with stakeholders including the selected contractor, the construction design and management (CDM) co-ordinator, who will oversee the health and safety aspects of the project, and construction project manager, to ensure that the safety of all. There will be a plan developed to help mitigate the impact of deliveries and also to ensure roads are cleaned regularly from site traffic etc. Local residents will be letter dropped by the contractor to keep them informed of progress once the work on site commences.

4.6 Additional Comments Received from Nantwich Education Partnership

The Nantwich Education Partnership sent through a detailed response regarding this proposal, highlighting 3 key issues:

We would ask for serious consideration to be made of a requirement for the sponsor school to develop a specialist resource provision on the site to address the very high level of SEN within the town.

We would raise our concerns as to the accuracy of the figures predicted that the housing estate will yield in terms of primary age pupils. We appreciate as a group that this is not an exact science, but previous modelling has proven very inaccurate.

It would be beneficial to have a 'locally' based multi-academy chain taking on the sponsor role for the school. We are aware that locality of MAT is not scored during the process and understand any chain needs to have agreed sponsorship accreditation to be a part of the bid, but a local knowledge would serve our families best. We all see the benefit of locally informed MATS taking a driving role in the development of this new school.

4.7 Additional Comments received about linking up with Malbank School:

"I like the idea of the new school being situated next to the resources (sports facilities, language labs etc.) of Malbank school. While training I did a placement at The Weaver. They have land which adjoins Brine Leas - the pupils particularly in the older years used to have the opportunity to visit Brine Leas and they had a very smooth transition to the high school which can be very daunting at 10/11 years.

It would be wonderful if a special partnership could be developed between the new school and Malbank. I have a great deal of respect for Mr Harrison the current Headmaster at Malbank school. If links could be made, not only in terms of sharing sports facilities but also in having regular visits for both pupils and staff both ways, this could be a great advantage to both settings. Children learn a great deal by supervised teaching to others - this gives the opportunity to motivate those at Malbank and get them, in a very organised manner, to motivate, encourage and teach the pupils maybe at Kingsley Fields School. The primary school children would

see the older children as role models and keep their focus on being the best that they can.”

School Organisation and Capital Team

Email: socs@cheshireeast.gov.uk

17 November 2021