

APPENDIX 1: PROPOSED NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL - BASFORD EAST, SHAVINGTON

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK RECEIVED FROM PUBLIC CONSULTATION

1. Background

The Basford East development in Basford/Weston area comprises of 715 new houses. This development has been identified in the Local Plan Strategy, (LPS) which was adopted in 2017 for the period 2010-2030. This site plan includes a 1 form of entry Primary School with the built infrastructure to expand to a 2 form of entry in the future.

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 Shavington from 2025, this is 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 2025.

The new primary school will form part of the community 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 (DfE) 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>
25 April 2022 – 22 May	Public consultation period begins	A public notice of consultation was issued in the local press.
25 April 2022	4-week Representation Period started	All information made available on the Cheshire East webpages Electronic Survey opened for easy response, or a paper feedback form or direct email available Key stakeholders emailed: Local schools Parents/ carers Diocese Local MP Ward Members Parish and Town Councils Neighbouring local authorities
3 May 2022	Public drop-in Session	A public drop-in session was held in Shavington Village Hall which ran from 8.00am to 5.00pm. Officers for the project were available for the whole day to answer questions and record any feedback.
19 May 2022	Public drop-in session	A public drop-in session was held in Weston Village Church Hall which ran from 1.00pm to 3.00pm. Officers for the project were available for the whole day to answer questions and record any feedback.
23 May 2022 – onwards	Feedback collated, summarised and reports produced.	Feedback and reports presented to DfE, Children and Families Strategic Board Corporate Leadership Team as they progress forward to committee.
January 2023	Publication of specification of new primary school Cheshire East, School Organisation and Capital Team webpages.	TBC
Summer 2023	Publicise the plans for the build of the new primary.	TBC

3. Summary of Feedback

This is a summary of the feedback received during the 4-week representation period, Cheshire East Council's response and proposed mitigation measures in response to the comments made.

During the 4-week representation period a total of 38 responses were received:

- 30 did support the proposal and left comments.
- 7 did not support the proposal and left comments.
- 1 no view provided.

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:

- Drop off and pick up point/parent parking
- Children's play area close to the school grounds
- Safe road crossings near the school and pedestrian footbridges
- Cycle and walking routes linking the new developments in Basford area
- A full range of recreational facilities for the community and after school clubs

4.1. Comments for the new school

Here are some of the positive comments received regarding the new primary school:

"A new school will help reduce pupil teacher ratios, provide competition which will raise performance, reduce parental vehicle travel so reducing climate damaging emissions, take pressure off existing schools. It's an investment for the future."

"Schools in the area don't have enough places"

"Support decision has potential to aid with issue accessing schools and assisting with appropriate class sizes"

"This is desperately needed"

"There are many children who have to travel quite a distance for school and there are many other children who will be starting school in the next few years. It would be better if it was done sooner"

4.2. Comments against the new school

"If this is to cater for the new housing development at Basford east and surrounding areas then this is ok, my biggest concern would how on earth do you propose children and mums are going to get to this location. This is basically Crewe; the village links and community will be severed this resulting in the children now not being able to walk to school. All the Children will be driven to school thus increasing the carbon footprint!! Ludicrous idea."

"Not enough facilities. Crewe is constantly building houses but there aren't any shops, facilities, bus, or others being built in Crewe.

The houses are unlikely to be affordable as well."

“The total area is overdeveloped”

“This development will have a harmful impact on the area. The area as well as new housing and the potential for future development, consists of industrial development. The main road that traffic is required to travel along to gain access is already busy. Carrying both freight and traffic to link up with the main dual carriageway. This will increase both noise and smell in the area. This will also impact on the environment. There is inadequate parking by the development. There is inadequate access for foot traffic. The main road is dangerous for young children to walk along. Also other primary schools who do not have full rolls can accommodate the children. We should be seeking to have our primary schools full across the borough before costly building works are undertaken as well as the increase to the budget involving additional staff and teacher’s. The scheme needs to be reconsidered.”

4.2.1 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 in the locality. 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.

4.3. Comments about facilities at the new school

“The facilities within the new school must be comprehensive and include a full range of both recreational and after school activities. All of this needs to cater for the whole of the new community (Basford East on both sides of David Whitby Way and the South Cheshire Growth Village) in addition to Weston & Basford and Crewe Green Parishes.

4.3.1 Mitigation measures

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 encourage the use of the school building in the heart of the development to be used by residents and the wider community.

4.4. Comments about Traffic/ Access/ Car Parking

“I can’t see parking facilities near the school, for pupil safety there should be somewhere designated as a carpark. Some parents will quite likely have to drive even if they live close by to get to work etc. I would hope the school would also have before and after school provision for working parents.”

“This development will have a harmful impact on the area. The area as well as new housing and the potential for future development, consists of industrial development. The main road that traffic is required to travel along to gain access is already busy. Carrying both freight and traffic to link up with the main dual carriageway. This will increase both noise and smell in the area. This will also impact on the environment. There is inadequate parking by the development. There is inadequate access for foot traffic. The main road is dangerous for young children to walk along. Also other primary schools who do not have full rolls can accommodate the children. We should be seeking to have our primary schools full across the borough before costly building works are undertaken as well as the increase to the budget involving additional staff and teacher’s. The scheme needs to be reconsidered.”

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"I fully appreciate the ongoing need for a new primary school to service this and the other housing developments coming forward in this area, particularly the South Cheshire Growth Village, access along Weston Road to Mere Moss roundabout for HGVs is likely to be restricted. Every primary school in the local area suffers severe congestion in the morning and afternoon as car drivers drop off children and are prepared to block roads whilst they queue up. Many school entrances become 'no-go' areas between 8.30 and 9.30. Police intervention is not consistent, parents are simply not prepared to walk children in David Whitby Way will become the prime link from south Crewe to access the A500 and then onto the M6. If school traffic backs up onto David Whitby Way, a serious safety issue will occur.

Driver access provision and controlled parking on the School Site is absolutely essential to prevent problems. A design that makes it convenient to walk or cycle to the school must be looked into. Perhaps a 'ring road' one way access around the school could be implemented. The pedestrian crossing will be essential to provide a access to the new estate on the west side of David Whitby way to the school."

4.4.1 Mitigation measures

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This summary and report has been sent to planning leads for their consideration of the issues raised.

4.5. Additional Comments

"All new school constructions should include the provision of a sprinkler system for the safety of staff and children."

4.5.1 Mitigation measures

Cheshire East Council will comply with all safety recommendations set out in the BB100 school building guidance document. Building Bulletin 100 Design for Fire Safety in Schools, where the DCSF policy states that 'all new schools should have sprinklers installed except for a few low-risk schools. Below is the link to this guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/building-bulletin-100-design-for-fire-safety-in-schools>