

## Springfield – Wilmslow Statutory Representation Feedback

In accordance with the guidance from Department for Education the statutory public notice regarding the proposed expansion of the Springfield Wilmslow campus by 20 places for pupils aged 4-16 was published in Manchester Weekly News- Wilmslow Edition 12 September 2023. The 4-week representation period ran from 13 September 2024 till 11 October 2024. Information was made available on the Cheshire East Council website and the representation period was notified to key stakeholders including Ward Members, MP, Diocese, neighbouring parish and town councils and neighbouring local authorities. Information was emailed to all local schools and schools were issued with letters for distribution to their staff, governors and parents.

In all 64 submissions were received which are summarised below: -

Q1. Do you agree with the proposal to expand Springfield Wilmslow by an additional 20 places for pupils between ages 4 to 16?	Responses			Total
	Yes	No	No View	
	39	22	3	64

### Summary of the 15 comments submitted in support of the proposal.

- There is a significant need for more places within the Cheshire East local authority.
- With such a big shortage of places for SEN children I think this is a very good choice, would have liked to have seen a hydro pool also allocated in this building for the benefit of the children that will attend here.
- Makes good use of the existing building as is and has been empty for a year.
- Excellent idea, the school is a very positive and lovely addition to the local community.
- Too many parents struggle to get their SEN kids the education they deserve.
- Yes but not at the expense of a local, social amenity which the school refuses to share I.e. will not make it available to local groups outside of school hours.
- There is a huge requirement for additional provision of school places for young people with special educational needs and the expansion of Springfield is a very necessary step forward.
- I think it's a great idea because there are so many local children with extra/complex care needs that would hugely benefit from a school like this! And most local children have to travel in taxis without parent to a school a 30+ minute drive away it would be very settling for parents to know their children are only round the corner and the children don't have to use part of their school day travelling for so long.

### Summary of the 14 comments submitted which did not support the proposal.

- The community centre should be for the community.
- Building should remain for use by community.
- We have so few community spaces in this area and furthermore the cost of converting the community centre for the school is an unnecessary cost - considering the state of our local finances.
- I do not object in principle to the expansion of the school. I object to the loss of the community centre which was well used for the benefit of many disadvantaged members of the local community.

- This is a community centre. It should never have been taken away from the community. This was built when Colshaw Walk was demolished to build homes and a shopping centre. The housing group, Jones home built this as part of the planning conditions.  
I am quite frankly disgusted that CEC made the decision to close down this community asset and give it to their school department over transferring the asset to the local town council. CEC is going to great lengths to save money, when will they be able to complete the building work? The building will sit unused for years.  
If it remains a community centre, it can still be used by the school as a larger space for PE etc.
- Community also needs facilities. There were community proposals for the community centre which the council as always just ignored.
- The community centre was closed by the council so that it could be transferred to the special school. It should be reopened for its original purpose. The community centre was well used in both day times and evenings by local community groups for the benefit of local people. The centre was fully utilised seven days a week. Local charities used the centre to provide free daytime exercise classes for older people three days a week; a food bank; a job club for the unemployed, free art classes for the elderly, a drama group for children, the Girls Guides and Brownies, a church group on Sundays. The council has made no provision for these charities to continue to provide access to support local people in need. There is plenty of space on the site for the school to expand its provision without removing a well-used and much needed amenity of a community centre for all local people. It is very sad to see one disadvantaged part of society prioritised over the need of others who are less able to advocate their needs.
- I certainly do but not at the cost of losing the Community Centre to local residents The school has only been completed less than 12 months Surely to make it viable they should have considered 100 pupils at the time of planning  
The building may have laid empty for a time But surely with the right publicity it can be opened up again for local residents Especially the elderly in the fourth coming winter When due to the loss of heating financial support They are unable to be comfortable in their own homes Please try publicly advertising it opening up again And if there are little or no takers then maybe it can be taken on by the school Although it's not actually in their own grounds.

### **Mitigation**

As mentioned in the report one of the key concerns raised by the responders who did not support the proposal was the loss of community facilities. Springfield School is very keen to work with community groups to address these concerns raised and allow community use of the premises outside of school hours.

In addition to this there is also facilities at Oakenclough Family Hub that can be used by community groups.