



New Primary School Paignton

Consultation Report

June 2016

Method	Number of questionnaires
Total on-line	63

This survey was open between 21 April 2016 and 2 June 2016

CONTENTS

1. Executive Summary	3
2. Summary of results.....	3
3. Results	3
4. Respondent Profile	6
5. Written Representations	7
6. Conclusion.....	7

1. Executive Summary

Torbay Council proposes to open a new primary school in Paignton from September 2018 to meet the increasing demand for places in the area.

The consultation on this proposal began on 21 April 2016 and the intended consultees were all Torbay schools and the residents of Torbay.

An on-line survey and supporting documents were published on the Torbay Council website and promoted, repeatedly, in the local media via twitter and press releases.

Hard copies of the consultation papers were made available at all the Connection Offices and libraries within Torbay. Copies were also emailed to all schools in Torbay and neighbouring local authorities.

The consultation ended on the 2 June 2016.

2. Summary of results

- 55.6 % of respondents confirmed that they were in support of the proposal
- 38.1% of the respondents confirmed that they were against the proposal
- 20.6% of the respondents were parents/carers of a child of school age

3. Results

1. Are you completing this questionnaire as:

	Number	Percent
A School Governor	1	1.6%
A School Staff Member	7	11.1%
A Parent/Carer of a child of school age	13	20.6%
A Torbay resident	36	57.1%
Other	6	9.5%

2. Do you agree with the proposal to open a new Primary School in Paignton on the site of the existing Torbay School?

	Number	Percent
Yes	35	55.6%
No	24	38.1%
Not Sure	4	6.3%
Total	63	100%

3. Please provide us with any further comments you would like to make about the proposal for a new Paignton Primary School (Positive or Negative):

This question allowed respondents to make written comments. These comments have been categorised into popular themes. The numbers in brackets indicate the number of responses in that theme. Individual comments may be classified under more than one theme.

Themes in support of the proposal:

Category	Comments made by respondents
<p>Recognise need for additional school places in the area (29)</p>	<p><i>“..I agree that we are in desperate need of additional primary school places in that area in particular..”</i></p> <p><i>“My son was in catchment for Oldway Primary School but didn’t get a place...it was an incredibly stressful time for me and my family”</i></p> <p><i>“As [a staff member] at Oldway Primary School... I can say that we are regularly over-subscribed..”</i></p> <p><i>“It is an ideal place for a primary school provided the main entrance is from Brookfield..”</i></p> <p><i>“...maximise parental preference..”</i></p> <p><i>“A new school in Paignton is extremely important for Paignton children and our communities.”</i></p> <p><i>“More school places are so desperately needed. I have a toddler and I’m worried that she won’t get into our local school..”</i></p> <p><i>“We need a new primary school and this seems a good opportunity.”</i></p> <p><i>“...I have many friends who have struggled with getting a school place for their children.”</i></p> <p><i>“...A new school would provide more choice for parents.”</i></p>
<p>Good use of existing site (4)</p>	<p><i>“There is a basic need for primary school places in Paignton and the reuse of Torbay’s assets in this manner provides a cost effective and locally managed solution”</i></p> <p><i>“Using existing site effectively”</i></p>

Themes against the proposal:

Category	Comments made by respondents
<p>Concern that it does not address long term issues</p>	<p><i>“...short term and poor choice, it doesn’t solve longer term numbers problem to get the 10% advised by former Audit Commission...”</i></p>

<p>(5)</p>	<p><i>“...we need a Torbay wide decision based on a full assessment of community need for the future not just site availability...”</i></p> <p><i>“...fails to address a strategic approach to provision of primary places across Torbay...admissions at Kings Ash were well below their PAN...urgent attention should be focused on promoting this school...”</i></p>
<p>Concern that the site is unsuitable & in the wrong location (14)</p>	<p><i>“...the current facility has been deemed to be too small for its current purpose, therefore, how can it possibly be suitable for a primary school with even more pupils...”</i></p> <p><i>“...why are we starting a new school off with a lower than appropriate area? It is NOT justification to say that 7/9 of our other school have a lower than recommended area...”</i></p> <p><i>“...not a good location...dangerous corner and the entrance to the school will open on to one of the busiest roads in Torbay...”</i></p> <p><i>“...should be built in areas of new housing...”</i></p> <p><i>“...constraints at the proposed site in Preston will restrict any future growth, fail to provide adequate playing pitch facilities and put a strain on the highway network...”</i></p>
<p>Concern over the impact on existing provision (4)</p>	<p><i>“Most schools have vacancies across Paignton”</i></p> <p><i>“I run a pre-school and my business would be adversely affected...”</i></p>
<p>Disagree with the linked proposal to relocate Torbay School to Parkfield (3)</p>	<p><i>“Disagree with the movement of the pupils to Parkfield and the wasting of so much money”</i></p> <p><i>“...already school on site...additional land will be available there so why not leave the current school where it is...”</i></p> <p><i>“...Move primary school to Parkfield...”</i></p>

Themes of those not sure about the proposal:

<p>Category</p>	<p>Comments made by respondents</p>
<p>Concern whether there is a genuine need (1)</p>	<p><i>“Oldway School has always been significantly over-subscribed...we shouldn’t assume that these applications are always from local families...”</i></p>

Concern over Parkfield (1)	<i>"What will happen to the current services at Parkfield...?"</i>
Concern over impact on existing catchments (1)	<i>"I have 2 children in Oldway Primary and a 1 year old....concerned that my youngest may not be able to attend Oldway"</i>
Concern over impact on the local area (2)	<i>"Possible noise nuisance and traffic problems, more information required"</i> <i>"Will there be adequate parking/pick up/drop off areas...?"</i>

4. Respondent Profile

Are you?

	Number	Percent
Male	26	41.3%
Female	37	58.7%
Total	63	100%

Which of the following age groups applies to you?

	Number	Percent
0 – 15	0	0%
16 – 24	0	0%
25 – 34	13	20.6%
35 – 44	16	25.4%
45 – 54	13	20.6%
55 – 64	10	15.9%
65 –74	7	11.1%
75+	3	4.8%
No answer	1	1.6%
Total	63	100%

Do you consider yourself to be disabled in any way?

	Number	Percent
Yes	4	6.3%
No	54	85.7%
No answer	5	8%
Total	63	100%

If Yes please tell us how it affects you:

	Number	Percent
It affects my hearing	2	28%
It affects my vision	2	28%
It affects my mobility	1	14%
It affects me in another way	2	28%
Total	7	100%

5. Written Representations

The council received one written response to the consultation. This was from the Paignton Town Community Partnership.

The partnership opposes the proposal stating that “*we do not believe that the Torbay School site is suitable for, or best positioned to house a new 210 pupil Primary School*”.

6. Conclusion

The majority of the respondents (55.6%) were in support of the proposal to open a new primary school on the existing Torbay School site, acknowledging the need for additional school places in Paignton, particularly in the central area of the town with many local schools being oversubscribed. Ten responses (16%) were from parents or carers of a child of school age who were concerned about the lack of provision in the area.

Other respondents agreed that using the Torbay School site, once the existing school had relocated, would be an efficient and sensible use of an existing Council asset.

Twenty four of the respondents (38.1%) and the written representation received were against the proposal.

The majority opposing considered the proposed site to be unsuitable for a new primary school. Concern was expressed over the site's limited size and accessibility.

Others considered it to be in the wrong location suggesting a new school would be better sited closer to the new housing developments on the outskirts of Paignton or in Torquay.

Some respondents questioned the need for new provision and whether the LA should be addressing issues at existing schools in the town which were less successful and less popular.

Three of the respondents (4.8%) were opposed to the proposal as it is linked to, and dependent on, the relocation of Torbay school to Parkfield - the respondents are against the relocation.

For further information please contact the Schools Capital & Planning Team, TDA on 01803 208260 or email Schoolscapital&planningteam@tedcltd.com

The information used to collate this report has been collected and processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act, 1998.