

Statutory Guidance – Factors to be Considered by Decision Makers (Paragraphs 4.15-4.16)

4.15 Regulation 8 of The Regulations provides that both the LA and schools adjudicator **must** have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State when they take a decision on proposals. Paragraphs 4.17 to 4.73 below contain the statutory guidance.

4.16 The following factors **should not** be taken to be exhaustive. Their importance will vary, depending on the type and circumstances of the proposals. All proposals **should** be considered on their individual merits.

EFFECT ON STANDARDS AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

A System Shaped by Parents (Paragraphs 4.17-4.18)

4.17 The Government's aim, as set out in the Five Year Strategy for Education and Learners and the Schools White Paper Higher Standards, Better Schools For All, is to create a schools system shaped by parents which delivers excellence and equity. In particular, the Government wishes to see a dynamic system in which:

- weak schools that need to be closed are closed quickly and replaced by new ones where necessary; and
- the best schools are able to expand and spread their ethos and success.

4.18 The EIA 2006 amends the Education Act 1996 to place duties on LAs to secure diversity in the provision of schools and to increase opportunities for parental choice when planning the provision of schools in their areas. In addition, LAs are under a specific duty to respond to representations from parents about the provision of schools, including requests to establish new schools or make changes to existing schools. The Government's aim is to secure a more diverse and dynamic schools system which is shaped by parents. The Decision Maker **should** take into account the extent to which the proposals are consistent with the new duties on LAs.

Standards (Paragraphs 4.19-4.20)

4.19 The Government wishes to encourage changes to local school provision which will boost standards and opportunities for young people, whilst matching school place supply as closely as possible to pupils' and parents' needs and wishes.

4.20 Decision Makers **should** be satisfied that proposals for a school expansion will contribute to raising local standards of provision, and will lead to improved attainment for children and young people. They **should** pay particular attention to the effects on groups that tend to under-perform including children from certain ethnic groups, children from deprived backgrounds and children in care, with the aim of narrowing attainment gaps.

Diversity (Paragraphs 4.21-4.23)

4.21 Decision Makers **should** be satisfied that when proposals lead to children (who attend provision recognised by the LA as being reserved for pupils with special educational needs) being displaced, any alternative provision will meet the statutory SEN improvement test (see paragraphs 4.69-4.72).

4.22 The Government's aim is to transform our school system so that every child receives an excellent education – whatever their background and wherever they live. A vital part of the Government's vision is to create a more diverse school system offering excellence and choice, where each school has a strong ethos and sense of mission and acts as a centre of excellence or specialist provision.

4.23 Decision Makers **should** consider how proposals will contribute to local diversity. They **should** consider the range of schools in the relevant area of the LA and whether the expansion of the school will meet the aspirations of parents, help raise local standards and narrow attainment gaps.

Every Child Matters (Paragraph 4.24)

4.24 The Decision Maker **should** consider how proposals will help every child and young person achieve their potential in accordance with "Every Child Matters" principles which are: to be healthy; stay safe; enjoy and achieve; make a positive contribution to the community and society; and achieve economic well-being. This **should** include considering how the school will provide a wide range of extended services, opportunities for personal development, access to academic and applied learning training, measures to address barriers to participation and support for children and young people with particular needs, e.g. looked after children or children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities.

SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS

Equal Opportunity Issues (Paragraphs 4.27)

4.27 The Decision Maker **should** consider whether there are any sex, race or disability discrimination issues that arise from the changes being proposed, for example, that where there is a proposed change to single sex provision in an area, there is equal access to single sex provision for the other sex to meet parental demand. Similarly there needs to be a commitment to provide access to a range of opportunities which reflect the ethnic and cultural mix of the area, while ensuring that such opportunities are open to all.

NEED FOR PLACES

Creating Additional Places (Paragraphs 4.28-4.30)

4.28 The Decision Maker **should** consider whether there is a need for the expansion and **should** consider the evidence presented for the expansion such as planned housing development or demand for provision. The Decision Maker **should** take into account not only the existence of spare capacity in neighbouring schools, but also the quality and popularity with parents of the schools in which spare capacity exists and evidence of parents' aspirations for places in the school proposed for expansion. The existence of surplus capacity in neighbouring less popular or successful schools **should not** in itself prevent the addition of new places.

4.29 Where the school has a religious character, or follows a particular philosophy, the Decision Maker **should** be satisfied that there is satisfactory evidence of sufficient demand for places for the expanded school to be sustainable.

4.30 Where proposals will add to surplus capacity but there is a strong case for approval on parental preference and standards grounds, the presumption **should** be for approval. The LA in these cases will need to consider parallel action to remove the surplus capacity thereby created.

Expansion of Successful and Popular Schools (Paragraph 4.31-4.34)

4.31 The Government is committed to ensuring that every parent can choose an excellent school for their child. We have made clear that the wishes of parents **should** be taken into account in planning and managing school estates. Places **should** be allocated where parents want them, and as such, it **should** be easier for successful and popular primary and secondary schools to grow to meet parental demand. For the purposes of this guidance, the Secretary of State is not proposing any single definition of a successful and popular school. It is for the Decision Maker to decide whether a school is successful and popular, however, the following indicators **should** all be taken into account:

a. the school's performance;

- i. in terms of absolute results in key stage assessments and public examinations;
- ii. by comparison with other schools in similar circumstances (both in the same LA and other LAs);
- iii. in terms of value added;
- iv. in terms of improvement over time in key stage results and public examinations.

b. the numbers of applications for places;

- i. the Decision Maker should also take account of any other relevant evidence put forward by schools.

4.32 The strong presumption is that proposals to expand successful and popular schools **should** be approved. In line with the Government's long standing policy that there **should** be no increase in selection by academic ability, this presumption does not apply to grammar schools or to proposals for the expansion of selective places at partially selective schools.

4.33 The existence of surplus capacity in neighbouring less popular schools **should not** in itself be sufficient to prevent this expansion, but if appropriate, in the light of local concerns, the Decision Maker **should** ask the LA how they plan to tackle any consequences for other schools. The Decision Maker **should** only turn down proposals for successful and popular schools to expand if there is compelling objective evidence that expansion would have a damaging effect on standards overall in an area, which cannot be avoided by LA action.

4.34 Before approving proposals the Decision Maker **should** confirm that the admission arrangements of schools proposed for expansion fully meet the provisions of the School Admissions Code. Although the Decision Maker may not modify proposed admission arrangements, the proposer **should** be informed that proposals with unsatisfactory admission arrangements are unlikely to be approved, and given the opportunity to revise them in line with the Code of Practice. Where the LA, rather than the governing body, is the admissions authority, we will expect the authority to take action to bring the admission arrangements in to line with the School Admissions Code.

Travel and Accessibility for All (Paragraphs 4.35-4.36)

4.35 In considering proposals for the reorganisation of schools, Decision Makers **should** satisfy themselves that accessibility planning has been properly taken into account. Facilities are to be accessible by those concerned, by being located close to those who will use them, and the proposed changes **should not** adversely impact on disadvantaged groups.

4.36 In deciding statutory proposals, the Decision Maker **should** bear in mind that proposals **should not** have the effect of unreasonably extending journey times or increasing transport costs, or result in too many children being prevented from travelling sustainably due to unsuitable routes e.g. for walking, cycling etc. The EIA 2006 provides extended free transport rights for low income groups – see Home to School Travel and Transport Guidance ref 00373 – 2007BKT-EN at www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications. Proposals **should** also be considered on the basis of how they will support and contribute to the LA's duty to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport to school.

FUNDING AND LAND

Capital (Paragraphs 4.57-4.59)

4.57 The Decision Maker **should** be satisfied that any land, premises or capital required to implement the proposals will be available. Normally, this will be some form of written confirmation from the source of funding on which the promoters rely (e.g. the LA, DCSF, or LSC). In the case of an LA, this **should** be from an authorised person within the LA, and provide detailed information on the funding, provision of land and premises etc.

4.58 Where proposers are relying on DCSF as a source of capital funding, there can be no assumption that the approval of proposals will trigger the release of capital funds from the Department, unless the Department has previously confirmed in writing that such resources will be available; nor can any allocation 'in principle' be increased. In such circumstances the proposals **should** be rejected, or consideration of them deferred until it is clear that the capital necessary to implement the proposals will be provided.

4.59 Proposals **should not** be approved conditionally upon funding being made available, subject to the following specific exceptions: For proposals being funded under the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) or through the BSF programme, the Decision Maker **should** be satisfied that funding has been agreed 'in principle', but the proposals **should** be approved conditionally on the entering into of the necessary agreements and the release of funding. A conditional approval will protect proposers

so that they are not under a statutory duty to implement the proposals until the relevant contracts have been signed and/or funding is finally released.

OTHER ISSUES

Views of Interested Parties (Paragraphs 4.73)

4.73 The Decision Maker **should** consider the views of all those affected by the proposals or who have an interest in them including: pupils; families of pupils; staff; other schools and colleges; local residents; diocesan bodies and other providers; LAs; the LSC (where proposals affect 14-19 provision) and the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership if one exists, or any local partnership or group that exists in place of an EYDCP (where proposals affect early years and/or childcare provision). This includes statutory objections and comments submitted during the representation period. The Decision Maker **should not** simply take account of the numbers of people expressing a particular view when considering representations made on proposals. Instead the Decision Maker **should** give the greatest weight to representations from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by the proposals.

Expansion of Dundonald Primary School

Published notice and prescribed information

Published notice

EXPANSION OF DUNDONALD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that London Borough of Merton intends to make a prescribed alteration to Dundonald Primary School (community primary school) Dundonald Road, London, SW19 3QH from 1 September 2015 .

The London Borough of Merton intends to increase the capacity of the school to permanently expand the school from one form of entry to two forms of entry.

Excluding the nursery class the current permanent capacity of the school is 210 and the proposed capacity will be 420. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 238. The current published admission number for the school is 30 and the proposed admission number will be 60.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposals. Copies of the complete proposals can be obtained from: Contracts and School Organisation, London Borough of Merton, Civic Centre Morden SM4 5DX or accessed at <http://www.merton.gov.uk/schoolsconsultations.htm>

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending them to:

Director of Children Schools and Families
London Borough of Merton
Civic Centre,
Morden,
SM4 5DX.

Signed: Yvette Stanley, Director of Children, Schools and Families
Publication Date: 31 October 2013

Explanatory Notes

The expansion of Dundonald Primary School would be implemented gradually by an increase in the size of the reception year. As an exception the school made 60 pupil places available in reception year in September 2011. The Council is proposing to increase the admission number permanently to 60 from September 2015.

PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS: Information to be included in or provided in relation to proposals

Insert the information asked for in the expandable box below each section.

In respect of an LEA Proposal: School and local education authority details

1. The name, address and category of the school and a contact address for the local education authority that is publishing the proposals.

School: Dundonald Primary School (community), Dundonald Road, London, SW19 3QH
Local Authority: Contracts and School Organisation, Children Schools and Families Department, London Borough of Merton, Civic Centre, Morden, SM4 5DX

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

2. The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

1 September 2015

Objections and comments

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including—
- (a) the date by which objections or comments should be sent to the local education authority; and
 - (b) the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent.

Objections or comments should be sent on or before 28 November 2013 to Director of Children Schools and Families, London Borough of Merton, Civic Centre, Morden, SM4 5DX or by e-mail to schconsult@merton.gov.uk

Alteration description

4. A description of the proposed alteration and in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

The London Borough of Merton intends to expand Dundonald Primary School from one form of entry to two forms of entry.

Excluding the nursery class the current capacity of the school is 210 and the proposed capacity will be 420. The current admission number for the school is 30 and the proposed admission number will be 60.

The expansion of Dundonald Primary School would be implemented gradually by an increase in the size of the reception year.

School capacity

5.—(1) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 4, 8, 9 and 12-14 of Schedule 2 or paragraphs 1-4, 7, 8, 18, 19 and 21 of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation

(Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007, the proposals must also include—

- (a) details of the current capacity of the school and where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration;

Excluding the nursery class the current permanent capacity of the school is 210 and the proposed capacity after the alteration will be 420

- (b) details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;

The school admits 30 pupils per year group. As an exception the school made 60 pupil places available in reception year in September 2011 but further increases cannot be made until additional accommodation is made available through a permanent expansion. The Council is proposing to increase the admission number permanently to 60 as part of this proposal from September 2015.

- (c) where it is intended that proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in the first school year in which each stage will have been implemented;

Not applicable

- (d) where the number of pupils in any relevant age group is lower than the indicated admission number for that relevant age group a statement to this effect and details of the indicated admission number in question.

Not applicable

(2) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1, 2, 9, 12 and 13 to 4, and 7 and 8 of Schedule 2 or paragraphs 1, 2, 8, 18 and 19 of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 a statement of the number of pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposals.

The expansion falls within paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 4. (increase in capacity and increase in numbers).

The current number of pupils registered at the school is 238 according to the latest official school census information in May 2013. This excludes the nursery class.

Additional Site

6.—(1) A statement as to whether any new or additional site will be required if proposals are implemented and if so the location of the site if the school is to occupy a split site.

The boundary of the school site will be increased into the adjacent Dundonald Recreation Ground to allow the new school building, access to the new building, and an Early Years play area. In addition the recreation ground tennis courts/multi use sports area, an area currently enjoyed by the school for play and PE by many years, will be enlarged and made more formally available for the school to use at set times to enable play and PE.

Objectives

7. The objectives of the proposals.

The objective of the proposal is to provide additional 'basic need' primary school places in the local area to meet rising demand, expanding an Ofsted rated "Outstanding" school which is the most over-subscribed primary school in Merton (on the basis of applications to number of places currently available in 2013), to facilitate the overall strategy of continuing to raise education standards.

The proposed expansion of Dundonald Primary School is part of an overall programme of school expansion in Merton, with twenty one schools, including Dundonald, having permanently expanded or in the process of doing so since 2008 to ensure sufficient places are provided. According to GLA (Greater London Authority) population projections for the London Borough of Merton further expansion will be required to meet further need up to 2017.

Consultation

8. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—

The council consulted on the proposal in summer 2011. However, the implementation of the scheme required other legal processes, most notably the modification of a restrictive covenant on the adjacent recreation ground (see section 6 above on "additional site"). Therefore there was a significant time delay before the council felt able to publish a statutory proposal and due to this an additional consultation was held in September/October 2013.

(a) a list of persons who were consulted;

The following were consulted in September 2013:

- The Governing body – Dundonald Primary School
- All families, teachers and other staff – Dundonald Primary School
- Governing body, teachers and other staff – all LB Merton primary schools
- Diocese of Southwark
- Archdiocese of Southwark
- Trade Union Representatives
- Stephen Hammond MP
- All early years providers and childminders in local area
- All LB Merton councillors
- Friends of Dundonald Park

For the 2011 consultation, the consultation leaflet was also distributed to approximately 4,500 dwellings surrounding Dundonald School, as it was also a consultation on the impact on the recreation ground.

(b) minutes of all public consultation meetings; Appendix 2 provides minutes of consultation meetings in 2011. A consultation meeting was not held for the additional consultation in 2013

(c) the views of the persons consulted; Appendix 1 provides this for both consultations.

(d) a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with;

The council's legal services team has been consulted and confirm that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with.

(e) copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents were made available

Appendix 3 provides the document for both consultations

For the 2011 consultation a hard copy of the document was sent to all the parties listed above, as well as making the document available on the Council's website. The

document was sent to Dundonald School parents via the parents' email distribution system. Other parties were posted the document. For the 2013 consultation all parties listed in 8a above were either emailed the document or it was posted to them.

Project costs

9. A statement of the estimated total capital cost of the proposals and the breakdown of the costs that are to be met by the governing body, the local education authority, and any other party.

The finance will be provided by the local authority, as part of the Children, Schools and Families capital programme, aided in part by Department for Education capital grant. The project has funding from the DfE's targeted basic need programme, which funds priority projects that provide additional basic need places at good and outstanding schools.

The cost of the project from 2013/14 financial year are contained in Appendix 4.

10. A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State, local education authority and the Learning and Skills Council for England (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

Appendix 4 – contains the relevant extract from the council's capital programme, confirming agreement to funding by the council on 6 March 2013.

Need or demand for additional places

11. If the proposals involve adding places—

- (a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;

There is a significant increase in demand for school places in Merton, with more children reaching school age, fuelled by an unprecedented increase in the number of live births since 2002 and exacerbated by other factors. The most recent GLA population projections based on the 2011 census shows the rise in children aged 4 (school reception year) over the past five years and how, after a plateau/modest drop in 2013, it will rise again until 2017

"2012 ROUND" GLA POPULATION PROJECTIONS FOR LB MERTON (2011 CENSUS BASED)

Year	"SHLAA" model persons 4 years		"Trend- based" model persons 4 years
2007	2,276		2,276
2008	2,420		2,420
2009	2,499		2,499
2010	2,543		2,543
2011	2,790		2,790
2012	2,786		2,806
2013	2,746		2,788
2014	2,922		2,995
2015	2,926		3,027
2016	3,062		3,188
2017	3,061		3,229

'SHLAA' is the GLA population projection model which is linked to development trajectories from the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA).

The "Trend-based" projection doesn't take dwellings into account but considers births, population (by single year of age), migration (outflows and inflows), total fertility rates, and life expectancy at birth.

The GLA previously only provided the 'SHLAA' model, but found in recent years that it severely under estimated the growth in child population as it did not take account of the rising child per dwelling ratio. The "trend based" is an alternative model produced by the GLA for the first time; the GLA feel it may be more accurate for councils without significant new build.

While the council has some evidence that the growth may not be quite as high as forecast by the GLA, including a modest fall in the number of live births in 2012 calendar year compared to 2011, cohorts with higher birth figures are still to reach school age (see table below) and the case for expanding Dundonald Primary School to meet the need for local school places is still clear.

Academic year born	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Academic year for reception year	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Live births for cohort	3387	3485	3536	3496 *

* 2011/12 is 1/3 ONS published 2011 calendar year, and 2/3 ONS published 2012 calendar year

The distance that Dundonald has offered for distance-based places in the past 4 years is as follows:

Year	Siblings and special cases criteria	Distance
2013	21	105 metres
2012	10	217 metres
2011	13	303 metres*
2010	13	212 metres

* First 30 places only – temporary 30 places also provided

Therefore, despite the substantial increase in provision at other local schools, the distance offered for Dundonald has reduced over the past 3 years (although there was a greater number of siblings in 2013 due to the 2011 bulge, explaining the substantial decrease to 105 metres in 2013).

The six schools nearest Dundonald are as follows:

1. Wimbledon Chase Primary School Approximate distance: 0.3 miles ("as the crow flies")
2. St Mary's Catholic Primary School Approximate distance: 0.3 miles
3. Pelham Primary School Approximate distance: 0.5 miles
4. Merton Park Primary School Approximate distance: 0.6 miles
5. Holy Trinity CofE Primary School Approximate distance: 0.7 miles
6. Bishop Gilpin CofE Primary School Approximate distance: 0.7 miles

However, except for pupils with the appropriate church affiliation, none of these schools are available to residents immediately to the east of Dundonald School, with Wimbledon Chase offering to 477 metres and Pelham 423 metres, even with their extra places offered within the last five and two years respectively.

There are some schools further than the above 6 that have some spare places, but collectively the spare capacity is well below the advised level to support minimum parental choice.

Dundonald Primary School had more preference applications (435 on-time for reception year) than any other Merton primary school last year.

The proposed expansion of Dundonald Primary School is part of an overall programme of school expansion in Merton to provide an additional 21 forms of entry in permanent accommodation.

LB Merton sets criteria for selecting schools to expand. This is outlined below stating how

Dundonald Primary School meets this criteria:

- Educational standards:- The school was given an 'Outstanding' rating by Ofsted at its last inspection in 2009. The 2012 'Raise on Line' demonstrated pupil achievement was significantly above the national average.
- Parental preference The school is the most oversubscribed school in the borough with places only able to be offered to a very small area - in the last two years this has been between only 106 and 218 metres
- Smaller schools expand where feasible: The school is only 1FE so the smallest size of LB Merton Primary schools
- Location: Admissions data outlined above shows it will meet demand within a very local area.
- Physical constraints of existing school sites: Planning expansion of this school has been extremely complicated. However, it meets the key criteria above and there are no other local alternatives
- Sustainable and will ensure a school continues to be popular and successful: By a careful design in partnership with the council's greenspaces team the scheme proposed will ensure the school continues to provide high standards
- Value for money and affordability: As outlined above the scheme is expensive but within the context of limited alternative options it is value for money and also provides more modern sustainable recreation ground facilities.
- Diversity including balance of faith and non-faith provision: Meets the need for non-faith places

- (b) where the school adheres to a particular philosophy, evidence of the demand for education in accordance with the philosophy in question and any associated change to the admission arrangements for the school.

NA – the school is a community school

Expansion of successful and popular schools

25A. (1) Proposals must include a statement of whether the proposer considers that the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools should apply, and where the governing body consider the presumption applies, evidence to support this.

The Local Authority feels that Dundonald Primary School would be considered under the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools. As stated in the section above, the school was given an 'Outstanding' rating by Ofsted at its last inspection in 2009. The 2012 'Raise on Line' demonstrated pupil achievement was significantly above the national average. The school is the most oversubscribed school in the borough with places only able to be offered to a very small area - in the last two years this has been between only 106 and 218 metres.

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 - Summary of the views of the persons consulted from 2011 and 2013;

Appendix 2 - Minutes of the two public consultation meetings in 2011

Appendix 3 - Copies of consultation documents from May 2011 and September 2013

Appendix 4 – Council report 6 March 2013 – inclusion of school expansion capital finance

**Dundonald Primary School Proposed Expansion
Consultation Responses September and October 2013**

Responses: **3 x Pre-school parent**
 2 x Parent
 1 x Parent & pre-school parent (=6 total)
 6 x Resident/others
 3 x Representative bodies

Pre-school parent

1. Support the expansion. Obvious need for additional places and current school intake is inadequate and inappropriate for local needs. Concerns about increased traffic are overstated.
2. Strongly in favour of expansion. Will also reduce the pressure on other primary schools in Wimbledon.
3. Feel strongly that the expansion should go ahead. Shame about building on the Rec but it is absolutely necessary. No vested interest as own child will get into Wimbledon Chase under the sibling policy. Most vocal opponents are those with children already in the school.

Parent

1. Delighted school will be expanded. There is a clear need in the area – too few schools for the density of the population. Local schools build local communities
2. Support the expansion. The proposed new building will be an asset to both the school and the whole neighbourhood.

Parent & Pre-School Parent

1. Strongly in favour for a number of reasons: additional places are necessary; school will get better facilities (bigger playground & hall); better facilities for local children (playground); and the financial benefits of a two form entry school including the attraction and retention of better teachers.

Resident

1. Vehemently against the plan to extend into the Rec. Wonder at council projections that you will need more places than this? Please consider a new build and design it with overriding curriculum imperatives in mind.

2. Against the expansion. The answer to the chronic shortage is to build new schools. Wrong for the council to try and get round the covenant on a legal technicality. Sport England has withdrawn its support. Local residents should not suffer as a result of inadequate school provision.
3. Opposed to the scheme. Comments include: exclusion of residents and lack of publicity of current consultation; demographic case for Dundonald's expansion has not been made (there was even a surplus of primary school places in Merton last year); Sport England's objections have not been mentioned; Council need to find a legal solution to planning approval issues; investigation of Merton by Local Government Ombudsman; and would like to know how much money has been spent on the scheme so far?
4. Covenant should not be broken. Playground will still be too small. No parking. Residents will be unable to use certain parts during school hours and community groups will not be able to use the pavilion.
5. (Also a childminder). Against the expansion. Concerned about danger of extra traffic; loss of the Rec (building site for a couple of years); increased noise; loss of pavilion use. A new school is a better option – could have built one by now?
6. Strongly support the expansion. Only live 2 mins walk away and child did not get in so have resorted to a private school. Intake size is so small that parents are going to ridiculous efforts to gain a place, e.g. renting very close to the school just until their child gets a place then moving away. Opposing the plans are shortsighted. Can see no reasonable grounds for objectors regarding the tennis courts – infact they should be welcoming the additional facilities. Opposers campaign is cynical and selfish.
7. Opposed to the expansion as do not want to lose the childminder drop-in at the pavilion. Bowling green has been neglected. Concerned about state of Rec during the building works and fear it will never be the same again. Concerned about children's safety due to increased traffic (Local resident and childminder).

Representative bodies

1. **Protect Dundonald Rec** - Disappointed that residents and park users have not been consulted. Also issues preventing the school expansion have not been mentioned e.g. Sport England's objection. Understand all previous comments will be taken into account so only commenting on educational issues. 2 main aspects – suitability of school building and demand for places. Firstly, both the new development plus the re-modelled 'old' school building

will be inadequate, overcrowded and too small. Question whether the detailed plans will comply with building regs, especially Approved Document B plus the Government Fire Risk Assessment Guides for Education. If not, the school will be both unusable and unsuitable. Secondly, questions the birth data and projections used to calculate the number of primary school places needed in certain planning areas in Merton. Concerned about overprovision in some planning areas whereas other areas with increased birth rates have had no expansions. Suggests Beecholme as an alternative option. The proposal for a 'free school' serving the Raynes Park area should also be considered. Concludes that there may be demand for an additional form of entry but not in this ward or central Wimbledon. Council should urgently reassess primary school provision.

2. **Southwark Diocese** – Supports the long term strategy of expansion however concerned about impact on pupil numbers at All Saints Primary School. Support a delay in expanding at this stage.
3. **Friends of Dundonald Park** – Puzzled that residents and users of the Rec have not be included in this consultation. Concerned that 'Green Flag' status of Rec plus recent improvements have and will be jeopardized. Puzzled Opposed to the expansion due to: overestimate of future pupil numbers; suggest other sites which are more suitable such as those identified in Capita report, Beecholme Primary or free schools; data shows no shortfall of primary provision in the Wimbledon area unlike other areas; excessive noise from relocated and enlarged playground and MUGA; inadequacy of proposed pavilion; loss of trees and impact on conservation area; increased traffic and parking; and lack of logistics plan.

DUNDONALD PRIMARY SCHOOL CONSULTATION 2011

CONSULTATION PROCESS AND MEETINGS

The consultation started on 18 May 2011. The original closing date was 28 June but this was extended to 11 July 2011.

The consultation was advertised with a leaflet distributed to 4,500 residents, all parents of children attending Dundonald School, neighbouring schools and Local Authorities, diocesan authorities, all local councillors and MPs.

A public meeting was held on 8 June at Dundonald School. Unfortunately demand exceeded capacity of the hall so a further public meeting was held on 22 June at St. Andrews Church Hall. The first meeting was attended by approximately 130 and the second meeting by approximately 200 people.

Notes of all the points raised at the two meetings are included as appendix 2. Responses to all of these points are contained in a questionnaire and answer sheet which was updated during the consultation. This is available on the council's website <http://www.merton.gov.uk/schoolsconsultations.htm>

Two "drop in" sessions were organised to discuss the design – on 23 May and 8 June 2011.

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN RESPONSES

Overall summary

The consultation document requested responses in two parts:

1. On the principle of expanding Dundonald School. Respondents were asked to "provide comments on the principle of expanding Dundonald Primary School to 2 forms of entry (60 pupils per year), including any specific concerns you may have that the Local Authority and school could address". No specific yes/no question was asked as the council wished to encourage detail on concerns and suggestions rather than implying we were holding a referendum.
2. The preferred design out of the three options put to consultation and "any comments and whether there are there any high or low priorities for the scheme or facilities you would like to see in the park as part of the scheme".

Lastly respondents were asked whether they were a parent with a pupil currently at Dundonald Primary School, a parent with pre-school children, a member of staff, a local resident without a direct interest in the school's education, or other e.g. representing an institution.

There were 386 written responses to the questionnaire or letters received during the consultation that did not appear to be a duplicate of the consultation questionnaire so were also included as a response to the consultation.

Respondents were asked to categorise themselves and the breakdown is listed below.

Parents of current pupils at Dundonald	55
Parents with pre-school children	64
Local residents including interested groups/not stated	267

Total	386

A summary of all 386 responses is posted on the council's website
<http://www.merton.gov.uk/schoolsconsultations.htm>

To obtain a direct view of the competing views from four respondents that have appeared to have taken time to consider the consultation carefully, it is recommended that the following are viewed in full:

Positive: responses 329 and 335

Negative: responses 31 and 356

Part 1 - Principle of expanding Dundonald School

The consultation form did not specifically ask a closed questionnaire on whether people supported the principle of expanding Dundonald School or not. However, in analysing the responses the administrator was asked to view whether the response was generally positive, negative, or neutral/unclear. While there can be no exact interpretation – and there is no need as it is not a referendum and the detail of responses are most important – it does give a general view of the response. The breakdown of positive and negative by category is below.

Parents of current pupils at Dundonald	55	24 Positive, 24 negative, 7 other
Parents with pre-school children	64	42 Positive, 12 negative, 10 other
Local residents including interested groups/not stated	267	55 Positive, 186 negative, 26 other

Total	386	121 Positive, 222 negative, 43 other

In summary, there was an exact balance of view of current parents at Dundonald School, a significant majority of local residents were negative towards the proposal, but a significant majority of parents with pre-school children were positive.

Some respondents queried the validity of the consultation process. However, council officers do not accept that this had any material impact on the consultation responses, and the council has provided detailed responses to residents that wrote to the council in regard to this.

A summary of the main issues and objections that came from part one of the consultation is below:

Main issues & objections
<p>1. Negative Impact on the recreation ground</p> <p>General comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Encroachment/detrimental impact on the rec/ reduction of local amenities b) Council must not breach the covenant c) Breaching the covenant would set a dangerous precedent d) Character of rec will change e) Should only be rec buildings in the rec f) worried dogs will be banned from the rec. g) If expanding the school/impacting on the park the council is ignoring the wishes of the local community <p>Specific negative impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> h) Impact on footpaths/reduced accessibility to Rose Garden and Holocaust memorial; i) Loss of open space; j) Loss of mature trees k) Loss of bowling green (unfair on elderly people) l) The building will harm the appearance and diminish the value of the rec m) MUGA (hard court "Multi use games area") will destroy the peaceful ambience of the Rose Garden and lead to more tarmac on the rec n) Space for leisure is smaller in the proposed new building/ don't want to lose use of pavilion. o) Dual use access seems unfeasible so diminishment of the tennis courts p) Particular disruption to facilities during the construction period
<p>2. There is no need to expand Dundonald School to provide local places:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Demand is not in this area b) Uncertainty over future demand c) Lots of children currently at the school are not local and this will increase d) How can there be a need when there are vacancies elsewhere e.g. at Joseph Hood, Hatfeild & Hillcross e) There is no demographic need – LB Merton is just 'cherry picking' of outstanding schools which will take away places from other school f) Previous expansions should have covered increase in the birth rate g) Demand is in the Gap Road area h) The council has failed to demonstrate that there are no other options
<p>3. Negative impact on Dundonald School including standards and ethos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Could change school's character & atmosphere/ethos; b) Expansion will adversely affect the school's achievements/quality c) Cherish small schools. No guarantee standards will remain once expanded/ could affect the school's 'outstanding' rating. d) Increased catchments will result in children being driven to school and damage the 'local' aspect of school life e) Insufficient play space/ sub optimal school facilities f) Dundonald will become more cramped as no additional facilities (e.g. larger hall, music room or library) are planned g) Concerned over disruption to pupils from construction works
<p>4. Increase traffic & congestion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Increase congestion and noise from traffic b) Increased parking problems, c) Increased pollution d) Detrimental to the ambience of the neighbourhood e) Illegal fly-parking by parents.

f) Increased noise of children
5. Suggestions on mitigation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Agree new Covenant/ legal agreement to prevent further building work b) Building sympathetic design to the green space c) Any hard surface 'dual use' areas are suitably screened and landscaped d) No mature trees lost e) Support facilities for players to be the same or better than now. f) Ensure an appropriate traffic assessment is carried out and the school agrees a Travel Plan to mitigate any congestion g) Why not build within the existing boundaries and have the public space accessible after school hours? h) Build into the Rose Garden instead/ building along Dundonald Road i) Ensure building is same architecture of school & houses j) Consider additional entrance to school from the Rec. Retain two paths from Rose Garden k) Involve local residents throughout the consultation process
6. Suggested alternatives to expanding Dundonald School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Expand elsewhere (location not suggested) b) Build a new school (e.g. empty buildings, brown field sites - location not suggested) c) Use old Wimbledon House School, Dorset Road e.g. as a satellite site d) Expand Wimbledon Chase further e) New school on Wimbledon Common f) Expand Bishop Gilpin/ former Park House Middle site g) Look at the sibling rule which will prevent the need for expansion to provide local places h) Build a new school to the north/east where it is needed e.g. Gap Road
7. Positive comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Accept the demand for and duty to provide additional places b) Places are clearly needed "Vitality necessary". All options are sympathetic to the rec c) Desperate shortage of places in the area - current catchment is too tight d) In total agreement for local school places e) Surely John Innes would have welcome proposal as he was heavily involved in education e.g. leading figure in the 1895 erection of Rutlish School f) the current 'eyesore', shabby and dilapidated pavilion will benefit from being replaced g) 2FE schools offer more opportunities. Expansions spread across existing good schools is ideal solution h) Support proposal in the absence of any alternatives i) Expanding outstanding schools makes sense economically
8. Comments on an Admissions Priority Area ("APA") (Note – consultation document confirmed that we were not consulting on an APA but may do so in the future) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Not in favour of catchment area beyond the closest school criteria b) Would like an APA favouring roads to the east/north east e.g. to include Raymond & Malcolm Roads to the north and Graham Road to the east
9. Criticism of consultation process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) failure to mention Covenant; b) failure to include feasibility drawings with the document; c) inadequacy of drawings e.g. no elevations so can't see the impact d) lack of clarity regarding impact on the rec & capacity of the school/Merton Council's long term agenda e) vague and misleading statements f) failure to provide any explanation for the 'profile' questions at the end of the document
10. Criticisms of past decisions made by the council/on-going related decisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The council should restrict number of homes being converted to multi-occupancy. b) This is the fault of the council for selling off of school sites in the past

- c) The council shouldn't give planning permission for housing when there are no school places
- d) The council could have uses the old B&Q site in Alexandra Road

Part 2 – Design options

A number of people, especially those against the Council's general proposal, did not wish to support any of the options and a preference was not given for one of the council's 3 options.

The results by category was as follows:

Parents of current pupils at Dundonald	55	18 for option C, 3 for A
Parents with pre-school children	64	32 for Option C, 4 for A
Local residents including interested groups/not stated	267	28 for option C , 4 for A

Total	386	78 for option C, 11 for A

Therefore of the 386 responses, only 89 gave a preference for an option. Of those, the vast majority preferred option C.

A summary of all the comments is below:

1. Comments on priorities for the design:

- a) As few trees as possible removed.
- b) Enhance the pavilion
- c) Maintain present sports facilities
- d) Changing rooms essential
- e) Hall available to public during school hours
- f) Decent rooms for local residents to use including a kitchen (Friends could sell refreshments)
- g) Coffee bar/cafeteria provided
- h) Keep the bowling green
- i) No need for bowling green
- j) Larger children's playground,
- k) Better apparatus for younger children to use
- l) More climbing equipment for older children and/or adults
- m) Improved facilities for older children, e.g. Skateboard area, zip wire, 5-a-side football facilities
- n) Playground provision maintained during the construction period.
- o) Picnic benches near playground
- p) Tennis courts with nets provided again
- q) Tennis courts available during school hours
- r) Pleasant garden for sitting in (replace Rose Garden away from the road).
- s) New pavilion with access from Dundonald Road would be a major asset for the community.
- t) Access to school halls 'out of hours'
- u) Improved public buildings to support local community activities (e.g. music

- rehearsal); Maintain a perimeter path
- v) Keeping both playground areas together
 - w) Community hall large enough for function hire
 - x) Do not increase tarmac in park
 - y) Look at alternative option e.g. building on Rose Garden and within existing footprint
 - z) Do not build on the Rose Garden

APPENDIX 2

NOTES OF PUBLIC MEETINGS HELD ON 8 JUNE AND 22 JUNE 2011

Notes of Consultation on Proposed Expansion of Dundonald Primary School Wednesday 8 June 2011, 7.30pm

Introduction to the meeting

Sandy Adamson introduced himself as an independent chair and was not an employee of the council but has worked in the Department for Education and in Local Government. He is currently the chair of governors of St. Teresa's School, which is a Voluntary Aided School in Merton.

The meeting was attended by approximately 130 parents, staff, governors, local councilors, and residents. The school hall was not large enough to accommodate the large number of interested parties that wanted to attend the meeting so only residents that arrived by 7.15pm were in attendance. After deliberation, following the chair's decision that no filming should be allowed, the meeting started.

The following speeches/presentations were given:-

Lorraine Maries – (Chair of “Protect Dundonald Rec”) presented to the meeting explaining that they are not a political group who have come together because of our concerns for the Rec.

The full transcript is appendix 1 to these notes

Councillor Peter Walker (LB Merton Cabinet Lead member for Education) explained the reasons behind the proposal including the increase in the number of children, the Council's legal duty to educate children of 4 years old in classes of 30 pupils, and stating that the proposal will not ruin the rec.

Tom Procter (Manager of School Organisation, LB Merton) provided detail on the legal issues, the design, and the catchment of the school.

The powerpoint presentations from Peter Walker and Tom Procter are posted on the council's website <http://www.merton.gov.uk/schoolsconsultations.htm>

Fiona Duffy (Headteacher, Dundonald Primary School) explained her commitment to a local school for local children. The recreation ground enhances the education value to children.

Questions & Comments

Overall, a majority of those present had concerns about, and some strongly opposed - mainly over the encroachment on the present boundaries of Dundonald Park, both regarding its legality and the practical consequences for existing facilities, but also in relation to Dundonald School doubling in size.

The following were the particular questions recorded. Initial responses were provided on the evening, and **all additional questions with answers have been added to the council's Q&A on the website to ensure there is an official council position provided on each question asked at the meeting:**

The council's Q&A on the website

<http://www.merton.gov.uk/schoolsconsultations.htm>

Initial questions and comments

1. It is disappointing that there are people outside that cannot attend the consultation meeting.
2. The chair cannot be independent if he has been appointed by the Council.

The Covenant

3. It is not clear whether you are going to deal with the covenant? Will the council go to an independent body?
4. Is there any protection for the park?
5. Who are the beneficiaries?
6. Has anyone asked who has a legal benefit of the covenant?
7. An application for a variation will be required. What legal documents can be put in place to prevent further expansion on the park?
10. Have the LB Merton planners commented on the development thus far?
11. Is there any covenant on the school area?

Recreation Facilities

12. What will happen to the bowling green? It takes years to build a bowling green. We will be lucky if we get the bowling green. How many members belong to the bowling club? A local facility like that is required so that we are not a drag on the NHS
13. In the Q&A document you state under moral trust issue that there is expected to be a cut on the revenue budget and that this is the case whether the bowling green is kept or not?
14. The tennis courts will not be available during the daytime and Wimbledon is known for its tennis.

Why Dundonald Primary School Expansion and other issues

15. Why Dundonald? Are Wimbledon Chase, Joseph Hood and all other schools in the area full?

- 16 Joseph Hood Primary School and Wimbledon Chase Primary School take children from further afield such as Morden and Mitcham. Will Dundonald take children from further afield?
- 17 People would be upset if local people are ignored and people from outside get places. What procedures are in place to check eligibility? I am concerned that people are abusing the system. I am of the opinion that there are sufficient places at Wimbledon Chase and other schools.
- 18 How many applied for admission to this school for the next academic year? How far do they live from the school? We do not want children that do not live local to the school.
- 19 Why does the council not build a new school? Why did the Council not develop the Gap Road site. The Council could have made a compulsory purchase order for the Gap Road property? Money was set aside. Luckily the new government has a policy of free schools which could provide new schools
- 20 What would be the period of expansion for the Dundonald expansion?
- 21 The problem is that the Council sold off many school sites in the past.
- 22 No one is speaking in support of the expansion. At the Wimbledon Chase consultation for expansion 100 parents spoke out against the Wimbledon Chase Primary School expansion. This was not recorded. The notes said that there was no objection against the expansion. This is a steamroller exercise by the Council and one sided.
- 23 What happens after 2013? How does expansion here help provide places for children that live in Wimbledon Village where the need is?
- 24 Schools cannot continue to expand indefinitely. At some point it is not going to be possible to continue to expand.
- 25 Surely there are other places where people need places.
- 26 Why has Wimbledon House School site (in Dorset Road) not been considered or the Emma Hamilton pub site (Kingston Road)?
- 27 Why were so many usable sites sold off by the council and what happened to the money from the sales of these properties?
- 28 Isn't your policy to expand outstanding schools wrong as it will just undermine any school elsewhere?
- 29 Dundonald school is doing well because it is a 1 FE school.
- 30 Isn't it the council's fault that we have an increase in children? Ordinary homes have been split into flats. Major developments have been approved. Children need green space now even more.

- 31 You will cut down on space available during construction. What would be the impact on the park? How would the construction vehicles get onto the site?
- 32 In the Q&A document you state under moral trust issue that there is expected to be a cut on the revenue budget and that this is the case whether the bowling green is kept or not?
- 33 It is not a park but a recreation ground. Do not take this away from people.
- 34 People would be upset if local people are ignored and people from outside get places. What procedures are in place to check eligibility? I am concerned that people are abusing the system. I am of the opinion that there are sufficient places at Wimbledon Chase and other schools.
- 35 The consultation document is misleading – It has ignored a tree that is on the existing site. Option B & C do involve loss of trees.
- 36 We need to understand that the council needs pupil places, but what is your understanding of the views of local residents?
- 37 No one is speaking in support of the expansion.
- 38 When is the next consultation meeting?
- 39 Some people have said to me that they were unaware of what they were signing for on the petition and that they believed that flats were being built on the park.
- 40 What is Miss Duffy's view on the expansion of the school? Everyone keeps interrupting. We are failing in this meeting.
- 41 I am the promoter of the proposed free school in Dorset Road but also I am a governor at Dundonald School. I came along to this meeting because I was unsure of my views. Cllr P Walker has told me why I should be in favour of the expansion and the Save the Rec have told me why I should be against it. I am shocked at the behaviour of the people here. People are shouting. I have not had the opportunity to hear what the effect would be on the park. I want to know whether this will be an opportunity to improve the park. The pavilion is dreadful. People are closing their eyes against this. There is a big demand for expansion. A Free school is not a substitute. It is a necessary addition.

Appendix 1 (to 8 June meeting)

Presentation by Lorraine Maries speaking on behalf of the Protect Dundonald Rec. Campaign group, Wednesday 8th June 2011 at Dundonald School

The following facts and figures are taken from the Council's own documents, sources and plans.

1. Why listen to 'Protect Dundonald Rec.'?

We are a non-political group of local residents who have come together because of our concerns for the Rec. Non-political – that is important. Too many people have sought to ambush this consultation and treat it as an opportunity for political posturing. We're

trying to consider what is right for the local community and that means everyone, not just one group.

In Dundonald ward just 19% of households have dependent children (aged under 19). There are more households with single people (26%) and couples without children (23%). Then there are elderly people, students and mixed households. Everyone, including the children, benefits from the Rec. We want to see it preserved for future generations to enjoy.

2. Why are we concerned?

Dundonald Rec is central to this community. It was set out before many of the houses to the south had been built. The land was sold to what is now Merton Council by John and James Innes in 1893. A legally binding covenant was entered into then to ensure that the land would be forever used as a Public Pleasure Ground. This is fact.

Building on the Rec would break the covenant which also states that "no building or other erection not reasonably required for use in connection with a pleasure ground shall at any time be erected or made on the said ... land". A school is not a building which is "reasonably required for use in connection with a pleasure ground" therefore a school building cannot legally be built on the Rec. The Rec has survived two world wars and a periods of economic hardship yet the covenant has been respected for 118 years.

The Council have finally publicly acknowledged the existence of this covenant, but have said they will ignore it. Will the Council also ignore the will of 1,475 residents and park users (who have signed our petition in the past month) who feel that this promise should be respected? Merton Council needs to respect our heritage, and our green environment. The Council's own objectives, published in their Core planning strategy this summer, include "Improving access to leisure facilities including opportunities for sport, play and relaxation" and "Conserving and enhancing Merton's green character and historic environment".

The health and wellbeing benefits of green spaces is well recognized in local and national policy. A recent Government White paper has moved environmental considerations in planning to the top of the agenda. But more than ever in the current economic climate we need to be vigilant to protect our green spaces. The covenant protects the Rec. To breach it sets a dangerous precedent.

3. What about education?

Many of us are parents, and understand how difficult it is to ensure that our children have the best education available. Getting into the right school is a major worry. But here are the facts:

There are ten primary schools within a one mile radius of Dundonald. Six of these have expanded between 2008 and 2011. This is a 43% increase in the number of places for five year olds. Compare this with an increase in the birth rate of 30% (from 2003 to 2007).

There is already plenty of provision for local children in schools near to their homes. If places are not available at Dundonald for local children it is not due to lack of places,

but to the admissions policy. This places the sibling rule and parental choice higher than proximity to the school. Many parents want this, but in reality this means that some lose out in the resulting lottery.

An expanded school would bring children in from as far away as 1,000 metres. Are these really 'local' children' or are they children who actually live nearer to other local schools?

Nearly every household in the borough lives within 500m of a primary school. Other options include the possibility of expanding other schools which Merton Council has identified as having suitable sites, or building new schools in areas of high demand. Merton Council wants to follow a policy of expanding excellent schools. Shouldn't its policy be to ensure that all schools are excellent – and offer parents a real choice?

4. What we could lose

Dundonald School is by far the smallest site in the borough - 2,094 sq m. To double the number of pupils the Council's own plans show that they will have to annex an additional 2,000 sq m of the rec. The Council claims that this is alright because they will use the old pavilion. But the pavilion does not belong to the school. It is a public facility, and it is being taken away.

The new building has a footprint which is half the size of the current school. How can it accommodate an additional 210 children, plus community facilities. Is it a Tardis?

The Council say they will provide improved community facilities. The plans show:

Fewer changing rooms

A smaller kitchen

The loss of the bowling green

The Rose Garden – the only Holocaust memorial garden in the borough - will be isolated from the rest of the Rec. by double height fences around the school playground.

The school is regularly occupied by children from around 8 am to 6 pm. The indoor "shared use" facilities will therefore not be available to the public during these hours (which means not at all for about 6 months of the year).

5. What we will get:

Within seven years there will be 1,050 children, plus nursery, and some 100 staff, all coming to two schools within 350m of each other. That's a 66% increase in the number of children.

There'll be increased traffic (especially if children come from further away)

We'll get a hard play area which will only be available outside of school hours

We'll get major disruption of the playground, the pavilion and other facilities while the building work is on-going.

We'll get a broken promise – and a reduced recreation ground which the council will be able to develop further at any time for educational or other use.

If you are against building on Dundonald Rec. please say NO to Q1 of the consultation document, and protect this valuable green space.

Notes of Consultation on Proposed Expansion of Dundonald Primary School

Wednesday 22 June 2011, 7.00pm

at St Andrew's Church, Herbert Road, SW19

Introduction to the meeting

Rev Canon Stephen Coulson introduced himself as an independent chair and was not an employee of the council. He is vicar at St Mark's Church, Mitcham, and is currently a school governor in Merton.

The meeting was attended by approximately 200 parents, staff, governors, local councilors, and residents. An apology was received from Stephen Hammond, MP who was voting in the House of Commons.

The following speeches/presentations were given:-

Lorraine Maries – (Chair of “Protect Dundonald Rec”) presented to the meeting explaining that they are not a political group who have come together because of our concerns for the Rec.

The full transcript is appendix 1 to these notes

Councillor Peter Walker (LB Merton Cabinet Lead member for Education) explained the reasons behind the proposal including the increase in the number of children, the Council's legal duty to educate children of 4 years old in classes of 30 pupils, and stating that the proposal will not ruin the rec.

Tom Procter (Manager of School Organisation, LB Merton) provided detail on the legal issues, the design, and the catchment of the school.

The powerpoint presentations from Peter Walker and Tom Procter are posted on the council's website <http://www.merton.gov.uk/schoolsconsultations.htm>

Fiona Duffy (Headteacher, Dundonald Primary School) explained her commitment to a local school for local children. The recreation ground enhances the education value to children.

Questions & Comments

The following are all the particular questions and comments recorded at the meeting. Initial responses were provided on the evening, and all additional questions with answers have been added to the council's Q&A on the website to ensure there is an official council position provided on each question asked at the meeting.

1. Support very much the proposal in providing local schools in the local area. Own road held a street party celebrating the Royal Wedding and I was amazed at the number of children that lived in my road – there are a huge number of children in the area. Yes, there are problems with the Rec and we are concerned with the reduction in open spaces generally, but this proposal makes

sense – not taking land away, respect the Rec and enhance the space.

2. Would want my fellow residents to go to a successful school. Astounded that the pavilion has become elevated to Taj Mahal status. Only now that own children are older that they confess what sort of things used to go on behind it. Would like to congratulate the Council – proposing a secure and attractive use of facilities. An excellent scheme. Saddened by the literature being sent out – it is dishonest.
Regarding the catchment area – it doesn't matter if it is 1km or 700m, parents should walk and not drive. In future, I would like fairness from both sides. It is a good scheme and I compliment the Council.
3. Does the bulge year class mean the expansion is a fait accompli? What happens next year?
4. We have had exceptional increases – what will happen with the secondary schools?
5. Flabbergasted at what the fuss is about. I live 150m from Merton Park Primary School and my child might not get in. Families are moving into all the houses sold in my road. It is a great place to live. Congratulate the Council because I am worried about the shortage of places. Proposals are sensible for now and the future. There is empty ground – please think about us with young children who need good quality state funded schools.
6. Neighbours have to drive to Pelham – it is outrageous and nimbyism of the worst kind.
7. Used to be a governor at Dundonald. Disturbed about this nonsense – where is it coming from? It is wrong that children at the school can't use the park. At first, I thought half the park was being taken up by the building. Vitriolic. Shame on colleagues who have had children at Dundonald and have signed the petition. People are desperate to get in as it is a fine school. Minimal change is being proposed – it is not a travesty but a minor infringement. People should think beyond their own gardens. Facilitate it as fast as we can.
8. Extra children could be accommodated on the current site by knocking down the dining hall and building there, and taking the roof off and adding another storey.
9. What about the empty building at the end of Dorset Road that used to be a school? Why not knock it down and build a new school?
10. I have owned my house for 10 years and I can see the school from my house but my child would not have got in the school last year as they live 13m too far away (still only 225m). They won't get in next year if there is no expansion.
11. The vitriol and nimbyism is embarrassing. I live only 285m away and my son didn't get into the school – he was 17th on the waiting list. Any change requires give and take. Live here and enjoy it. Proposal is a fair compromise – not to recognise this is a shock. It is disgusting and people should be ashamed.

12. I am a local resident, governor and chairman of free school campaign to provide a new school in Dorset Road. We have looked at demand and it is there and in addition to Dundonald expanding. We wouldn't be looking if there was no demand. The Council only let them into the site two weeks ago to see it. We are currently looking into it and we should not take it for granted that it is not suitable for a (one-form entry state funded) school. As a resident, I am concerned about the covenant and would want something else in its place.
13. I understand it is a good school and it is a shame children can't get in, but people supporting the Rec are not attacking parents with children and many people like it as a small school – It is not vitriol – we are passionate as well.
14. What about educational issues? Expansion is never beneficial. 1FE is ideal size. Don't understand the Council's policy. Need two new small schools. Expansion could harm educational excellence.
15. I live 300m from the school. If Dundonald doesn't expand, where will child my go?
16. Fully support the expansion – it is unfair for local children who should be able to get in. Have concerns over the size of the playground as it will be less than twice the current size which already feels small.
Do not want an APA – catchment should stay the same.
17. Respect the need for places but also want people to respect the Rec. What about the old Emma Hamilton pub site or Dorset Road site?
18. Support scheme as the reasons are very apparent. There is minimal infringement but do understand the attachment to the Rec.
19. It was due to the generosity of previous landowners who gave us such spaces so there must be cast iron legal reassurances against any further building on the rec. Can't quite understand the hostility.
20. Looking at the information, why have the proposals for restricted hours in the playground been removed in Options A & B?
21. Have you applied to overturn the covenant? You don't think anyone will benefit – what about all those people who signed the petition?
22. What about a new school on the old Park House site? It will take the pressure off this area - if Dundonald is expanded there will be 1050 children attending two schools in this area.
23. Currently, apart from the pavilion, the 360° view from Dundonald Rec is Victorian or Edwardian buildings. What will the new building look like?
24. Am a supporter of 'Save our Rec' campaign – not sure why we have been portrayed as vitriolic and not dog walkers. I believe every parent should have that right – basic issue is that it is not yours to take – you can't take it if you can use it better than someone else. It belongs to the people as a Recreation

ground.

25. You talked about alternatives – you don't have to set it up as a single site. There are operational challenges but these can be overcome.
26. I hope the Planning Dept will block any future developments of flats, as we can't provide enough places now.
27. No-one has mentioned why the Rose Garden remains untouched. It can be re-located – why is it sacrosanct? Why not build on it?
28. Have taught at a dual-site and it is not beneficial for the children – cohesion, etc.
29. Key thing is getting a new covenant – don't waste money on lawyers. Focus energy on design and accept it will happen.
30. (Confirming from the presentation slide that the blue circle shows a 780m catchment with the bulge) What will be the catchment for the expansion?
31. I Support the scheme. For those against it – is it because they think it is the thin edge of wedge?
32. I have spoken to Holocaust Trust and Jewish Care and they have no objection to relocating the Rose Garden.
33. Rev Andrew Wakefield – there is no Holocaust memorial. He was part of the group who planted one rose bush on Holocaust Memorial Day. One was also planted in John Innes Park.
34. The pavilion has been in decline for the last 15 years and there is always the excuse there is no money for improvements. Concern is over the years promises made (e.g. tennis courts) – no comeback. Wimbledon Chase told they had to accept expansion because Dundonald couldn't expand due to the covenant. What will it look like? There will be no protection once the covenant is broken. Who will have control of the budget – parks or education? Know promises today won't be tomorrow.
35. Concerned regarding aesthetics – will high standards be applied?
36. Quotes legal position from the powerpoint slide. No good if I play bowls. How can I use the pavilion during school hours?
37. Will there be a bowling green?
38. I think the Council have acted but too quickly. The schools is already too squashed. Why are we limited to three options – we need longer to do it properly and sensibly.
39. It is a good school and any increase would benefit the community.

40. Don't ruin the Rose Garden – it is a beautiful part of the Rec. What about building the other side?
41. Delighted to see the pavilion go – it is a blot on the landscape. I support Option C. There is a lot to gain from the school increasing to 2FE. Already have good extra-curricular activities.
42. What will be the construction time?
43. Bishop Gilpin governors vetoed their expansion. What is the Dundonald governor's mood? Son goes to the playgroup in the pavilion, how is this affected?
44. Don't object to the school expansion but oppose building on open area. With regard to the public playground – you state it will be larger in all 3 options, however this is not the case it is smaller in Option B. Option C it is bigger but how will it cope with double the number of children playing in it after school – the current one is already packed. Will we be without a playground during the construction?
45. My children didn't get into Dundonald but survived. The land was given to the people. This is thin end of the wedge. In future landowners will be reluctant to give their land to the Council. Will current users still have access during the day to the pavilion?

Appendix 1 (to 22 June meeting)

Presentation by Lorraine Maries speaking on behalf of the Protect Dundonald Rec. Campaign group

The Protect Dundonald Rec. Campaign Group is a non-political group of local residents who have come together to oppose building on Dundonald Rec. We **are** opposed to building on the recreation ground, **NOT** the expansion of Dundonald School.

There is a Restrictive Covenant on Dundonald Recreation Ground. This legally binding agreement was made between what is now Merton Council and John & James Innes in 1893 when the land was transferred. The promise made was to preserve the Rec in perpetuity as a 'public pleasure ground' and that "no building or other erection not reasonably required for use in connection with a pleasure ground shall at any time be erected or made on the said ... land". A school is not a building which is "reasonably required for use in connection with a pleasure ground" therefore a school building cannot legally be built on the Rec.

Lets look at Open Space and the planning process:

Dundonald School is by far the smallest site in the borough - 2,094 sq m. To double the number of pupils the Council's own plans show that they will have to annex an additional 2,000 sq m of the rec. The Council claims the school extension will not be built on 'open space' because it will be using the footprint of the existing pavilion and only 0.21% will be lost. This is not true the actual amount will be over 4%. Open Space is a **planning designation** and all of Dundonald Rec., including the pavilion, is designated Public Open Space in the borough's plans. Appropriating the pavilion

footprint and additional land for educational use means it will no longer be 'open space'.

At the last meeting Cllr Judge assured us of the independence of the planning department. He referred to Merton Council's Core Planning strategy which specifically supports the "protection and enhancement of open spaces".

Under the Covenant Dundonald Rec. has that protection now, a protection which has lasted for 118 years, not the 15 years offered by the planning department.

What about education – isn't that more important?

The Council claim that Dundonald school must expand because the demand is local and cannot be met through other means.

Is demand really local?

In Nov 2010 when trying to persuade Bishop Gilpin school to expand, the Council said that demand was in the north of the borough and local to that school. The Governors refused to take more than 1 bulge year. Just six months later the Council tells us that demand is around Dundonald School.

These are the facts: there are ten primary schools within a one mile radius of Dundonald. Six of these have expanded between 2007 and 2011. This is a 43% increase in the number of places for five year olds. Compare this with an increase in the birth rate of 30%. Doesn't this demonstrate that local demand has already been met?

The expansion of the catchment area to 780m for the bulge year is an admission of this. (Look at the Council's slide which shows a circle five times the size of the present catchment area). An expanded school would bring children in from as far away as 1,000 metres. These children are not really local to Dundonald school - they actually live nearer to other local schools - nearly every household in the borough is within 500m of a primary school.

But we also need to consider the two or three families a year who live in Herbert Road and Graham Road and who are refused a place at Dundonald despite it being their nearest school. Surely this is an argument for expansion – well, no. At the last meeting the Council admitted that there are 4 children from among the first 30 places offered who were admitted under the sibling rule but live over 1km away. The problem is caused by placing the sibling rule and parental choice higher than proximity. Many parents want this, but in reality this means that some lose out in the resulting lottery.

So why does the Council continue to insist there is 'demand'? It is because they are deliberately using 'demand' to mean the number of children whose parents **want** them to come to the school rather than the number who **need** to come to the school because it is nearest.

There are other options:

Dundonald has already agreed to take a 'bulge year' in 2011, a challenging situation for staff and pupils, but which parents have been assured will not impact on the quality of schooling. There are other options for meeting the need for additional school places. What about a 'rotating bulge year' where the burden is shared across several schools? Or finding a satellite site for Dundonald? Or building a new school on a brownfield site? Or expanding other schools with larger sites in areas of real need?

What about the new community amenities which the Council is promising?

The Council claims that the community will gain from the new amenities in the school building. But do we need them? The Government's Extended Schools initiative already encourages schools to extend opening hours to offer community facilities on-site in their existing buildings, for example hiring the school hall.

Particularly worrying is the Council's suggestion that we will be accessing money from the education budget to fund the new community facilities. Is this acceptable when we are told that the education budget is already inadequate and savings need to be made? Why not raise funds for Dundonald Rec. from other sources, of which there are many. Why not fix the disabled toilets and put a coat of paint on the pavilion instead of pulling it down?

We will be losing open space and losing community amenities – the new building does not have enough changing rooms for football or cricket teams to have separate secure facilities, there is no storage for regular users of the hall, the new hall is smaller. In all options the bowling green will go – and when it goes, so too will the full-time park keeper as he will have less to do. We will have an occasional visiting groundsman instead. Tasks such as cleaning and maintenance of the new building will fall to the school – their cleaners will have to clean the community toilets and changing rooms, for example.

And can we trust the council to deliver on promises? Their assurances over the provision of a new community hall in Wimbledon Park have still not been met after more than seven years leading to the Council being found guilty of Maladministration by the Local Government Ombudsman, and forced to pay a fine to Wimbledon Park Residents Association. Is that what we want here?

The idea of expanding Dundonald School onto the Rec. is simply not practical.

The Council is unable to answer many questions put to them regarding the details of this plan. It is apparent that this hasn't been thought through.

The site is tiny - how can twice the number of pupils be educated in a school building that is only 50% bigger than the present one?

During the construction, which will take at least a year, would additional children have to be accommodated in Portacabins in the middle of a building site?

The children's playground and a large section of the Rec will be out of commission during the building work.

What about the increase in traffic caused by more pupils and teachers? Assurances which the Council gave about the expansion of Wimbledon Chase have already been shown to be false – and we will suffer more extreme problems because this site is much smaller with no parking facilities.

This is not just about short-term problems, it's about the long term. Another site can be found for a school building, but building on the rec. will show that Council have no regard for the law or the wishes of local residents. We want this valuable green space to be preserved for the majority of local residents and children in years to come. If you agree with us please say no to building on Dundonald Rec.

Dundonald Primary School

Proposed permanent expansion of school from 1 to 2 forms of entry (30 to 60 pupil places per year)

Additional consultation to comply with statutory procedures set out in the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and associated regulations and guidance

Responses to be returned by Thursday 3 October 2013

Introduction to this consultation and the legal purpose

The significant enlargement of a Local Authority maintained school requires a set process to comply with statutory procedures set out in the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and associated regulations and guidance. This requires a two stage process, the first of which is known as a statutory consultation. Following the consultation the proposer (the council in this case) should decide whether to submit a formal statutory proposal, a further four-week period for anyone to make further comment or raise an objection.

The council undertook a statutory consultation for the expansion of Dundonald Primary School in summer 2011 and the results were reported to the council's Cabinet in September 2011. The report and minutes can be viewed from this link

http://www.merton.gov.uk/council/decision-making/committee.htm?view=event&event_id=3574

Cabinet agreed the council should go to the next stage of publishing a statutory notice, as well as the other necessary legal processes required for the expansion of the school due to the nature of the expansion scheme:

- applying to the Upper Tribunal (Lands Tribunal) for a modification of the restrictive covenant on the recreation ground
- submitting a planning application
- to proceed with the appropriation of the area of land required for the school expansion from Leisure Services to Education for the use of Dundonald School

The Upper Tribunal has agreed to the modification of the restrictive covenant and the Greater London Authority and Secretary of State have confirmed that they will not overturn the conditional decision of LB Merton's planning applications committee to approve the council's planning application.

However, due to the time required to modify the restrictive covenant the council has not published the statutory notice. The statutory guidance says: "Proposals should be published within a reasonable timeframe following consultation so that the proposals are informed by up-to-date feedback. Proposals should therefore be published within 12 months of consultation being concluded. "

In view of this time lapse the council is contacting interested parties as required under the statutory guidance since there may now be additional people who could be affected by the proposal.

It should be noted that the original consultation also served as a pre-planning application consultation for residents that may have felt affected by the proposal for reasons of residential amenity and impact on the recreation ground. These have now been tested through the planning application process so the audience for this additional consultation is narrower to comply with the requirements of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and associated regulations and guidance.

Residents concerned regarding the impact on the recreation ground will still have an opportunity to comment as part of the separate statutory land appropriation procedure regarding a transfer of a small area of the recreation ground to the school, which will be advertised in the local press shortly with its separate statutory process.

Summary of the council's proposal

Dundonald Primary School is currently a one-form entry (1FE) school, admitting up to 30 pupils in one class per year, 210 pupils across the school excluding the nursery. Following a request from the council the school provided an extra class in reception year in September 2011 within the school's existing accommodation but does not have the capacity for further classes without additional buildings.

The council wishes to permanently expand the school to be a two-form entry (2FE) school, admitting up to 60 pupils per year in two classes. This means it would eventually have up to 420 pupils on roll excluding the nursery. It is proposed that this is formally commenced from September 2015 but expansion of the school places would be gradual until reaching all year groups by 2021/22.

The London Borough of Merton has a legal obligation to provide school places for all the children needing education and the latest demographic information from the Greater London Authority, based on the 2011 census, confirms that there is a continued increase in demand for school places in the Wimbledon area.

LB Merton's aim in meeting the need to provide additional primary school places is to increase the number of high quality local primary school places to meet demand, thereby raising standards and increasing the percentage of parents receiving their first and top three preferences.

Dundonald Primary school was given an 'Outstanding' rating by Ofsted at its last inspection in 2009, and pupil achievement continues to be significantly above the national average. The school is the most oversubscribed school in the borough with non-sibling places only able to be offered to a very small area - in the last two years this has been between only 106 and 218 metres.

To enable the expansion of the school it is necessary to re-configure the current boundaries of the school site and the adjacent Dundonald Recreation Ground. This was set out in full detail in the council's planning application.

Further details

The expansion of Dundonald Primary School has been the subject of a number of consultations since being part of the council's overall proposals in autumn 2010. Significant documentation has been provided as part of these processes, which have been available on the council's website. These can be viewed via this link, which also provides a link to the council's planning application.

<http://www.merton.gov.uk/council/getinvolved/schoolsconsultations/dundonald-school-consultation.htm>

Response Form

Please provide comments below on a separate sheet by Thursday 3 October 2013

Post to: Contracts and School Organisation, Children, Schools and Families Department,
London Borough of Merton, Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX

Or: Completed responses can be given by hand to the main office at Dundonald Primary
School, Dundonald Road, Wimbledon, SW19 3QH and these will be forwarded to the
Council

Responses can also be e-mailed to: schconsult@merton.gov.uk

Comments on the proposed expansion of Dundonald Primary School to provide 420 places

(You may continue on a separate sheet)

Are you:

A parent with a pupil currently at Dundonald Primary School

A parent with pre-school children

A member of Dundonald Primary staff or governor

A local resident (not in one of the above three categories)

Other e.g. representing an institution please state

—
—
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—
—

Signed

Date

Responses to be returned by: Thursday 3 October 2013

Dundonald Primary School and Dundonald Park

Consultation on proposed permanent
expansion of school from 1FE to 2FE
(30 to 60 pupil places per year) and
impact on Dundonald Park

Responses to be returned by Tue 28 June 2011

Consultation meeting Wed 8 June 7.30pm

***'Drop in' design session Mon 23 May 3.30 to 7.30pm or
Wed 8 June 5.00pm 7.30pm***

Summary of the consultation

The London Borough of Merton has a legal obligation to provide school places for all the children needing education. The demand for places in the borough is increasing substantially and wherever possible we wish to expand our best schools which parents wish to access.

Dundonald Primary School is currently a one-form entry (1FE) school, admitting up to 30 pupils in one class per year, 210 pupils across the school excluding the nursery. Following a request from the council the school is taking an extra class in reception year in September 2011 within the school's existing accommodation.

The council is considering options to permanently expand the school from September 2012 to be a two-form entry (2FE) school, admitting up to 60 pupils per year in two classes. This will mean it would eventually have up to 420 pupils on roll excluding the nursery, but expansion of the school places would be gradual until reaching all year groups in 2017/18.

To enable the expansion of the school it is necessary to re-configure the current boundaries of the school site and the adjacent Dundonald Park. The school already uses the park's games court during all play times.

The council is therefore consulting on two related matters:

- The principle of expanding Dundonald School to be 2-forms of entry
- Design options for expanding the school and how this could be an opportunity to improve the parks facilities for the future

Public consultation evening and 'drop in' design discussions

A consultation evening will be held at Dundonald Primary School, Dundonald Road, SW19 3QH **on Wednesday 8 June 2011 at 7.30pm**. Parents and other interested parties such as park users are invited to attend to discuss the educational merits of the school's expansion, options for expanding the school, and the potential benefits for the park and its users.

For parents and residents wishing to have a more informal, detailed discussion on the design with the architects, two 'drop in' sessions have been arranged for residents to attend to discuss the plans at **any time between 3.30pm and 7.30pm on Monday 23 May, or before the public meeting between 5.00pm and 7.30pm on Wednesday 8 June 2011**.

Wider background to expansion of Dundonald Primary School

There is a significant increase in demand for school places in Merton, with more children entering school age, fuelled by a birth rate that has risen by over 30% in the last six years. Our population forecasts indicate that much of this rise will be sustained.

The proposed expansion of Dundonald School is part of an overall programme of school expansion in Merton. From 2008 to 2010 nine schools provided additional reception classes. In the autumn Merton also consulted on nine further school expansions required in reception year for 2011/12 and 2012/13. The consultation and the decision document from the Council's Cabinet is available on the council's website

<http://www.merton.gov.uk/council/getinvolved/consultation/schoolsconsultations.htm>
or can be requested from the address stated on the response form.

Even this significant expansion has proved insufficient in the Wimbledon area for this September so, following a request from the council, the school governors agreed to take an extra class on the basis that there is no presumption that permanent expansion will follow.

Dundonald is a popular and successful school. In its most recent Ofsted inspection (2009), it was rated outstanding. The school has been heavily over subscribed for its 30 places such that children have in recent years needed to reside within approximately 200 to 300 metres from the school to obtain a place. With the general increase in demand for school places there are no longer alternative local schools without further expansion.

Design options for the school expansion and impact on the park

Dundonald School is on a small site and it is not possible to double its intake without making more space available. However, the council has undertaken detailed feasibility work on design options and by considering the school and park areas more flexibly it is possible for the scheme to meet the following aims:

- To provide Dundonald School with sufficient indoor and outdoor space for a 420 place (plus 26 full time equivalent place nursery) primary school, which will ensure that more of the local community have access to a local school.
- To demolish the current poor quality and ageing park pavilion building and replace with a high quality two storey building on a similar footprint that provides the necessary current pavilion facilities as well as those required for the expanded school.
- To ensure the park facilities can be protected, while acknowledging through consultation that there is an opportunity to review the future facilities that may be of most benefit to the local community.

3 options for expanding the school and for the park

Following feasibility work there are 3 viable options to put to consultation, all of which wrap-around the school's two-storey annex building which is adjacent to the park. There will be separate access for school and park users.

All options will ensure the children's public playground is at least as large as at present, no loss of football/cricket playing pitch, and a larger dual use hard court games/tennis court area.

Drawings of the 3 schemes are available on the council's website

<http://www.merton.gov.uk/council/getinvolved/consultation/schoolsconsultations.htm> and on display on the park's noticeboards and on the pavilion. The 'drop in' sessions will allow the architects to go through the scheme with parents and residents.

It should be noted that these are early feasibility drawings, and subject to this consultation, one option would be developed in more detail. In summary the differences between the three schemes are as follows:

Option A - Provides a clear open children's public playground with two dividable areas, and 3 hall spaces in one building available to the public outside school hours, one of which is during school hours. However, it would mean loss of some mature trees, and due to the retention of the school's early years classrooms in their current position all school children need to walk through a narrow 'corridor' to access their main play area.

Option B - Provides a longer narrow building thus ensuring no loss of mature trees. Although it has a slightly smaller footprint than option A, due to its shape, it would provide a greater perception of protruding into the park. It also has 3 hall spaces in one building available to the public outside school hours, one of which is during school hours. However, the public playground has only a narrow connection 'corridor' between toddler's and older children's play, unless a decision was made to locate it in the current pavilion area.

Option C - Ensures no loss of mature trees but the building is less long and narrow than option B, thus ensuring a mainly clear open children's public playground with two dividable areas. It has the advantage of new purpose built early years classrooms for the school with direct access to play, which also ensures other school children have easier access to their play areas. One of the key differences is that the community hall for day-time use will be in the current school building with a separate access. This will be an advantage in making access easier for community activities when the park is closed but they will be split from the other 2 hall spaces in the new building available to the public outside school hours.

School admissions

Dundonald School currently admits children on LB Merton's standard admissions policy, which after giving first priority to children in public care, exceptional needs cases and siblings, gives priority on the basis of straight line distance from the school. The expansion of the school is intended to enable children to gain entry from a wider area, though still local. Dundonald School is approximately 400 metres from Wimbledon Chase school to the south west giving a choice of two local schools in this area, but there are areas to the east of Dundonald School where it is challenging to obtain any local school place.

When Wimbledon Chase School expanded, an Admissions Priority Area (APA) was developed which gives greater priority to residents in a defined area. An Admissions Priority Area may be suitable for Dundonald. However, this needs to be done in partnership with other schools in the area. Therefore we are not, at this stage, consulting on a specific APA, but may do so in the future. In any case, an APA would not extend more than 1000 metres from the school, ensuring the school remained a local school that children can walk to.

Next steps

The council is following the process defined by statute for the significant enlargement of a school. This is the statutory consultation, to close on 28 June 2011. Following this consultation the council will decide whether to submit a formal statutory proposal. This would be a further four-week period for anyone to comment or raise an objection. At this stage we will also undertake any legal processes relating to the park, the requirements for which the council has assessed before commencing this consultation.

If the council decides to follow the next stage of the school expansion it will also develop one of the design options in more detail before submitting a planning application. Both approval to the planning application and the education statutory proposal is required before any decision on additional places is made for September 2012. It is aimed that this will be resolved by December 2011 before parents submit their school admissions application for 2012.

Response Form

Please provide comments in the box below or a separate sheet by **Tuesday 28 June 2011** to:

**Contracts and School Organisation, Children, Schools and Families Department,
London Borough of Merton, Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX
E-mail: schconsult@merton.gov.uk.**

**Alternatively they can be given by hand to the office at Dundonald Primary School,
who will forward them to the council.**

1. Please provide comments on the principle of expanding Dundonald Primary School to 2 forms of entry (60 pupils per year), including any specific concerns you may have that the Local Authority and school could address.

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.....(please continue overleaf as necessary)

2. What is your preferred design option in expanding the school (please tick)

Option A ☐ or Option B ☐ or Option C ☐

Please provide any comments and whether there are there any high or low priorities for the scheme or facilities you would like to see in the park as part of the scheme

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.....
.....(please continue overleaf as necessary)

Are you:

A parent with a pupil currently at Dundonald Primary School ☐
A parent with pre-school children ☐
A member of staff ☐
A local resident without a direct interest in the school's education ☐
Other e.g. representing an institution please state _____

SIGNED..... **DATE**

APPENDIX 4

FUNDING OF PROJECT IN COUNCIL'S CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Committee: Council

Date: 6 March 2013

Agenda item: 5
Wards: All
Subject: Business Plan 2013-17

Lead officer: Caroline Holland, Director of Corporate Services

Lead member: Councillor Mark Allison, Cabinet Member for Finance

Key Decision Reference Number: This report is written and any decisions taken are within the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules as laid out in Part 4-C of the Constitution.

Contact officer: Paul Dale

Recommendations:

1. That the Council agrees the Business Plan 2013-17 including:-
 - the General Fund Budget;
 - the Council Tax Strategy for 2013/14 equating to a Band D Council Tax of £1,102.55, which means that Merton qualifies for Council Tax Freeze Grant;
 - the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2013-2017;
 - the Capital Investment Programme (as detailed in Annex 1 to the Capital Strategy);
 - the Capital Strategy (Section 1: Part A of the Business Plan)
 - the Treasury Management Strategy (Section 1: Part A of the Business Plan), including the detailed recommendations in that Section , incorporating the Prudential Indicators

as set out in this report, and agrees the formal resolutions as set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

1. Purpose of report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 At its meeting on 18 February 2013, Cabinet considered two reports which concerned the detailed structure and scrutiny of the Council's Business Plan for 2013-17, including the Budget and Council Tax for 2013/14, the MTFS for 2013-17 and the Capital Strategy and Investment Programme for 2013-17.

Children, Schools and Families	Scrutiny Panel *	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
		£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Aragon Expansion	CYP	0	0	0	0
Benedict Expansion	CYP	0	0	0	0
Cranmer Expansion	CYP	4,001	0	0	0
Hollymount Permanent expansion	CYP	0	0	0	0
Joseph Hood Permanent expansion	CYP	199	0	0	0
St Mary's expansion	CYP	2,267	1,100	100	0
Pupil Growth - Unallocated (Split)	CYP	0	0	0	0
Gorrington Park expansion	CYP	962	150	0	0
Hillcross School Expansion	CYP	2,528	1,700	250	0
Merton Abbey Temp Accommodation	CYP	2,018	1,700	200	0
Pelham School Expansion	CYP	1,121	2,849	1,226	0
Cricketer Grn Exp-Chapel Orchard	CYP	60	0	0	0
Beechholme 2 Temp. classrooms	CYP	545	2,775	1,575	0
23 FE School to be Confirmed	CYP	225	1,575	1,575	1,600
24 FE School to be Confirmed	CYP	0	300	1,575	1,600
25 FE School to be Confirmed	CYP	0	300	1,575	1,600
26FE Temporary Solution for Sept. 2015	CYP	0	0	325	0
27FE Temporary Solution for Sept. 2016	CYP	0	0	0	300
28FE Temporary Solution for Sept. 2016	CYP	0	0	0	300
Dundonald expansion	CYP	4,762	728	0	0
Poplar Permanent Expansion	CYP	588	3,113	1,739	0
Liberty expansion	CYP	0	0	0	0
Singlegate expansion	CYP	4,246	380	0	0
Wimbledon Park expansion	CYP	2,127	170	0	0
Holy Trinity Expansion	CYP	224	0	0	0
Primary School Expansions		25,873	16,840	10,140	5,400
Garden PCP	CYP	248	0	0	0
Schools Capital Maintenance and Accessibility	CYP	400	400	400	400
Liberty Primary School	CYP	4	0	0	0
Primary school autism unit	CYP	612	0	0	0
Brightwell	CYP	100	0	0	0
Youth & Community centres re-provision	CYP	139	0	0	0
Secondary School expansion	CYP	0	400	1,150	22,150
Raynes Park Sports Pavilion	CYP	80	0	0	0
Ursuline Loan	CYP	600	0	0	0
Schools Equipment Loans	CYP	373	0	0	0
Other		2,556	800	1,550	22,550
Total		28,429	17,640	11,690	27,950

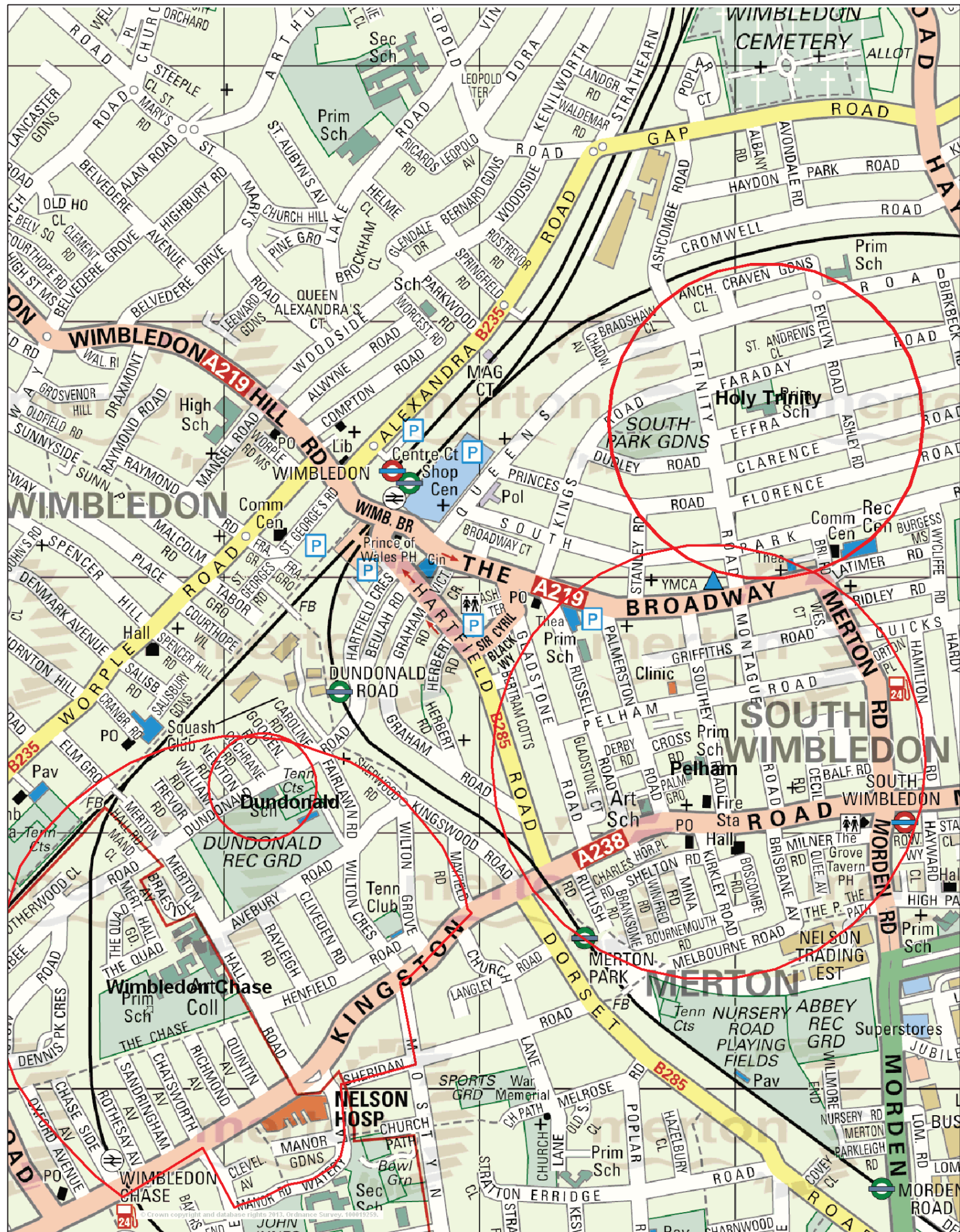
* OSC= Overview and Scrutiny Commission, CYP = Children and Young People, HCOP = Healthier Communities and Older People SC = Sustainable Communities,

Responses to statutory notice

1	Stephen Rothwell	Object as the expansion will endanger the academic standing of an existing institution and jeopardizes the relationship with the local community.
2	Geoffrey Chapman	Objects due to the following: it will change the nature of the Rec by being more built up visually and there will be a significant loss of open space; the need for expansion has not been demonstrated; alternative sites that do not involved loss of open space have not been adequately explored; the expansion does not meet current guidelines for school buildings.
3	Deborah Chapman	Object due to the following; local need has not been demonstrated; alternative sites have not been adequately explored; the expansion does not meet current guidelines for school buildings; and the detriment it would have on the wider community.
4	Rita Pagnoni	Object due to the expanding onto the rec. We need to ensure all open space is maintained for everyone to use.
5	Barbara Julien	Object due to: inadequate size of proposed classrooms; effect on local area would be disastrous both during the building period and with the final proposed number of 420 pupils and have a negative impact on local resident's lives (increased traffic, noise, etc); and have no confidence that the sports facilities would be safeguarded.
6	Anton Chateau	Object as the demographic case for expansion is weak and modification of the Covenant has set a precedent for further unopposed modification of the open space.
7	Theresa Long	Do not feel it will improved standards at the school and may enable the council to take over the rest of the park.
8	Letty Lai	The expansion is a brilliant idea as it has been extremely stressful for parents in Wimbledon to find a good school for their children. I am a regular user of the Rec over the weekend. If it is not available after the expansion Merton Park is only one stop away on the tram (20 second ride) and if you want exercise you can walk there.
9	Paul Lee	Please go ahead – we are expecting a baby soon and although we live only 200m away are out of the catchment area. I am a regular user of the Rec and courts at the weekends, but there are plenty of others not too far away and the Rec will still be big enough to accommodate sport of all kinds.
10	Mr & Mrs Okker	We object as we do not think the Council should be entitled or indeed able to remove a large chunk of the Rec. The Rec is always in use by people of all ages enjoying a variety of sports and leisure activities. We are also concerned about our entitlement to the quiet use and enjoyment of our own garden due to increased noise from the expanded school (Human Rights Act 1998). Why not build a new school on a more suitable site?
11	Jenny Nyiri	Object to expanding onto the park. Suggests using one of the other suitable sites. The park is often crowded with different activities.
12	Antoinette Wynne	Object due to: the unique character of the school will be lost; the land to be lost is used extensively by children's clubs, sports clubs, families etc; children need more space to play not less; the park will be ruined; the covenant should not be broken.
13	Mrs A Dawson	Object as the local need has not been demonstrated; planning permission has not been gained yet; the school will be too small; the removal of public open space.
14	Monica	Object due to: smallness of site; loss of the space in the park; additional traffic; and the children will lose the sense

	Jimenez	of group due to having two buildings and my daughters who attend the school won't be able to meet their siblings as usual during the day.
15	RM & FM Bower	Object due to: detrimental effect on school standards; lack of green space in the Ward; negative effect on the well-being of residents; more suitable alternative sites; concerns about 'combined access' to the new building; increased traffic and danger; and size of new classrooms.
16	Maureen Ahad	Object due to: the reduction of choice for parents in terms of educational environment; lack of space that the expanded school would offer each child; reduction in playing and relaxing space available to all children outside school hours; and an expansion will not in itself affect the success of the school or the attainment of its pupils.
17	Tehri Manuel-Garner	Object due to: larger school is not appropriate to the area and community; appropriation of land from the Rec; school will be even more cramped; increased traffic, parking, pollution and noise.
18	Louis Garner	Object as I think the school will lose something special if it expands; additional traffic; loss of open space to the school.
19	Paul Garner	Object as the school will be too small and unfit to cope with additional children; it will not improve standards; loss of facilities in the park; additional traffic, parking and congestion.
20	Ulla Manuel	Object due to impact on the Rec and negative impact on mine and my family's life; it will not improve school standards; increased parking and traffic.
21	George Manuel	Object due to impact on the Rec and negative impact on mine and my family's life; it will not improve school standards; increased parking and traffic.
22	Dundonald Rec Tennis Club	Object on behalf of the many hundreds of Merton residents who use the tennis courts due to: detrimental effect on Dundonald pupils; loss of availability of the tennis courts during the school day; question the need for additional places; negative effect on local children by excluding them from the use of vital areas dedicated to sport; small size of the expanded school; the replacement is totally inadequate as described by Sport England. Have organised a petition with over 340 local signatures against the appropriation of 2,578m ² of open space.
23	Protect Dundonald Rec	Local residents and users of the Rec strongly object to the loss of public open space, and the views of the current users of the land have to be taken into account and given at least equal weight to those of parents around the borough who may want their children to have places at the school. There is no evidence that Dundonald School needs to expand to meet local need. "All of the state-educated primary school aged children who live within 400m of Dundonald School attend either Dundonald or other nearby schools: Wimbledon Chase, Pelham, Holy Trinity or St Marys. All of these schools have expanded, and now offer 80% more places: local demand is met by local provision". Data from the Office for National statistics and the GLA state that there are relatively few four year olds in Dundonald ward and the recent increase had only been small so Dundonald had a surplus, yet the deficit was areas to the east of the borough e.g. Graveney ward. "Distance offered" is a poor measure of local need as it varies

		<p>massively from year to year for every school depending on the number of sibling places offered, and the fall at Dundonald is directly related to the rise in sibling places offered. The Manuplastics site is an alternative. The expansion, far from increasing parental choice, promotes and reinforces inequality between the wealthy and the deprived areas of the borough as parents in wealthy parts of the borough have greater choice; educational standards won't be improved as a result of the expansion as all schools within 1 mile of Dundonald are 'Good' or 'Outstanding'. Questioned whether the land, premises and capital to implement the proposals is available when the planning permission had not been resolved and the land was not available.</p>
24	Anthony Fairclough	<p>Object as there will be less space per child than at present and worry that the Council will want to encroach even further onto the Rec.</p>
25	Paul Gibson	<p>Need to expand the school not demonstrated, nor alternatives considered properly. Considerable detail provided in paper from 'Protect the Rec' group and council hasn't considered the fall in numbers locally from birth to school and to the independent sector. The GLA schools atlas provides additional information.</p> <p>Disruption to children and staff, land taken out of open spaces is 5% not 1% impacting on a park that attracts a quarter of a million visits per year., beautiful trees felled, children's playground dug up.</p>
	Tina Dunkin	<p>Object due to loss of green space; there is no real need for expansion in this area; increased traffic problems; and the effect on the whole ethos and feeling of the school.</p>



Indicative maximum distance offered for Reception places in April 2013 for

Dundonald, Holy Trinity, Pelham & Wimbledon Chase

London Borough of Merton
100 London Road
Morden
Surrey
SM4 5DX

