

Proposal to enlarge The Priory C of E (VA) School
Consultation Meeting
Monday 19th October 2015

Summary of Consultation

The consultation process ran from Monday 28th September 2015 to Monday 26th October 2015 at noon. On 19th October 2015 a consultation meeting was held with interested parties. At the meeting the following issues were raised and discussed:

- Calculation of demand – Slide 3 of the presentation showed Surrey County Council projected figures year by year. Concern was expressed over the reliability of these figures and whether there was the possibility that the school may be left with empty places, if the expansion were to proceed. It was explained that there was a significantly high level of projected demand for this not to be of concern. The figures show a need for an additional 2 Forms of entry in the Dorking area from 2019/20.
- Traffic and Transport – concerns were raised with regard to the amount of increased traffic at the beginning and end of each school day. Concern over additional coaches and buses that would be needed. Traffic in Dorking is dreadful with the current one way system, suggestion as to whether a road way could be brought in from A25, Westcott Road. Permission from the Highways Department would be required. School transport issues would increase if the expansion were to proceed, so a review from the Highways Department would be required as part of the Planning process. Concern over the gridlock of cars could deter prospective parents from coming to the school. It was noted that primary school parents are a higher volume of car users, meaning that the relative impact at The Priory will not be as great as it had been at expanded primary schools. The School Travel Plan would be revised as part of the Planning Process for this school and this should address some of the concerns raised.
- Advantages of the Expansion – Local students would come to a local school. Local students are more likely to walk to school. Would still keep the appeal of a family school even with 2 additional forms, as for many years we have had 6 forms so only one actual form increase.

The Governors are behind this expansion proposal. The future will hold better facilities for students, so will become a more appealing school.

- One respondent objected to expansion as the school is a C of E school and would prefer a non C of E school to expand.
- Building – concern over the structure of a new building and the position of it. At this stage no decision on build had been made, a further consultation as part of the planning process would be required subject to the outcome of this education consultation being approved.
- Next Steps – It was confirmed that a decision on the expansion would be taken by Surrey County Council Cabinet Members in December 2015.

In addition, interested parties were invited to return responses to the consultation, via the Consultation Response Form found on the school website.

In total 10 such formal responses were received. All of these responses were from local residents of the school, with one being a staff member. Of the responses, 3 agreed with the proposal, 5 disagreed with the proposal and we had 2 'don't knows' in this respect. The responses raised issues in line with those set out above.