

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED FUTURE PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOL PROVISION ON SIMONSIDE SITE – SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK TO CONSULTATION

Simonside Consultation Timeline

- Weeks commencing 13th & 20th November 2017 – Flyers circulated inviting interested parties to a consultation event to be held at Simonside Primary School.
 - 28th November 2017 – Consultation drop-in event held to share a number of potential options for future educational provision on the Simonside site, as well as the opportunity to speak to representatives of the City Council, Simonside Primary School and Gosforth Federated Academies Trust.
 - 29th November 2017 – Consultation information published on Let's Talk Newcastle.
 - 15th December 2017 – Consultation closed.
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Consultation Information & Process

This initial stakeholder consultation was to share some potential options for creating additional primary and secondary school places in the Outer West area of Newcastle. The process aimed to capture views regarding future education provision, particularly new secondary provision on the site, along with the associated proposals for the primary school, the creation of new sports facilities (for school and community use), and the potential relocation of the Simonside Community Centre.

Boards were displayed showing the rationale for the proposed changes, some options for the site and contextual information. And supporting information, including written Frequently Asked Questions, provided greater detail of the proposals being presented, the potential impacts and benefits (both for the school and the wider community), as well as how known issues might be addressed, or be taken into consideration, as proposals develop further (prior to a more formal consultation process being undertaken).

Stakeholders who may be interested in or impacted by proposals were invited to the event via a flyer which also gave details of the Let's Talk page where all consultation information would be made available after the event.

Stakeholders who were specifically invited to the consultation event included:

- Parents of current Simonside Primary School pupils
- Local residents
- Users of the Simonside Community Centre
- Managers of Bedeburn Short Breaks
- Local Ward and Council Members
- Head Teachers of all Newcastle schools
- Representatives of School Trusts
- Diocesan Directors of Education

Attendees at the event had the opportunity to ask questions of the school leadership team and local authority representatives, as well as members of Gosforth Federated Academies Trust who are the proposers for a new secondary school in the Outer West of the city.

This event launched a consultation window to gather views on the options being presented, and for stakeholders to ask questions or raise concerns. A Consultation

Feedback Form was provided and copies were left at the school and the Community Centre for parents and users of the facilities to register their feedback.

More than 60 people attended the event, including:

- 18 Parents
- 3 Grandparents
- 11 Local Residents
- 18 School Staff (12 from Simonside Primary School)
- 4 Head Teachers from other schools
- 6 Governors
- 4 Councillors (2 Parish / 2 City Councillors)
- 3 Representatives of School Trusts (2 from Outer West Learning Trust, 1 from SMART Multi Academy Trust)

Stakeholders were asked to complete questionnaires at the event or return directly to the school after the event or online via Let's Talk Newcastle by 15th December 2017.

Responses, questions and any concerns raised through the Feedback Forms have now been collated and analysed. A summary of all feedback can be found below.

Stakeholder Consultation Feedback

A total of 119 responses were received to the initial consultation.

- 25 were completed at the consultation event.
- 67 were returned directly to the school.
- 27 were submitted online via Let's Talk Newcastle.

Summary of Responses Received by Stakeholder Group:

Stakeholder Group	No.	%
Parents of current Simonside Primary Pupils <i>(35 of whom also identified themselves as local residents)</i>	68	57%
Parents of pupils at other schools <i>(21 in total - 17 also had children at Simonside Primary so are counted above)</i>	4	3%
Local Residents <i>(58 in total - 38 also parents of primary pupils and so are counted above)</i>	20	17%
School Staff <i>(13 Simonside Staff, with 1 also a parent so counted above. 1 was a staff member from another school).</i>	12	10%
Head Teachers	6	5%
Representatives of School Trusts	2	2%
Governors <i>(6 in total, 1 was also a Trust Member, 2 Simonside Staff / 1 Parent / 1 Local Resident – these are counted in figures above)</i>	1	1%
Other <i>(3 Church representatives / 3 unspecified role)</i>	6	5%
Total Respondents	119	100.0%

Overall Responses to Consultation Questions

Stakeholders were asked to indicate whether they agreed or disagreed with:

- The educational proposals for the Simonside site in general
- The creation of additional primary places on the site
- The development of a new secondary school on the site
- The creation of new and extended sports facilities on the site
- The possible relocation of the Community Centre

Respondents were also invited to make comments relating to the above proposals, as well as recording any further comments, queries or concerns they had in general.

Q1) Do you support the proposals to develop land at Simonside for future primary and secondary school provision?

Yes	No	Partial	Did Not Answer		Total	% agree	% disagree
111	5	2	1		119	93%	4%

2a) Do you support the provision of additional primary school places for local children through the expansion or rebuilding of Simonside Primary School?

Yes	No	Partial	Did Not Answer		Total	% agree	% disagree
117	1	0	1		119	98%	1%

2b) Comments made by respondents regarding primary proposals

Please Note: The comments and concerns listed below are not exhaustive, but reflect the most prevalent issues raised, along with an indication of the numbers who referenced them.

Comments in favour of proposals for the primary school	No. of respondents making this comment
Current building not fit for purpose / needs upgrading / costly to maintain / pupils and staff deserve modern building and facilities	20
Provision of additional primary school places needed in area	16
Better for local families and children	7
Keeps children closer to home / less travel	6
Expands access to highly valued / excellent school	6
Will help provide better resources / opportunities	4
Provides opportunity to expand curriculum / build on educational success	4
Better to have 2 Forms of Entry / greater pupil numbers / single age classes / pupils learning with own age group	3
Good for community as a whole	3

Queries or concerns about proposals for the primary school	No. of respondents making this comment
Don't see need for expansion	2
Concerns about smoothness of transition to new primary building	2
Concerns about space in and around new building / floor space	2
Will residents on new housing developments send children to Simonside? / Better to have new primary on housing development site?	1
Supportive providing it doesn't jeopardise expansion plans at other schools and there is full engagement regarding any changes to feeder school arrangements	1

3a) Do you support proposals for a new secondary school for local children at this location?

Yes	No	Partial	Did Not Answer	Total	% agree	% disagree
111	7	0	1	119	93%	6%

3b) Comments made by respondents regarding secondary proposals

Comments in favour of proposals for secondary school	No. of respondents making this comment
Would be more convenient / accessible / less travel / able to walk	26
Better for local children	8
Would improve choice of secondary education	8
Would provide additional secondary school places needed	8
Good for families / community	7
Benefits of co-location / strong links with primary school	7
Would keep more children in Newcastle schools	5
Enables smoother transition for children with their year group / friends	4
Improve community cohesion / strengthen community	4
Would be an excellent resource	3
Collaboration between schools would improve pupil support	3
Benefits of a smaller secondary school	3
Creation of jobs / help grow businesses / strengthen local economy	2
Queries or concerns about proposals for secondary school	No. of respondents making this comment
Concerns about increased traffic / congestion	3
Concerns about secondary age pupils so close to primary	3
Concerns about related infrastructure (e.g. parking / access routes)	2
Concerns about suitability of suggested location (given footfall)	1
Would need new housing and transport links to be sustainable	1

4a) Do you support the development of new sports facilities (including for access by the community) within the secondary school proposals?

Yes	No	Partial	Did Not Answer	Total	% agree	% disagree
111	6	1	1	119	93%	5%

4b) Comments made by respondents regarding sports facility proposals

Comments in favour of proposals for new sports facilities	No. of respondents who registered this comment
Adding value to and involving the community	17
Giving local people and children something to do	11
Improving health and wellbeing for local community and pupils	8
Opportunity for more before / after-school & weekend activities	8
Bring community together / improve community cohesion	5
Improved resources and facilities for pupils / more up to date	5
Extend range of sports provision on offer	4
Improve pupil behaviour	4
Enable more children to reach their potential / have a positive future	2
Effective / optimised use of land	2
Queries or concerns about proposals for new sports facilities	No. of respondents who registered this comment
Concerns about traffic	1
Do not want new school built at all	1
If Community Centre gone, need something else in its place	1

Q5) Do you have any views on the possible relocation of the Community Centre?

Comments in favour of proposals for moving Community Centre	No. of respondents who registered this comment
No issues with proposals providing Community Centre is still local / central to the community	11
Support the move (to Gala Field or Roycroft Centre)	11
Good idea / happy to move	5
Better facilities and building will benefit the community	4
Supportive of moving current public bar as not appropriate next to school	3
An opportunity to offer more services	2
Good for more out of school activities (e.g. sports / dancing etc)	2
Whatever is needed for the children	2

Queries or concerns about proposals for moving Community Centre	No. of respondents who registered this comment
Community Centre is well used / would not want to lose this hard worked for resource completely	7
Concerns about still being accessible / close by	6
Should be near / retain some presence at school	4
Against “shoehorning” into Gala Field building / not a suitable location	2
Lose spirit / social aspects of current centre	2
Disruption to or loss of any activities on the estate	2

Q6) Do you have any further comments or queries you would like to raise relating to the proposals?

Comments in favour of proposals for secondary school	No. of respondents who registered this comment
Welcome proposals / excited by opportunities	6
Support Option C in particular (the proposal to relocate and rebuild primary school on site)	3
Would raise community aspirations / sense of pride	2
Children better nurtured in strong family / local networks	1
Reduce need to use car	1
Enhanced facilities for children with learning difficulties / disabilities	1
Queries or concerns about proposals for secondary school	No. of respondents who registered this comment
Concerns about supporting infrastructure / transport / access routes	3
Concerns about green space / loss of outdoor space	2
Concerns about volume of traffic	2
Plans for both schools (facilities and layout) would need to be very carefully thought through and discussed	2
Concerns about levels of disruption and for how long	1

Expressions of Interest for Proposed New Secondary School

In total, 51 respondents (on behalf of 79 children) expressed an interest in a place for one or more of their children at the proposed new secondary school on the Simonside site.

These expressions of interest have been shared with Gosforth Federated Academies Trust, to be collated along with any others the Trust have received directly, and included in support of their bid to the DfE to establish the new secondary school.