

Shepshed Masterplan Consultation Published Response

Introduction:

This consultation was developed for residents, parents and other stakeholders to comment on the proposals to develop school accommodation on the Shepshed Forest Road campus. Primarily to increase primary places from 280 to 630 places by moving St Botolphs C of E primary school into the former Shepshed high school building, build a new six classroom block and reconfigure the main Iveshead secondary school and build a new 50 place SEND school on the site of the current St Botolphs C of E primary school.

The consultation ran between 22nd September to 10th November 2020.

Summary:

There were 123 respondents to the consultation with between 60% to 80% agreeing to the questions posed. Between 6% - 19% of respondents disagreed with individual questions.

Primary school provision

Whilst the majority are in favour of the investment and that there is a need for additional primary school places, some respondents asked if places were at the correct location. A few responses said that a new primary should be located where the new housing is, however this is dispersed across the Shepshed area. Having a large 630 primary school which was also commented on.

We have looked at different options to where to increase primary places and concluded the campus at Forest Road enables these places, from the numerous housing developments, to be created. There are also key benefits to be derived from the co-location of primary, secondary and SEND facilities. For example, ensuring there is good continuity and progression for pupils between schools, and sharing of expertise and resources.

In practical terms placing a new primary school in Shepshed would require the local authority to request land to be provided and a school to be built from a developer, we would need a single housing development of at least 700 dwellings. As housing has grown in smaller phases around Shepshed there has never been one development which would have triggered the need for a new primary school.

With regard to having a large 630 place primary school, Leicestershire has a range of different size primary schools with eleven of those above 600 places. All these primary schools are rated good or outstanding.

The benefit of larger primary schools is having greater resources and funding to deal with challenges as they arise. Nevertheless, in day to day terms they will operate similar to smaller schools for example through separate year groups or key stage clusters.

The current primary school building is undersized, inside and outside and moving to a larger building will ensure that pupils have the right amount of space for their needs. Plans are for pupils to create their own smaller communities within parts of the building based on their own age groups (Foundation, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2) with separate entrances for each. This will be enhanced by having separate playgrounds and outdoor equipment for the younger age groups and older pupils.

Traffic Management

Traffic management and parking is a concern of some respondents. Mainly with the access in and out of the school campus and the potential traffic increase along Forest Road / Loughborough Road.

We are working with the Highways department as part of the planning application. A review of the parking and traffic management on the campus is being undertaken to decide what is required to improve safety. Further details will be published on our website as the scheme moves forward.

Planning secondary places

Some respondents also mentioned that there is a lack of planning for the additional future pupils coming through from primary to secondary, with no mention in the proposals of how and when these places will be created.

In time this will be necessary, however the increase in primary places will grow over a 3–5-year period. Our experience shows that we wouldn't expect to see a high increase in secondary places until some years later as primary age pupils move through the education system.

As most of the new places are to meet housing growth the extension of the secondary school will be paid from funds secured from housing developers.

Whilst we have received some of this funding for houses already completed, further funding will be received over the next 5–7 years. We will plan how best this funding is used to create extra secondary places in the local area when this is secured.

Secondary school provision

A few respondents highlighted a concern that the amount of additional space (new block) at Iveshead is less than they currently have available. Respondents also sought clarity what work would be carried out to improve the current condition of the main school building.

We use government accommodation guidelines to determine the student capacity range requirements. This includes, amongst others, classrooms, kitchen and dining facilities, staff accommodation/offices, SEND provision, storage, toilets and teacher prep rooms. We have then worked with the headteacher and governors to choose priorities in space allocation.

When it was Hind Leys college, if the building was used for 11–18 year olds, the capacity range would have been between 724–806 places. The new block and other adaptations will add more than 150 places, we are therefore confident there will be sufficient space to meet the school's current requirement.

Within the main school building there will be a reconfiguration to classrooms which will incorporate a new corridor to ease pupil flow around the north side of the building. These classes will be refurbished with new lighting, ceiling and flooring, along with student toilets and teacher workrooms. There will also be a large increase to the student dining facility space.

A new hard standing area outside the back of classrooms, leading to the playing fields, as well as a smaller area at the front corner near to the Toy Library will be laid.

An additional science classroom will be created by using space from the design and technology area, which will also see slight improvements to facilities.

The remodelling of the main school building will also incorporate a new administration/staff wing at the front of an enlarged entrance and new foyer which will be attached to the new classroom block.

Along with the new entrance reception there will be a refurbishment of the toilets close to the theatre. This will also complement the renovated and newly opened Social, Emotional and Mental Health and Communication and Interaction (primarily Autism) unit, now referred to as The Wing.

The new six classroom block will be accompanied by a staff work room, office and toilets.

Community use

Respondents also commented on the lack of sporting and leisure facilities in Shepshed but were appreciative of the facilities of the sports facilities on the school campus. There appears to be an issue with the adequacy of sports facilities within the Shepshed area, particularly in relation to swimming and multi-use games areas / artificial pitches. This is a matter for the borough council to consider longer term as further housing development progresses.

Better management of the school campus facilities should include more access for community use of the swimming pool, more evening classes and pricing should be kept low to encourage the community use. This is a matter for the governing body to consider.

Clearly any improvement to any sports facilities will help to enhance the campus, hence the local authority is working with the school and community/sports users to access other potential sources of funding, for example, through the Football Foundation to install a 4G pitch and associated facilities.

Responses to questions

Q1 What role are you responding to the consultation

- 52% Parents of pupils
- 10% Member of staff / Governor
- 25% Community resident
- 7% Pupil
- 6% Other

Q2 Proposals for investment and development of educational facilities

- 70% Agree
- 19% Disagree
- 11% Neither of don't know

Comments

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| • Is enough space being created for the current secondary pupils | 11 responses. |
| • Much needed / important to do | 9 responses. |
| • Traffic management / parking | 9 responses. |

- Ensure sufficient space for future secondary pupil demand 8 responses.
- What plans for outdoor facilities at Iveshead 8 responses.
- Are there adequate specialist facilities for secondary pupils 5 responses.

Q3 Expansion of St Botolphs C of E Primary

- 66% Agree
- 19% Disagree
- 15% Neither of don't know

Comments

- Agree primary needs to expand 17 responses.
- Traffic management re increase of pupils 11 responses.
- 630 places seem large for a primary school 11 responses.
- Primary school should be located near to housing developments 7 responses.

Q4 Reduce time spent moving Iveshead students between sites

- 75% Agree
- 6% Disagree
- 19% Neither of don't know

Comments

- Increase in classroom time / improved learning welcomed 15 responses.
- Improvement of safety / safeguarding 7 responses.
- Current situation helps promote good exercise 7 responses

Q5 Development of the 50 places SEMH school

- 60% Agree
- 14% Disagree
- 26% Neither of don't know

Comments

- Agree good idea / needed 19 responses.
- Traffic management 8 responses.
- Is this the best location 4 responses.

Question 6. How important are the following? This score is based on a scale of 1 – 10. Where 7 – 10 is important, 1 – 4 is not important, 5 – 6 neither important or not important / don't know.

Q6a Environmentally sustainable buildings

- 76% Important
- 10% Not important
- 14% Neither / Don't know

Q6b Good quality ICT facilities

- 84% Important
- 9% Not important
- 7% Neither / Don't know

Q6c Improved access at the start and end of the school day

- 82% Important
- 9% Not important
- 9% Neither / Don't know

Q6d Providing buildings that offer a welcoming environment

- 83% Important
- 9% Not important
- 8% Neither / Don't know

Q6e Better traffic management

- 82% Important
- 9% Not important
- 9% Neither / Don't know

Q6f Improved outdoor sports and recreation space

- 77% Important
- 6% Not important
- 17% Neither / Don't know

Q6g Improved dining, social and welfare facilities

- 80% Important
- 8% Not important
- 12% Neither / Don't know

Q6h Improved SEND provision

- 69% Important
- 12% Not important
- 19% Neither / Don't know

Q6i Good security and safeguarding measures

- 80% Important
- 6% Not important
- 14% Neither / Don't know

Q6j Having inclusive wraparound facilities

- 72% Important
- 7% Not important
- 19% Neither / Don't know

Q7 More community use of campus facilities

- 80% Agree
- 8% Disagree
- 12% Neither / Don't know

Comments

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| • Shephed could benefit from more sport facilities | 24 responses. |
| • Maximum use of facilities for the community | 9 responses. |
| • Priority of students and education of pupils | 5 responses. |