



Roundhay St. John's Church of England (VA) Primary School
North Lane, Roundhay, Leeds, LS8 2QJ.

Phone: 0113 265 8451 / Fax: 0113 265 3929
Email: secretary@roundhay-st-johns.leeds.sch.uk
www.roundhay-st-johns.leeds.sch.uk

HEADTEACHER: Mr Andrew Graham, MA (Ed), BA (Hons) QTS, ALCM.
DEPUTY HEADTEACHER: Mrs Barbara Custance, Cert. Ed, BEd (Hons).

6th July 2011

ROBO
Against

The Director of Children's Services
Fao: School Organisation Team
10th Floor West
Merrion House
110 Merrion Centre
Leeds
LS2 8DT

Further to your statutory notice of your proposal to increase primary provision in the Roundhay area, I am writing to object to these plans.

- The consultation process has been very poor indeed. I have no doubt that those leading it will say that they have met their statutory obligations, but I think that it would have been in the interests of all concerned to have engaged in a process that genuinely involved and included people from the very early stages to avoid so much inaccuracy and anxiety.
- The original consultation document was without any doubt misleading, not least because our school was not even mentioned or considered. Given that we are the only school in the area of the map identifying the new school, the omission could hardly claim to be an oversight in a document that claimed that this new provision could be brought forward 'without undermining any of the primary schools in the area'.
- There are surplus places in schools in the Seacroft area and this proposal will doubtless take even more children away from some of these established good schools. The Local Authority should be working with these schools to get them up to full capacity not throwing further challenges in their path.
- The proposed site is in entirely the wrong place. Who has asked the parents concerned whether they would be prepared to bring their children from the other side of Roundhay, where there is under capacity, down towards the Easterly Road? Why has the old Fir Tree School not been a considered option? That is closer to the area of concern.
- There is a view that there is sufficient demand for places. The figures on the consultation document do not suggest there is a need for an additional 2 form entry primary school year on year. Why can't these figures be explained? The diocese recently asked for clarification of these figures and was not offered a convincing explanation. There is a view that the formula is too complicated to be fully explained. If nobody can explain this to those it most concerns then that brings further questions about its reliability.
- Roundhay St. John's have offered the primary provision in this area since 1837 and yet are offered no opportunity to expand its provision when there is supposedly a need for it. There are a number

"Keep in Shape – mentally, physically and spiritually."



of ways in which we could expand our provision if given the opportunity on this site or the proposed site. The fact that we are in a conservation area doesn't make it impossible – just more difficult. We know that a 'golden ticket' to Roundhay would appeal to many of our families – almost half of our intake did not get a place there is year. We know therefore that this proposal would draw children away from us. The school has always aimed to serve its local community and that, at the very least, would change along with the character of the school.

- There seems to be many people in this area who remember the mistakes of only a few years ago when schools closed and this proved to be the wrong decision. There are too many doubts around this proposal that could, and probably will, lead to cause for regret further on. How can a spend of 4 million be justified on a project that is surrounded by so many concerns and has the capacity to impact on the success of so many other schools.

I object to the proposal.

FW: New school- Feedback on LocationR031
Against**Sent:** 08 July 2011 12:56**To:** EDUC School Organisation

From: ...
Sent: 07 July 2011 21:08
To: Brooks, G
Subject: Re: Nev: school- Feedback on Location

The main reason for opening the new school is to provide adequate spaces for the Children in the Roundhay area. I have following comments regarding the location

1. Ideally, the school should be in the center of Roundhay area or at a place which is convenient to the Roundhay residents. This is north/ western parts of the Roundhay park. However the proposed site is in Elmete lane. This is on the eastern fringes of the Roundhay area. Roundhay residents should be consulted to determine the most appropriate location.
2. It appears that the proposed site is not connected by any bus service. The only way this school would be accessible is through car or by a (25 Mins) walk from nearest bus stop (route no 12/13/13A) . It is important for primary schools to be accessible by bus routes. Primary school kids , unlike the 11-18 years old, cannot walk long distances. Grange farm school is on the route of 49/ 50 which is one of the best served routes. The proposed school should be along the route of 12/13/13A. Accessing Grange farm school through bus is more convenient even for the Roundhay residents in comparison with the school at elmete lane.(through 12/13/13A and than 49/ 50).
3. If the intent is to provide, seats for residents of Roundhay as well as Seacroft than better alternative is to have extensions in Grange farm school and in the Gledhow schools. This will prevent competition between the schools for the resources and also generate more economies. The money saved can be used for up gradation of the existing infrastructure.
4. It is in interest of council, that every penny is spent wisely. It would be much better if the proposed school does not cannibalize on the resources and assets of any of the existing schools.
5. What steps council has taken so far or is willing to take to fill the spare capacity in the Grange Farm school? It should be noted that the Grange farm school has improved in Rankings and performance over the last 5 years. It has come compareable to the other good schools in Roundhay area. The council should support the school in endeavour to improve. The proposed location would cannibalize on Grange Farm's and other nearby school resources.

Kind Regards

j

--- On Mon, 6/27/11, ...

FW: New school

R032
Against

Sent: 08 July 2011 12:56

To: EDUC School Organisation

From:

Sent: 06 July 2011 12:33

To: Brooks, G

Subject: Re: New school

I write concerning the proposed new school on the site of Brainwood school, Roundhay.

There are a number of inter-related issues:

Is there a need for a totally new build at a time when government cut-backs are affecting every area of life? Cheaper options such as enlarging existing schools would surely be a cheaper alternative.

The siting of the proposed new build is not near the centre where increased numbers of places are required and is likely to more greatly affect the schools in Seacroft than provide places where they are most needed.

The whole issues of the number of school places required was thoroughly investigated a few years ago when Asket Hill school was closed when those involved were assured that even if there were an increase in school places required there was sufficient capacity in existing schools.

The positioning of a Primary school on a major road such as the outer ring road also raises the issue of whether the school would be easily and safely accessible apart from by car.

I hope that very careful consideration will be given to these and other issues raised by those who are concerned about this proposal.

Yours Sincerely,

(School governor at Grange Farm)

From: Brooks, G

Sent: Monday, July 04, 2011 3:05 PM

To: pbb@leeds.gov.uk

Subject: New school

From: Atkins, K

Sent: 26 June 2011 17:06

To: Atkins, K

Subject: New school

Reminder- please respond re the new school proposals by Friday this week- it is really important that we do. Thanks to those who have done

so already

These are the points I hope governors will make in their responses- you may want to just pick out one or two key points so we are not all saying the same thing. Parent governors may wish to make a joint response. Please copy me into all responses as I am also contacting individual councillors. You can write or send an email- details are attached.

I really hope everyone responds- it is really important.

-The information given to Executive Board- that there were plenty children to fill the places in Seacroft- was incorrect- although Grange Farm may appear 'full' for September 2010 there are only 50 first choices (school is a 60 place school)- experience shows us that most of the places children do not arrive- so we are likely to have surplus places in September as we have every year. The building of this new school will take children away from our school and other Seacroft schools that already have surplus places. Children Leeds Planning department have admitted to us at the governing Body meeting that the new school will have 'an impact on numbers in your school'. It will take children away from a good school and create surplus places - at a cost of over £4,000,000

- We are the nearest non-denominational school to this new school. It is less than a mile from- 1.1km. The demand for places, where schools are over subscribed- is not in Seacroft but around Gledhow Primary (2.1 miles from the proposed site of the new school), Kerr Mackie (2.1 miles from proposed site), Talbot Primary (2.7 miles from proposed site)- or in Harehills- for example Hovingham Primary - (2.2 miles from proposed site).

The site is in completely the wrong place.

- Although Grange Farm is a good school, a straw poll of parents, conducted by parent governors, shows that many parents would choose the proposed new school over Grange Farm, because of the ticket to Roundhay High. This would therefore disadvantage the remaining pupils and alter any social and cultural mix which we currently have, as the more aspirational parents may well choose Roundhay. It is therefore adding disadvantage to an area which already experiences significant economic and social disadvantage.

- The impact on Seacroft schools does not appear to have been considered by Leeds Planning. We were never visited or telephoned to discuss the impact of the proposals as other Roundhay schools were. It feels like a case of 'Here is a piece of land, let's use it'- not- 'where is the best place to site this school?' It is just over 1 km from our school-less than a mile- but no-one thought to consider that- although are happily proposing that children will travel 3 miles to attend this new school.

- The fact that the school is designed for 60 places does not make sense. There are 62 children in the polygon for the new school for 2010 (consultation document) and 47 the following year. Bearing in mind several of those children are likely to go to denominational, private or other schools- where is the justification for making it 60 places? If LCC Planning are expecting children to travel 3 miles from Gledhow or Talbot areas, why don't they realise the children from Seacroft- who will be much nearer- will also be prepared to travel as their parents did historically to Braimwood school. The children from Seacroft will be much nearer - so if there were high demand for this school the places would be granted to children from Seacroft- who will live nearer. The only way this school will fill is take places away from existing schools in Seacroft.

-There are other avenues which seem far more sensible to be explored. The idea of expanding Roundhay St John's to a 2 form entry- far cheaper- I am told by the school has not been offered to them. There is room to expand Gledhow Primary-where the demand is- why is pressure not being brought to bear on the governing body there? What about Fir Tree Primary? I was informed by Leeds Planning that it was in the wrong place- but it is nearer to the Roundhay bulge than this proposed venture

- In times of great financial constraint, surely it is completely wrong to build a school for over 4 million pounds, not that long after pulling one down very near to that site (Asket Hill- Seacroft people remember it well). Other avenues should be properly explored.

Kathryn Atkins

Kathryn Atkins

Headteacher
Grange Farm Primary School
Barncroft Rise
Leeds LS14 1AX
Tel: 0113 2930120

This message has been processed by MIMESweeper for Exchange.

FW: New school

2033
Against

Sent: 08 July 2011 12:56

To: EDUC School Organisation

From:

Sent: 06 July 2011 11:17

To: Brooks, G

Subject: RE: New school

Hi Gill, please find below a response re the new school, not sure if its what Kathryn wanted in a response so if its not, or she wants me to add anything or change anything let me know and i will do it today. Will also text Donna Rogers and see if she has a response and if not get her to do one.

As a Parent Governor for Grange Farm Primary School, I am concerned about the location for the new school build, I feel that it is the wrong place for a new school, and that the children who need school places in Roundhay are not going to be able to gain places at the new school due to the fact that it is closer to Seacroft than to Roundhay, Grange Farm and other Seacroft schools already have surplus places as there is not enough children in Seacroft to fill Grange Farm. Also the parents of Seacroft children will more probably choose to send their children to the new school rather than choose Grange Farm or another local Seacroft school as the children going to the new school will automatically gain a place at Roundhay High. Losing children to the new school will have a big impact on Grange Farm, and the other Seacroft schools, which may result in school closures and loss of jobs for the staff at Grange Farm.

From: brooksg01@leedslearning.net

To: abhideep_25@yahoo.com; suttonm02@leedslearning.net; gearyj01@leedslearning.net; gibbonv03@leedslearning.net; brian.selby@leeds.gov.uk; donna0175@hotmail.com; halsall_54@hotmail.com; heather.jamieson1@ntlworld.com; julie_davis@rocketmail.com; trudes23@msn.com;

veronica.morgan@leeds.gov.uk

Date: Mon, 4 Jul 2011 15:05:13 +0100

Subject: New school

From: Atkins, K

Sent: 26 June 2011 17:06

To: Atkins, K

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