

**School Organisation Advisory Board (SOAB) – history of objections (anonymised)**

SOAB date	Objections
<p>16 Jan 2019</p> <p>Benton</p>	<p><b>Objection 1</b> Please could I take this opportunity to object to the proposed increase in pupil numbers at this school, as it stands there are insufficient facility's, and it will increase the influx of pupils from areas where teaching and standards differ from Benton Park.</p> <p><b>Objection 2</b> I write in regards to the plans to increase numbers at Benton Park. As a parent I feel that the capacity of pupils already on roll at the school is extremely high and feel that this has a detrimental effect on pupils due to the wide range of pupils who attend.</p> <p>It was of somewhat an eye opener as a parent of a pupil in Year 7 to the goings on with in the school and the way that issues are dealt with and also feel that there is a lot of goings on un-seen again due to the capacity. Expansions will only add to the already existing problems at the school although this plan if it was to go ahead would not impact on my child currently attending it would make me reconsider my younger child attending. To add to this the way that events such as parents evening something that is extremely important is already somewhat stretched and again is something that would to a contribution due to expansion as Well as the safety of parking for parents in the area. The school buses again is something that can become over-subscribed which in turn has a knock on effect.</p> <p>With the contributing factors Benton Park would spiral in my opinion in the wrong direction. It would not be a choice of school for us and think already it's a large enough school that needs to focus more on the teacher structure due to the amount of supply teachers in place and also the way that they deal and speak to students. There is a need for a more focused approach to issues that go on within the school before expansion is considered. Make something solid before building on weak blocks.</p>
<p>15 Aug 2018</p> <p>Moor Allerton Hall</p>	<p><b>Note all of these objections were subject to being challenged back by email to clarify some points and check if they really were objections</b></p> <p><b>Objection 1</b> Objection to the expansion</p> <p>I am writing to object to the expansion of Moor Allerton Primary School. I currently have [REDACTED] children at Talbot Primary but would now fall in to Moor Allerton catchment. My sister has a three year old who lives [REDACTED] and is unlikely to get a place at Talbot next year, and would be most likely to be offered Moor Allerton.</p> <p>I would not have wanted or accepted a place at a school which has been unpopular for several years and, whilst improving, has significant challenges to address. The three form entry system is not conducive to a nurturing environment. The issues which have been felt at Roundhay Primary are reflective of this and the impact of shaking up the classes to readdress the balance is detrimental to many pupils throughout their learning journey.</p> <p>I think there needs to be a different system for entrance to Talbot for 2/3 years to readdress the issues caused by the bulge years and the impact of the siblings of this cohort. Currently, as you'll know, the catchment is ludicrously small.</p> <p>I feel the council has not fought for what parents actually want in the area, and the proposals provide an easy, but unsatisfactory solution to the problem.</p> <p><b>Objection 2</b> Further to your email, I would like to register my <b>strong objection</b> to the proposal to expand Moor Allerton Hall Primary School. Though there is clearly a pressing need to provide more places for primary school places for children in Roundhay, this school is in a completely different postcode and is not a viable solution to the problem. My preference would be for an expansion of an existing</p>

good, desirable school - a school which is already successful and could cope with the extra influx of pupils.

### **Objection 3**

Are the scheduled changes going to affect Talbot Avenue - please clarify. Are you affecting the school entrance to be on Talbot Avenue - Please clarify Are you aware that the current situation ALREADY puts pressure on the use of Talbot Avenue as a thoroughfare during school times What plans ARE scheduled for speed bumps on Talbot Avenue and parents NOT parking outside residents front gates - as ALWAYS happens? This is a highly congested avenue during school times - are you FULLY aware of the breach of peace to residents?

### **Further email received 3 July 2018**

Little thought is given to the residents of this quiet area on Talbot Avenue and the Bentcliffes through to Lidgett. For example, Talbot Avenue and Lidgett Lane are high congestion areas and drivers zoom along these roads and block residents access - although you have addressed Lidgett Lane with speed bumps, you have failed to consider Talbot Avenue ( on the Moortown, LS17 side). Parents park outside gates, teachers leave cars all day outside our homes so that builders and utility companies working in the area cannot park on Talbot Avenue and generally there is a disrespect for this avenue. I urge you not to devalue this residential area further by totally jamming and congesting these routes and spread the buildings elsewhere. In the meantime, it is HIGH time we had speed bumps from the school entrance on Talbot Avenue to Bentcliffe - the misconception that this route is not abused now needs to be addressed. Speed signs do not work and are a waste of money.

### **Objection 4**

As a resident of Brackenwood Drive I object the formally New Highwood pub expansion to another school.

While it is recognised that more child places are needed, there are already quite a few schools in the area and this is causing quite a lot of traffic congestion, especially at 8:45 and at 3:15pm. The Current traffic is already very heavy outside the Highwood Pub, and the surrounding areas. You really struggle to get through if you are turning into Brackenwood Drive from Lidgett Lane, there are vehicles which are parked up on both sides of the road and on the corners. People are also using the unofficial closed High Wood Pub car park as a drop off area, then pulling out of the site with no disregard to other on coming road users. This has to stop as this is also causing great congestion and confusion. I would appreciate if this will be surveyed by the Council at the peak times as described above.

In addition the People who are parking their vehicles on Brackenwood Drive so they can walk their children to school, or for that matter who are already on foot are leaving their litter behind. The amount of crisp packets, chocolate wrappers and cigarette butts that are left behind is unacceptable.

I would like to propose that you consider this application very carefully because I feel it will become more dangerous for family's/children, and older people walking around this area, more litter and not to mention the congestion that will contribute to the air pollution.

Would you not consider the New Highwood pub being converted in to Extra Care Housing for older people. It would be an ideal location for older people to maintain their independence while receiving some support.

It would be easy for people who would be living there to access the buses as there are two bus stops near by. Also being near to the local shops, close to the community centre that have a lunch club. As well as contributing to the local community, this would also support the local housing problems where there is a shortage, and waiting in list at other extra care housing providers. There is only one nearby, which is a few miles away from this area, where as some of the schools nearby have already been expanded.

### **Objections 5 and 6 (two objectors on one email)**

	<p>We are writing in response to the statutory proposal to permanently expand Moor Allerton Hall Primary School to 3FE. My wife and I are firmly in objection to this proposal and would ask that it is cancelled and a more appropriate solution considered. We have been involved in the campaign to highlight the lack of school places in Roundhay for over 2 years and have tried to work with the council to come up with good quality solutions; we have also studied all proposals presented and attended the consultations to understand what they would mean for us and future generations of children. I am sorry to say that the plans are not appropriate, these are our key reasons why:</p> <p>The school is too far from the area of need, we cannot walk there with a child and would have to drive. I cycle to work and my wife drives, we also only have one car. So we either place the full burden on one parent or we buy another car at considerable expense and then contribute to the worsening air quality in Leeds (I note your other consultation on air quality proposals)</p> <p>We are effectively outside of the catchment for this school, in other words if the families living closest to MAH preferred it then we would not get a place and we're back to square one. There needs to be a new school north of Street Lane to meet the considerable and ongoing demand</p> <p>You have not conducted a full traffic assessment and cannot reassure anyone that localised air pollution is not going to get any worse (it certainly won't improve) and you also cannot say how you will manage that extra traffic. This is already a busy and dangerous road and this proposal puts lives at risk, there have already been accidents near the school involving children, how long before a child is knocked down and killed. What then? How will that sit on your consciences?</p> <p>LCC has a poor record in early years development (using your own data) and it is shown that 3FE schools perform worse than 2FE. This is also a school that is currently rated RI and you expect it to improve whilst encumbering it with change and greater pupil numbers. What is the chance that this school makes it to where all schools should be, outstanding? I would say zero under your stewardship and that is really depressing</p> <p>Your modelling data and record on school expansions is flawed, as a consequence you expand in the wrong places and waste public money. There are numerous examples where you have done this across the city, expanded a school and then not filled it, in the worst cases you have expanded a school and not even got the pupil numbers up to the pre-expansion level. This is incredulous. Historically this is not a popular school amongst the local population, expanding here is likely to be a waste of money and the school will not fill. If a parent has to get into a car to take their child to school (as the black hole parents will have to) then they will likely elect to go to a school even further afield but that has a better reputation and better outcomes. Our campaign group is full of parents trying to get their children into something approaching a local school, it also has the stories of many parents who have been allocated MAH (either through auto-allocation or by putting the school down as a backstop to avoid being given Khalsa) and who have tried every means to get their children sent to another school.</p> <p>We implore you to think again and work with the local community, this is not a desired expansion and will not fix the problem. Don't be wedded to this solution just because you have come this far down the track, you will gain more respect and engagement from local residents if you stop this and work with us and local academies to deliver good quality places where they are needed.</p> <p><b>Objections 7 and 8 (two objectors on one email)</b>  <u>Objection to Moor Allerton Hall Primary School Expansion</u>  We oppose the proposed expansion of Moor Allerton Primary School on the following grounds.</p> <p><i>NOTE - The reasons for the objection cannot be included in this document all of the points raised relate to a specific property and its location to the school and it would be very easy to identify who the objection came from. However it should be noted that the objection was very detailed and was considered fully by SOAB at the time the objections were made.</i></p>
20 Feb 2018	<b>Note all of these objections were subject to being challenged back by email to clarify some points and check if they really were objections</b>

Allerton C  
of E

**Objection 1 (various emails from one objector)**

Email 3 Dear [REDACTED]

Also for clarification, my formal complaint is against Allerton Primary Schools intention to significantly increase pupil levels.

I have not seen any plans for the extensions to the building. My thoughts are still that this location is not fit for purpose.

Regards

Email 2 I wish to formally object to any planning to extend the size of Allerton Primary School.

Regards

Email 1 Dear [REDACTED]

Please find email sent 27th Sept 2017 airing my concerns re the proposed extension of Allerton Primary School. I remain strongly against this proposal. I feel increasing the school to accommodate and extra 210 pupils will also inevitably increase the volume of traffic. Potentially 210 cars.

It is clear that this school is badly situated, with it's one small entrance that creates a traffic bottle neck situation. It is fair to say it is no longer fit for purpose and our streets cannot cope with any more congestion.

Regards

27 September 2017 (response to a planning application to build 2 classroom at Allerton C of E PS. This is not connected with the proposed permanent expansion of the school)

Allerton Primary School has only one entrance/exit from/to Lingfield Approach. This causes severe disruption to the area when parents are taking and collecting their children. Vehicles park on both sides of the road across the street and makes it impossible for traffic to flow. This causes congestion at the crossroads directly outside the school and makes it difficult and dangerous for pedestrians to cross. I believe that to increase the size of the classrooms and school intake will only add to the chaos. This is a serious concern and needs to be addressed with the Highways and Police departments as part of any planning. The school is aware of the problem and the real threat to the safety of the children. There are currently yellow lines and permit holder only parking outside my home which is adjacent to the school. Some parents park their cars on the road illegally whilst taking and collecting their children to/from school. Nobody is policing this and so the problem continues.

On a personal note, I find it very frustrating when I witness people parking with no regard to the law. Especially when I arrive home to find people blatantly parked in the residents only permit area. I have endured numerous accounts of verbal abuse and even been threatened with violence when I have pointed out that they should not park there. Even the buses park on the road markings when taking the school children on outings. On more than one occasion I have not been able to get into my car through the driver side as the buses have parked too close to it. I have addressed this with the school who state there is not enough room to turn the bus in their car park, despite having extended it a few years ago. I know this not to be true as I have witnessed a bus drive into the school and turn before parking there to pick up the children.

Increasing the size of the school will only exacerbate the existing problems and should be taken into consideration.

**Objection 2**

As a resident on Lingfield Approach I do not think a doubling of the current pupils by 210 is a viable proposal.

Unfortunately the parking and traffic situation is extremely congested by cars, owned by both parents and residents parking on both sides of the road during the peak times of drop off and pick up. This has made it impossible to drive through both Lingfield Approach and the parallel road Lingfield View.

	<p>I do believe the possible addition of another 200 or so cars at these peak times will increase the congestion on, Lingfield Approach and Lingfield View and also spread that further out. When I return from work at the peak time of school pick up it is impossible to get through and cars often have to reverse to let oncoming traffic through... Buses have also had to reverse... This with children and parents crossing the road and doors open to get children in their cars is an accident waiting to happen.</p> <p>Another issue is current parents do not observe the permit parking restrictions in force on either side of the road on approach of the school entrance and this will also get worse. This is particularly hazardous as children frequently run across this particular part of the road without looking and an increase in vehicles in this area is extremely dangerous.</p> <p>I do not believe that the surrounding roads can support another 200+ cars without posing an increased risk to safety. Parents reluctance to park farther from the school is already evident. Restriction of parking through double yellow lines is possible but it is unlikely to stop parents from parking there..parents do not observe the permit parking in force mainly due to the fact there is no one who patrols the area regularly to enforce it, so parents do not take it seriously.</p> <p>While it is a great achievement for the school to want to expand/double it's intake... It might be possible if there were a few different entrances as some other schools have... i.e., nursery, reception, Yr 1, Yr 2 and another entrance for Yr 3&amp;4 and a final entrance for Yr 5 &amp; 6. This would spread out the traffic congestion. This however is unlikely to happen as providing different entrances would be expensive.</p> <p>As the school stands with one entrance I do believe the proposal is not viable on the grounds of safety. I hope Leeds City Council thinks seriously about the safety issue and plan accordingly either way.</p> <p>I also hope that the Leeds City Council will look at the current parking situation at these peak times. The current situation is at breaking point and desperately requires some attention and planning.</p>
<p>13 Nov 2014</p> <p>Gledhow</p>	<p><b>Objection 1</b></p> <p>The only two proposals listed are to expand Gledhow or Immaculate Heart, so is it now the case that either one or both will be chosen? Or will other options still be considered?</p> <p>In September I will have [REDACTED] children at Gledhow and also live nearby so have concerns with how expanding Gledhow would affect the school and the increase the traffic (increase in traffic was apparently used as the reason not to expand Allerton High). I expect that people living close to Immaculate Heart have similar views.</p> <p>Both proposals look like they will just expand the catchment area when other primary schools might be closer. They seem to be the easiest and cheapest options, but not necessarily the best overall.</p> <p>We have [REDACTED] [REDACTED], one of which is already at Gledhow Primary School, and the other is due to start in September. We also live very close to the school. We do not agree with the proposal of expanding Gledhow Primary school due to the negative affect it may have on the school and the children that attend, and the increase in traffic that it would bring. The school has a lovely friendly and close atmosphere, which is commented on by Ofsted, and the children feel cared for. This might be eroded with a larger school. There are also concerns over the disruption and Health and Safety issues from the required construction work. More traffic would mean that the chances of someone being injured or even killed would be increased. It is also likely to increase issues with roads and drives being blocked and confrontation between drivers, such as fighting over parking spaces. Dog fouling on streets and near the school is already an issue, especially as there is a field at the back of the school used predominately by dog walkers. The current plans are to bring this field back into school use, which may mean that there is less dog fouling close to the school. However, it will probably mean that there is more fouling in the streets surrounding the school, as the field will no longer be able to be used. The current plan is to build new classrooms etc on part of the school playground. Although this loss would be compensated by bringing the field back</p>

	<p>into school use, this could not be used when wet. I understand there are plans for some of the current field to be converted to an all weather play area. I do not agree with increasing the number of primary school places available in the Roundhay area, if there are then also no plans to increase the number of secondary school places available. If there is a requirement to increase the number of primary school places in the Roundhay area, the demographic data clearly shows that the area of most need is around North Roundhay/Street Lane where Talbot Primary School is the nearest primary school. Proposing Gledhow just seems to be the cheapest and easiest option, but not the best one for the longer term.</p> <p><b>Objection 2</b></p> <p>We have [REDACTED] [REDACTED], one of which is already at Gledhow Primary School, and the other is due to start in September. We also live very close to the school. We do not agree with the proposal of expanding Gledhow Primary school due to the negative affect it may have on the school and the children that attend, and the increase in traffic that it would bring. The school has a lovely friendly and close atmosphere, which is commented on by Ofsted, and the children feel cared for. This might be eroded with a larger school. There are also concerns over the disruption and Health and Safety issues from the required construction work. More traffic would mean that the chances of someone being injured or even killed would be increased. It is also likely to increase issues with roads and drives being blocked and confrontation between drivers, such as fighting over parking spaces. Dog fouling on streets and near the school is already an issue, especially as there is a field at the back of the school used predominately by dog walkers. The current plans are to bring this field back into school use, which may mean that there is less dog fouling close to the school. However, it will probably mean that there is more fouling in the streets surrounding the school, as the field will no longer be able to be used. The current plan is to build new classrooms etc on part of the school playground. Although this loss would be compensated by bringing the field back into school use, this could not be used when wet. I understand there are plans for some of the current field to be converted to an all weather play area. I do not agree with increasing the number of primary school places available in the Roundhay area, if there are then also no plans to increase the number of secondary school places available. If there is a requirement to increase the number of primary school places in the Roundhay area, the demographic data clearly shows that the area of most need is around North Roundhay/Street Lane where Talbot Primary School is the nearest primary school. Proposing Gledhow just seems to be the cheapest and easiest option, but not the best one for the longer term.</p>
<p>15 Oct 2014</p> <p>Hollybush</p>	<p><b>Objection</b></p> <p>This is a formal note of my objection to the proposed expansion Hollybush primary school. The reason for my objection is that there is no detailed information available as to the nature of the expansion. Without this information it is impossible to tell the impact of the learning experience and the built environment which children will be exposed to as a result of this expansion. I suggest that the proposal for this proposed expansion is withdrawn until detailed plans of the nature of the expansion on site are forwarded.</p> <p>I currently have one child in [REDACTED] year and in future years his younger [REDACTED] will attend Hollybush</p> <p>Please note my objection to this proposed expansion.</p>