

Committee: **Lead Cabinet Member for Learning and School Effectiveness**

Date: **10 September 2013**

By: **Interim Director of Children's Services**

Title of the report: **Proposed expansion of St Andrew's CE Infant School and Tollgate Community Junior School**

Purpose of Report: **To seek Lead Member approval to publish statutory notices in respect of a proposal to expand St Andrew's CE Infant School and Tollgate Community Junior School by September 2016.**

Recommendation:

Lead Member is recommended to:

- (1) authorise the publication of statutory notices in respect of a proposal to expand St Andrew's CE Infant School and Tollgate Community Junior School by 90 places and 120 places respectively by September 2016; and**
- (2) delegate authority to the Interim Director of Children's Services to amend the proposals prior to their publication if required.**

1. Financial Appraisal:

1.1 Revenue: this proposal will not affect the Schools Funding Formula. Each school's budget share will increase in accordance with rising pupil numbers.

1.2 Capital: capital investment will be required to expand St Andrew's CE Infant School and Tollgate Community Junior School. Approximately £17.5m is identified in the Council's Capital Programme, approved by Full Council on 7 February 2013, to deliver additional places across East Sussex, including Eastbourne. Feasibility design work is currently being undertaken at both schools to determine the level of capital funding required to deliver those additional places.

2. Supporting Information:

2.1 Pressures on primary places in Eastbourne are being driven mainly by births which have risen from 862 in academic year 2001/02 to 1,175 in 2010/11. In 2013/14 it is estimated that there will be a shortfall of four forms of entry at Year R plus a further one form of entry at Year 3. The estimated Year R shortfall rises to around seven forms of entry by 2015/16 and there are predicted to be shortfalls at Year R for several years beyond 2016/17.

2.2 In response, the Council undertook a period of public consultation between 26 June and 24 July 2013 on a proposal to expand St Andrew's CE Infant School by 90 places and Tollgate Community Junior School by 120 places from September 2016. The proposal would provide an extra form of entry (30 places per year group, 210 places in total) in south central Eastbourne, which is the area of greatest demographic growth of young children in the town.

2.3 This report details the responses received during the period of public consultation and seeks approval from the Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness to publish statutory notices.

2.4 Proposed changes to the organisation of schools have to follow a prescribed process established by the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006) and The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended by The School Organisation and Governance (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2007 which came into force on 21 January 2008 and The School Organisation and Governance (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2009 which came into force on 1 September 2009). This process complies with these requirements.

2.5 Public consultation took place over a four week period between 26 June and 24 July 2013. Approximately 2,000 consultation documents were distributed to interested parties in accordance with The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended). The full distribution list can be found as part of **Annex 1**. The consultation document was also made available on the County Council's website.

2.6 By the close of the consultation period, 137 replies had been received. This equates to a response rate of only 6.85% (137 out of 2,000). Of the responses:

- 50 (36.5%) supported the proposal
- 16 (11.7%) neither agreed or disagreed with the proposal
- 69 (50.4%) did not support the proposal
- 2 (1.4%) gave no answer

2.7 The majority of responses came from parents and carers (100 out of 137) followed by members staff and governors (20 out of 137). The breakdown is as follows:

- 2 (1.5%) were pupils at either St Andrew's or Tollgate
- 100 (73%) were parents/carers of a child at St Andrew's and/or Tollgate
- 16 (11.7%) were members of staff at either St Andrew's or Tollgate
- 4 (2.9%) were members of the governing body at St Andrew's and/or Tollgate
- 4 (2.9%) were members of the local community
- 10 (7.3%) were identified as 'other'
- 1 (0.7%) chose not to answer

2.8 The main reasons for people not supporting the proposal were:

- Overcrowding on the St Andrew's site
- Loss of outside play space
- Parking
- Traffic congestion

2.9 While these are valid concerns, the Council would ensure that any design solution for expansion makes best use of each site to create an environment that has a positive impact on teaching and learning. Issues about traffic and parking at both sites would be addressed through the statutory planning process the Council has to go through before it is able to start building on site. This would provide people with a further opportunity to raise concerns about these particular issues.

2.10 **Annex 1** provides detailed analysis of the consultation process and responses received.

2.11 The majority of people who responded to the consultation do not agree with the proposal to expand St Andrew's CE Infant School and Tollgate Community Junior School. However, the pressing need for additional places in south central Eastbourne together with the low response rate to the consultation (6.85%) leads us to recommend that we should continue with the proposal to expand both schools.

2.12 The next stage of the process is to publish statutory notices. The publication of notices would trigger a further four week period of consultation, known as the representation period, when people can again have their say on the proposal. Within two months of the end of the representation period, the Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness must determine the proposal taking into account the views of all those affected by the proposal or who have an interest in it, including for example: pupils; parents and carers; staff; other schools; local residents; diocesan bodies and other providers. It is envisaged that a final decision would be made at the Lead Member meeting on 9 December 2013.

3. Conclusion and reason for recommendation:

3.1 The Council has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places to meet current and future demand. In light of the pressing need for additional primary places in south central Eastbourne, together with the low response rate to the consultation, it is recommended that the Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness:

- i) Authorises the publication of statutory notices in respect of a proposal to expand St Andrew's CE Infant School and Tollgate Community Junior School by 90 places and 120 places respectively by September 2016.
- ii) Delegates authority to the Interim Director of Children's Services to amend the proposals prior to their publication if required.

GED ROWNEY

Interim Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Gary Langford, School Place Planning Manager Tel: 01273 481758

Local Members: Councillor Steve Wallis and Councillor David Tutt

Background Documents: None

ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES

1. Background:

- 1.1 East Sussex County Council undertook a consultation between 26th June and 24th July 2013 on a proposal to expand St Andrew's CE Infant School and Tollgate Community Junior School in Eastbourne by 90 places and 120 places respectively.
- 1.2 The proposal would provide an extra form of entry (30 places per year group, 210 places in total) in south central Eastbourne by September 2016. South central Eastbourne is the area of greatest demographic growth of young children in the town.

2. Purpose of report:

- 2.1 This report is in two parts:
- Part 1: the consultation process
 - Part 2: analysis of consultation responses

3. Part 1: the consultation process:

- 3.1 Approximately two thousand (2,000) consultation documents were distributed in accordance with The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended). Consultees included for example: pupils; parents and carers; staff; other schools in Eastbourne; the local MP; the Borough Council; diocesan bodies and local early years providers. The full distribution list is provided in Table 1 below. The consultation document explained the proposal and provided a range of means to respond. These included; by freepost reply, online questionnaire or by emailing East Sussex County Council. The consultation document was also made available on the County Council's website.

Table 1: Consultation distribution list

Organisation	No. of copies
St Andrew's CE Infant School – pupils and parents/carers	390
St Andrew's CE Infant School – staff	50
St Andrew's CE Infant School – governors	20
St Andrew's CE Infant School – spares for main reception	30
Tollgate Community Junior School – pupils and parents/carers	380
Tollgate Community Junior School – staff	60
Tollgate Community Junior School – governors	20
Tollgate Community Junior School – spares for main reception	30
All Eastbourne primary schools	15 copies each
All Eastbourne secondary schools	15 copies each
All Eastbourne special schools	15 copies each
Sussex Downs College	5
ESCC Councillors	50
ESCC Chief Officers Management Team	7
ESCC Children's Services Senior Management Team	5
ESCC contractors (e.g. catering, cleaning etc)	1 copy each
Stephen Lloyd MP	5
DFE	1
Eastbourne Borough Council	30
Diocese of Chichester (Church of England)	5
Diocese of Arundel and Brighton (Catholic)	5
Princess Park Health Centre	30

Harbour Medical Practice	30
Sussex Voluntary and Community Learning Consortium	10
Eastbourne Library	30
Langney Library	30
Devonshire Children's Centre	30
Bluebell Hill Children's Nursery	30
Rising Stars Pre-school	30
Little Treasures Nursery	30
Lions Cub Nursery	30
Tots and Time Out Nursery	30
Pooh's Nursery School	30
The Haven Nursery School	30
Cherubs and Pixies	30
Meadows Mere Nursery School	30
Trade Unions (e.g. Association of Teachers & Lecturers / NASUWT / NHT / NUT / Voice of the Union of Education Professionals / GMB / UNISON)	1 copy each
Total	2,000

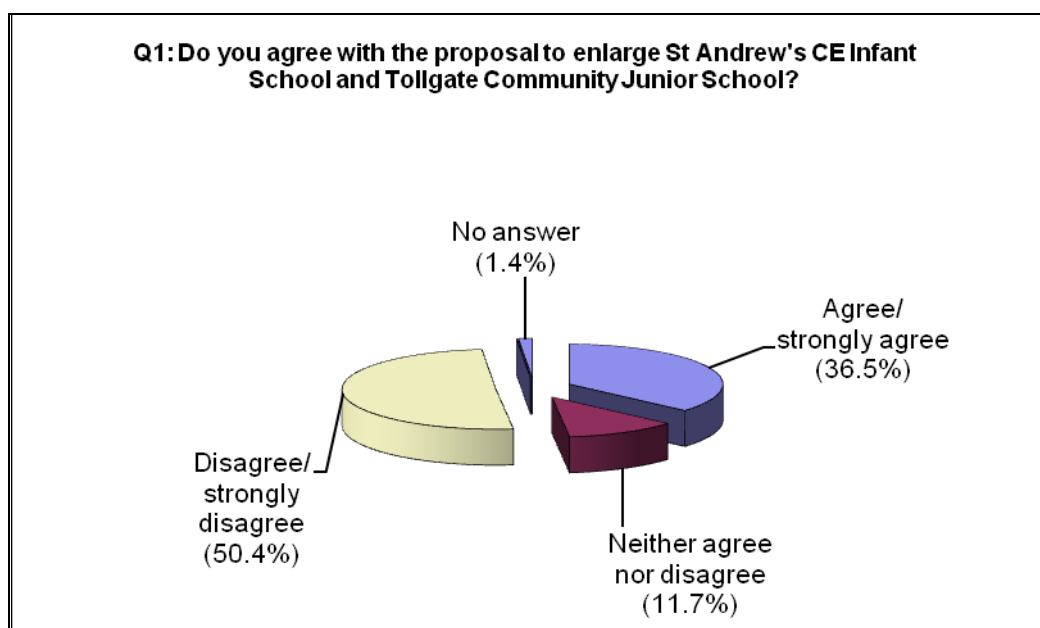
3.2 The consultation period ran from Wednesday 26th June to Wednesday 24th July 2013.

4. Part 2: analysis of consultation responses:

4.1 Question 1 on the response form asked people to indicate whether they agreed with the proposal to expand St Andrew's CE Infant School and Tollgate Community Junior School. Only 137 people responded to this question, which equates to a response rate of 6.85% (137 out of 2,000). From the 137 responses:

- 50 (36.5%) supported the proposal
- 16 (11.7%) neither agreed or disagreed with the proposal
- 69 (50.4%) did not support the proposal
- 2 (1.4%) gave no answer.

4.2 The chart below illustrates the breakdown of responses.



4.3 Question 2 asked people to give reasons for their answers to question 1. The main areas of concern were:

- Overcrowding on the St Andrew's site
- Loss of outside play space
- Parking
- Traffic congestion

4.4 While these are valid concerns, the Council would ensure that any design solution for expansion makes best use of each site to create an environment that has a positive impact on teaching and learning. Issues about traffic and parking at both sites would be addressed through the statutory planning process the Council has to go through before it is able to start building on site. This would provide people with a further opportunity to raise their concerns about these particular issues.

4.5 Table 2 below provides a selection of comments received. A full list of comments is available for inspection.

Table 2: Selection of comments received

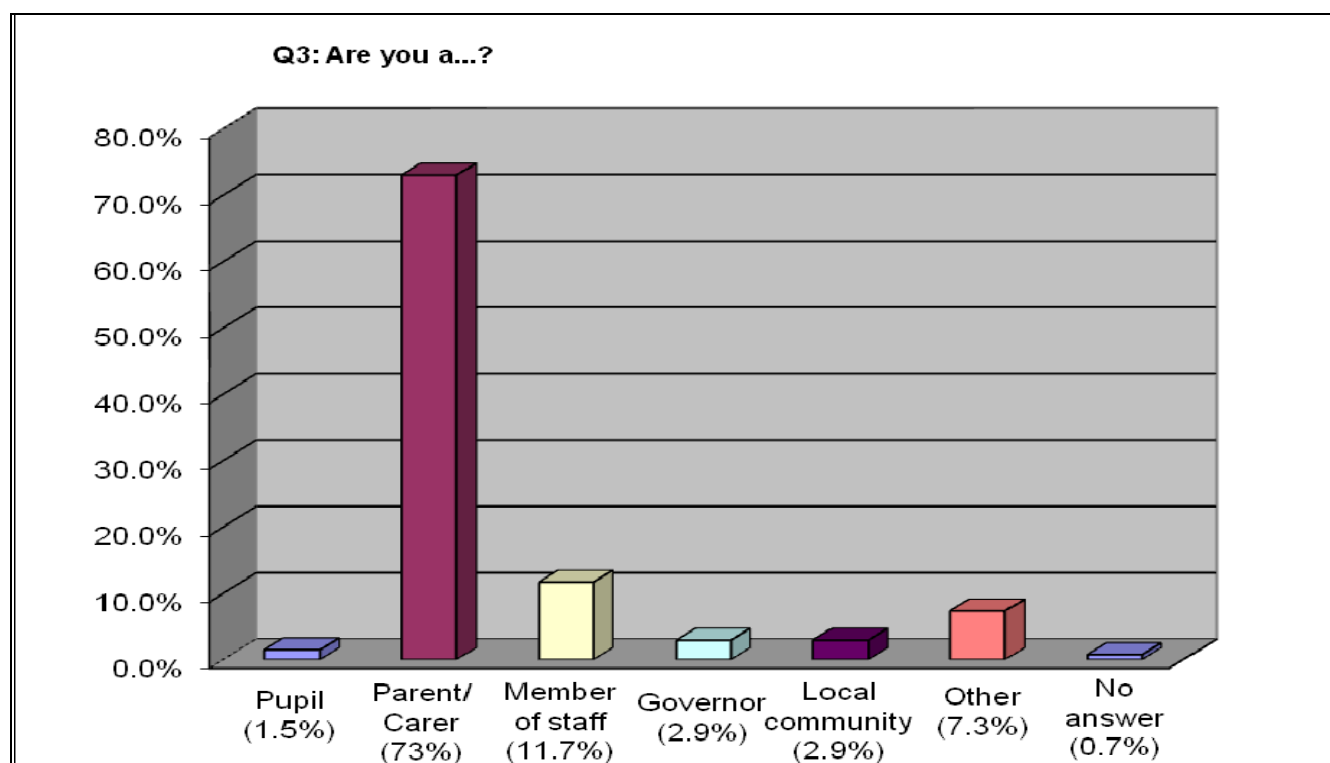
Comment summary	
1	Strongly disagree. The schools are crowded enough as it is and they have not got the space to expand without compromising other facilities.
2	Strongly disagree. Tollgate can accommodate but St. Andrew's definitely not. The grounds are simply not big enough and I believe it will be detrimental to the children as they will lose their outdoor space. The roads also cannot cope with the extra demand this will impose.
3	Strongly disagree. Not enough space in either school! It would be detrimental to the children's learning.
4	Strongly disagree. I think we may be 'patching up' the problem when what we really need is a new school or our beautiful school should be re-built properly, not putting up mobile classrooms which are taking over our playgroup. Our children need room to play! Please don't build on our very small playground!
5	Strongly disagree. Adding more classrooms to such a small school will cut playground space. Parking would also be a huge issue making parking for residents difficult and add more traffic congestion.
6	Disagree. The parking at both schools is already impossible.
7	Disagree. The amount of cars already in the areas taking children to and from school is a nightmare - with no parking available for residents. Seaside is a very fast road and is dangerous as no lollypop person helps the children to cross the road. Only children who live in area SHOULD attend the schools and stop the people from Pevensy, Westham, Old Town and Town centre attending the school as it's for local children only.
8	Disagree. I am concerned about the building work interrupting the current children's education and their enjoyment at school. An example of this was when the temporary classroom was installed at St Andrews the astro turf which was needed so that the children had enough area to play in was delayed by months. So that meant there were 120 children in smaller space than the 90 children the previous year. This has a big affect on their behaviour and therefore their learning. If this does go ahead then more thought needs to be taken into account for the existing children at both schools.
9	Strongly agree. My son has been to both these schools, and I hope our youngest son will go to them. I would rather two very good schools be enlarged than a totally new school be built in this area.
10	Strongly agree. Both St. Andrew's and Tollgate are popular schools in the community and there is always a high demand for places. I believe an expansion of both schools would be in the public's interest, with the increase in birth rate and demand for school places rising.
11	Strongly agree. Although I agree to the expansion of both schools, I think that careful

	consideration should be given to ensuring there is enough outside space for the children, particularly St. Andrews. The existing extra classroom has already taken away from outside play space for the foundation stage children, so where St. Andrews is concerned, building work should go up rather than expanding out onto playground space.
12	Agree. I do think there should be enough school places in the area you live and should be able to walk to school.
13	Agree. My youngest daughter was born in 2010 so will be directly affected if the school do not provide enough places. I would like both my children to go to the same schools for ease in dropping off/picking up and admitting more children will hopefully ensure this.
14	Agree. The demographics speak for themselves. Please consider building options that minimise loss of space and minimise disruption to the children's learning while the works are being carried out.
15	Agree. Whilst I agree with the proposal, there will need to be some thoughts on how to manage the extra traffic in the areas due to the increase in pupils attending the schools.
16	Agree. As more places for pupils are needed in this area, the school in its present state will need to be enlarged. As long as proper building is carried out to enlarge the present premises sensibly to give modern purpose built facilities with an enlarged hall, it will be beneficial to the school. Care, however, needs to be taken to ensure that all children have the facilities they need at both schools with enough space for play areas and inside facilities.

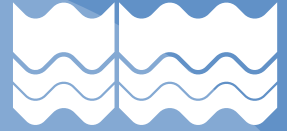
4.6 In answer to question 3, respondents classified themselves as:

- 2 (1.5%) were pupils at St Andrew's or Tollgate
- 100 (73%) were parents/carers of a child/ren at St Andrew's and/or Tollgate
- 16 (11.7%) were members of staff at St Andrew's or Tollgate
- 4 (2.9%) were members of the governing body at St Andrew's and/or Tollgate
- 4 (2.9%) were members of the local community
- 10 (7.3%) were classed as 'other'
- 1 (0.7%) chose not to answer

4.7 The chart below illustrates the breakdown:



- 4.8 Of the 100 parents and carers who responded, 34 (34%) support the proposal, while 54 (54%) do not. 12 (12%) do not have a view either way.
- 4.9 2 pupils attending the schools replied to the consultation. Both (100%) support the proposal.
- 4.10 Of the 20 members of staff and governors who responded, 9 (45%) support the proposal while 6 (30%) do not. 5 (25%) do not have a view either way.
- 4.11 4 members of the local community replied to the consultation. 1 (25%) supports the proposal while 3 (75%) do not, generally for the reasons outlined in 4.3 above.
- 4.12 The 10 people who responded under the heading 'other' included the local ward councillor, parents and members of the local community. 4 (40%) support the proposal, 5 (50%) do not and 1 (11.1%) does not have a view either way.
- 4.13 'About you' questions. We collect this information to ensure that we are seeking the views of everyone in our community and to demonstrate that we are complying with relevant diversity and equalities legislation. The responses to the 'About you' questions are available for inspection.
- 4.14 At the time of writing we had received two late consultation responses, neither of which is taken into account in the analysis above.
- 4.15 A copy of the consultation document is provided in **Appendix A**.



June 2013

Have your say on a proposal to increase the size of St Andrew's CE Infant School and Tollgate Community Junior School

The consultation runs from 26 June to 24 July 2013.



What is the proposal?

The proposal is to permanently enlarge St Andrew's CE Infant School and Tollgate Community Junior School from September 2016. St Andrew's CE Infant School would grow from 270 places to 360 places (ages 4-7) and Tollgate Community Junior School would grow from 360 places to 480 places (ages 7-11). This would provide an additional 210 primary places (ages 4-11) across the central south area of Eastbourne.

This consultation document is for pupils, parents and carers, staff, the local community and other interested parties. East Sussex County Council will consider all the views put forward before a decision is taken by the Lead Members for Children's Services on whether to continue with the proposal to expand. We welcome your views on this proposal.

What is the background to this proposal?

Eastbourne is experiencing an increase in demand for primary school places as a result of a rising birth rate. Births in Eastbourne have risen from 862 in academic year 2001/02 to 1,175 in 2010/11 (an increase of 36%). This reflects what is happening to the birth rate in other parts of East Sussex and the country as a whole.

Eastbourne Borough, while constituting one primary school place planning area, is also divided into sub areas based on geographical clusters of schools. St Andrews CE Infant School and Tollgate Community Junior School are located in the central south area which is the area of greatest demographic growth of young children in the town. Between 2001/02 and 2010/11 the number of births in this area increased by 71% compared to 35% in the east area, 25% in central north, 20% in the west area and 36% across the Borough as a whole.

East Sussex County Council has a duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places available. In response to a rising demand for places, we established a temporary 'bulge' class in reception year at St Andrew's CE Infant School in 2011/12 and we plan to do so again in 2014/15. We also expect to establish a temporary 'bulge' class in Year 3 at Tollgate Community Junior School in 2014/15 to reflect the larger cohort of children moving through from St Andrew's CE Infant School that year. This proposal is about formalising those arrangements for the future.

Both schools are popular and successful. St Andrew's CE Infant School was rated 'outstanding' at its last Ofsted inspection, and Tollgate Community Junior School was rated 'good'. In recent years both schools have been over-subscribed. Both schools have indicated their in-principle support for expansion. The Church of England Diocese of Chichester has also indicated its support for expansion of St Andrew's CE Infant School.

What size would the enlarged schools be?

We propose to increase the size of both schools from three forms of entry to four forms of entry, enabling each school to admit up to 120 pupils in every year group. St Andrew's CE Infant School's capacity would increase from 270 places in 9 classes to 360 places in 12 classes. Tollgate Community Junior School's capacity would increase from 360 places in 12 classes to 480 places in 16 classes.

To support the expansion of each school, the premises would be extended to provide the additional classrooms and associated facilities. If approved, the Council intends to fund the building work from its capital programme.

The Council is very experienced in managing construction projects and the health and safety of children is paramount when any building project takes place. The build programme would be developed to minimise disruption to the schools during this time. Concerns relating to planning and transport can be raised as part of the statutory planning process which is subject to a separate consultation.

The Council anticipates that building work would begin during summer 2014 with full completion across the two schools due in summer 2016.

Who makes the final decision and when?

The Council is the decision maker for this proposal. This is not a referendum but all of the views expressed during the consultation period together with other sources of information will be used to inform the decision.

Following consideration of the consultation responses we could choose to:

- stop the process - in this case the expansion of the schools would not proceed;
- change the proposal - in this case the next steps would depend on what the proposed changes are; or
- continue with the proposal - we would publish a Statutory Notice for the expansion of the schools in the local paper, probably in September 2013, which would be followed by a further 4-week period of consultation (known as the representation period).

We have a duty to make a final decision on the proposal within two months of the end of the representation period. In this instance, a decision would probably be taken in November 2013.

Who is being consulted?

We are consulting with pupils, parents and carers, staff, other local schools and trade unions. We are also consulting with a wide range of other groups including the Borough Council, the local MP, the Church of England and Catholic dioceses and the wider local community.

How do I have my say?

This consultation runs until **24 July 2013**.

You can give your views by:

- completing the attached questionnaire and returning it in the envelope provided
- completing the online questionnaire at: www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/haveyoursay
- emailing the County Council at school.consultations@eastsussex.gov.uk quoting St Andrew's and Tollgate in the subject line.



Consultation – Response Form

Our proposal is to enlarge St Andrew’s CE Infant School from 270 places to 360 places and Tollgate Community Junior School from 360 places to 480 places by September 2016. This would enable each school to admit up to 120 pupils in every year group.

East Sussex County Council would welcome your views on the proposal. Please complete this response form and return it to the address at the bottom of the page no later than 24 July 2013.

Q1. Do you agree with the proposal to enlarge St Andrew’s CE Infant School and Tollgate Community Junior School?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Q2. If you wish, you can give your main reasons for your answers to Q1 above, and/or any other options you think the Council should consider:

Q3. Are you a...?

- Pupil at either St Andrew’s CE Infant School or Tollgate Community Junior School
- Parent/carer of a child at St Andrew’s and/or Tollgate
- Member of staff at either St Andrew’s or Tollgate
- Member of the governing body at St Andrew’s and/or Tollgate
- Member of the local community
- Other (please say) _____

Once completed, please tear off this page along the perforation, fold and return it in the window envelope provided by **24 July 2013** to the address below.

Please ensure that the address is clearly visible in the window of the envelope.

You don’t need a stamp.

**Primary School Consultation (St Andrew’s and Tollgate)
FREEPOST BR157
East Sussex County Council
County Hall
St Anne’s Crescent
Lewes BN7 1SF**

