

APPENDIX 4

Written responses in the Representation Period on the proposed expansion of Cradle Hill Community Primary School

Point of View	Supports Proposal	Against Proposal	Not For or Against	Other coments/Notes
Parent/ carer		Y		I wish to object to the proposal. Safety of walking young children into and out of school everyday will be seriously compromised by the heavy increase in school traffic, particularly on Lexden Road. Road already very busy at pupil drop off and collection times. Situation for walking parents and kids worsened when the school started to expand last year (2015), as no due consideration given to the impacts this would have on road safety and traffic outside the school. With the plans to turn Cradle Hill into one of the largest primary schools in East Sussex, concerned that the situation will become worse for children unless appropriate road and pedestrian safety measures are put in place first. The Council should note: there is currently no designated safe 'crossing' point for pedestrians anywhere along Lexden Road. It's rarely possible to find a long, unobstructed view of the road due to the many parked cars, cars park immediately opposite the school entrance completely blocking out sight lines for families crossing by foot. We are forced to walk into the middle of Lexden Road into oncoming traffic, in order to see around these cars. My kids are too short to be seen in the rear mirrors of parked vehicles. Yet, often there's no alternative but to stand behind these cars. Parked cars (opposite the school gate) cause frequent congestion along the road as the road is narrow and cars and buses have to drive around them. Vehicles sometimes become trapped and have to reverse down the road. Given the level of expansion being proposed (and indeed already underway at the school), it is vital that a traffic safety plan is implemented at the earliest opportunity. This should include a safe zebra crossing point on Lexden Road and enforceable parking restrictions to stop cars waiting or parking opposite the school during drop off/pick up times. I am certain more families would choose to walk or cycle to school rather than drive if there was a safer way to cross Lexden Road, helping to reduce traffic, combat climate change and tackle child obesity.
Parent/ carer		Y		I disagree with the proposal as it will impact on the children's school life, they are losing their music room and computer suite, as schools current kitchen and dinner halls will not be made any bigger mealtimes will become very crowded and noisy. School perfect the way it is. Children already have to stagger their play times as there is not enough room on the playing areas for them to all safely play at the same time - these areas are not being expanded and with added children will become even more dangerous. Traffic around the area at school times is dangerous enough and is on a major bus route, adding more children and parents travelling to and from the school will only make this more dangerous as I do not think the proposed changes to the layout of the surrounding roads make it any safer.
Parent/ carer		Y		From what the children have been told at school, it's a foregone conclusion. Is that true? The primary school our children attended has over 900 pupils, this was to its detriment because the principle wasn't able to manage that size of operation, they now in fact also employ a school business manager, b) accommodation (classes) where in temporary buildings which were hot in the summer. Not sure what your accommodation plan is for Cradle Hill, however, you have an ambitious expansion plan 2017, so I guess it will be temporary accommodation, will it be warm enough, etc.? c) The School became impersonal, it was not possible for the senior staff to know the pupils, even with Lower/Upper School heads and year coordinators (as these were also teacher) this meant that pupils with vocal parents got the attention that was available and other cases (some very urgent) fell through the cracks in the system, d) Parking / Infrastructure around the School, e) Will this meet the needs of the next 5 - 10, 20 years for Seaford, my understanding is that Seaford continues to become a younger town as families move from Brighton/Lewes to find more affordable houses. Is not an additional school in Seaford better suited to relieve the short and long term school place issues of Seaford?

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Parent/ carer			Y	I have looked at the plans and the designs appear to have been well thought out. However I just wanted to highlight from my point of view a couple of points: 1). If the school is to be substantially expanded, it is vital that the purpose built after school club provision (Kittywakes) is protected or even expanded. Many working parents like us rely on this and this was a factor for us in choosing this school (not all schools do this well). The room is now designated as a multi purpose room in the new design. 2). Is there a plan for a computer suite? The current room is being re-scoped and this is a valuable resource. This is becoming more important than it ever has been. Or alternative options like a pool of laptops / tablets that allow lessons in classrooms. 3). Play areas are already under pressure and a large KS1 play area is important - most of the playground is lost and it does not appear explicit where this would be cited
Other			Y	Although I'm all for change and making improvements, I do feel that the proposed expansion of the school does not seem to take into account the following points: The increased traffic will cause even more congestion (the local bus frequently cannot pass because of inconsiderate parking by parents), increased noise levels, and the risk of an accident in this residential area. The school's whole character will have been altered due to the increase in the number of pupils; the school has always been popular due to everyone knowing everyone and its 'friendly feel'. A four year old child starting school is already faced with a hurried lunchtime, as the intake is now 90. For many, being surrounded by so many other young children can be an overwhelming experience and will surely affect their wellbeing. The school has already been expanded and during this time it caused several issues including delays in completion of the work, health and safety issues and inconvenience to staff/pupils. Is the same thing therefore not going to be repeated again, when the need for more school places is required in a few years time? Maybe build a brand new school, rather than expand? I worry that we are prioritising the need for school places over our consideration for a successful school with a unique and finally balanced identity. Just some thoughts from someone who has been connected to the school and who has seen it develop, but still retain its individuality. I now feel it will become 'just another large establishment'. Are we actually thinking about our children's education?