

Community Engagement – consultation summary

Event (eg name of group / event) :	Berkswell Church of England Primary School
Nature of consultation (eg Community event; focus group; questionnaire) :	Meeting with Heads for input
Date : 27 September 2016	Venue : Berkswell School
NDP lead : Andrew Burrow	Key contact (if applicable) : Tracy Drew (Head)
Participant details (eg approximate number; attach register if available) :	Consultation with Tracy Drew (Head) and Matthew Penn (assistant Head)
<p>Purpose of consultation (ie nature of data to be collected incl. housing, education, traffic, public transport, retail, amenities and utilities. Focus on BC and/or rural areas incl. Berkswell) :</p> <p>To gather thoughts on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current issues for school and staff in the school both in running a school and being employees at the school in terms of planning issues. • Future issues with possible significant housing expansion in Balsall Common and minor expansion in Berkswell village 	
<p>Description of consultation (incl. photos; material presented / on display/ handouts):</p> <p>Discussion around the 3 principal questions, what is good currently, what needs improvement and what might be required if there is change in housing numbers locally. This feedback sheet was checked by participants before submission</p>	
<p>Current Good Points that need to be retained</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size of school (one form entry) is conducive to primary education. The Soul of Berkswell School is in its size and the ability for each child to be seen as an individual by all staff. This becomes increasingly hard with larger schools. (Berkswell School is seen as a medium sized school, whilst it is single form entry it has large class sizes compared to some village schools with a single year per class) • The Church of England nature of the school is seen by most parents as an indicator of the school's ethos of care for each child rather than necessarily a religious education being provided. Most parents seem to see this as important at primary level and do not seem on general to seek a CofE school at secondary level. • It is easy for staff to get to by car and there is good parking provision for staff in the Parish Council car park. • Whilst it can get busy for parents dropping off/picking up their children by car, this is no worse than at most schools. There is some parking at the PC car park, a fair amount on Meriden Road and the possibility of using the Bear car park for events. • The School has enough space for its current pupil intake. Its facilities are fit for purpose. • They have no need for a swimming pool. Only one year group go swimming and like most Solihull schools they go to a Solihull pool without a problem. • There is a good sports field 	
<p>Areas for improvement/need currently</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For events such as sports day or school productions parental parking can be an issue. Use is made occasionally of the Bear Inn car park. • The school is fully subscribed. The school is currently reviewing its admission policies. 	
<p>Areas for development/need if there is housing expansion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school site would not be conducive to further expansion. Any major expansion would also put pressure on the school ethos, culture and its strengths • A small change in housing numbers in the village would not be material. • A significant increase in housing at Balsall Common would require a new school. A new one or two form entry school would be best located close to the new housing to seek to replicate the strengths of schools like Berkswell with their family feel. 	