

I understand that the statutory consultation begins today with regards to the expansion of the above primary school. As a local resident within 0.1 mile of Bevois Town Primary School, I am particularly concerned with the classroom expansions and the effect it will have on the local area. Council published booklet in respect of the school expansion mentions the following:

Bevois Town Primary – the possibility of converting a nearby council building into teaching space is being investigated along with the addition of classrooms to the existing site.

I would like to enquire that which Council building (or buildings) is (are) being considered for conversion?

Thanks for your prompt reply. I am very concerned as the Cedar Road building is less than 100 meters from my house, particularly with potential increase in traffic and noise level in the area. I have copied in my colleague who is also a local resident which is very close to Cedar Road building.

My questions/comments are:

1. How is the increased traffic for dropping and picking up pupils dealt with, as the area has very limited parking? Many houses in the area are terraced houses which have no off-road parking and rely on parking on public roads. The existing rear entrance to the local school on Cedar Road restricts further traffic going further into the residential area, with main entrance on Earls Road. Where will be the pickup/drop off area once the building is converted?

2. What happens when the Cedar Road building is converted which I assume this will be a separate site of the school. The fact that there are several residential properties "in between" the existing school and the Cedar Road building which means that the existing school and the Cedar Road building will be separate sites rather than one enclosed school campus as it is currently is. Where will the pupils using Cedar Road building be picked up/dropped off and how will they gain access to these new classrooms and where is recess area? My concerns are that pupils will be using the public roads/footpath transferring between sites for lunch, recess and classrooms, thus imperil local road safeties, also the fact that pickup/drop off will take place on Cedar Road/Mordaunt Road area which I very strongly object.

3. How will the increased noise levels be managed? The Cedar Road site is surrounded by residential buildings with no high walls. Will the conversion design address this?

4. I have not seen any previous notices around the inner avenue area with regards to the expansion. I only picked this up on the Weekly Bulletin as a Council employee. And I note in the report that a pre-consultation was conducted with no/few objections, and this is currently a public consultation, is this correct? Can you please clarify the decision making process? Is it too late for local residents to submit comments and objections? There has been very little information on what the local residents can do in terms of objections and comments.

5. The report and consultation notices have very little information with regards to how will the conversion look, and the fact that the Cedar Road building will be used which I believe is one of the reasons that pre-consultation attracted little or no attention of the local residence. Please can you illustrate what will the conversion look like and if the design will be addressing my concerns above?

I am contemplating to submit a formal objection to the proposal and will organise a local residence meeting to discuss the matter. I would be very much appreciated if I can have your reply of the above as soon as possible. Many thanks.

Further to the consultation regarding using the City Council building in Cedar Road as an extension of the school I would like to register my support for the proposal. It shows an imaginative use of scarce City Council resources and should be applauded. Whatever the building is used for will create traffic but if it is used as a school then at least traffic movements will be at different times of the day to those of ordinary users. As the cars will be there just to be used for drop off and pick up it will not create any major permanent parking problems.

I would suggest though that some resources are used to tidy the area up. There is a permanent problem around the area with wheelie bins being left on the street and rubbish accumulating when rubbish is not disposed of properly. That makes the area an unpleasant one for children to go to school in and I would urge the Council to make an effort to at least try and sort that problem out immediately around the school area. Parents with prams and children sometimes have to walk in the road because of the bins left on the pavement and this creates a safety hazard.

Anyway I support the idea so good luck with it.

As a parent of three children at St Johns I have always supported the plans for the school moving forward in to becoming a much needed city centre primary school. I am also very supportive with the idea of expanding the school further, as I know there are still many more school spaces needed. I feel it is unfair that many local children are not able to benefit from what this school has to offer.

But I have a huge concern as to where the extra classrooms would go! As the school is growing the children's free space is becoming increasingly limited.

The lack of open space, busy traffic and cultural diversity limit the way the children can socialise out of school, in this area of the city.

I know the playground spaces bring them all together as a community, are much need and very appreciated by all. These area really enrich my children's love for sport and "hands on" learning taking any of their small outside space for more classrooms, I feel would have a negative effect on the children's learning, interaction and take away something really special about the school.

I would like to write in support of the expansion of St Johns Primary and Nursery. My son is in year 1 and has benefited greatly from this school, but I do meet other parents who are on the waiting list to attend the school as there are currently enough places. An expansion would enable more children to benefit from St Johns lovely environment.

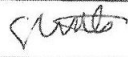

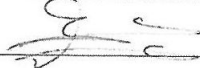

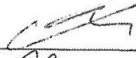
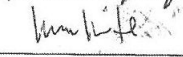

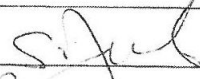
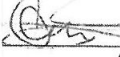

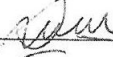


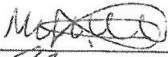

On a personal level my daughter would be due to join St Johns reception class around the time of the suggested expansion, however if there is no expansion she is less likely to secure a space and this concerns me. In terms of outdoor playing space, I know many parents would appreciate it if this isn't reduced for the children.

I do hope the proposed expansion does take place and that as a result many more children will benefit from St Johns in the future.

This petition supports the expansion of St John's Primary and Nursery School into a two form entry school, but NOT by expansion onto the playground. We believe the Local Authority should preserve this space for our children and seek to extend into other buildings available locally.

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