



# NERROLS

PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Section 10 Consultation Report**

**17 December 2018**

## 1. The Consultation Period

The period for the consultation was set from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018 to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018. It was thought prudent that the consultation period be one week longer than the recommended period to avoid potential objections regarding timescales, and to allow consultees longer to respond.

## 2. Consultation Materials

Various materials were produced for the consultation process. They were:

- A newsletter, giving general details of the School site, building and proposed provision. This included a questionnaire seeking responses to key questions about the opening of the school, Richard Huish Trust's (RHT) sponsorship of the new school, views on the funding agreement and any other comments about the opening of the school.
- A "Frequently Asked Questions" document outlining the most common stakeholder questions that may be asked and Trust responses to them.
- A Curriculum Statement detailing the School curriculum, including key aspects of provision, such as EYFS, SEND and PPG.

## 3. Dissemination of Materials

The consultation materials were disseminated in a variety of ways and using a variety of actions/events. These were:

- Key stakeholders were emailed the newsletter/questionnaire and information about a consultation open event on 25 October 2018, using an SCC recommended list. **(See also Appendix 1)**
- A Nerrols Primary School website ([www.nerrolsprimary.co.uk](http://www.nerrolsprimary.co.uk)) This contained a Home page, outlining the school vision, location, site, size and RHT's involvement as sponsors. Headline information regarding an open event for the consultation was also advertised.  
There was a specific page for admissions, including the composite prospectus for admissions.  
There was also a page for the consultation, including newsletter/questionnaire, the Curriculum Statement and FAQs, and an email/postal address for responses.
- Two advertisements (one full page, one-half page) in the local press, one at the start of the consultation and one-half way through. These advertisements were used mainly to promote the information contained in the newsletter and direct people to the website in order to download the questionnaire to complete and return to the Trust. They also gave information about admissions and the other consultation documents, as well as information about the open consultation event on 25 October 2018.
- The newsletter/questionnaire, including information about the open event on 25 October 2018, was leaflet dropped to 2500 households in the area surrounding the School site.

- An open event was organised at a community centre close to the School site, which was widely advertised (see above). It was held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018, between 3pm and 7pm. Representatives of RHT, Somerset Country Council (SCC) and Wilmott Dixon (the contractor) were present to answer questions about their involvement in the process and how they were working collaboratively to achieve a successful outcome.
- A *Facebook* account was created to advertise the consultation, provide information relating to it and regular updates on the progress of both the consultation and the school's development.

#### **4. Information about the School site**

Stakeholders and other consultees were informed about the school site in the following ways:

- The cost of the school build and how SCC had funded it.
- The School's address and location in Taunton.
- The size of the site including the surrounding land.
- The number of classrooms/classes and the number of storeys.
- The number of pupils on site upon initial opening, and how many pupils would be on site when full.
- Detailed CAD drawings were provided of the site, both internal and external, including, parking, roads and footpaths surrounding the site. These were provided at the public open event on 25 October 2018 and representatives of Wilmott Dixon, the Contractor, attended to answer questions, explain details of the site and the build.

#### **5. Specific Consultees**

In addition to the SCC recommended list of stakeholders, the project lead emailed the Head teachers of the five closest primary schools and explained the process and plans for Nerrols Primary, including information about parents events, and invited teachers responded positively, stating they looked forward to the new School joining the Taunton "family". They expressed an understanding of the need for a new primary school in the area and did not feel threatened by the new provision.

The Project Lead has also communicated directly with Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish Council members (Nerrols Primary is within the Parish boundary) and informed them of the detail of the build, the catchment and character of the new School. An agreement for them to be involved - in a community sense - once the School opened was arranged. The new Headteacher, when appointed, will continue this communication.

#### **6. Consultation questions and responses**

The questionnaire asked three key questions about the School and invited comments from all respondents. The Trust received a total of three responses to the questionnaire and further comments were made at the open event on 25 October 2018. (For details of the responses/comments and RHT's response to them please see **appendix 2** of this report).

## 7. Summary

The consultation was carried out according to DfE guidance on proposing a new Free School. The consultation period was longer than recommended, giving all consultees ample time to respond and comment. Key information was made available for comment and representatives of RHT made themselves personally available to answer questions from any/all consultees. In total almost 2,600 people were consulted directly, with many more given the opportunity via the local press, website, social media and an advertised event open to the general public. All questions/comments were responded to individually, within 10 working days or sooner. There were very few negative comments, and they were almost entirely directed towards travel and transport implications of the new School. Those who did comment in this way were directed to the appropriate SCC representatives for further information.

This consultation was marked by the large, positive and proactive response from prospective parents, with nearly all of their questions/comments directed towards finding out more information about the children's education and admission arrangements. Almost all were keen for their children to attend Nerrols Primary School.

The low number of questions/comments, together with an overwhelmingly positive response when communicating directly with consultees – including local head teachers – about the School, has indicated that Nerrols Primary School, and Huish Trust's sponsorship of it, has great support in the local community, as well as Taunton more widely.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name, possibly 'M. J. ...', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Role: Executive Headteacher/Project Lead

Date 17 December 2018