

Outcome of the Review of Primary School Places in South Bracknell



Issues covered

- Schools covered by the review
- the problems with surplus places
- objectives of the review
- housing developments
- outcomes of consultation
- Executive's proposals
- next steps

Schools covered by the Review

- Birch Hill Primary
- Crown Wood Primary
- Fox Hill Primary
- Great Hollands Infant
- Great Hollands Junior
- Harmans Water Primary



- St Joseph's RC Primary
- St Margaret Clitherow RC Primary
- St Michael's CE Aided Primary
- The Pines Infant & Nursery
- The Pines Junior
- Wildridings Primary
- Wooden Hill Primary



Surplus Places

Falling pupil numbers

- 2003 surplus places **602 (14.5%)**
- 2008 surplus places **883 (21.2%)**

Why is this a problem?

- fixed costs become a higher proportion of schools' budgets
- maintenance less cost effective
- managing staffing reductions more difficult and in a greater number of schools as pupil numbers decline



and...

- smaller year groups make school organisation more difficult
- schools become less attractive to new staff
- DfES guidelines breached



Objectives

To ensure that:

- every child continues to have high quality education
- sufficient places in convenient locations
- all children assured of a place in their designated area school

- around 500 places removed
- schools are maintained at a viable size
- 10% surplus remains to ensure adequate scope for parental preference



Housing Developments (1)

Staff College Site

- 730 houses proposed on this site
- Approximately 270 primary age children
- Current designated area - Harmans Water, Wildridings and Fox Hill Primary Schools

- Government guidance recommends that only one school should be designated for each area
- Borough Council propose Harmans Water Primary because of capacity and natural boundaries



Housing Developments (2)

Peacock Farm

- 1500 houses will generate over 500 primary age pupils
- insufficient capacity in nearby schools
- significant distance to travel to other schools

New school required

Outcomes of Consultation



The Council's preferred option

- amalgamate Fox Hill Primary and Wildridings Primary on the Wildridings site
(420 place school)
- amalgamate The Pines Infant and Junior Schools on the Junior School site
(210 place school)
- Reduce the size of Birch Hill Primary
(449 place school)

Consultation Process

- 6 week consultation period
- consultation documents and standard response forms
- meetings with :
 - Headteachers
 - Chairmen of governing bodies
 - Teacher associations and trade unions
 - Diocesan authorities
 - Members of staff in schools
 - Parents and members of the community
- petitions, letters, e-mails
- website information and responses



Consultation Response

- 4,800 leaflets distributed
- 343 (7%) standard response forms returned
- 124 (36%) supported option one
- 18 (5%) supported option two
- 41 (12%) supported option three

- 150 (44%) did not support any option
- Of these 74 supported the original option 3, which included elements of option 1.

- 347 letters

Majority regarding Fox Hill and Wooden Hill

545 Wooden Hill pro-forma letters

- Three petitions :

opposing closure of Fox Hill 861 names

opposing closure of Fox Hill
and Wildridings 224 names

opposing closure of Wooden Hill/
reducing Crown Wood 2038 names



Analysis of Standard Response Forms and Letters

	<i>Option 1</i>	<i>Option 2</i>	<i>Option 3</i>	<i>Other (old option 3)</i>	Total
Amalgamate Fox Hill and Wildridings Schools	124	18			142
Amalgamate The Pines Infant and Junior Schools	124			74	198
Reduce the size of Birch Hill Primary School	124	18		74	216
Reduce the size of Crown Wood Primary School		18	41	74	133
Close Wooden Hill Primary School			41		41
Reduce the size of Wooden Hill Primary School				74	74
Retain Fox Hill as 1 FE School				209	209
Retain Wooden Hill Primary School				661	661

Proposed changes to designated areas not supported by a majority – mainly responses from Fox Hill and Wildridings.



Executive's proposals

- retain a school for each community
- retain flexibility over buildings

Recommendations

- Staff College site solely in Harmans Water area
- amalgamate The Pines Infant and Junior Schools on the Junior School site
(210 place school)
- reduce the size of Fox Hill Primary
(210 place school)
- reduce the size of Wildridings Primary
(315 place school)
- Reduce the size of Birch Hill Primary
(420 place school)



Total Effect

- Removes 505 places
- Reduces surplus to 14.7% by 2008

This does not include pupils from Staff College site and Peacock Farm developments.

What happens next ?

- 3 February - Executive Member confirms and agrees Statutory Notices
- Feb - April Statutory consultation
- April - Executive Member considers representations and determines to proceed
- May - School Organisation Committee determines proposals

March onwards-consultation with governing bodies about accommodation

May onwards - planning and building proposals progressed

June onwards - governing bodies constituted and staffing processes begin

2005

September - complete implementation

