

Fearnville Consultation: FAQs/Comments

<p>Why do we need another school in this area? There are local schools which are advertising that they have small class sizes and are not full?</p>	<p>Due to the increase in births in Leeds over the last decade, we have worked with primary schools to increase the number of places available. These primary aged children will soon be looking to move to secondary schools. Demographic data shows that the current secondary schools will not have sufficient capacity to accommodate these children from 2020 onwards, therefore an additional secondary school is needed.</p>
<p>The school will be in the wrong area and local children will not attend</p>	<p>Our projected need for school places in the area shows there will be more children than places available by 2020 and therefore we require additional school places for children to attend.</p>
<p>How big will the school be?</p>	<p>The proposal is for a 1,200 place school (8 forms of entry or 240 children per year group). As we are proposing that the school would share facilities with the wellbeing centre, the foot print for the school would be smaller than if there were not shared facilities. The school would be built in line with Education & Skills Funding Agency guidelines for an 8FE secondary school.</p>
<p>How will the school share facilities with the wellbeing centre?</p>	<p>The detail of this is yet to be confirmed. If both proposals progress the school would share some of the leisure facilities, such as sports hall, playing fields, swimming pool and indoor leisure facilities through a user agreement with the council-run wellbeing centre. This would enable children at the school to access facilities not usually available within a high school setting.</p> <p>There is a separate consultation for the wellbeing centre seeking views from the public on what facilities they would like to be included in the wellbeing centre at http://active.leeds.gov.uk/findacentre/Pages/FearnvilleLeisureCentreDevelopment.aspx or you can email sportconsultation@leeds.gov.uk</p>
<p>Will the school have to be an academy or can it be a local authority maintained school?</p>	<p>All new schools are to be academy free schools. The 'Free School Presumption Process' is the Department for Education's process that is being followed for this consultation. This means that the local authority must provide a specification of the type of school they require and the location for the potential new school. Should the proposal progress, the second phase of the consultation would seek potential academy 'sponsors' to run the new school.</p>
<p>Concerns regarding an increase in anti-social behaviour from school children.</p>	<p>The school perimeter would be fenced with security facilities. The area would be managed more than it is now in relation to the open fields.</p>

<p>If the standards of existing schools and academies were raised they would be more popular and there would not be a need for a new school.</p>	<p>The need for new places is using the planning assumption that existing secondary schools will be at full capacity. The LA wants all children and young people to be able to access a good standard of education and we therefore work in partnership with all our schools, including academies where possible, to provide help and support in improving the outcomes for our children. As the local schools are academies, it is the Regional Schools Commissioner who is directly responsible for the improvement in standards in these schools. In this area there has been active intervention where Academies have not been performing, with new sponsors being brought in to raise standards.</p> <p>For example, the Bishop Young Academy (formerly David Young Community Academy) has recently changed sponsor to the high performing Abbey Multi-Academy Trust that currently run Abbey Grange Academy. We are supporting the Academy Trust as they make rapid improvements to the school.</p> <p>Since becoming part of the White Rose Trust, standards at Leeds East Academy are improving: in the latest GCSE results, the school has made significant improvements in the outcomes of children. Progress of children was well above Leeds and National averages in 2017</p> <p>Regarding new schools in the city, the most recent new High School in the city (Ruth Gorse Academy) was recently inspected in September this year and was graded Outstanding by Ofsted.</p>
<p>What other sites have been considered? Especially, Harehills Park, Soldiers Fields and Foxwood</p>	<p>Analysis of demographic data shows that Fearnville is in the right location for the need for increasing schools places. There are limited sites in council ownership that would be of sufficient size for a new high school.</p> <p>The national government have introduced the 'Free School Presumption Process' which means that Local Authorities must provide the land for which any new school should be built. City Development services within the local authority have completed extensive research into possible land, and Fearnville provides a fantastic opportunity to provide a new secondary school in an area where there will be high demand for places, and can utilise the facilities available from a new wellbeing centre, reducing the size and cost of build compared to a new school being built on another plot of land.</p> <p>Some sites that have already been mentioned during consultation are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harehills park – this site is too small • Soldiers Fields - green belt, historic park, not in the right location • Foxwood – new SEMH provision <p>In September 2017 City Development produced a report for the council's Executive Board detailing all the other sites in Leeds that have been considered for leisure facilities. The report can be found at https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/documents/s164944/Leisure%20Wellbeing%20Centre%20Cover%20Report%20080917.pdf</p>

<p>Why next to a leisure centre?</p>	<p>Co-locating facilities such as leisure and schools allows the development of 'active lifestyles' from an early age, which have a positive effect on health and wellbeing in the future. Additionally, by sharing some of the facilities, such as a car park, the combined costs of the facilities can be reduced, yet the community still served as this maximises the number of hours the facility is used.</p>
<p>Being in close proximity to the School, how are you going to manage potential safeguarding issues?</p>	<p>The two facilities would be designed with the safeguarding of the pupils as a priority – access into the school for the public will be managed as it would in any school and users for the wellbeing centre would be able to access the wellbeing centre directly. Schools use the current leisure centre for swimming lessons while it is open to the public and safeguarding is managed through positive programming and the use of defined areas such as changing rooms. All staff in the wellbeing centre are trained in safeguarding and have a defined reporting system if needed.</p>
<p>Will the wellbeing centre go ahead if the school does not happen?</p>	<p>Although it is the intention to build the new centre adjacent to the proposed school development, it is a separate project and, should funding be approved then the centre can be built independently if needed.</p>
<p>How can you build on this land as it is protected by Fields in Trust?</p>	<p>The local authority would have to apply to Fields In Trust to request for the protection order to be adjusted. As part of any development proposals related to a new facility on the site, Fields in Trust would be consulted so that the implications of any proposals are reviewed through the planning process and if acceptable, mitigated through planning conditions as part of the development. If Fields in Trust are supportive of any mitigation proposals and this allowed the development to proceed, the Deed of Dedication could be varied and agreed by both the land owner and Fields in Trust. The proposal would be that once the new wellbeing centre is built, the old leisure centre would be demolished, grassed, and open space re-provided to compensate for the loss of any open space from the building of the new school and wellbeing centre.</p>
<p>What about the allotments?</p>	<p>The allotments would not be affected by the proposal and would remain as they are.</p>
<p>There is not enough detail about the site plans</p>	<p>We are still in the very early stages, with feasibility and viability work to be carried out first before any plans were drawn up. Any plans would have to go through the normal planning process and people would have the opportunity to comment on those plans before they are submitted.</p>
<p>What is a feasibility study?</p>	<p>A feasibility study will look at the proposed site and the facilities we would like to build on it to see what design would best fit the area and to look at the suitability of the site by assessing traffic, flooding, geology and other land checks to ensure this is a suitable site. It will also give an idea of the cost of the project.</p>
<p>How will the local roads be able to cope with the congestion?</p>	<p>The local authority Highways department have already started to complete traffic surveys and feasibility studies. Should the proposal proceed, road traffic measures would be considered to mitigate against the impact of any potential increase in traffic. Planning permission for any changes would be sought and the relevant planning processes followed.</p>

<p>Is there going to be an increased risk to health due to increased traffic fumes?</p>	<p>The Highways team are aware of the development and have been to look at the site. As part of the feasibility study process they will be investigating and surveying the area so they can contribute to the planning process. Any recommendations by the Highways team will be considered as part of the planning process.</p>
<p>What additional public transport will be made available?</p>	<p>As part of the feasibility study for the site, transport issues would be highlighted and possible solutions explored. Discussions have already taken place with the Regeneration team and issues with public transport for the area as a whole have been raised and are the subject of further discussions. Additionally, a travel plan would have to be submitted as part of the planning process.</p>
<p>There is already a problem with flooding in the area, how do you know this would not make it worse?</p>	<p>We have been working with the Flood Risk Management (FRM) team, who have done an initial assessment of the site, with further work will be carried out during the feasibility works. This will result in recommendations being made within the planning process. Additionally, FRM are currently undertaking works downstream, at Killingbeck Meadows, where it's intended to construct a flood storage reservoir, which will help to reduce flooding within the catchment, in particular downstream at the Dunhills estate.</p>
<p>Is this part of a bigger plan to build houses on the Fearnville site?</p>	<p>No this is not the intention. This consultation is in regard to the proposal to create a new secondary school within East Leeds. There is a separate consultation regarding the wellbeing centre. Neither proposal is linked to any housing development within this site.</p>
<p>How has this consultation been publicised?</p>	<p>The local authority distributed 1,100 leaflets to houses in the area. Some residents explained they have not received these. We have followed this up with the leaflet distribution company, and they have provided GPS data showing delivery taking place. Another delivery was made on 11/10/17 concentrating on Oakwood Lane and Foundry Lane by a council officer. We have been informed that some residents have received two leaflets.</p> <p>Posters and flyers were distributed by a council officer to the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fearnville leisure centre - Oakwood Lane - Oakwood Lane Medical centre - Boots - Raj - Laundrette Newsagents opposite Fearnville Co-Op Flying Tandoori Fat Joes John Jamieson SILC <p>We extended the consultation drop-in on 24th October at Fearnville Leisure Centre to 5pm – 8pm. We have also extended the consultation period from 31st October to 3rd November, and included another drop-in session on Monday 30th October 5pm-7pm. These extensions and additional session have been advertised widely on social media, with posters and flyers distributed in the local area.</p>



<p>How can I get involved and put my point of view across?</p>	<p>We are seeking consultation responses from members of the public and stakeholders, and the consultation period closes on 3rd November. This will help the LA understand whether this is a viable option and whether to progress to the next stage for consultation. We would welcome all views from anyone with an interest in the proposal and you can submit your response by email educ.school.organisation@leeds.gov.uk or at through the snap survey at https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=150669152265 or by completing a response form that can be found on our webpage www.leeds.gov.uk/schoolconsultation</p>
<p>How will I be kept informed?</p>	<p>Please include your details on the consultation response and we will keep you informed of progress. We will also use social media to provide further information: Leeds City Council Facebook pages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Main page• Inner North East Community Committee• Child Friendly Leeds <p>Twitter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• @Child_Leeds <p>If there are any groups or forums you would like us to include, please let us know.</p>