Wrexham County Borough Council

Post Consultation Objection Report

Proposal to increase the pupil capacity at

Barkers Lane CP, Wrexham

Barkers Lane CP

Barkers Lane

Wrexham

LL13 9TP

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1. Statutory Notice

Statutory notice to increase the pupil capacity at Community primary School Barker's Lane CP
School Standards and Organisations (Wales) Act 2013

WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Notice is given in accordance with section 41 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Wrexham County Borough Council, having consulted such persons as required, propose to increase the pupil capacity at Wrexham primary school Barker's Lane CP, Barker's Lane, Wrexham LL13 9TP from September 2020. The school will eventually accommodate 315 boys and girls aged three to eleven years and 45 Nursery Children. The statutory infant class size limit of 30 pupils applies to reception, year 1 and year 2 classes.

Wrexham County Borough Council undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposer's responses and the views of Estyn is available on the local authority's website, at **www.wrexham.gov.uk/barkerslaneconsultation.**

It is proposed to implement the proposal on a phased basis commencing September 2020 as follows:

Phase 1 – On 1st September 2020 the school will increase its published admission number from 30 to 45 pupils for Nursery and from 30 to 45 pupils for Reception on entry each year. All current year groups will remain at 30.

Phase 2 – On 1st September 2021 up to 45 pupils will be admitted to Nursery and up to 45 pupils admitted to Reception. The existing pupils in reception will progress to Year 1.

Phase 3 – On 1st September 2022 up to 45 pupils will be admitted to Nursery and up to 45 pupils admitted to Reception and the existing pupils will progress to Years 1 and 2.

Phase 4 – On 1st September 2023 up to 45 pupils will be admitted to Nursery and up to 45 pupils admitted to Reception and the existing pupils will progress to Years 1, 2 and 3.

Phase 5 – On 1st September 2024 up to 45 pupils will be admitted to Nursery and up to 45 pupils admitted to Reception and the existing pupils will progress to Years 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Phase 6 – On 1st September 2025 up to 45 pupils will be admitted to Nursery and up to 45 pupils admitted to Reception and the existing pupils will progress to Years 1, 2 3, 4 and 5.

Phase 7 – On 1st September 2026 up to 45 pupils will be admitted to Nursery and up to 45 pupils admitted to Reception and the existing pupils will progress to Years 1, 2 3, 4, 5 and 6.

The proposed, Barker's Lane CP, will remain a community primary school. Wrexham County Borough Council, as Local Authority, will be the admission authority. No provision will be made for either selection by aptitude or ability.

The school's new pupil capacity will be 315 plus 45 part time nursery places.

Transport for pupils shall be dealt with by reference to the Local Authority's School Transport Policy.

Details of the Local Authority's Admission Policy and School Transport Policy are available on Wrexham County Borough Council's website at www.wrexham.gov.uk

Objection Period

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 11 April 2019 any person may object to the proposals. Objections should be sent to the Head of Education, Wrexham County Borough Council, Lambpit Street, Wrexham LL11 1AR.

Signed

Head of Education for the Wrexham County Borough Council as Local Authority

1.1 Publication of the Statutory Notice

On the 14 March 2019 Wrexham County Borough Council published the Statutory Notice in relation to the **proposal to increase Pupil Capacity at Barker's Lane CP.**

The publication of the Statutory Notice saw the start of a 28 day formal Objection Period which came to an end on the 11 April 2019.

The Statutory Notice has been published in accordance with Section 41 & 43 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 which requires the School Organisation Code 2013 to be issued to and give guidance to relevant bodies (Welsh Ministers, Local Authorities, Governing Bodies).

The Statutory Notice was accessible via the website and a link to this was sent out to all consultees via email.

The Statutory Notice was also published on the Wrexham County Borough Council webpage.
https://www.wrexham.gov.uk/assets/pdfs/consultations/schools/barkers_lane_statutory_notice.pdf

Below is the list of recipients who as consultees received a copy of the Statutory Notice, in accordance with the School Organisation Code.

2. List of Consultees

- The proposed maintaining authority Wrexham Council Borough Council (Executive Board).
- Other local authorities, including Flintshire County Council and Denbighshire County Council.
- The Governing Bodies of all Wrexham town centre primary schools.
- Parents (and where possible prospective parents) carers and guardians.
- The Welsh Ministers.
- Assembly Members: AM Llyr Gruffydd, AM Lesley Griffiths, AM Mark Isherwood, AM Ken Skates.
- Members of Parliament: MP Susan Jones, MP Ian Lucas.
- Estyn.
- Teaching and staff trade unions representing teachers and other staff.
- GwE.
- The Church in Wales
- The Diocese
- Wrexham Council's Transport Department.
- The Police and Crime Commissioner.
- Community Councils

The list provided above is not exhaustive. The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 (Section 48) requires the Local Authority to consult with such persons as appear to them to be appropriate before considering the publication of any proposals

3. Objections

Between 14 March 2019 and 11 April 2019, 12 written responses were received by Wrexham County Borough Council.

Of the 12 responses received, 11 were individual responses (9 from residents, 1 from a Councillor/resident and 1 from the community Council) and 1 was a petition containing 24 signatures from 12 residential dwellings. Of these 12 residential dwellings 2 had followed this up by submitting a duplicate response and are included in the 11 individual responses.

Of the 11 individual representations/responses 2 were not objections, therefore there were 9 individual Objections and one collective petition received.

Most objections were from residents of neighbouring properties. 1 representation was received from the Community Council of Acton. There were no objections received from the Governing Bodies of the schools that are subject to these proposals.

Stakeholder/Respondees	**Number of Responses received**
Parents	0
Residents of neighbouring properties	9 Individual 1 Petition of 24 signatures.
Councillor/Resident	1
Community Council	1

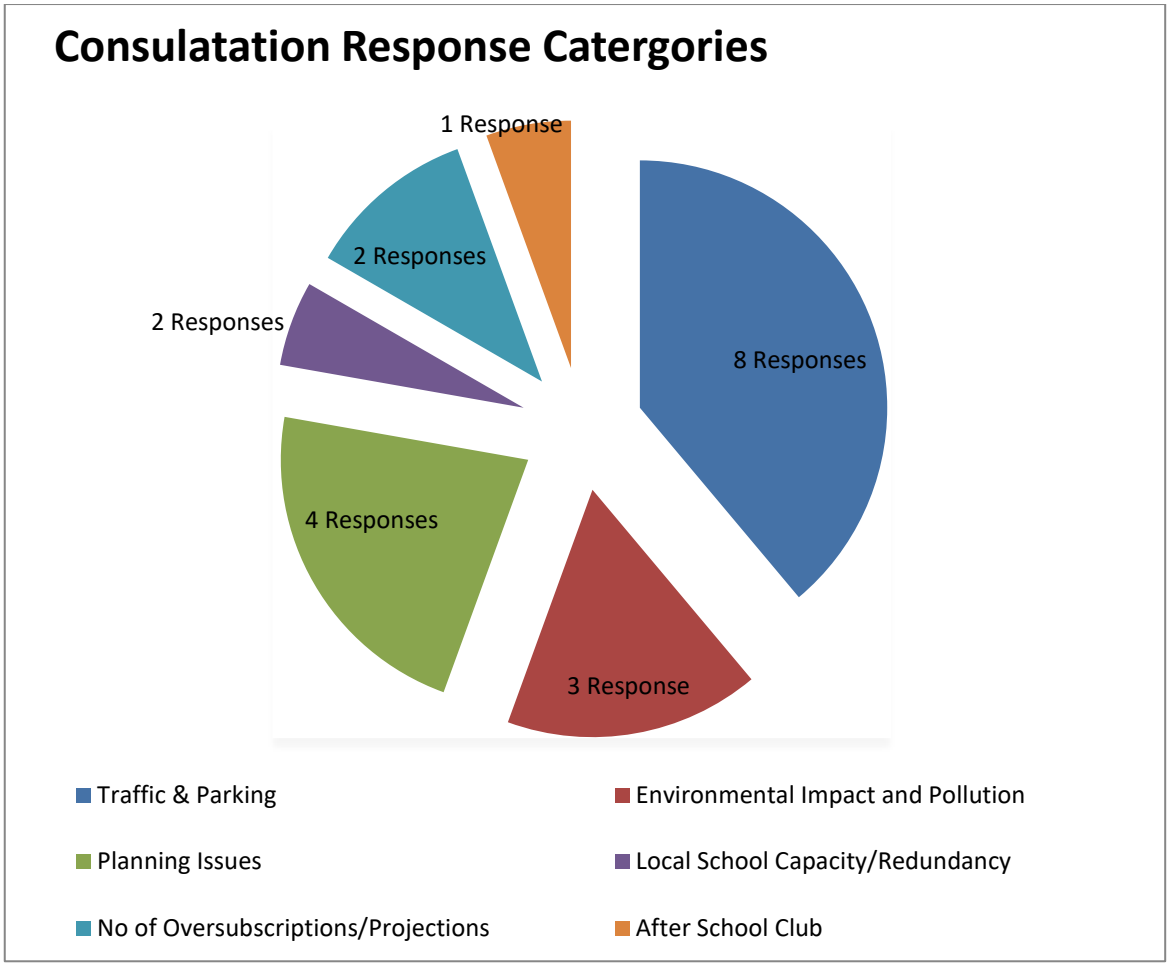
Please note that all previous documents in relation to this issue can be found on the Wrexham County Borough Council website using the link provided below:

https://www.wrexham.gov.uk/english/consultation/schools/barkers_lane.htm

The objections received have been grouped into categories according to the subject matter of the objection. The groups are as follows:

- **Traffic/Parking**
- **Environment**
- **Planning Issues**
- **Local School Redundancy**
- **Oversubscription/Projections**
- **Afterschool Club**

Theme	No of times occurred
Traffic Parking	**8**
Environmental Impact	**3**
Planning Issues	**4**
Local School redundancy	**2**
Numbers of oversubscription/projections	**2**
Afterschool Club	**1**


Consulatation Response Catergories
1 Response
2 Responses
2 Responses
8 Responses
4 Responses
3 Response
Traffic & Parking
Environmental Impact and Pollution
Planning Issues
Local School Capacity/Redundancy
No of Oversubscriptions/Projections
After School Club

Within the responses to the published Statutory Notices there were 9 individual respondees who objected to the proposals.

The concerns received have been grouped into categories according to the subject matter of the objection.

4. Authority Response to the objections

For clarity, authority responses will be provided on each of the groups above in the tables that follow:

Objection	Local Authority Response
Traffic and Parking	
8 respondees referred to Traffic/Parking in their objections. Examples Below:	
'Increased traffic: Parental preferences in choosing Barkers Lane School for pupils who reside outside the immediate vicinity of the school will result in an increase of vehicles attempting to obtain access along Barkers Lane as pupils are dropped off and collected at the start and end of the School day. There will also be a knock on effect due to Barkers Lane being a no through road, necessitating double car journeys to drop children off and then a manoeuvre to double back and drive away from the school.(Community Council) 'Unless you are a resident of one of the streets on this estate, then you would have no idea how difficult it is most mornings now between 8.30 am and 8.50 am, trying to pull out of Sherwell Avenue into Barkers Lane…… ! Expanding the school	Transport Survey A survey was sent home to all current parents/Carers at Barker's Lane CP. The Local Authority has undertaken this survey to support the site development by gathering as much information as possible from stakeholders. Parking It is recognised that parking issues at pick up and drop off times are an issue around almost every school within the County Borough. However, new proposals have always considered this issue and aim to mitigate the impact.

is only going to make this situation worse. Just where do you think extra cars on the school run are going to park, when there is no room now. I do not want the situation every morning that I am blocked in my driveway before I can even attempt to drive out of the street.' (Resident) 'I would like to contest because of the increased traffic congestion and the risk that this carries' (Resident) I, as do others, share grave concerns about the potential increase in traffic the local community will play witness too, if the expansion goes ahead. As it stands, there is currently inadequate car parking facilities at the proposed site, causing members of the public to park on private land opposite the school……I also have concerns regarding the safety of those attending the school. As it stands there are very little precautions in places to aid pupils and parents crossing a busy road. If the proposal is to go ahead, this issue will only worsen unless proper safety precautions - such as a zebra crossing - are put into place. (Councillor)	Should this proposal go ahead it is intended that a scheme is submitted for detailed planning permission and officers would consult with the planning authority to ensure that a suitable solution is developed in order to minimise any impact caused. Initial feasibility studies have been carried out by education officers and architects and the following mitigation measure will be considered. • Introducing parking spaces on site. Should this proposal go ahead it is intended that a scheme is submitted for outline planning permission and officers would continue to consult with the planning authority to ensure that a suitable solution is developed in order to minimise any impact caused. Planning permission would not be approved without ensuring all relevant officers such as Highways were satisfied that the design with mitigations were both appropriate and sufficient to allow the project to proceed. As part of the development the Local Authority propose to introduce parking on site ensuring adequate spaces for all staff. This will free parking spaces outside of the school premises for parents to drop off/pick up their children. A traffic survey was completed as part of the development with further recommendations that will be considered, some of which are outside of Local Authority control and relate to the behaviours of motorists.

Planning	
4 respondees referred to Planning Concerns in their objections. Examples Below:	
'We wish to protest against the proposal to site the entrance to the car park for the school off Lisburne Grove. Whilst we agree the need for a car park for the school, then a different entrance from Barker's Lane would be much better and safer. Apart from the fact that Lisburne Grove is a cul de sac, it is a narrow road and quite unsuitable for the extra traffic including delivery lorries, refuge lorries etc. It is to be hoped a proper traffic survey will be undertaken.' (Resident) 'Loss of open space: The Acton Community already has a well-documented deficit of open space that would be exacerbated if School land is used for the additional building. Due to the Open space deficit, the Community Council is pressing for all schools in the Acton Community to make the grounds open access.'(Community Council) Other infrastructure issues that the feasibility study should have picked up: Increase in water/electricity demand possible pressure/power drop Increase in waste water and sewerage discharge Water catchment discharge due to proposed increase in teacher parking area. (resident) 'I also have concerns regarding the safety of those attending the school. As it stands there are very little precautions in places to aid pupils and parents crossing a busy road. If the	Draft plans that were available at the drop in sessions were a feasibility study only, to illustrate the site could accommodate the increase in numbers included in the proposal. It was made very clear that it was not a final design or layout and was not intended to be observed as such. Decisions on any design works would be completed should the proposal be approved by the Executive Board after the Statutory Notice period. Plans would be subject to planning approval and there will be an opportunity to view the plans during this process.

proposal is to go ahead, this issue will only worsen unless proper safety precautions - such as a zebra crossing - are put into place.' (Councillor)	
Environmental Concerns	
3 respondees referred to Environmental concerns within their objection.	
Air pollution: Concerns that the queuing and idling vehicles outside the school at peak times will add to the environmental impact and quality of air outside the School, particularly given its proximity to the Llanypwll link road and air pollution from high volumes and long queues of traffic during the rush hour at the Gresford Roundabout.	Although these are concerns are outside the remit of this consultation, the comments/requests have been passed to the relevant department for their consideration. With regards to transport pollution, if the increase in admission numbers were not to proceed at Barkers Lane CP, the children who were not offered a place at this school would need to travel to another school. This may be further away from their home address, therefore could contribute to a higher level of transport pollution.
After School Club	
1 Respondee referred to the After School Club provision within their objection.	
'With the increase in capacity it will not be unexpected to also see an increase in the demand for Barkers Lane Primary School's after-school club. According to staff, the club is currently running at its full capacity out of the portacabins on the school grounds. With this in mind, an increase the capacity will mean the after school club has the potential to run beyond full capacity. Evidently this will create a series of issues unless the after-school is moved into a more permeant building.	This request is outside the remit of the consultation, but the comment/request was passed to the School and an explanation of this given during the previous consultation period. The school has informed us that a request has not been made by the community council to enable the school to consider this request formally.

The Community Council strongly recommends to Wrexham County Borough Council that in carrying out its Play Pledge and as part of this Consultation, it gives serious consideration to enabling “Open Access” to the School grounds outside school hours to ensure safe play for the children who reside in the Borras Park ward, and to enable improved access for Children to the public realm.’ (Community Council)	
Numbers of oversubscription/projections Local School redundancy	
2 Respondees referred to Numbers of oversubscription/projections within their objections and 2 referred to impact on Local schools.	
‘Projected Growth within the Town Centre: The survey of parental preferences and demand for school places in the Town Centre within the Consultation document does not demonstrate that such demographic growth and demand is from pupils that reside in the Borras Park ward who would choose to attend the Barkers Lane English Medium School; nor that the proposal to increase the pupil numbers by 105 would address any substantial over-subscription from such parental preference and choices when compared to other nearby primary schools’(Community Council) **‘Impact on proposal on surrounding schools: Contrary to the statement in the Consultation Document, the**	*The demand for school places within the town centre is increasing with a number of town centre schools currently over-subscribed.* *The Council’s forecasts show that this trend is continuing and demand for town centre places is above the published admission numbers.* *Where funding allows, the Local Authority will seek to increase available primary places, so as to meet local demand, **reduce class sizes**, improve the distribution of school places and provide more choice for parents.* *The current situation at Acton Park is unrelated to these proposals. The proposals intend to alleviate pressure from all town centre schools by reducing overall class sizes, as*

Community Council wishes to point out that its Governors at Acton Community School have confirmed that there is currently a shortfall of pupils and Teachers may be facing redundancy. The development of Barkers Lane School should not come at the expense of any other Grade A Primary School in the Acton Community or Town Centre' (Community Council)	*determined by Cabinet secretary for Education, Kirsty Williams with the introduction of the fund to address infant class sizes.* ***This proposal seeks to increase the capacity at Barker's Lane CP and reflects a strategic needs assessment which considered capacity, location, site and building constraints, amalgamations and building conditions of all town centre schools.*** *The site at Barker's Lane CP was identified as a site that can accommodate a 315 place school with 45 nursery places using 'Measuring the capacity of schools in Wales, Welsh Government Circular No: 021/2011(2011) and requirements of a school of this size under Building Bulletin 98.* *This would allow us to reduce class sizes and best meet local demand for town centre primary places.*
'Some of the detail in the Consultation document is challenged, particularly the statement that Acton Park Primary School has no capacity' Community Council.	*Acton Park Primary School is currently a 420 capacity school. As the Local Authority do not intend to increase capacity above 420 in any of its primary schools at this moment in time, it would be unable to expand at this site. Therefore there is 'no capacity' to enable the authority to expand at this site.*

<table>
<tr>
<td>‘How many times has the school been oversubscribed in the last 5 years?’ (Resident)</td>
<td>Oversubscription data for town centre Primary schools 2015-2019. The Table below shows 1st preference refusals for the specified period.
<table>
<tr><th>Admission Year- 1st Preference refusals</th><th>Sept-2015</th><th>Sept-2016</th><th>Sept-2017</th><th>Sept-2018</th><th>Sept-2019 as at 20/5/19</th></tr>
<tr><td>Barker’s Lane CP</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>4</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>All Town Centre Primary Schools</td><td>16</td><td>10</td><td>16</td><td>16</td><td>23</td></tr>
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4.1.1 Petition

One petition was received which was signed by 24 Signatories from 12 residential addresses neighbouring Barker’s Lane CP.

The concerns listed in the petition were as follows:

- Highways Intensification of Use
- Entrance off Lisburne Grove
- Visibility Splay
- Access of Emergency Vehicles

- Hedge
- MUGA
- Lighting

Concern	Local Authority Response
Highways Intensification of Use The proposal fails to effectively address the vehicle trip generation that is likely to occur from this proposed trip	This will be considered as part of the Planning process when all relevant consultees including the Council's Highways Service will be consulted; they will indicate whether or not they are satisfied that the design and any mitigations are appropriate and sufficient to allow the project to proceed.
Entrance on Lisburne Grove Specifically the residents of Lisburne Grove object to a proposal that includes the siting on Lisburne of an entrance for vehicles or pedestrians. This proposal would inevitably lead to intensification of use of a cul-de-sac road not designed for heavier traffic	Draft Plans that were available at the drop in sessions were a feasibility study only, to illustrate the site could accommodate the increase in numbers included in the proposal. It was made very clear that it was not a final design or layout and was not intended to be observed as such. Decisions on design works would be made should the proposal be approved at Executive Board. At this stage these plans would be subject to planning approval and there will be an opportunity to view the plans during this process.

Visibility Splay The existence of a sharp bend and vehicles passing from opposite directions will increase the danger to resident's safety and also the safety of children and grandchildren who often play in this quiet cul-de-sac street.	Planning permission would not be approved without ensuring all relevant Offices such as Highways were satisfied the design with mitigations were both appropriate and sufficient to allow the project to proceed.
Access of Emergency Vehicles For the aging population on Lisburne Grove the proposal increases the likelihood of parent's cars parked on Lisburne Grove and thereby increase the fear that emergency vehicles cannot gain easy access to their homes.	Planning permission would not be approved without ensuring all relevant Offices such as Highways were satisfied the design with mitigations were both appropriate and sufficient to allow the project to proceed.
Hedge Any plan that breaks the existing hedge is objected to by the residents.	Decisions on design works would be made should the proposal be approved at Executive Board. At this stage these plans would be subject to planning approval and there will be an opportunity to view the plans during this process.
MUGA The residents of Barkers Lane also object to the MUGA if the proposal /plan increases noise levels after school hours other than for school activities. Specifically we object to use by the general public after 6pm on weekdays and at weekends as it will detrimentally affect the local environment for the residents.	The use of school facilities during these specified times would not come under the remit of this consultation and would be a decision made by the school/Governing Body. These comments have been passed on to the school.

Lighting We object to any additional lighting/design of lighting that would detrimentally affect the resident's enjoyment of the area surrounding Lisburne Grove.	Decisions on design works would be made should the proposal be approved at Executive Board. At this stage these plans would be subject to planning approval and there will be an opportunity to view the plans during this process.

Summary of Petition

'The Residents of Lisburne Grove are supportive of the school and not against the expansion of the school per se, provide that the proposal plan follows the guidance of the Welsh Government in providing the necessary infrastructure for the drop off of children.

The provision of a school car park helps but as residents we feel it both necessary and reasonable to request that the entrance to the car park be sited, as now, in Barkers Lane using the existing entrance. We respectfully suggest that the plan should be altered to that effect and we believe that it will be possible to access the car park to the left of the school as you look at it from the position of Barkers Lane.' (Residents)

Executive Board Decision

Wrexham County Borough Council Executive Board will meet on **9 July 2019** to discuss the Objection Report for the proposal to increase the pupil capacity at Barkers Lane CP.

The Executive Board will be asked for approval to proceed with the proposal to increase pupil capacity at Barker's Lane CP. This will be the final decision in relation to the proposal.

A final decision notice shall be published on the Wrexham website and all objectees will be notified.