Responses to the statutory consultation on Hampshire's proposed school catchment changes for 2021/22

Catchment Change: Great Binfields Primary School and Sherbourne St John CE Primary School catchments

The consultation period opened on Monday 14 October 2019 for five weeks, closing on Friday 15 November 2019.

The following response was received:

1) Subject: Proposed Catchment Change To Great Binfields School

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing with regards to the proposed boundary changes to Great Binfields, to incorporate the houses on Cufaude Farm.

By including this development in the catchment, I have concerns regarding the traffic issues it will cause to Great Binfields.

Due to the distance from the development to Great Binfields, any family on that housing development will have no choice but to drive to Great Binfields.

Firstly I cannot understand why Great Binfields has been proposed as a school, noting the families from Cufaude Farm will be driving past Four Lanes Primary and Junior schools.

Secondly, at the current time Great Binfields have an arrangement with the local shopping centre for parents to park in the free car park at drop off and pick up times. This helps to reduce congestion around the school and the local houses. However, this centre is being re developed and there has still been no confirmation that parking will remain free or that parents from Great Binfields will be able to continue to use it. I therefore have concerns that the current parents who use this facility will have to find alternative parking. The local hotel that offers free parking is already full, and that is with parents parking in the shopping centre. I cannot see how the local infrastructure will be able to cope with the additional families from Cafaude Farm who will have no choice but to drive.

As a great emphasis is placed on walking to school, with data I putted to the travel tracker and rewards given to those children who "stride" to school; it does not make sense to me to incorporate a new housing estate to the catchment, that cannot possibly partake in this, due to the distance from the school. Especially as they will be driving past a school they could walk to.

Catchment Change: Tavistock Infant school catchment, in Fleet

The consultation period opened on Monday 14 October 2019 for five weeks, closing on Friday 15 November 2019.

The following responses were received:

1) Subject: To expand the Tavistock Infant catchment area to include the area of housing known as Netherhouse Copse.

To Mark Saunders,

I would like to understand if Tavistock infant school and All Saints Junior school have the capacity to accommodate more children?

If new housing estates are built then the infrastructure needs to grow as well so probably new schools, both infant and Junior are required?

The class sizes are already too big at 30 kids and we need to consider the quality of teaching that is provided.

You need to visit the Nordic countries to learn how to provide and organise good basic education to all children in this country.

There are far more tax payers in this country than in Finland for example(5.5 million) so should not be a problem.

2) Subject: Expansion of the Tavistock Infant catchment area to include the area of housing known as Netherhouse Copse

Hi,

I would like to raise a strong objection to the inclusion of netherhouse copse into the catchment for Tavistock infants and All Saints.

These schools will not have capacity to cope with the influx of children, which would most likely be another 30 children per year. The school would need significant investment to cope with this influx.

If investment was made the the surrounding infrastructure and support services would not be able to cope without, again, more investment.

We should stop expanding fleet as a whole without consideration for the impact and how to contain the impact of these new settlements on many different services. Forcing more children, parents in cars to 3 schools through inadequate roads will cause chaos.

Please reconsider this request and refuse it, a new primary school should be built to cope with these housing expansion plans

3) Subject: Consultation on school catchment area changes which affect: Tavistock Infant School, All Saints Church Of England (Aided) Junior School and Dogmersfield Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Dear Mr Saunders

I am writing with regards to the proposed changes in catchment area for Tavistock and All Saints schools.

I would like to know that I strongly object to the proposal on including Netherhouse Moor (Grove Farm) into the catchment area.

I have two children age nine that attend All Saints school and they already have 34 children in their class, I hear that the schools are already filled to capacity, so how can you be fair to those living here already when it comes to allocating places as Grove Farm will have over 400 new houses.

I believe you should apply for a new school to be built and get the greedy developers to pay for it – this housing plan was rejected, but the developers sneaked it in under a different name. It is not wanted by the local people.

4) Subject: Consultation on school catchment area changes which affect: Tavistock Infant School, All Saints Church Of England (Aided) Junior School and Dogmersfield Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Dear Mark Saunders,

I would like to send to you my comments and observations regarding the proposal to include the new development at Netherhouse Copse (Grove Farm) in the catchment for All Saints and Tavistock.

Whilst in theory I can see that Tavistock currently has a small (2 place based on last year's admission data) capacity I cannot see a single other Infant or Junior school which currently has any capacity to take on the new development within their current PAN. So I assume in order to accommodate yet more housing in fleet and church crookham with no new school site provision the intention is to increase the space at both schools to take these pupils?

I am in particular concerned however at the Church Crookham side of town. Currently there are 2 infant schools (Crookham Infants and Tweseldown) which each year will send a total of 180 children from their year 2 up to junior school. Currently the only junior school which covers catchment for Church Crookham (Crookham, Juniors) has been extended and has a maximum year 3 intake of 150 children. So, there is already a delta of 30 children whom live within the catchment for that school largely but are at extreme risk of being left with whatever random space is available across the area to take those children. All Saints is also a Church of England Aided school (the only one in the town) and parents desiring their children to maintain that church backed education will be prevented from doing so by extending the catchment.

I believe the issue of lack of capacity and investment in proper school infrastructure is rooted in years of county and district government burying their heads in the sand about the attractions of Fleet as an excellent place to raise a family and what is required

regarding increased educational establishments to support the needs of those families. Hart District Council and Hampshire County Council have long been aware of the limitations of the schools in the town but continue to see expansion of existing sites as an easy (cheap) solution to a problem to the detriment of young people and their opportunities. When permission was requested in 2014 for Grove Farm why was nobody in the strategy department doing the maths and saying another 423 house on top the 1000's already built in the area in the past 30 years with 1 single new primary school means we need to do something strategic before the problem arises?

I object to All Saints and Tavistock being included in the catchment for the new homes on the grounds that Dogmersfield can't cope. This lack of capacity has existed for years and by increasing the catchment for the new houses you create a knock on impact to other schools and existing families in the area who will be at risk of having their children displaced and friendship groups disconnected as children transition to Junior school.

I understand there are very few simple options open to Hampshire County Council in the short term but given Fleet and Church Crookham have the largest schools in the county as a result of years of underinvestment and lack of strategic planning perhaps this is the perfect opportunity to look again at the primary and secondary school strategy in the town? Particuarly as the development at Hartland Park begins to be occupied and there are constant swathes of planning applications across the district.

Catchment Change: Hamble (secondary) School catchment, in Hamble

The consultation period opened on Monday 14 October 2019 for five weeks, closing on Friday 15 November 2019.

The following responses were received:

1) Subject: Hamble School Catchment

Dear Mr Saunders,

I live in Hedge End on Sunday's Hill and I note that there is a proposal to move the catchment area so that the Latitude development falls into the catchment area of Wildern School and is moved out of the catchment for Hamble School. I have looked at the plan and I cannot tell whether my property will also fall to be within the Wildern School catchment area. I would very much like it to be and it is closer to Wildern school than the Latitude development, but while it seems the plan shows all the properties north of the red dotted line will move to the Wildern catchment, there is also a brown shaded area on the plan, and I am not sure whether it is it just the houses in this area that are affected. If so, I think (and it is hard to tell because I cannot zoom in enough on the map) my property is not in the brown shaded area.

I would be grateful if you could give me a call briefly so that I can better understand which catchment area my property will be in. My telephone number is [redacted]

2) Subject: School Catchment Proposal

Dear Mark

Thank you for your letter of 14th October 2019 regarding the proposal to remove the land East of Dodwell Lane from the Hamble School catchment and to place it within Wildern's catchment from September 2021.

I live at [redacted], along the southern boundary of the new Latitude estate, and I am writing on the assumption and hope that the few houses along Pylands Lane are included in the proposal. Please could you kindly confirm this is the case?

This is an enormously welcome proposal from my perspective (and that of my family). You may recall discussing it with me by telephone in May 2018, after I had asked Cllr. Tonia Craig whether such a change might be possible and she put me in touch with you. To reiterate the comments I made then:

- 1. I live 1.8 miles from Wildern but 2.8 miles from Hamble School. Presumably if these houses had existed when the boundaries were originally drawn, they would always have been included in the Wildern catchment.
- 2. It takes over twice as long to get to Hamble School by car due to traffic congestion. My children currently attend Berrywood School in Hedge End and I am always pleased of a morning to be travelling in that direction (along freely flowing roads) than the other way (where the traffic is barely moving).

- 3. Based on google maps traffic information this evening, and assuming just one return journey to school each day, changing to Wildern would save my family alone a minimum of 90 minutes per week of time in the car. Factoring in my children's inevitable desire to participate in extra curricular activities which may be at different after-school hours, a change to Wildern would free up a significant amount of valuable time.
- 4. I would like my children to be able to cycle or walk to school:
- (a) to foster independence;
- (b) to enable them easily to participate in extra curricular activities;
- (c) to have a healthier lifestyle; and
- (d) to reduce pressure on local roads.

This would be possible if they attended Wildern. However, getting to Hamble School would involve travelling up Dodwell Lane (which is narrow and without footpaths) or crossing the motorway. I would be reluctant to do this myself - particularly in the dark - and could not expect it of my children. It is not safe.

I therefore welcome the proposal and very much hope the statutory consultation results in the outcome I am keeping my fingers crossed for!

All of the above consultations were conducted by letter, email and added to the corporate list of active consultations: (https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations).