

Comments from public meeting at Barley Fields on 26 January 2015 – Appendix 2

Attendees raised the following points:

General

- A number felt they had been given insufficient notice of the meeting.
- A number alleged that they had not been notified of the pre-consultation events that were held in November 2014.
- There was a concern that parents of children not yet attending a school nursery would not have been made aware of either public meeting. One or two who were in attendance said that they had only heard about the meeting through friends/neighbours.
- A resident whose children attend a school outside of Ingleby Barwick said that she had heard about the meeting through a friend. There was a concern that other parents would be in the same position.
- Councillor Harrington requested at least one other consultation event. This was followed by a request from a resident for the consultation period to be extended to allow everyone concerned an opportunity to share their views.
- A resident queried what is meant by 'consultation' and how a final decision would be made – would the number/percentage of responses be used to make the decision; would it be the strength of feeling; would it be through some other means.
- Generally residents unhappy at being treated as second class citizens.
- Parents did not understand how the Admission Zone approach works and how it affects them.
- IB Town Council were asked 'why they had not reviewed this Consultation Document and the proposals' – Cllr Corr responded and explained their role.
- Could parents put down 4 preferences if wanted to as application form doesn't indicate – Karen explained could.
- Parent's apathy towards the whole approach to consultation.

Primary

- There was an initial misunderstanding of St Francis' admission zone due to a lack of awareness of certain schools acting as their own admission authority and determining their own admission zone.
- A number appeared to be under the impression that their child would have to attend their admission zone school simply because it is their admission zone school – this showed a lack of awareness as to how places are allocated.
- Councillor Harrington felt that the PAN for St Thérèse should be increased.
- A resident stated that she had accepted a nursery place at the school that is currently her admission zone school however she would be affected by the proposed change and may have accepted a nursery place at a different school, had she known about the consultation earlier on.

Secondary

- There was a query over the status of Ingleby Manor due to a lack of awareness that it is a state-funded school.
- The issue of continuing house-building was raised along with a concern that alongside this, more school places are needed. A resident asked about a proposed development opposite Teesside Industrial Estate and queried which schools those children would attend.
- A resident felt that there was a discrepancy between the number of primary schools at Ingleby Barwick and the number of secondary schools. It was asked why investment had been made in primaries and not into another secondary school.
- A resident asked how the decision was made as to which area would be Zone A and which would be Zone B. A number of residents commented that the outlying villages are closer to Bishopsgarth & Ian Ramsey and queried why the authority hadn't considered adjusting the admission zones of these schools to include the residents of the villages.
- It was asked how the existing admission zones were decided on originally.
- Darren explained to parents current Y5 number of pupils in zone for Egglecliffe and that some parents may not get a place – not that all children living on the Rings will no longer get a place because they perceived they are no longer in zone.
- Effectively those living on the Rings now no longer have a zone.
- A number of residents felt that if they were designated as Zone B, they would effectively have no chance of gaining a place at Egglecliffe. There was a general misunderstanding among a number of residents that they would no longer be within Egglecliffe's admission zone if Zone B is introduced.
- The issue of transport was raised with regard to residents who apply for Egglecliffe as their admission zone school but who are not offered a place at the school. A resident asked for clarification as to whether or not her child would receive transport, in the event of her not being offered a place at her 1st preference Egglecliffe (admission zone school) and instead being offered a place at her 2nd preferred school. It was confirmed that current transport policy states that transport would not be provided in this situation as the parent has expressed a preference for the school allocated, even though the admission zone school could not be offered.
- As at the 1st meeting on 21 January 2014, it was suggested that All Saints could/should be expanded to allow a larger intake.
- The issue of whether or not Ingleby Manor would amend its admission policy to give priority to Zone B residents was raised.
- Despite numerous attempts to explain parents did not appreciate that if you live in the Rings that you STILL remain in-zone for Egglecliffe School.
- Effectively de-valuing people's homes because who would want to live on the Rings if they are not in zone for any schools.
- View from parents where they were not interested in IMFS.
- Other specific comments:
'IB children propping up the other Yarm & Egglecliffe schools'; 'Zone B is just a twilight zone'; 'A cost exercise only'; 'IB schools for IB kids'; 'IB Council Tax payers propping SBC'; 'a done deal'.