



The proposed expansion of primary and secondary schools in West Sussex from September 2019

Consultation ends 28 November 2017



Foreword



West Sussex is served by a large number of highly-regarded schools. The County Council has been closely monitoring the number of children to make sure schools can meet the demand for places. We have received evidence of further growth in the number of children. This is in part due to an increase in the birth rate and also in response to migration and house building.

This booklet explains the proposals of local schools to expand to cater for the extra numbers. WSCC, in its role as commissioner of school places, is working in partnership with the schools co-ordinating this consultation exercise.

Initial consultation runs until 28 November 2017 and we would welcome your views. This is followed by a representation period where statutory notices are published. This is planned for January 2018, with a final decision on expansions to be taken in mid-February 2018.

I urge you to read this document and write to us with your views. We will pass these to the schools for further consideration. Your opinions are important to us and will influence how and where school places are provided.

Richard Burrett

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

Introduction

Numbers of children have been rising across the County for several years. The following tables summarise proposals for primary and secondary schools in West Sussex to expand to cater for existing or forecast future demand from September 2019. Further details for each individual school are listed in the second half of this booklet and are grouped in the school localities referred to in the table.

Public drop-in sessions

Sessions are being organised on the following dates and we would welcome meeting with you to discuss the plans further.

BOGNOR REGIS

Tuesday 7 November 2017	2.50pm to 6pm
Felpham Community College, Felpham Way, Felpham, Bognor Regis, PO22 8EL	
Wednesday 8 November 2017	3.30pm to 6.30pm
St Marys Catholic Primary School, Glamis Street, Bognor Regis, PO21 1DJ	

MIDHURST

Monday 13 November 2017	2.30pm to 6.30pm
Easebourne C.E. Primary School, Wheelbarrow Castle, Easebourne, Midhurst, GU29 9AG	

Proposals

Implementation date for all proposals is September 2019.

LOCALITY	SCHOOL	PROPOSAL
Bognor Regis	St Mary's Catholic Primary School	Increase from a 1½ form of entry (45 places) to a 2 form of entry (60 places) per year
	Felpham Community College	Increase from a 8 form entry (240 places) to a 10 form of entry (300 places) per year
Midhurst	Easebourne C.E. Primary	Increase from a 1 form entry (30 places) to a 2 form of entry (60 places) per year

Size of school, 'forms of entry' and 'Published Admission Number' (PAN) – the term 'form of entry' is often used as a short-hand in planning school places. A form of entry is usually defined as 30 pupils per year of age; thus a two form entry (2fe) primary school will have up to 60 pupils per year and up to 420 in total for seven year groups. Such a school would require a minimum of 14 classbases plus other accommodation (hall, other curriculum areas, etc). The 'Published Admission Number' is the maximum number of entries allowed in each year and is agreed by the school with the Local Authorities Schools Admission Team.

Summary

Pupil numbers – a national issue

Extra classes are being added and new schools being built across the country in order to cope with a rise in the birth rate particularly in the South East. In 2016, the Department for Education published a set of pupil projections which suggests that overall, the population of state-funded schools is projected to increase by 610,000 between 2017 and 2025 increasing the pressure for school places. For state-funded primary schools, the pupil population is projected to increase by 80,000 from 2017 and stabilise in 2019 with the increase in the state secondary population projected to increase substantially by 530,000 by 2025 following the large rise in the primary population since 2009 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-pupil-projections-july-2017>).

Pupil numbers – the picture in West Sussex

West Sussex County Council has identified a similar trend to other authorities and has been working in recent years to expand the number of school places provided. Nearly one hundred schools have expanded in the last five years.

In the spring of this year the County Council produced forecasts about the number of pre-school children who are living in West Sussex. This information shows the number of children continues to grow in some parts of the County. With inward migration and housing development we anticipate that the need for places will be permanent and sustained. There is particularly likely to be an increase in demand for secondary school places in the medium term.

The County Council has been working closely with headteachers and governors to identify particular hotspots and we now wish to consult the public on schools that we believe need to expand. There are other growth areas around the County and regular monitoring takes place to review numbers. At present there are no immediate plans to expand these schools but there may be in the future particularly as new housing comes on stream.

Who is being consulted?

This consultation booklet is being sent electronically to all parents, school governors, teachers and support staff who work at the schools identified for expansion. Copies are also being sent to all headteachers in the local planning area, and to nurseries, the Church Dioceses, unions and teaching associations, neighbouring authorities, local MPs and the local district council and local county councillors. Copies will also be available at local libraries.

There will also be a separate consultation about the design of any new buildings particularly with residents local to the school sites as part of the usual planning application procedures.

Following the end of the consultation period on 28 November 2017 responses will be analysed and passed to the governing bodies of each school and the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills. Depending on the response, he may then take a decision to publish statutory notices in local newspapers and outside the schools in question for a further period of four weeks to allow representations from the wider community.

What would any new buildings look like?

West Sussex County Council has considerable experience of school building and we would expect the architects commissioned to look at best practice across the County and nationally and draw upon the advice of the headteachers, governors and staff at the schools. There will also be opportunities for consultation with parents, pupils and neighbouring residents as part of the planning application process. In some cases modular buildings will be proposed because of favourable cost savings.

All schools identified have sufficient site to allow for expansion and funding will be identified from a central government grant known as 'basic need' and from financial contributions from housing developers.

Every effort will be made to minimise disruption for pupils, parents and neighbouring residents during building works, for instance scheduling as much work as possible during school holiday periods.

Transport implications and safe routes to school

As part of the process, schools will be expected to provide and, if necessary, revise school travel plans. Advice will be given by the Safer Routes to School team (part of the Transport Planning Service at West Sussex) to support the schools. Schools will be fully involved in the process of identifying problems regarding routes to school and potential solutions. However concerns can be raised as part of the planning process subject to a separate consultation before planning permission can be granted.

Academies, Church Voluntary Aided, Voluntary Controlled, Foundation Trust and Free Schools

Easebourne CE Primary is a voluntary controlled faith school and is maintained by the local authority but run by the Church of England. St Mary's Catholic Primary is a voluntary aided school run by the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton. WSSC is working in partnership with these schools, as it does with Academies and Free schools in other areas, to ensure all schools whether maintained or non-maintained can cater for children in the area.

Impact on staff

Expansions of schools do not require in themselves reorganisation of staffing structures. Disruption for existing staff from any building works will be kept to a minimum and the schools and local authority will try to ensure that staff are supported and retained through the process. Teaching staff and classroom assistants will be recruited as and when required by the schools.

School budgets

School budgets are calculated using a range of factors, the most significant is the number of pupils. An increase in pupil numbers results in an increase in the budget in line with associated costs. Headteachers, governors and the local authority will continue to work together to ensure that schools have the right amount of funding to support the proposed number of pupils. 'Growth funding' is specifically targeted at expanding and new schools in the first year.

What will happen to the admissions arrangements?

Infant class legislation aims to ensure that there are no more than a maximum of 30 children in each class during Year R, Year 1 and Year 2. The proposal is for the schools to grow incrementally, changing their admission number from the reception year upwards in most cases from September 2019. Admission numbers are subject to separate consultation each year. The admissions team must run a consultation for a minimum of 8 weeks between 1 November and 1 March the next year before a final decision is taken.

Secondary education

West Sussex County Council has been closely monitoring the growth in the primary school population as the cohorts head towards secondary school. Plans for expanding secondary education are being developed. Initial hotspots include Bognor Regis and along the coastal strip and in Horsham and Crawley where new secondary free schools have been agreed by the Secretary of State for Education.

Timescales for consultation

The consultation will run from 31 October to 28 November 2017 when governing bodies and the West Sussex County Council Cabinet Member for Education and Skills will consider the responses to the consultation. Should the Cabinet Member decide to proceed a further representation period known as the 'statutory notice period' will run in the new year for four weeks. A final decision will be taken in the middle of February 2018. A separate planning consultation then takes place to consider build and design.

How to make your views known?

The deadline for receiving your written response is 28 November 2017. We would prefer that responses are made online at www.westsussex.gov.uk/schoolexpansions19. Alternatively please return the response form at the end of the consultation document to your child's school or directly to the address given. You can also send us your views via email and we will transfer your comments online.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

To become a 2 form entry primary school from a 45 place entry from September 2019

St Mary's Catholic Primary School serves an urban area close to the centre of Bognor Regis. The school offers 45 places per year but pressure for places has been high across the locality over recent years. The governing body would like to be able to offer enough places to serve all the children in the area and avoid pupils having to be transported to schools further afield. The Authority plans places with a 5% buffer in numbers to allow for parental preference or unusual demographic patterns.

It is envisaged that the front of the school is remodelled and expanded to provide further teaching accommodation. This would allow the removal of mixed age teaching in the longer term.

The school recognises that there are traffic implications likely to raise concerns. Travel plans will be considered in depth as part of the planning application process should the decision favour expansion. The school currently operate a staggered start time with the nearby Edward Bryant primary school and would wish for this to continue. See Transport implications and safe routes to school section on page 5.

YEAR	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Current number of places available at reception in the locality.	675	705	705	705	705	705	705	705
Number of children in the locality eligible for reception places*	644	690	692	734	655	691	714	694

*Information based and modelled on ONS (Office for National Statistics) data and from trends in school applications

Felpham Community College

To become a 10 form entry secondary school from an 8 form entry school from September 2019.

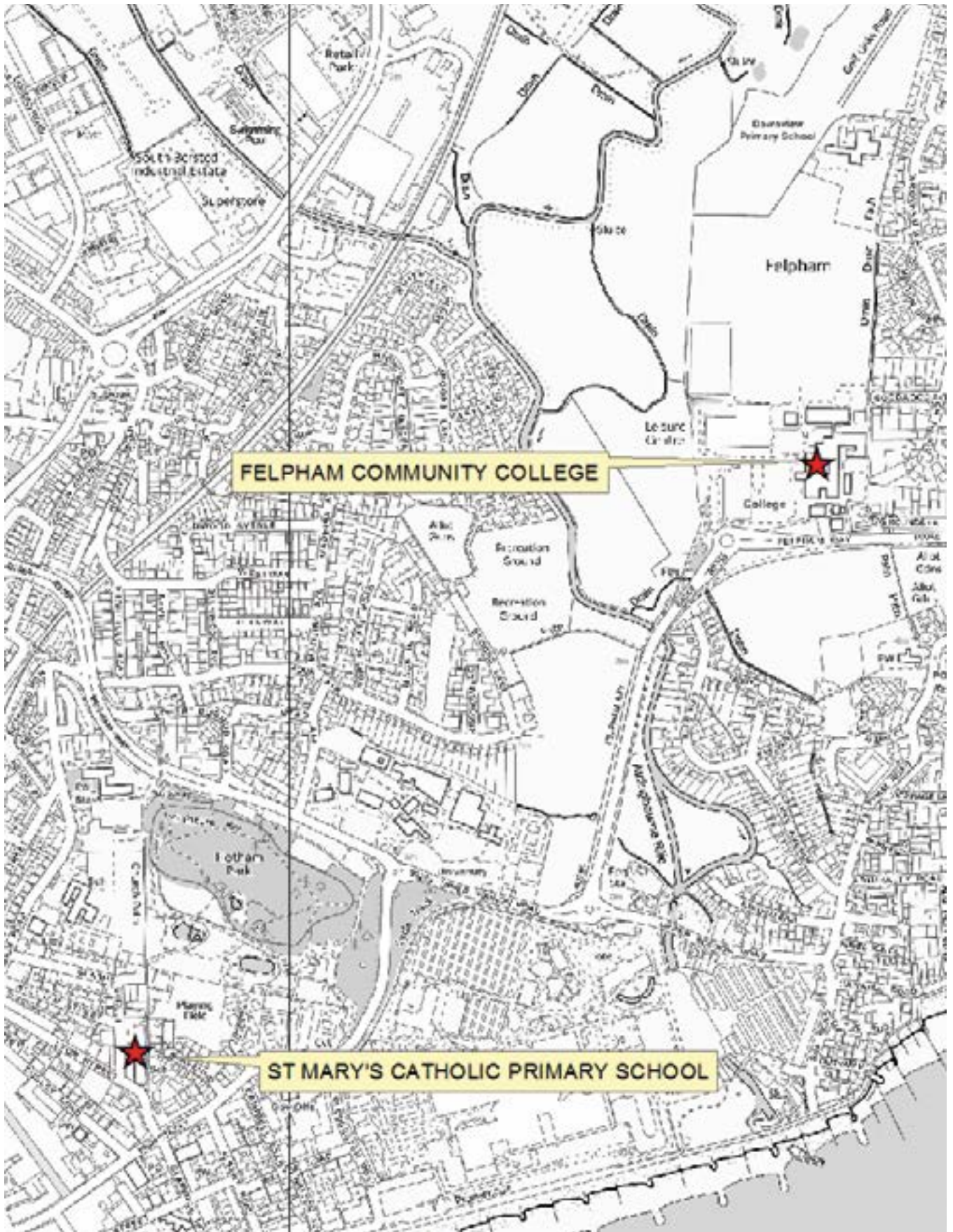
Felpham Community College serves the wider locality of Felpham, Bognor Regis, and outlying areas. In recent years there has been more demand for primary school places in Bognor itself and more demand is anticipated as the result of new housing. Since there are 705 places available at primary but only 540 at secondary, we are consulting on

expanding secondary provision so it is more in balance with the numbers coming through from primary.

New building works would be required at the college to provide further teaching accommodation. It is envisaged that this incorporates the replacement of existing ageing temporary accommodation in poor condition.

YEAR	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Current number of places available at reception in the locality.	497	510	529	538	543	589	611	565	613	614

* Information provided by Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) and forecasts modelled on ONS (Office for National Statistics) data



FELPHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Easebourne CE Primary School

To become a 2 form entry primary school from a 1 form entry from September 2019.

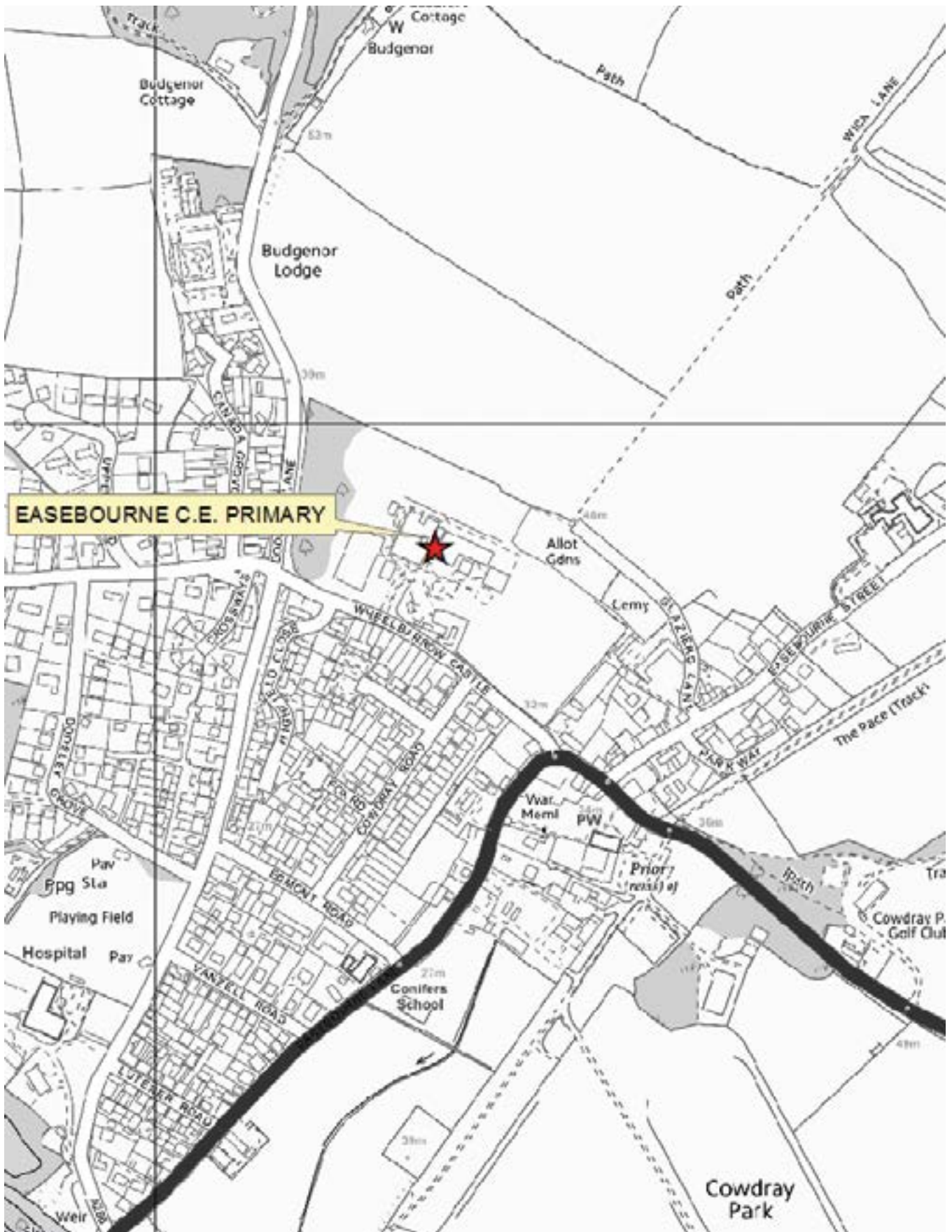
Easebourne CE Primary School serves the village of Easebourne, parts of Midhurst, and the surrounding planning area. The school is a 1 form entry school which relocated to the former Midhurst Intermediate School site in recent years. The intermediate school was replaced by The Midhurst Rother College in a brand new facility. The school was larger than the current primary school and the site therefore has available accommodation which could be adapted for teaching space. Demand for primary places in

Midhurst continues to be high and the governing body would like to be able to offer enough places to serve all the children in the area. The school also has sufficient playing fields to allow for expansion.

The school recognises that there are traffic implications likely to raise concerns. Travel plans will be considered in depth as part of the scheme should the decision favour expansion. See Transport implications and safe routes to school section on page 5.

YEAR	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Current number of places available at reception in Midhurst.	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
Number of children in Midhurst eligible for reception places*	66	84	73	84	68	83	78	77

* Information based and modelled on ONS (Office for National Statistics) data and from trends in school applications



Response form

Consultation on the proposed expansion of primary and secondary schools in West Sussex from September 2019

Consultation will run for 4 weeks from 31 October until 28 November 2017.

If you need this information in an alternative format, please contact us on 0330 222 3046. Or you may wish to ask at the school office and school administrators will be happy to help or contact the above number on your behalf.

Please complete this form and return it to your child's school, or by post to:

School Planning Team
West Sussex County Council
Northleigh, Second Floor,
Tower Street, Chichester
West Sussex PO19 0RE

*Questions marked with an asterisk are required fields

1* Please provide your postcode including a space in between, e.g. PO19 1RH

2 Which school(s) are you responding about:

3 Are you:

- a parent/carers staff governor local resident other

4 Please tick whether you are:

- In support of the proposed expansion of the school(s)
 Object to the proposed expansion or building of the school(s)
 Neither support nor object to the proposed expansion or building of the school(s)

5 Please state your views on the proposals. We would be grateful for comments on any aspects of them. You may wish to refer to: individual schools / proposed admissions arrangements / timescales / transitional arrangements. Please continue on a separate page if required.

Comments

About you

You do not have to complete this section but it would help us to make sure all our services are fair and accessible if you do.

What is your gender?

Male Female Prefer not to say

Which of the following age groups best describes you?

16 or under 17 to 24 25 to 44 45 to 64 65 plus Prefer not to say

Are you...

Single Cohabiting Married Civil partnership Separated
Divorced / partnership dissolved Widowed Other Prefer not to say

What is your ethnic origin?

White Mixed/multiple ethnic groups Asian/Asian British
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British Prefer not to say

Please specify your religion or belief?

Buddhist Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant) Hindu Jewish
Muslim Sikh Any other religion No religion Prefer not to say

Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?

Yes, limited a lot Yes, limited a little No Prefer not to say

Are you currently pregnant or have you been pregnant in the last 26 weeks?

Yes No Prefer not to say

Thank you for taking part in our survey. Consultation closes on 28 November 2017.

The information that you provide via this survey will be processed and stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. West Sussex County Council will not share any personal or sensitive information collected as part of this survey without your prior written permission. All other data will be used for statistical analysis, forwarded to each individual school for further consideration and updates, and shared on the County Council website [westsussex.gov.uk/schoolexpansions19](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/schoolexpansions19)

I understand and agree