

Summary of Consultation in relation to proposals to expand Rawmarsh Community School

Letter to all Stakeholders:

Children and Young People's Services

School Planning, Admissions and Appeals Service

2nd Floor, Wing C Riverside House

Main Street

Rotherham

S60 1AE

Tel: (01709) 254831

Email: Elaine.Maltby@rotherham.gov.uk

Ref: RCSexp

Contact Elaine Maltby

1 February 2018

Parents and Carers of pupils attending Rawmarsh Community School

Staff at Rawmarsh Community School

Governors at Rawmarsh Community School

Governing Boards of neighbouring schools and academies

Elected Member of Parliament and Ward Councillors

Other interested parties

Dear Stakeholder,

Proposal to add additional capacity at Rawmarsh Community School

The Local Authority is proposing to add additional capacity to the school building to create new teaching and learning spaces for September 2020 onwards. The capacity at the school will increase from a total classroom space for 1,075 pupils to a total classroom space for 1,225 pupils. The extension of the building by 150 additional places which is the equivalent of 5 new classrooms will support the Headteacher and Governing Body to accommodate the current and expected future catchment area pupil population at the school.

The building project to create the additional capacity would be funded from Basic Need funding, which is capital funding allocated to the Local Authority to create additional school capacity where it is needed.

The school is currently oversubscribed and this trend is set to continue in future academic years as, the local primary feeder school pupil numbers continue to rise. The increased capacity at Rawmarsh Community School will allow the Headteacher and Governors to plan for future years intakes of pupils with the assurance that there is sufficient space to deliver the schools' curriculum.

The proposal is subject to Council Cabinet approval and a successful planning application and should the proposal then move forward, Officers from the Council working with the Headteacher and Governors would outline to all stakeholders detailed plans for the school and the implications of the building work on site in relation to health and safety and how this would be managed during the development project.

This letter gives stakeholders an opportunity to comment on the proposals prior to a report being submitted to Council Cabinet seeking approval of the proposals subject to a successful planning application.

Should you wish to comment on the proposals then please send correspondence to:

Elaine Maltby

School Planning, Admissions and Appeals Service
2C Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

or by Email to:

Elaine.Maltby@rotherham.gov.uk

By Friday 29 March 2019, correspondence will then be submitted along with a report to Council Cabinet as part of the decision making process.

Yours Sincerely

C. Stones

Christopher Stones
Principal Officer – School Organisation

Responses received to consultation:

I am writing in support of Rawmarsh Community school to increase their Pupil admission numbers and for a potential new building.

There have been a number of improvements seen in the school over the past few years due to the commitment and hard work of it's staff. This has lead to an increase in it's popularity, not only within Rawmarsh but surrounding areas. This increase in popularity has lead to additional students and therefore there is a growing need for space.

This project proposes extremely significant improvements to the future success of Rawmarsh School that will increase the capacity and efficiency of the school, ultimately allowing us to continue investing in Rawmarsh and the wider Community.

To Whom It May Concern

I am in favour of the proposal to increase the PAN for Rawmarsh Community School. The school has been judged 'a good school' by Ofsted and therefore will attract increasing numbers of students over the coming years. Also, the continuing development of the surrounding area will increase the demand for school places.

The plan for the additional building on site will enhance the student experience, in my opinion.

As Rawmarsh Community School is now a good school, I imagine it is the first choice for more parents within this and possibly neighbouring communities. The school and Governing body are clearly working hard to ensure a thriving, sustainable and successful school and therefore as a member of the growing community I support the application to increase the PAN number and to add a new building.

Rawmarsh Community School has demonstrated excellent improvement in recent years. Following this improvement, student numbers have increased and continue to do so year on year. Numbers of both our current Y7 and Y8 far exceed the numbers from previous years, and currently, there is very little, if any, free space to use. The new Y7 cohort is set to be even higher (242 students). As a result, the current premises are not fit for purpose in that the sheer number of students due to be on roll cannot be accommodated. I am very supportive of the proposal to build on the Rawmarsh site. The site is large enough to do this; the students need the classrooms.

I am writing to let you know that I am in full support of the current proposal to increase the number of students at Rawmarsh Community School and therefore build extra teaching spaces to accommodate the above. The school has always been central to the community and the majority of current students on role will have had their parents and grandparents attend the school. The school has seen vast improvements over recent years and due to this has seen an increase in popularity, this is great for the community and means that they now have an ofsted rated "good" school on their doorstep. This will only increase the chances of children living in the area to succeed. Both my niece and nephew studied at Rawmarsh and have gone on to excel in further education and the world of work, I know they support the school continuing to grow. With the increasing popularity of the school and with the school still striving for further improvements this can only be a positive for both the school and the local area. With more students wanting to attend this obviously then highlights the need to expand the school and make more classroom spaces available. I am fully in support of expanding the size of the school, every local community should have a school they are proud of and that all students in that area attend.

I am glad to see the school is receiving some investment in response to its success in recent years.

Hello,

I am contacting you regarding the new classrooms . I think this would be a good idea to help expand the school as well being good for the local community. Giving students some new classrooms will help their learning needs and be able to focus better on there studies - in turn helping the school overall.

Thank you

My name is [REDACTED] and I've lived in Rawmarsh all my life. Myself, my children and their children have all attended Rawmarsh Community School. It's an integral part to our community. I'm aware of lots of new housing plans that have been confirmed in the area and worry that without the extension that Rawmarsh will not have the facility to support the community in the way that is has for many, many years. The school has developed so much in recent years and that's been echoed in the success of my grandchildren who are both now studying at university. I think it deserves the extension for all the hard work of the students and staff to make it a better school. It would be a shame for any of the young people in the area to miss the opportunity to attend the school.

Without Rawmarsh I wouldn't be able to lead the life I do today. I live in London and study at one of the UK's most prestigious theatre school, Arts Educational Schools London. My humble grass-roots foundations at Rawmarsh have played an integral part in enabling me to follow my dreams and make something of myself. The staff, senior leadership team and fellow students are a testament to the community and collectively they have improved the school so much. Anyone would be lucky to study there. The extension is essential to the schools further development. If the school's faculties are reduced because of the increase in students, this could have an instrumental effect on their education and their experience. This would be such a shame - as there has been so much effort put in to improve this for students over recent years. The school has earned it and hope that it receives the support it deserves.

██████████

Ex-Rawmarsh Student