



Relocation of Torbay School Consultation Report

June 2016

Method	Number of questionnaires
Total on-line	301

This survey was open between 19 April 2016 and 31 May 2016

CONTENTS

1. Executive Summary	3
2. Summary of results.....	3
3. Results	4
4. Respondent Profile	11
5. Written Representations	12
6. Conclusion.....	12

1. Executive Summary

Torbay Council proposes to relocate Torbay School to the site at MyPlace, Paignton from September 2017. The relocation is to address the issues at the school's existing site. The Council owns the MyPlace site which is of sufficient size to accommodate a school; and the existing facilities would benefit the young people who attend Torbay School.

This consultation questionnaire was intended for parents/carers of pupils attending Torbay School, staff and governors of Torbay School, all Torbay schools and residents of Torbay.

Consultation started on 19 April 2016 and closed on the 31 May 2016. An on-line survey was published on the Torbay Council website and promoted in the local media. Hard copies of the consultation were made available to the parents/carers of pupils attending the school and were made available at all the Connection Offices and libraries within Torbay.

2. Summary of results

- 22% of respondents confirmed that they were in support of the proposal.
- 71% of the respondents confirmed that they were against the proposal.
- 74% of the respondents were residents.
- 13% of the respondents were involved with Torbay School.
- 17 (5.7%) of the respondents were aged 24 or under.

3. Results

1. Are you completing this questionnaire as:

	Number	Percent
Governor of Torbay School	0	0%
Staff member of Torbay School	23	7.6%
A Parent/Carer of a child at Torbay School	16	5.3%
A Torbay resident	224	74.4%
Other	33	11.0%
No Answer	5	1.7%

2. Do you agree with the proposal to relocate Torbay School to the site at MyPlace (also known as Parkfield), Paignton?

	Number	Percent
Yes	67	22.3%
No	215	71.4%
Not Sure	12	4.0%
No Answer	7	2.3%
Total	301	100

Please tell us why you gave the above answer:

This question allowed respondents to make written comments. These comments have been categorised into popular themes. The numbers in brackets indicate the number of responses in that theme. Individual comments may be classified under more than one theme.

Themes against the proposal:

Category	Comments made by respondents
Concern over impact on youth provision & existing clubs (122)	<p><i>"Parkfield was funded and built for the good of the community...."</i></p> <p><i>"Parkfield is a youth centre, to be used and enjoyed by all young people in the bay and beyond"</i></p> <p><i>"My children use Parkfield during the week and weekends for clubs and leisure time! It will be very disappointing for so many residents close to it"</i></p> <p><i>"MyPlace is for the youth and sport of Torbay"</i></p> <p><i>"...it is a facility for the youth. There is not enough for them as it is</i></p>

	<p><i>without making it a school”</i></p> <p><i>“The MyPlace building was built for all Torbay Youth, to be used ALL day EVERYDAY by the whole of the day...”</i></p> <p><i>“...Take that away and Torbay will have bored young people creating a town people won’t want to walk...”</i></p> <p><i>“Parkfield is used by so many children and clubs, where will they go....”</i></p> <p><i>“It makes no sense to close the site which could be used by all the youth of Torbay, potentially 10000’s, to effectively close it to all by 60 young people”</i></p> <p><i>“It is a great place for young people and clubs...”</i></p> <p><i>“...excellent facility for the whole community...”</i></p> <p><i>“I don’t agree with discontinuing an excellent youth centre. The amenity is so well used and I do not know of any alternative in the near vicinity”</i></p> <p><i>“...we should be investing in initiatives for our children, rather than neglecting or replacing them”</i></p> <p><i>“...our Council and Youth Service need to start allocating time, money and effort to providing the youth services needed for the young people of Torbay...”</i></p> <p><i>“...far more people will be displaced (the gym has a membership of 400) than the number of relocated pupils. Parkfield is an inspirational place...there is a positive sense of community and excellence at Parkfield...”</i></p> <p><i>“We feel that this would seriously impact on the gymnastics club and all the other young people and community groups that currently use Parkfield”</i></p> <p><i>“As an organisation that uses the Parkfield site...we don’t feel there has been any consideration of impact on current users”</i></p>
<p>Concern over the suitability of the site for a school/negative impact on area/loss of community asset (51)</p>	<p><i>“The site is a valuable community asset...There are not enough...”</i></p> <p><i>“We were given promises re this site, that it was to be left for the use by the people of Paignton by the landowner...”</i></p> <p><i>“Parkfield was left to the residents of Paignton...for the benefit and enjoyment of ALL residents....”</i></p> <p><i>“Parkfield is a community project...”</i></p> <p><i>“..The site is to open. It is too close to the beach and all of the incentives that would give to the students to abscond...transport issues...current location is on a direct bus route, the new location is not ”</i></p> <p><i>“Site is a holiday area...safeguarding could be an issue with</i></p>

	<p><i>pupils exiting the site to nearby town centre, amusement arcades, etc”</i></p> <p><i>“Site is too small...”</i></p> <p><i>“Not fit for purpose as a school”</i></p> <p><i>“..Do the planners not think that Colin Road suffers with “access limitations”...”</i></p> <p><i>“The site is simply not suitable...”</i></p> <p><i>“Concerns over wildlife habitat (badgers, etc) road safety concerns...negative impact on residents/business in Colin Road, negative impact on tourism in the Bay”</i></p> <p><i>“...The site will require huge amounts of work and money to make it suitable for a school, whereas its perfect for its current function”</i></p> <p><i>“Site has too many distractions...Too much conflict of interest between local businesses and residents and the school...impact detrimentally on tourism...impact negatively on the residents...loss of green space...not (in) the best interests of children, the residents or the local businesses”</i></p> <p><i>“Unfit for purpose. Perfect for Torquay Gymnastics Club”</i></p> <p><i>“..Many of the current pupils are bussed in from Torquay and there must be a more suitable site available nearer where they live...”</i></p> <p><i>“..an open site designed for easy public access”</i></p>
<p>Concern that MyPlace’s full potential, as a lottery funded youth facility, has not realised (35)</p>	<p><i>“..I feel Parkfield need to be used to its full potential...it’s such a wonderful asset”</i></p> <p><i>“MyPlace should be the beating heart of Torbay for our young people. The vision was good but the implementation simply lacked direction...lack of meaningful leadership”</i></p> <p><i>“...the complete incompetence with which Parkfield has been managed since its opening...”</i></p> <p><i>“...At present it is used by hundreds of children all youth of Torbay and with correct management could grow on the existing strong base that is already there...it could easily be self efficient and be the shining beacon that it should be and ..something for Torbay to be proud of”</i></p> <p><i>“If managed correctly the Parkfield centre could be a real asset for the youth of Torbay.”</i></p> <p><i>“I would question the way the centre is run and the losses...”</i></p> <p><i>“...There were 63 other MyPlace projects created throughout the UK. If you are unable to make Parkfield profitable, then you should contact these projects for advice...”</i></p> <p><i>“Facilities could be well used by other organisations”</i></p>

	<p><i>"...this site was granted lottery funding for social inclusion..."</i></p> <p><i>"The money to build Parkfield site was provided to give a facility for all at all times and closing it to the public for most of the week is unacceptable..."</i></p> <p><i>"Parkfield was built with lottery money to service the needs of the youth of Torbay..."</i></p> <p><i>"Parkfield was built using LOTTERY funding as a public space. Converting it to use as a school is contrary to the spirit in which the funding was obtained"</i></p>
<p>Concern over shared use of site (8)</p>	<p><i>"..I cannot imagine young people wanting to spend time at a school in the evenings, so it will lose its accessibility for all as a place for young people to go for advice; to join in with activities and meet friends...."</i></p> <p><i>"..Concerns about how comfortable young people would be using facilities after school...students of Torbay School... can be aggressive and intimidating"</i></p>

Themes in support of the proposal:

Category	Comments made by respondents
<p>Benefits to Torbay School of relocation (42)</p>	<p><i>"The site provides the sensory diet of plan and work that children at Torbay School require to allow them to develop...it is also set away from noise...This centre could become outstanding centre in years to come..."</i></p> <p><i>"...current school is failing in its duty to teach these children...opportunity to start afresh and build a positive reputation..."</i></p> <p><i>"..provide much needed specialist provision in the correct environment"</i></p> <p><i>"Present site is too small, has little outdoor space and is surrounded by neighbours"</i></p> <p><i>"...The use of this space will allow development of vocational provisions, opportunities to engage students in more exciting learning activities, such as Forest School activities, and ideally result in an engagement with the Youth trust to establish a child centred out of hours provision to widen the students horizons and create opportunities for positive links with the community"</i></p> <p><i>"More space"</i></p> <p><i>"Best for the pupils"</i></p> <p><i>"..the move would allow a much richer curriculum...allow for further vocational learning and a richer environment for students to improve their learning, social and emotional skills..."</i></p>

	<p><i>"...current site...too close to a residential area..."</i></p> <p><i>"..It is invaluable (provision) and needs the facility it deserves"</i></p> <p><i>"..linked to youth provision and spacious grounds"</i></p> <p><i>"It makes sense to have all facilities on one site"</i></p>
<p>Relocation supports sustainability of MyPlace (12)</p>	<p><i>"It is an efficient use of an underused site and the existing facilities would be well-suited to the children who will be attending the school"</i></p> <p><i>"Not financially viable to maintain Parkfield and fantastic facilities which could be used to engage really disengaged pupils and still be used by public outside of school hours."</i></p> <p><i>"...Parkfield isn't currently used to its full potential..."</i></p> <p><i>"...it [Parkfield] will always be a drain on Torbay Council. This is the best use of the building"</i></p> <p><i>"...enable the building to be used for its original purpose...it integrated with facilities and organisations working in Parkfield it could be a really inspiring place for young people to thrive"</i></p> <p><i>"It seems a good idea for Parkfield to be used during the day during term time instead of just evenings and weekends"</i></p>

3. Please provide us with any further comments you would like to make about the proposal to relocate Torbay School (Positive or Negative)

This question allowed respondents to make written comments. These comments have been grouped into positive and negative comments.

<p>Comments made by respondents</p>	
<p>Positive Comments</p>	<p><i>"...Opportunity to utilise the activities on site... purpose built units...more 'open' spaces..."</i></p> <p><i>"...not all children are able to access outside space within the current location of the school, which causes frustration and ultimately bad behaviours due to the lack and ability to access outside space. A new start for a new academy as the current reputation and support from families is not good."</i></p> <p><i>"The relocation of Torbay School seems to be long overdue. This move will support the school in making improvements to address its development points highlighted by OfSTED."</i></p> <p><i>"...Torbay educates some of our most vulnerable children..."</i></p>

	<p><i>“Where we educate our young people is very important emotionally, socially, ‘spiritually’ and educationally...”</i></p> <p><i>“...Residents around Parkfield would be relatively unaffected by this move as there is so much space to utilise on the site. Whereas, residents who currently live around Torbay School are affected and it has in the past caused upset amongst the residents...”</i></p>
<p>Negative Comments</p>	<p><i>“Torbay school may very much need to relocate however it should not be to the detriment of all children within the Torbay area...if finances are an issue central government funding should be considered to fund a rebuild in another location”</i></p> <p><i>“... Find a new site...One that isn't going to mean hundreds of kids having to travel further away from their homes to attend clubs and sports activities...”</i></p> <p><i>“...the model of the Torbay School is not a good one....They should be in small groups in the community with enough staff to support each person appropriately with clear 'care/learning plans'.”</i></p> <p><i>“I think that the young people at Torbay School should be accommodated in main stream schooling. By segregating them the social divide continues...”</i></p> <p><i>“...It is likely that Torbay School will become an academy and so this important site will be gifted to a trust...”</i></p> <p><i>“I don't believe the covenant on the house and grounds at Parkfield would allow the site to be used as a school”</i></p> <p><i>“If it is a good location for a mainstream primary school, it is also a good location for Torbay school.”</i></p> <p><i>“...The council has failed to take into account what other more constructive uses the land that houses the Parkfield complex could be put to especially as it is within the core tourism development area and potentially could provide prosperity for many people.”</i></p> <p><i>“...we formed Co-ordin8 to offer a service to those people who would otherwise be stuck at home... Parkfield is accessible for all our students as well as being central and close to public transport...”</i></p> <p><i>“...We would prefer that the local authority offer to work with existing users of the site, Gynastic club, BMX Club, Eat That Frog, etc to develop a community model to drive the site forward and continue to reduce costs for Torbay Council in providing key services for our young people...”</i></p> <p><i>“I would like to see Torbay Council invest more into resources for the benefit of the youth...”</i></p> <p><i>“I understand that the site would still be used by other youth</i></p>

	<p><i>groups. How are the students supposed to take "ownership" of the site and make it theirs..."</i></p> <p><i>"...the Youth Trust should be given the chance to run & develop the Parkfield site for what it was designed for & part funded for with the Lottery grant it received."</i></p> <p><i>"...they deserve a purpose built school in a suitable area where all their needs can be met..."</i></p>
<p>Not sure</p>	<p><i>"Will there be help for the other groups that use this venue? Will they have to relocate or will they be able to stay?"</i></p>

4. Respondent Profile

Are you?

	Number	Percent
Male	83	27.6%
Female	205	67.8%
No answer	13	4.3%
Total	301	100%

Which of the following age groups applies to you?

	Number	Percent
0 – 15	4	1.3%
16 – 24	13	4.3%
25 – 34	33	11.0%
35 – 44	102	33.9%
45 – 54	67	22.3%
55 – 64	45	15.0%
65 –74	17	5.6%
75+	7	2.3%
No answer	13	4.3%
Total	301	100%

Do you consider yourself to be disabled in any way?

	Number	Percent
Yes	28	9.3%
No	249	82.7%
No answer	24	7.9%
Total	299	100%

If Yes, please tell us how it affects you:

	Number	Percent
It affects my hearing	5	17.9%
It affects my vision	6	21.4%
It affects my mobility	19	67.9%
It affects me in another way	11	39.3%

5. Written Representations

The council received two written response to the consultation. One was from the Paignton Town Community Partnership. The partnership opposes the proposal stating that *“we believe that Parkfield should remain solely as a youth and sport centre”*.

The second written response was from the Paignton Neighbourhood Forum. The forum does not support the relocation; it is concerned about the demographic assumptions made for additional school capacity, the future use of the vacated site and the unsuitability of the Parkfield site for Torbay School.

6. Conclusion

The majority of the responses (71%) received during this consultation were against the proposal. Most of these respondents were concerned about the effect of the proposal on the existing youth centre at Parkfield. Concern was expressed over the availability and the viability of the existing services and facilities for the young people of Torbay, believing they would close should the school relocate to the site. There was concern over where the displaced services would go.

Many opposing the proposal were concerned that the facility had been lottery funded for the purpose of providing youth facilities and that the full potential of the site had not been realised yet. However, there were some respondents who believed that relocating Torbay School to this site would support the sustainability of MyPlace.

Other opponents considered the site to be a valuable community asset which would be compromised with a school on site.

There were some respondents who considered the site at MyPlace to be unsuitable for a school being concerned about restrictive access and its proximity to tourist areas.

Of the respondents that were in support of the proposal, the majority acknowledged the benefits of the relocation for the pupils of Torbay School recognising the limitations of the existing site on Torbay Road and the potential on offer at the Parkfield site.

Many respondents acknowledged the opportunity the relocation would provide for developing the site further considering it to be currently under used.

In conclusion there is a strong feeling that the Council should be investing in services and provision for all young people.

For further information please contact the Schools Capital & Planning Team, TDA on 01803 208260 or email schoolscapital&planningteam@tedcltd.com

The information used to collate this report has been collected and processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act, 1998.