

CLLR. JENNY WICKS

Q2 The allocation of secondary school places to children in my ward is giving rise to enormous concern and incomprehension. Would you please explain-

1. What form the consultation on the new arrangements took and how many individual responses were received?
2. Whether it was pointed out that one of the results of the new system would be that some children would be travelling past their nearest school on their way to a school much further away?
3. Whether whoever assessed the travel to school distances realised that money has just been invested by Surrey County Council in a cycleway from Horsley to Effingham which reduces the travelling distance and encourages children to cycle to school?
4. Whether account has been taken of the increased carbon emissions and congestion resulting from transporting children ten to twelve miles to school in congested areas instead of three miles to the nearest school?
5. Why such a small percentage of Horsley children (said to be 6%) were allocated to any of the schools for which they expressed a preference (except for siblings).
6. Whether account has been taken of the social repercussions of the total uncertainty about secondary education for children in the Horsleys, likely to result in families with children choosing to live elsewhere, leaving a community of childless people and the elderly?
7. Whether SCC is embarking on urgent discussions with the Howard of Effingham School to see whether, as in one year in the recent past, an extra class might be added to this year's intake?
8. Why a child from West Clandon, at primary school in Send, has not been allocated to George Abbott School like her classmates, even though she lives nearer to George Abbott than many of them?

A 1. The consultation was a two-stage process:

Stage 1 - October 2005 – December 2005

MVA were commissioned to undertake a survey/consultation on behalf of SCC. This consisted of:

- a) A postal survey whereby the relevant documents were sent to 38,511 stakeholders including:
 - i) Parents of pupils aged 2-3 years (Early Years) in year 1 and year 5,
 - ii) All headteachers and chairs of governors in Surrey's maintained schools
 - iii) 6 diocesan boards
 - iv) 14 neighbouring Local Authorities
 - v) Surrey County Councillors, borough / district councillors
 - vi) Parish councils
 - vii) Surrey's Admissions Forum
 - viii) Local Transportation Directors
 - ix) Colleagues in Sustainable Development
- b) 7215 responses were received.

Stage 2 - January 2006 – February 2006

On 17 January 2006 the Executive having considered the responses in Stage 1 of the consultation agreed to consult on changing the Surrey Admission Criteria for September 2007.

a) The consultation documents were sent to:

- i) Headteachers/Chair of school Governors and Parent Governors of all Surrey maintained Nursery/Primary and Secondary schools
- ii) Early years
- iii) Neighbouring Local Authorities
- iv) Dioceses
- v) Surrey county Councillors
- vi) All schools within Surrey's relevant area
- vii) The Passenger Transport Group

b) 199 responses were received as follows:

- i) 68% (135) from the primary sector
- ii) 21% (41) from the secondary sector
- iii) 41% (82) from Headteachers
- iv) 28% (56) from Governors
- v) 26% (51) from parents
- vi) 0.5% (1) from the Diocese
- vii) 5% (9) from the Surrey County Councillors
- viii) 1% (2) from the Local Committees
- ix) 3% (5) from neighbouring Local Authorities
- x) 2% (3) from other stakeholder groups

(Where total number do not tally and where percentages do not total 100% will be because the respondents were able to give more than one answer.)

c) *Anne Macavoy attended all Local Committee meetings to discuss the changes.*

d) *Focus groups held across the 11 boroughs / districts in Surrey.*

e) *500 face to face interviews with members of the public.*

2. The Local Authority commissioned Scot-Wilson to model the affect of the proposed changes using current and historical data. This showed that in the majority of cases traditional patterns of admission to popular, oversubscribed schools were maintained. However, we could not predict the effect of changing to an Equal Preference System.

Jenny queried this! →

3. The Local Authority only recently became aware of the bridleways/cycleways in Horsley and Effingham. However, we are now in the process of changing the home to school measurements to reflect the use of these.

4. If we have to provide transport to alternative schools, then depending on the final numbers involved, the Local Authority will provide free transport using the most economic mode of transport possible in order to minimise the number of cars on the roads at peak times.

Jenny queried this too! →

5. Unfortunately, where we cannot meet parental preferences the only alternative open to us is to offer places at the next nearest school(s) with places.

6. No intention to undermine local communities.
7. Once the waiting lists have been finalised taking into account the cycleways the Local Authority will offer places from the waiting lists. We are hoping that the majority of Horsley residents will be offered places. If not, we will review the situation in conjunction with the Headteacher and Governing Body of the Howard of Effingham School.
8. In order to answer this question, the Local Authority needs the child's personal details in order to check that an error has not been made. If an error has occurred and the child has been disadvantaged the Local Authority will put this right.

Jenny asked what happens if not all get places? Situation even worse.

Jenny stated that she wants to see all the affected children having places!!

Mr. Davies believes "it will be resolved in the end"

