

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**CABINET
MONDAY 23 JULY AT 10.00 A.M.**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MONDAY 23 JULY AT 2.15 PM**

Agenda Item No.

11

supplementary

**SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES IN CHESHUNT AND THE LOCATION
FOR AN EXPANDED ST MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL**

Supplementary Report of the Director of Children, Schools and Families.

Executive Member: Robert Gordon

Local Members: M H T Janes, G D Game, F W Clayton, M H O'Neill

Adjoining Members: A M R Searing, J R Morton

1. Purpose of supplementary report

To report:

- the outcomes of the local town planning consultation exercise, which concluded on 13th July, 2001;
- the views of the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee, which met on 11th July, 2001.

in order that this information can be considered by the Cabinet and Executive Committee.

2. The local consultation exercise

- 2.1 The consultation exercise was developed around an exhibition which was made available on an evening at the four secondary schools, on a Friday evening and Saturday morning at the Village Hall in Goffs Oak and in the Foyer of the Broxbourne Borough Offices on two consecutive working days. The exhibition dates and venues were advertised in the local press on two successive weeks in a large coloured advertisement.
- 2.2 The exhibition was supported by a coloured leaflet which was circulated to parents of all pupils at secondary and primary schools in the Cheshunt area and was available in libraries and other public locations. Copies of the leaflet have been circulated to all Members. The Director of CSF also wrote to all parents to encourage them to view the exhibition.
- 2.3 Officers were present to respond to enquiries for further information. Exhibition visitors were invited to complete a short proforma (copy at Appendix A) which invited answers to some specific questions about the

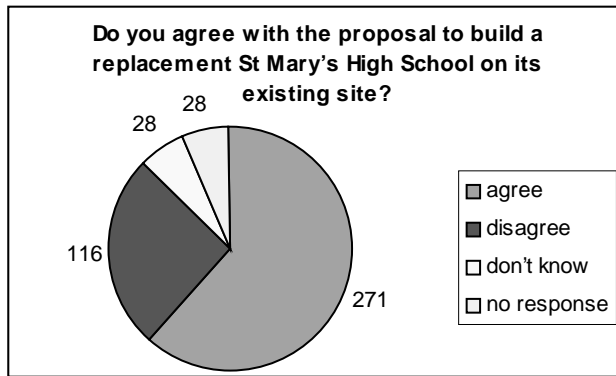
proposals and gave the opportunity for respondents to indicate other issues. Some correspondence and a number of petitions have been received; the points made have been included in the analysis at section 4, below, and copies have been placed in folders in the Members' Room.

2.4 The exhibition sessions were well attended and 443 response forms have been returned. The next section gives the answers to the pro forma questions and section 4 looks at some of the other specific issues raised.

3. **Analysis of questionnaire**

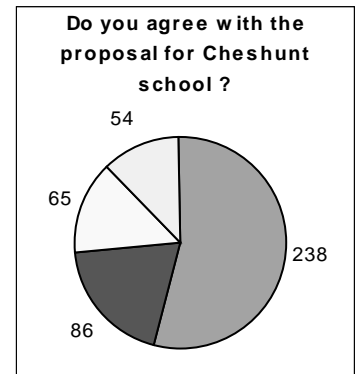
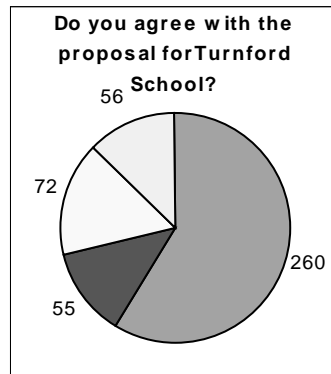
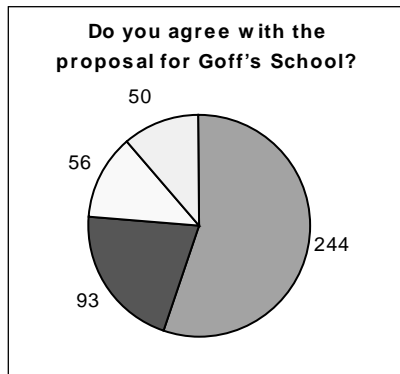
The questions are in four groups:

3.1 Replacement St. Mary's School

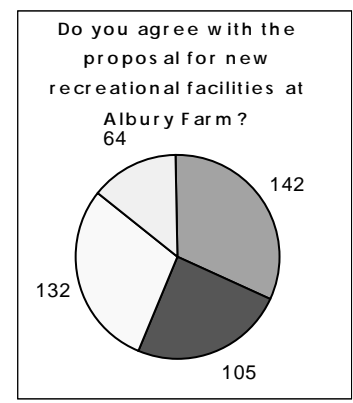
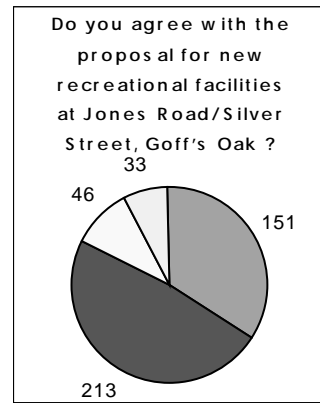
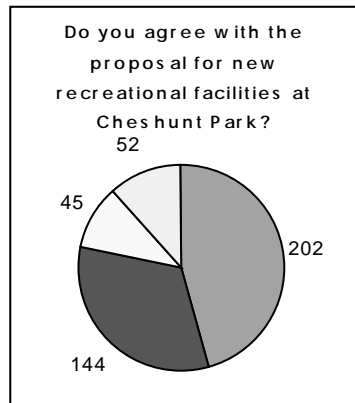


3.2 Proposals for Goffs, Turnford and Cheshunt Schools

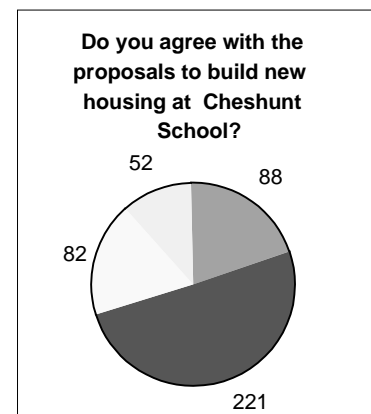
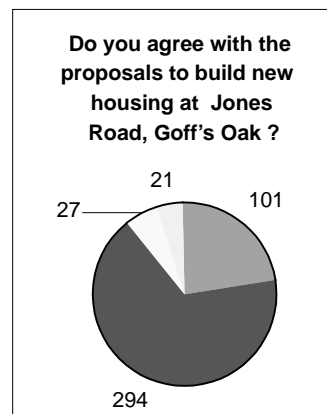
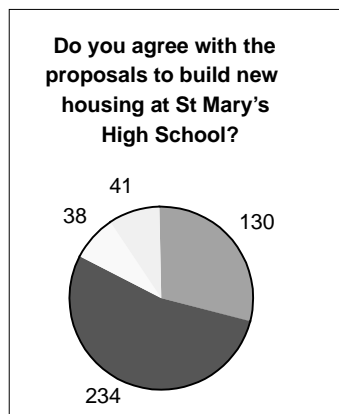
Do you agree with the proposals for Goffs, Turnford and Cheshunt Schools?



3.3 Recreational facilities development



3.4 Enabling housing development



4. **Specific consultation responses**

The chart below sets out specific consultation responses recorded on the returned forms and letters. Where a factual comment is appropriate it has been included in the right-hand column.

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY	COMMENT
<i>Generally:</i>		
Loss of green belt land	91	
More houses puts pressure on school places	85	The housing development proposed by the strategy (and envisaged by the Local Plan Second Review) has been included in the target for school expansion.
Extra traffic in the area	77	
More/better social infrastructure needed (doctors etc)	53	

School places should be for Borough's children only	23	St Mary's School have now changed their admissions rules to give priority to children within the Archdeaconry of Hertford.
Loss of trees and green spaces	21	
Fund schools without selling land for housing	19	Our capital expenditure is restricted by Government capital controls
Build new school at Hammond Street	18	
St Mary's, Goffs and Cheshunt Schools too close together	13	
Lack of/inappropriate siting of children's play areas	9	
More informal recreation, less pitches required	8	
What happens to scout hut/Burgess Hall?	7	We will ensure alternative provision if this affected
Need more facilities for children and young people	6	
What happened to former Cheshunt School receipt?	5	Used as part of capital programme funding that year including transfer of Cheshunt School to new site and cost of A10 footbridge
Parking and drop off points needed	5	
Make more use of Hammond Street pitches	5	
Need more primary school places	4	
Need new school at Waltham Cross	3	
Build 6 th form college for all 4 schools	3	
Less football more tennis etc courts needed	3	
Use land at Hammond Street for housing	3	
Need school other side of A10	3	
More housing means more vandalism	3	
No facilities for local residents	2	
Used wrong base for housing numbers/school places	2	

More housing required for locals	2	
Misleading/contradictory statements	2	
More low cost housing for people who can't afford cars	1	
Recent Local Inquiry stated no more school places required	1	
Why did HCC close Cheshunt School and not build at Hammond Street	1	No County Council-owned land is available at Hammond Street.
Support school expansions	1	
Secure boundaries needed to school sites	1	
Expand primary and convert Woodside to Secondary	1	
Build new secondary school on another site and extend existing	1	
Use Canada Fields for housing	1	
Loss of horse riding routes	1	
Against selling then buying playing fields	1	
Money from sale should be ring fenced for Cheshunt schools	1	
Parking problems near station on residential roads	2	
Need footpath in Cuffley Hill to station	1	
School timings need adjustment to avoid congestion	1	
Swap oversubscribed school for undersubscribed school	1	
Support proposals – no ideal in this world!	1	
Do it and quickly	1	
<i>St Mary's:</i>		
Traffic increase in Goffs Lane/Dark Lane	12	

Keep St Mary's on present site	9	An alternative siting on the Goffs Lane frontage can be considered
Extend rather than rebuild St Mary's	9	
Church should pay for church schools	8	
St Mary's and Goffs too close together	7	
Re-siting of playing fields to Cheshunt Park too far for existing children	7	
Loss of St Mary's playing fields	4	
Against access for St Mary's from Dark Lane	4	
Access St Mary's from Goffs Lane	3	
New school for St Mary's is needed	3	
Build new school where needed – not here	3	
New St Mary's site floods	3	Site water conditions are being investigated
Loss of Goffs Lane playing fields	2	
Agree to extra St Mary's places	2	
Keep scout hut in Goffs Lane	2	
Keep Goffs Lane/St Mary's Church footpath	2	
New St Mary's playing fields should be open to all	1	
What are new admission rules for St Mary's	1	
Need to widen Dark Lane	1	
Need for access to St Mary's via Churchgate	1	
Moat is Ancient Monument – access?	1	
Effect on fishing moat	1	
Use St Mary's land for pitches not housing	1	
Retain view of St Mary's Church	1	
Disagree with expanding St Mary's	1	

Agree with St Mary's site proposal – alterations needed to Dark Lane	1	
Have Football Clubs pay for pitches at St Mary's not Cheshunt Park	1	
<i>Goffs:</i>		
Against loss of V and E club	4	
<i>Turnford:</i>		
Improve Turnford School not Goffs	2	
<i>Cheshunt:</i>		
Give priority to Cheshunt School	14	
Use spare capacity at Cheshunt School	3	
What happens to Cheshunt School site?	3	
Design for Cheshunt school needs reappraisal	1	
<i>Park Lane:</i>		
Disagree with moving pitches to Cheshunt Park	15	
Preserve Cheshunt Park	7	
Support new St Mary's on Cheshunt Park	5	
Agree to new pitches at Cheshunt Park	3	
What happens to children's play area in CP?	2	
Why rebuild Golf Club?	2	Not envisaged; likely to be expanded to provide additional changing-rooms to serve pitches
Agree to more recreation use of Cheshunt Park	1	
Agree if no school in Cheshunt Park	1	
Build some houses in Cheshunt Park to spread load	1	
Cheshunt Park too wet for pitches	1	

<i>Jones Road/Silver Street:</i>		
Against housing at Jones Road	99	
Against new roundabout Cuffley Hill/Jones Road	54	We are investigating a traffic light controlled junction with the service roads closed
Goffs village unsuitable for more development	28	
Extra traffic in Jones Rd/danger to Woodside pupils	18	
Low density for Jones Rd housing	8	
Support expansion of Woodside School	8	
Jones Rd is wrong site for affordable housing	5	
Extra playing fields lead to more traffic	4	
Will all the football pitches eventually be built on	3	No, we will impose covenants restricting use and development
Access to Jones Rd site should be from Silver St	2	
Lack of consultation with Woodside School	1	
Put pitches etc r/o Goffs library	1	
Larger Woodside School will increase congestion	1	
<i>Albury Farm:</i>		
Dangerous to cross A10 to get to Albury play area	1	

4.2 The following petitions have been submitted directly; details of a petition submitted to the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee is set out in section 5, below. Copies are in files in the Members' Room.

Petition 1 Against more housing and loss of green belt, expand St Mary's on existing site - 120 signatures

Petition 2 Too many houses, insufficient infrastructure, new school Required - 8 signatures

Petition 3 What about Cheshunt School development? - 31 signatures

Petition 4 Against relocation of St Mary's and housing development -
142 signatures

5. Children, Schools and Families Select Committee consideration

5.1 Prior to considering the report, Mike Lessons, representing Goffs Oak Campaign Against Rural Development, presented a petition of 1100 signatures against more house building on green belt land to the Select Committee. A copy of the covering letter/petition rubric forms Appendix B to this report.

5.2 An interim analysis of responses from public consultation was circulated at the meeting. (This has been superseded by the information in the preceding sections of this supplementary report).

5.3 The draft minutes of the meeting include the following:

"Members discussed the report and made a number of comments. These included:

- *that it was necessary to ensure that there were enough school places for children in the area and doing nothing was not an option,*
- *that St Mary's High School was already overcrowded and needed to be expanded in the near future,*
- *that the contribution from Central Government should be maximised,*
- *whilst the use of green belt should be minimised, some enabling around infrastructure development was acceptable,*
- *concern was expressed at the pressures caused by the allocation of housing numbers in the area,*
- *whether it would be possible to come up with another solution with regard to the geographical need for places,*
- *there was no alternative to meeting the need for places in Cheshunt and money had to be raised to meet the costs of the additional forms of entry by property disposal,*
- *the issue of traffic congestion and the difficulties caused by a roundabout at the Jones Road/Cuffley Hill junction could be solved by traffic lights and this would be considered,*
- *that, with the exception of the proposed housing development at*

Jones Road, Goffs Oak, the package was supported by the interim consultation responses."

5.4 **Select Committee's Comments to Cabinet on 23 July 2001:**

The Select Committee supported the proposals set out in the report for expansion of schools in the Cheshunt area.

David Billing and Ivor Ambrose requested that their dissent from this consensus be recorded.