

Proposed increase of early years provision in Oldbrook north, Fishermead and Springfield Summary of consultation responses



January 2015

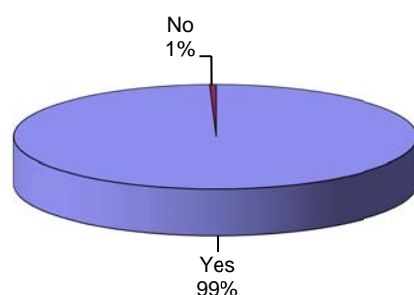
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Summary of responses to the consultation:

- 1878 consultation documents sent to parents/carers and local residents, businesses and political bodies in Oldbrook, Fishermead and Springfield
- 391 responses were received (a 21% response rate)
- 99% were in favour of establishing school based early years provision for two year olds and increasing school based provision for three and four year olds

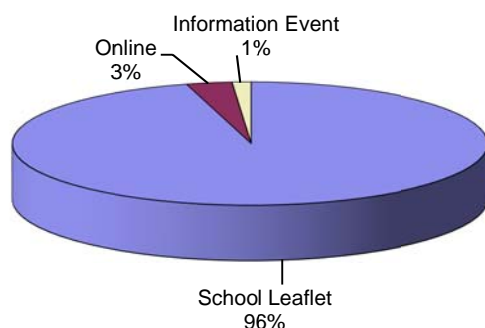
Interested party	No. of responses	Yes	No	Not stated
Parent/carer of a child in the Pebbles area	336	335	1	0
Member of staff at a school in the Pebbles area	36	36	0	0
Local resident	8	7	1	0
Not stated	5	5	0	0
Other	6	5	0	1
Total	391	388	2	1

Do you support the proposal to increase the early years provision in the Pebbles area?



School affiliation for the respondent	No. of responses	Yes	No	Not stated
Jubilee Wood Primary School	204	203	1	0
Oldbrook First School	157	156	1	0
The Willows School and Early Years Centre	28	28	0	0
Not stated/Other school	2	1	0	1
Total	391	388	2	1

Method of responding to the consultation



Main points raised if in support of the proposal	Number
Increase early years provision in the Pebbles area	49
Multiple	4
Not stated	335
Total	388

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Main points of concern raised if against the proposal	Number
Impact on the existing school	2
Total	2

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1. Summary of the consultation process

- 1.1 In order to obtain stakeholders' views about the principle of the council working with schools to increase the number of early years places for two, three and four year olds, and the choice of the type of providers accessible in Oldbrook north, Fishermead and Springfield (referred to as "the area"), an early consultation process took place over a six week period between Monday 13 October 2014 and Sunday 23 November 2014 inclusive.
- 1.2 The consultation was available on the council's website, alongside an electronic response form. A total of 1878 consultation documents were also sent out to numerous stakeholders, as follows:
- (a) All staff, governors and parents of schools in the area
 - (b) Headteachers of all schools in the liaison group
 - (c) Nurseries, pre-schools and children's centres located in a two mile radius of the area
 - (d) Milton Keynes MPs, local councillors, and local parish councils
 - (e) Representatives from the Oxford Diocese (Church of England) and the Northampton Diocese (Catholic)
 - (f) Trade unions
- 1.3 During the early consultation period, public information events were held at various locations to give interested parties the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the proposed plans. The public were invited to formally respond to the consultation either online, or through feedback forms provided at the events. The events were held as follows:

Public Information Event	Details
Jubilee Wood Primary School held on Thursday 16 October 2014 (2.45pm to 5.00pm)	The event was held at the same time as a parents evening. 16 people engaged with the session, and were able to discuss aspects of the proposal with representatives of Jubilee Wood Primary School and officers from the council.
Oldbrook First School held on Monday 20 October 2014 (8.30am to 10.30am)	The event was held at the beginning of the day initially in the playground of the school, and then as part of the 'Stay and Play' session held by Pebbles Children Centre in the school hall. More than 42 people engaged with this session, and were able to discuss aspects of the proposal with the Headteacher of Oldbrook First School and officers from the council.
The Willows School and Early Years Centre held on Tuesday 21 October 2014 (2.45pm to 5.00pm)	The event was held at the same time as a parents evening. More than 15 people engaged with the session, and were able to discuss aspects of the proposal with the Headteacher of The Willows School and officers from the council.
Pebbles Children's Centre held on Tuesday 4 November 2014 (6.00pm to 8.00pm)	This session was promoted to local providers as it was held at a time convenient to childcare working hours. 1 person attended this session. They were able to discuss aspects of the proposal with the Headteachers of Jubilee Wood Primary School and Oldbrook First School and officers from the council.

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Public Information Event	Details
Orchard Academy held on Wednesday 5 November 2014 (8.30am to 10.30am)	This event was held at the same time as a 'Stay and Play' drop in session held by Pebbles Children's Centre in the school hall. In total 12 people attended this session, where they had the opportunity to discuss aspects of the proposal with officers from the council.

- 1.4 A council officer also attended a public meeting with the Campbell Park Parish Council on 18 November 2014 to provide a summary of the consultation and to listen to views expressed by Parish Councillors. The Parish Council was unable to suggest a unanimous statement, and therefore members were invited to express individual opinions through the consultation process. The main points raised included support for increasing provision, caution about the impact on existing providers, and objections in relation to the central government's policy to provide free provision for two year olds.
- 1.5 During the consultation period 391 responses were received, returned either via forms from the consultation leaflets, online through the council website or from comments forms completed at the Public Information Events. In total 1878 leaflets were distributed to a wide range of stakeholders. **This results in a 21% response rate.**
- 1.6 A significant majority (99%) was in favour of the proposal to increase the early years provision in the Pebbles area through working with the local schools.

2. Themes emerging from the consultation

2.1 Theme one: Support for school based early years provision

- It will enable children to access early years provision within their own area
- It will provide a smoother transition into reception year as children have an opportunity to develop their social and emotional skills
- It will support parents/carers to access early years provision at a school that older siblings already attend which will help with drop-off and pick up times
- It will give parents more flexibility on choice
- It will raise attainment as children are more likely to achieve age related, or beyond, in reading, writing and maths
- Extra provision will have a positive impact on the community and on the education of children in the Pebbles area
- Extra provision is necessary for an increasing population and will support parents/carers to return to work
- It will enhance the opportunities for children and give parents confidence and skills to support their child's learning at home

2.2 Theme two: Support for school based provision, with caveats

A small number of responses expressed support for the principle of school based provision, but also requested the council/schools to consider how other existing providers can also work with schools to compliment this provision, especially considering the needs of working parents.

- With increasing demand, especially as more parents have to work, the council should be encouraged to utilise the facilities already there and to work on expansion.
- Childminders also need support in understanding the process of funding as some children still thrive in a home environment instead of a larger provision

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- To consider expanding Acorn Nursery and the sessional care for two year olds which could run alongside the day-care provision at Jubilee Wood School
- Not all the schools listed will need to offer a nursery class

2.3 **Theme three: Do not support the principle of school based early years provision**

Only two responses stated they were against the principle of the council working with local schools to increase early years provision. These comments focused on the impact such changes would have on the school, how working parents would be able to access this provision

- Two year olds are too young for a school environment, and wrap around care would be too disruptive for that age group
- Funding should be made available for additional staffing and resource needs for the statutory school aged children
- Funding for breakfast and after school clubs for working parents
- Danger of a negative impact on children already attending the school, as resources are already over-stretched
- Free nursery provision seems to benefit those on benefits and not working parents



Available in audio, large print,
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