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To: All Members of the Cabinet

Dear Member,

Cabinet - Tuesday, 24th March, 2009

I attach an addendum to Cabinet Report Item number 10, School Expansion Consultation – Rhodes Avenue Primary School. This is marked as appendix 8 and provides the responses to the consultation received from 10th October to 28th November 08.

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Yours sincerely

Ayshe Simsek
Principal Committee Co-ordinator

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**Responses to Rhodes Avenue Consultation (running from
10th October to the 28th November)**

119 individuals or families responded to the Rhodes Avenue consultation, and **8 ‘others’** i.e. Governing Bodies, Barnet LA, the local Police and the Diocese), making a grand total of **126 responses**.

The responses from individuals/families (120) were:

Opposed to	52 (43.3%)
In favour of	61 (50.8%)
Impartial	4 (4.1 %)
Inconclusive (did not complete the relevant part of the questionnaire)	2
Total responses	119*

*Rhodes Governing Body appeared twice so removed one.

Of the 120 responses, the figures can be summarised as;

Type of response	Number of responses	Number of Rhodes Avenue Parents ¹	Other*	Unknown
Online questionnaire	64	13	51	n/a
Consultation booklet questionnaire	25	13	12	n/a
Written representations (emails/letters)	30(2 before consultation start, 3 after consultation closing date.	n/a	n/a	30
Objections	52 (of which 21 were written reps)	17	14	21
Supporters	61 (of which 10 were written reps)	6	43	12
Impartial	4 (of which 1 written were	2	1	1

¹ We could only determine if it was a Rhodes Avenue parent if they filled in an on-line questionnaire, or a hard copy questionnaire. Where we received a response in the form of a letter it was often impossible to determine if this was from a Rhodes Avenue parent or from another interested party. This means that we probably received more than 24 responses from parents/carers at the school, but we cannot ascertain exactly how many because letters don't always indicate this information.

Type of response	Number of responses	Number of Rhodes Avenue Parents ¹	Other*	Unknown
	reps)			
Missing (i.e. didn't tick the box on the questionnaire indicating their opinion)	2	1	1	0
Total	119	26	59	34

*local residents, parent of a child not yet at school age, member of staff at another school, police, governor at another school, teacher at another school, previous Governor at Rhodes, parents at St James' and Coldfall

OBJECTIONS

Overall, 52 individuals/families expressed opposition to the proposal. The main points made were:

- Disruption during construction works (including health and safety implications, and impact on local residents.
- Increase in traffic and congestion.
- Impact on quality of the children's education.
- The school's unique sense of community will be damaged by the enlargement.
- Credit crunch and current sufficiency of school places means we should not expand.
- Negative impact on Bounds Green Coldfall and surrounding schools.
- Bounds Green has capacity to be 3 forms of entry so expand there.
- Creating more places in a good school will lead to more people moving to the area for school places.
- St James C of E would like to expand so let them go ahead.

IN FAVOUR

Overall, 61 individuals/families expressed support for the proposal, and the following main points were made:

- The importance of allowing children school places close to their homes
- That there is a need for school places in the area
- That a larger school would allow more children to benefit from an excellent school
- The extra places will have a positive impact on the "black hole" that exists where it is hard to secure a local school of choice

IMPARTIAL

4 respondents were impartial about the proposal, and made the following observations:

- Does the projected growth in numbers actually exist?
- Would any required building works actually be completed given the current economic situation?

RESPONSES OTHER THAN FROM INDIVIDUALS/FAMILIES

8 representations were received from Governing Bodies of local schools, the Diocese of London Board for Schools, Barnet Council, a Barnet Primary School and the Police. 4 were opposed, 2 were impartial and 1 was in (overall) support of the expansion.

Representations from the **Governing Bodies** of the following schools were submitted:

- Our Lady's of Muswell Hill.
- Coldfall primary school.
- St James C of E.

The main objections from these Governing Bodies were:

- Tetherdown, Coldfall and Coleridge have all recently been expanded. Expanding Rhodes Avenue could negatively impact these schools.
- The consultation lacks information on the impact of expansions that have already taken place
- A harsher economic environment will have an impact on the housing market reducing demand for school places.
- There are no new housing developments planned.
- Bounds Green has the capacity to become 3 forms of entry and expanding Rhodes will have a negative impact on this school.
- Educational - (greater flexibility within the school for specialisation etc).
- Social – (allowing another 30 children to have access to a school of high standards).
- Financial – (economies of scale).
- Moral - (there is a reason for the authority now to consider St James as a very real alternative to the Rhodes Avenue proposal)

An objection from the **Diocese of London Board for Schools** was submitted. The main objections and concerns of this objection were:

- Local Authorities long standing discussions and commitment regarding the expansion of St James.
- Quality of education – (St James C of E is a popular and successful school and meets the criteria for expansion as set out by the DSCF).
- Popularity of school – (St James C of E is oversubscribed).
- Desirability of a Two Form Entry School – (economies of scale and the feeling that it is better for the Local Authority to expand a one form of entry school than a 2 form of entry school).
- Requirement to keep a balance – (the Local Authority is required to keep in mind the balance of denominational provision, as recent expansions have been taken place amongst the community schools)

A representation from **Rhodes Avenue Primary School Governing Body** was received requesting more information. They have reserved the right to express a firm opinion following further information, including the outcome of the feasibility study

Barnet Council also responded commenting that “Overall, we would not have any formal objection to the expansion as there is clearly pressure for places in that area of Haringey. Our only concern would be the impact on Hollickwood School, which is near the Haringey boundary and currently has a number of empty places. Further capacity at Rhodes Avenue would probably only exacerbate this”.

A representation in (overall) support of the proposal from the local **Police** was submitted. The police said:

“This proposal is good as it meets the needs of the local community; however consideration needs to be given to how the extra pupils will arrive at the school as there are already issues with parking when at the start and end of the school day”.

A representation from a local Barnet School was received – Hollickwood Primary school. They have objected to the proposed expansion on the basis that their school rolls are not full and, because of their proximity to Rhodes Avenue School, any expansion will have a negative impact on their rolls, reducing them still further.