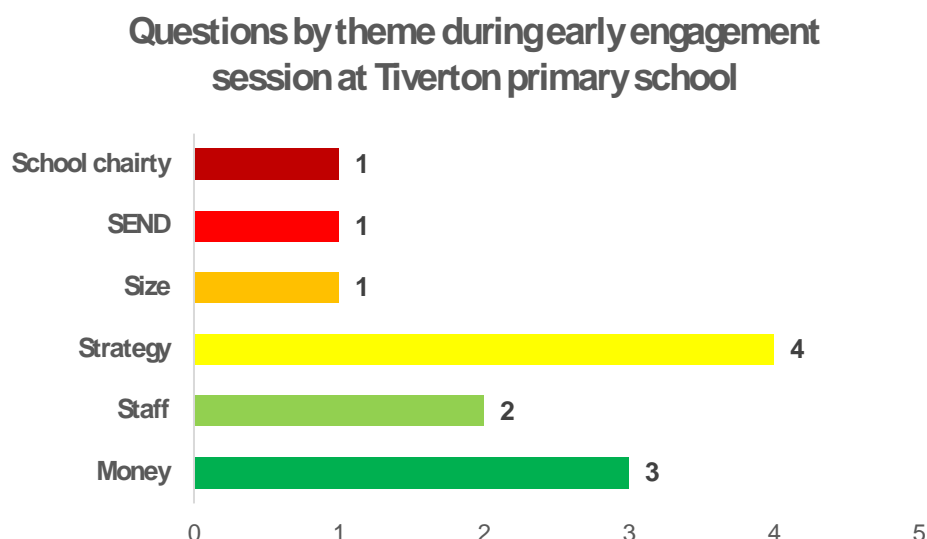


Appendix 2 – Early engagement feedback

Analysis of feedback

- 1.1. The early engagement at Tiverton primary school provided parents, carers, school staff and other stakeholders an opportunity to raise their concerns and ask questions on a variety of themes following a school place planning presentation by Council Officers.
- 1.2. All questions and answers were noted by two Council Officers as recorded below but a simple analysis of themes has also been attempted and is shown in the figure below:



- 1.3. It shows that the most common theme related to Strategy (4 respondents). This encompassed proposed solutions by attendees such as the possible restructuring of staff but was mostly related to the council approach. For example, one attendee was keen to have an immediate answer on what the future of Tiverton was, another wanted to know why these issues were being discussed when the school had a 10% surplus and another sought clarification around who were the decision makers.
- 1.4. The next most popular theme was around Money (3 respondents). One solution proposed was increasing the nursery to help fund the school, another attendee complained that community schools were not getting enough money and one more that the council is spending money on areas outside of education.
- 1.5. Two attendees also mentioned the theme of staff. One suggesting a staff restructure (also recorded in the Strategy theme) whilst another sought clarification on the treatment of those staff not directly employed by Haringey council

- 1.6. One attendee each asked questions on the themes of size, SEND and the school charity respectively. The Size question related to the number of children per class, whilst the SEND question about whether children with SEND with suffer (especially those with a physical impairment). A colleague from the Tiverton school charity also wanted to voice concerns that the charity and it's associated buildings would suffer immensely if Tiverton school was closed.

Responses collected on the day

Questions and Answers Tiverton Meeting 9.30am 23.05.2024

Q: Has the school thought about increasing their nursery capacity, this will bring them income.

A: Jane talked about migration-increase in Early Years funding despite this there is still a sharp decline

Even with new housing-no per home in our forecast, there are no children coming out of these developments. Haringey has the lowest birth rate in London. Jane stated that we cannot factor in childcare. If birth rate went back to 2013- this is still bad news.

Q: What happens with Children with additional needs/ SEN needs? travelling long distances is very hard and for staff as well if the school is closed.

A: Jane explained the risk about the school is too much, she understands that some families had two moves already from Stamford Hill and then Tiverton. She spoke about quality control. Carlo stated that he has spoken with colleagues in the SEND. Jane mentioned that when the formal consultation process starts then SEND will be involved in the decision-making process.

Q: Staff member from the Ambulance service stated that he has seen an increase in demand the services his charity provides. He stated that his charity and Tiverton has a 20 year lease agreement for the space on site-they are working very hard to make it neat and to invite more cadets into their services. He spoke highly of their achievements working with children from Tiverton and how they went on to do brilliantly in their life. He said now it looks like there is a possibility that the school will close, he asked what will happen to the money the charity have invested and the contractors, who will that money back? They have a 5-year plan which they put forward to the head teacher. He stated that no one has consulted them, what should they do, do they finish off the project and cut their losses.

A: Jane stated that closure is one option. Closing the school does not mean that the site will disappear. She expressed her gratitude to the community and stated that we value your work and very grateful for the charity work. Jane stated that if the

governor's body and us decide to put closure, this does not mean your charity work will stop. We can have a conversation with you afterwards.

Q: What we do now, move our children to other schools? Why have another meeting? This is not good enough-it's all about money.

A: Jane stated that she absolutely understands the anxiety and that's why we chose to have this informal meeting with all of you, to talk with you. She explained that we can't just come and say this is what we are doing. It's important to come and inform you first.

Parent stated it's all pointless.

A: Jane apologised that this parent felt it was pointless. Jane talked about information sharing and that we cannot have false spending money that the school do not have.

Q: If the school close, it will be devastating and traumatic for everyone here in Tiverton.

A: Jane explained the amount of pupil funding changed from 2014 as per government funding formula. Less money is given to school in comparison to a lump sum. This money does not cover the cost.

Staff question: This is a state school, and it is not funded the same way as an academy. State schools are not getting enough money. Staff knows this because of schools in neighbouring boroughs.

A: Jane stated we do not want to look over the borders. The budget here for Sept is looking OK. Our faith and Catholic schools have over 50% less pupils. Jane explained how the budget is looking and how it works. Jane advised that the head teacher and her team is working closely to look at staffing.

Q: What happens to the pupils in year 5?

A: Jane explained the census day and how the budget is determined for the next financial year. We advised that we are planning for ahead and not closing the school come this Sept, this is not what is happening here.

Q: Why start this conversation with Tiverton?

A: Jane talked about 8% higher in Tiverton, she explained that the school has already been reduced from two form entry to one form entry and even now the school is struggling to bring in more pupils. She went on to explain that there are outstanding schools in Haringey with less than 30 pupils.

Q: Parents worried about children with additional needs-worried about change?

A: We will feed into our SEND team. We will talk with families with children with SEND needs.

Q: Kitchen staff asked what's happening with the kitchen staff as it is not part of Haringey.

A: Jane advised the decision has not yet been made and if the time comes, we will talk with the contractors.

Q: The council spent so much money changing one road name from Black Boy Lane to De La Rose, why spent £50 million on something no one wanted than spend it on schools.

A: Funding for schools come from the government to the council. She explained how this works.

Jane stated that the council cares deeply about the children. Your council cares deeply. We have to find a way with another the school to make it financially viable.

Q: How long do we have to move to another school?

Carlo explained that formal consultation will take place in October for 6weeks.

Children are always at the centre of our decision. He echoed what Jane said about the council cares deeply about the children.

Jane echoed the same statement. The council cares deeply about our children.

End of questions.

The headteacher Amardeep echoed the same statement as Jane and Carlo. She informed the parent that the school, the governing bodies and the council are working very closely supporting our children.

They all thanked all the families for attending.

Q: Parent mentioned about Seven Sisters school and talked about 12 students per class, good learning, not falling behind, every child gets required attention.

A: Amount money per pupil, as %, for small schools spent on staffing is greater so they struggle to pay bills without overdraft, borrowing money to teach, governing body looks at how much is spent and going forward, too much outgoing for feasibility to continue.

Q: This school is intimate, what about strategy – could they restructure staff?

A: Stamford Hill closed and joined with Tiverton this helped to make it big enough for resilience, but the decline has continued. The school isn't big enough unless it

does something different. Haringey Council are working with Tiverton's governing body. They could work with another school, so the money goes further, or join another school, so they don't need 2 of everybody.

School estate – important to look at the community, including poor school buildings.

Staff restructure – been working with governors to look at staff restructure to reduce amount of money. Supporting with HR to help change staffing to reduce costs.

Conversations are happened about how things might look different as the school cannot stand alone any longer.

Q: Young children and change from government to increase hours for children in nursery. Has Tiverton thought about increasing nursing provision for 2-year-olds, to increase income. Outward migration is a big problem for London – families move out. If increase of early years people may have children and stay.

A: Jane acknowledged the point but noted there is still a sharp decline. New builds stats are not showing it's families (children). Haringey has one of lowest birth rates in London and people are not having children. Can't factor in changes to childcare. Have data back to 2013 birthrate and there are still too many school places, so need to look at short, medium & long term.

Q: Parent asked about SEND children (I didn't hear the question at all). Children with additional needs find a move very hard, will possibly have to travel extra distance. Tiverton staff have been brilliant with SEN children.

A: Looking at options we have, too much risk at the moment to be able to carry on. Need to be proactive. Acknowledge that some children already moved from Stamford Hill to Tiverton. Any proposals must have an equalities impact assessment, looking at what it means for individual groups/children. There will be focussed workshop with parents of children with SEND in conjunction with Haringey's SEN team.

Q: (The cadet man) Seen increase in demand for charity services. Took on a portacabin, have money for the hut and services at no cost to school, from charity, for a 20-year lease. Had to submit 5-year plan and there was no mention of this possibility. If school is closed will have to pay back the grant money.

A: Jane stated that this is the first information meeting and closure of the school is one option. Closure doesn't mean the site disappears. There will be lots of options to feed into the consultation. This particular issue is something to discuss outside this meeting.

Q: Parent asked what the point is of this meeting – what do we (as parents) do? Want concrete answers.

A: Jane reiterated that we understand it's difficult. This meeting is before the start of the consultation about how the formal consultation will be undertaken, discussions

with parents, SEND parents, site options. There must be a consultation and we can't just say this is what we will do. It's important to let parents know as soon as possible and to tell them why there's a problem – information sharing. The government changed money formula in 2014 so money now follows the pupil and doesn't go to the school.

Q: A parent commented that state schools don't run like church schools – they're not getting enough money. Mentioned closure of a Hackney school this summer. Another also parent asked about their child currently in year 5.

A: Jane reiterated that we don't want to do any sudden actions like in Hackney. The budget for Roman Catholic and faith schools run the same as each other. They have 50% less (pupils?) but state run it's 7%. School budgets run from 01/04/2024 to 31/03/2025 and is based on the number of pupils. Tiverton can staff the school to continue with the school. The school cannot close before September 2025. Children in the school in October 2024 drives the budget for 04/25 to 03/26 so the school won't close this September 2024.

Q: Parent asked why we're stating the conversation now when there's a 10% surplus.

A: Across whole borough there's a surplus of 12% and only just managing to get 30 pupils per year across the borough's schools so won't draw anymore to Tiverton because of all the other vacancies across the borough. The schools aren't filling their years, especially Reception.

Q: Parent asked about children with additional physical needs – change Stamford Hill to Tiverton was a big change.

A: This will feed into the consultation and what the SEN needs are. We will be talking to families with additional needs during the consultation.

Q: The kitchen staff lady spoke but I couldn't hear anything she said.

A: Jane commented that we will talk to contractors the same as others affected.

Q: Parent commented that the Council has money to change the name of Black Boy Lane to La Rose Lane and pay big pounds for the new street sign plus for road works, signs, etc., but don't have funds for school.

A: Monies for schools come from the government to the Council then straight to schools. Money is allocated from government and the council has a separate pot of money for other things, so works might be council or government funded.

Q: Who are the decision makers.

A: The governing body and council authority. Jane/Carlo will draw up a proposal which goes to council authority to decide. If the school is closed we would have 2 terms' notice and will work with parents to find new schools.

Final words: Full consultation starts in October 2024, for 6 weeks, with some public meetings between launch and close, and will then come back after the consultation closes to do another public meeting. There are options like federation, merge schools. Haringey Council will work with Tiverton's governing body and ensure that the focus is on children.