

11th November 2020



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Ms Caroline Derbyshire

Outcome of the Consultation on the proposed Age Range Change and increase in capacity at the Helena Romanes School & Sixth Form Centre.

Proposal to:

- Change the age range of the school from 11-18 to 4-18; and
- Increase the size of the school by 457 places

Proposer: Saffron Academy Trust

The consultation was made widely available to the groups and individuals listed in Appendix 1 (see below) in addition to being posted on the HRS and Saffron Academy Trust (SAT) websites. The consultation formally began on 18th September 2020 and concluded on 30th October 2020. Objections and comments were invited and were received by 23:59 on 30th October.

Only two responses were received. Neither of the respondents objected to the proposal, but they raised points that were responded to by the Clerk to the Trustees of Saffron Academy Trust.

Respondent 1 felt the proposal was 'welcome news', but wondered how primary aged children would be temporarily accommodated on the existing HRS site and whether any building works or modifications might disrupt current GCSE/A Level students at HRS.

SAT replied as follows:

The temporary primary provision will be small scale and located away from the main school buildings. It is envisaged that the provision will be occupied for one year by a small number of children.

Works to install the temporary provision will be undertaken at times that will cause minimal disruption to students and staff in the secondary school.

Respondent 2 had 'no specific comments or objections with regard to the proposals', but raised some queries regarding the temporary primary provision on the existing HRS site around security, separation from secondary students, accessibility for parents, impact on the wider existing school, traffic disruption & volume, and parking issues. A query was also raised concerning the potential impact on 6th form provision.

SAT replied as follows:

The initial phase of the proposal would see a very small temporary primary provision on the school site. This temporary provision would involve one temporary classroom, with the possibility of a second, for the 2021-22 academic year. As a consequence, there would be limited impact on the school site and access onto it. Access to the site will, however, be taken into account when planning the start and end times of the primary school day for the 2021-22 year. While the location of the temporary site is still under discussion, it will not impact either the Sixth Form building or Sixth Form provision.

Hence we can conclude that there were no objections to the proposal and, therefore, Saffron Academy Trust will proceed with the next stage of the project, which is to apply to the Regional Schools Commissioner to make a 'significant change to an open academy'.

The full content of both responses is provided below in Appendix 2.

Caroline Derbyshire
CEO Saffron Academy Trust

Appendix 1:

Consultation documents were made widely available to:

Organisation	Job Title/Department (where applicable)
Anglican Diocese	Education Department
Catholic Education Service: Diocese of Brentwood	Director for Education
Great Dunmow Town Council	Clerk
Uttlesford District Council	Leader
Saffron Walden	Member of Parliament
Unite (TGWU)	
Voice Union	Regional officer - East Anglia
Unison	
National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT)	
NASUWT (Eastern Regional Centre)	
NASUWT	Essex Federation Secretary
ATL	ATL Regional Official Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock
VOICE (previously PAT)	
Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL)	Regional Officer - East of England
GMB Union	Senior Organiser
NUT	General Secretary
ASHE Essex Executive Members	ASHE Professional Officer
Essex Primary Headteachers Association	Chair

Essex Special Schools Education Trust	Chair
Young Essex Assembly	
South West Essex PCT	Interim Chief Executive
Essex County Councillor	Hedingham ED Member
Essex County Councillor	Stansted ED Member
Essex County Councillor	Saffron Walden ED Member
Essex County Councillor	Thaxted ED Member
Essex County Councillor	Dunmow ED Member
Essex County Council	Business Support Administrator
Essex County Council	Passenger Transport
Essex County Council	Passenger Transport
Essex County Council	Systems Support Officer
Essex County Council	Employer Liaison Manager
Essex County Council	Infrastructure Delivery
Essex County Council	Executive Director for People Operations
Essex County Council	Business Systems
Essex County Council	Passenger Transport Strategy Manager
Essex County Council	Education Transport and Awards Team Manager
Essex County Council	SEN Commissioning monitoring assistant
Essex County Council	Senior Social Care Workforce Officer
Essex County Council	Business Development Officer
Essex County Council	Information Officer Commissioning and Procurement
Essex County Council	School Places Data & Intelligence Manager
Essex County Council	Head of School Admissions
Essex County Council	SEND Quadrant Manager
Essex County Council	Senior Contributions Analyst
Essex County Council	Policy and Project Development Manager
Essex County Council	Performance Assistant - SCF Performance team
Essex County Council	Team Manager, Children's support service
Essex County Council	Assistant Director Education North East
Essex County Council	Senior Contracts & Processing Office
Essex County Council	Head of Projects
Essex County Council	EIBS Team
Essex County Council	Pupil Place Planning Support Officer
Essex County Council	Pupil Place Planning Support Officer

Essex County Council	Assistant Director of Education
Essex County Council	Data and intelligence Officer
Essex County Council	Head of Strategy Planning and Performance
Essex County Council	Head of Specialist Education Services
Essex County Council	School Effectiveness Partner
Essex County Council	School Effectiveness Partner
Essex County Council	SEND Quadrant Manager
Essex County Council	SEND Quadrant Manager
Essex County Council	SEND Quadrant Manager
Essex County Council	Assistant Director of Education
Essex County Council	Director for Education and Lifelong Learning
Essex County Council	Central Payments
Essex County Council	Area Improvement Adviser
Essex County Council	Customer Relationship Manager
Essex County Council	Quadrant Commissioner
Essex County Council	Head of Primary Improvement
Essex County Council	Finance Business Partner
Barnston Parish Council	Clerk
Broxted Parish Council	Clerk
Felsted Parish Council	Clerk
Flitch Green Parish Council	Clerk
Great Easton and Tilty Parish Council	Clerk
High Roding Parish Council	Clerk
Leaden Roding Parish Council	Clerk
Lindsell Parish Council	Clerk
Little Dunmow Parish Council	Clerk
Little Easton Parish Council	Clerk
Stebbing Parish Council	Clerk
Thaxted Parish Council	Clerk
Dunmow St Mary's Primary	Headteacher
Felsted Primary	Headteacher
Flitch Green Academy, The	Headteacher
Great Dunmow Primary	Headteacher
Great Easton CE Primary	Headteacher
Stebbing Primary	Headteacher

NW ASHE (Association of Secondary Headteachers in Essex)	Headteachers in NW ASHE
Helena Romanes School & Sixth Form Centre	All Parents & Carers
Helena Romanes School & Sixth Form Centre	Website
Saffron Academy Trust	Website

Appendix 2: Responses received to the Stakeholder Consultation

Response 1

'Thank you for providing the information regarding the consultation on the proposed age range change at Helena Romanes school it is certainly something that is welcome news for primary aged children in the Dunmow area.

I would however like to enquire about your plans to have primary aged children starting at the existing HRS site in September 2021 and where/how they will be accommodated at the existing school. I have concerns about how any building works/modifications might disrupt current students of HRS sitting GCSE's/ A levels and wanted to know what is in place to prevent this issue.

I would be grateful for any information regarding this matter.'

Response 2

'Firstly, I have no specific comments or objections with regard to the proposals for any point of time after the school has relocated to the Buttleys Lane site - as a local resident I'm not convinced that there is currently enough allowance given for potential road traffic at the new site & surrounding area, or any alternative means other than cars for getting there, but the plans for the wider site & development are still being developed & I think there is time to resolve those issues.

Whilst noting the expected date of the site move of September 2022, this strikes me as wildly optimistic (even before Covid-19, given the number of dependencies to enable the move); I would love to be proved wrong though. That's relevant because I do have concerns about these proposals as far as they relate to HRS on its current site & specifically the amended age range:-

- I can't see where on the HRS site the primary school provision would be situated so that it is:-
 - Secure / with restricted access from external parties;
 - Ringfenced internally from other students;
 - Accessible for close proximity drop offs by parents;
 - Not going to impact the wider existing school (e.g. loss of external leisure / sports / playground space, classroom capacity, dining capacity, sixth form study areas, library, etc).
- I think traffic disruption will be significant. Even before the recent increased site restrictions arising from Covid 19 measures, traffic volumes both before & after school were disruptive to much of the town. You cannot have primary school children being dropped off in say Godfrey Way to make their own way to school, so you have to cater for parents coming right onto the site (often with younger siblings in prams, pushchairs etc) & waiting onsite for a period at the end of the day.
- Most of these primary school parents will be in cars rather than on foot so there are significant parking issues as well. There is no street parking or other parking provision in the immediate vicinity other than the leisure centre or on the school site itself.

- Much of the above isn't that obvious unless you're familiar with the Great Dunmow environs & what the start & end of the school day looks like in terms of footfall, traffic, etc. How significant are these issues when viewed from Saffron Walden?
- Taking into account all of the above, my specific fear is that 6th Form provision / 6th Form Centre will be significantly impacted as that appears to be the least bad way of addressing some of these points. Significantly changing the 6th form offering at short notice would be completely unacceptable from our perspective as our son is in Year 12 at the moment.

At this stage the proposals are fairly "high level" & don't have enough detail to allay (or confirm) my above concerns. Some indication as to where the primary school provision would be hosted on the HRS site & how it would be accessed would address my (& I suspect many other local) concerns, & I look forward to receiving further details in due course.'