



THE FULHAM SOCIETY

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Terry Broady, Room 39, Hammersmith Town Hall, King Street, London W6 9JU

September 24, 2013

Dear Mr. Broady

NEW KING'S & SULIVAN SCHOOLS

We are writing in connection with the proposal to amalgamate New King's and Sullivan schools and, if we had to fill in one of the Council's consultation forms, we would have ticked the "Definitely Disagree" box. Our reasons for saying this can be summed up as follows –

- You say that the schools are "very close" to each other, but this is a relative term. For example, a small child living in, say, Sullivan Court or at the bottom end of Peterborough Road would face quite a trek walking to New King's school and back again in the evening – and all of it on small legs.
- You admit that between them the 2 schools have 75 places, but the amalgamated school would only offer 60 places, and this at a time when the pressure for new primary school places is increasing in the face of a rapidly rising birth rate. For example, according to a London Councils Report, "By 2016, the shortage of school places is set to reach 118,000." Also, in a recent BBC news report it was said that according to official data from 2012, there will be a 20% shortfall in places by 2015.
- Sullivan school is on a large and open site and it has been specifically designed for nursery and primary school children with gardens, excellent facilities and plentiful play space. It is also adjacent to Hurlingham Park. But New King's on the other hand is a Victorian building designed for secondary school children. It is very close to the railway line and on a major road which has a constant flow of heavy traffic, with all the attendant pollution which this causes.
- There is extremely strong local opposition to the proposed scheme as witnessed by the fact that, at the two recent public meetings, potential attendees were turned away at the door.
- If the proposal goes ahead, Sullivan school will be occupied by some 800 pupils, most of them teenage boys, and it is a very short distance from the secondary school in Peterborough Road which, although mixed, also has a percentage of teenagers. One only has to recall the recent trouble between teenage gangs from Henry Compton school, which culminated in a horrific murder on Victoria Station, to appreciate the potential for trouble between the two groups. In any case, why should it be deemed sensible to site two secondary schools so close to each other?

In short, it seems very strange decision to move children from a modern open site to a cramped Victorian school, even if the latter's facilities are modernised with the help of Thomas's and in the way that you are suggesting.

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Tatham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

D H Tatham

Chairman