

From: Paul Kennedy
Sent: 08 October 2013 16:43
Subject: Fulham Schools consultation

I set out below the text of the response from H&F Liberal Democrats which has been submitted to the consultation.

The response has been summarised on our website as follows:

<http://hflibdems.org.uk/en/article/2013/733448/lib-dems-blast-sham-consultation-over-closing-local-primary-school>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Paul Kennedy
Chair, H&F Liberal Democrats
020-7736 3252

Submitted on 2013-10-08 13:18:03.255165

1 What is your name?

Name:

Paul Kennedy

2 What is your postcode (this will be used to understand from where responses have been received)?

Postcode:

SW6 1EH

3 I am a (tick all boxes that apply):

Parent/carer, Other (please specify below)

If other please describe::

Chair of Hammersmith and Fulham Liberal Democrats, local resident

4 I am associated with (tick all boxes that apply):

Other (please specify below)

If other please describe::

Hammersmith and Fulham Liberal Democrats

5 What is your email address?

Email:

paulgkennedy@aol.com

6 Do you agree with the proposal to amalgamate New King's and Sullivan schools on the New King's Road site?

Definitely disagree

7 Please explain the reason for your choice and make any other comments in the box below:

Reasons:

1. The Council has produced an unbalanced consultation paper, putting the case for closure (without admitting that is what it is) but not the case for keeping Sullivan open.

2. The Council has failed to provide any proper and specific justification for closing a successful school, rated 'Good with Outstanding Features', at its last OFSTED inspection.

3. The Council's motives are to promote its policies on academies and free schools, rather than to help the pupils and parents of the two primary schools involved.
4. The proposal would cut primary places in an area where need is likely to increase.
5. The proposal includes unnecessary disruption for pupils and parents of New King's School, who would have to move twice during the building process, and worries about how all the pupils will be accommodated.
6. The Council has failed properly to consider and seek views on alternatives, such as helping the free school to find another site, or establishing an academy on the Sullivan site.
7. The Council has given inaccurate and misleading information about Sullivan's pupil numbers, claiming its reception class is undersubscribed when it is full.
8. The Council is relying on its own decision to refuse expansion of Sullivan Primary School's nursery class to justify closure of the whole school on the basis of allegedly low (but inaccurate) figures about applications for reception, whereas a larger nursery class would have increased the number of applications for reception.
9. Worries about the suitability of the New King's site for an expanded primary school, especially for disabled pupils currently at Sullivan's primary school, for whom the Council has specific statutory obligations.
10. Flawed consultation process:
 - a) conflates the decision the Council is actually making namely whether to close Sullivan Primary School, with irrelevant considerations on which the Council should not be consulting at this stage, namely the establishment of a free school and New King's School application to become an academy;
 - b) trying to turn the issues into a plebiscite, with interested parties whipping their supporters to "vote" for or against the proposal on the basis of their attitude to free schools and academies rather than the interests of children at Sullivan Primary School;
 - c) asking just one question disguises irrelevant considerations;
 - d) responses which support the proposal on the basis that it will support the proposed academy application and/or the finding of a site for the Fulham Boys Free School should be separately identified and excluded from consideration.