



Proposal to amalgamate New King's and Sullivan schools on the New King's site

Report on the final stage of the consultation, representations made following the publication of public notices

Appendix D3

Third appendix to 'Report on the final stage of the consultation, representations made following the publication of public notices', which forms Appendix D to:

**REPORT TO CABINET, 6 January 2014
PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF NEW KING'S AND SULLIVAN
PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

Representations from:

**Toby Young, Chairman West London Free School Academy Trust
Fulham Boys' Free School
London Diocesan Board for Schools
The National Union of Teachers in Hammersmith & Fulham
Hammersmith & Fulham Liberal Democrats
Peterborough Road and Area Residents' Association (PRARA)
The Hurlingham and District Residents' Association (HDRA)
City Events Ltd., Polo in the Park
Mathias Kulubya, Sullivan parent, on behalf of Sullivan Court
Residents' Association
Wasim Kempson, Imam of Al-Muntada Al-Islami Trust**

Additionally, a letter from:

Greg Hands M.P., Chelsea and Fulham

From: Toby Young
Sent: 26 November 2013 15:10
To: Broady Terry
Cc: Alexander Wade
Subject: Fulham Boys School

Dear Terry,

I wanted to let you know that I'm fully supportive of Fulham Boys School and the Council's proposed merger of the two primary schools. I think Fulham Boys School will be a great addition to the borough's existing array of schools and, I'm sure, will be very popular with CofE parents who currently struggle to find places for their sons in local schools.

Yours sincerely,

Toby Young
Chairman, West London Free School Academy Trust

www.nosacredcows.co.uk

Terry Broady
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham
Hammersmith Town Hall
London

BY HAND

11th December 2013

Dear Mr Broady,

Representation on the Council's proposals for the merger of Sullivan and New Kings primary schools

The Fulham Boys School (FBS) has been drawn into the consultation on the proposed merger of Sullivan and New Kings primary schools by being named as the potential occupants of the Sullivan school site if the Council proceeds with its proposal.

FBS maintains a strictly neutral stance on the proposed merger. The governors of FBS have no comment on how primary schools should best be organised in H&F. We believe that successful primary schools in the borough are critical to our success, and we intend to work closely with all schools feeding pupils to FBS in the years to come to ensure seamless transition between KS2 and KS3. Boys embark on one learning journey which begins in primary schools and will continue at FBS. The boys leaving FBS to go onto university and the world of work will owe as much to their primary schools as they will to us, and we will be sure to share all our success with them.

Despite maintaining a neutral stance, a number of issues concerning FBS have arisen as a result of and during the consultation period. We would like to take this opportunity to clarify the following points:

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1. The proposal was not predicated on finding a site for FBS

Misleading allegations have been made repeatedly that the proposal is being driven through in order to find a site for FBS. Andrew Christie clearly stated at the Sullivan consultation meeting in September that this is not the case.

For the record, we would like to make clear that:

- FBS played no part in forming in the merger proposals or proposing the Sullivan site as its potential home
- FBS's involvement in Council decision-making has been limited to confirming to the Council, AFTER it had formulated the merger proposal, that we would be interested in a free site IF a suitable site became free
- FBS had no input to the wording of the consultation document nor the timing of the consultation nor was FBS in any other way involved in the running of the consultation.

2. There is proven demand for FBS

As part of the consultation, representations have been made questioning the need and demand for a new secondary boys school in Fulham.

FBS had to satisfy the Department for Education on both counts prior to being given approval in July 2012. As required by the DfE, we demonstrated the school would be potentially oversubscribed for its first two years by evidencing the demand for FBS as first choice among then Year 4 and Year 5 parents. We also provided broader evidence of the demand for faith-based and boys'-only education, drawn from local authority data on education preferences up to 2012.

An update on the 2013 preferences for boys' only secondary schooling was provided by H&F as part of the additional information for the consultation. This showed local demand for places at single sex boys' schools outstripped the offers made 601 to 73 (in comparison with the 585 to 194 offers made for single sex girls' secondaries).

This year's applications for FBS provide firm proof of the level of demand for the education proposed by FBS: over 200 applications have been received through the co-ordinated admissions process from primaries across the borough. If FBS had been in a position to confirm the location of its temporary site, and had we not been shut out of some local primaries' transition talks, we have no doubt that parental confidence would have been even higher. We are already receiving inquiries from parents who didn't apply through co-ordinated admissions but want to add their names to our waiting list for 2014.

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3. There is strong parental support

FBS has arisen from the entirely voluntary efforts of local parents and teachers, responding to other parents' demands for an outstanding Church of England Secondary school for boys.

The Sullivan/New Kings consultation has reaffirmed the support of local parents and residents for FBS's vision.

FBS has always been neutral on the merger but we were stung into action on the consultation following a campaign of anti-FBS invective during the summer. This prompted some supporters to question the need for FBS during a potentially a highly sensitive period, as applications opened for the first Year 7 intake on 1st September. We used the consultation period to reconnect with supporters, many of whom then responded to the consultation.

For the record, we would like to make clear that:

- At no point, in either online communication or face to face conversations, did FBS ask people to comment in favour or against the merger proposal
- At all times we sought to be extremely clear that we were seeking to mobilise support for FBS only
- All those we contacted, online and face-to-face, were asked to declare their support for FBS in the comments box/question 7, thereby ensuring that all FBS-prompted responses were clearly identifiable
- From face-to-face conversations we know some FBS supporters are also Sullivan supporters, and we handed in forms showing support for the merger, against it, and some don't know.

The continuing invective against FBS has prompted parents, local residents and businesses to ask what they can do to ensure their voice is heard in the debate about future educational choices in Fulham. We have encouraged supporters to write in during the representation period and attach at Appendix 1 some of the parent's letters copied to us. Two sample extracts follow:

A) "I strongly endorse the plans for a new secondary CofE free school for boys. There simply isn't enough choice at secondary level in the borough at present, particularly for boys. I say this from my own experience. My son was educated at a CofE primary in the borough, but was not offered a place at any of the neighbouring boroughs' CofE secondary schools. I wasn't happy to take the only alternative offered locally, we couldn't afford to educate him privately, we didn't want to move and so I home-tutored him for a year. A place then became available at St Cecilia's CofE school in Wandsworth."

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B) "I feel that as an H&F resident of 17 years, we absolutely and categorically need the opening of Fulham Boys School to go ahead. In my catchment area for my son (currently in year 6) there is currently only 1 school my son has a chance of getting a place in. We have not considered this school as a choice as we live close by and have witnessed dreadful behaviour on many occasions by its students in the surrounding streets. It is definitely not the right school for him. Fulham Boys School is exactly what Fulham needs - a school for boys that live in Hammersmith and Fulham.

"There has been a very aggressive campaign against the opening of Fulham Boys School which I feel has become very political particularly with Primary School Head teachers joining the anti-new secondary school fight for all the wrong reasons and passing on their views to their pupils' parents through newsletters, asking them to sign against the opening of FBS. This has happened in my son's school. I also had a leaflet posted through my door last week and had an email sent to me asking H&F residents to sign a 398 Degrees petition against a new secondary school in the borough with very biased facts. I don't know if you are aware but there has also been a Social Media hate campaign against FBS which I feel is dreadful. People who have no idea, possibly have no children or their children have grown up have been directly targeted and very possibly persuaded to sign against FBS simply because of the way the information has been given and delivered. I really hope that the decision makers don't lose sight of the dignity many residents in this borough have shown by remaining silent but still supporting the council's plans. There are many of us who support the school but haven't wanted to stoop as low as the Sullivan campaigners. There is plenty of Primary school choice in H&F but this new boys secondary school is essential for parents of boys living in the borough. I as well as other parents I know would need to seriously consider moving if this new school does not go ahead. Please do not be bullied by Sullivan campaigners."

4. School support

From its first beginnings, FBS has sought to engage with primaries across H&F, receiving encouragement from heads and governors, as well as parents. We have also benefitted from the advice and support of Chelsea Academy and West London Free School in our pre-opening stage.

We are aware that some schools have been placed in a difficult position by the consultation and the campaigning around it. It was apparent at one point that voicing support for FBS could be seen as betrayal of all local primaries. FBS wrote to the Sullivan Chair of Governors in September to ask for an end to the negative campaigning, but it continues today. A leaflet was recently distributed around Fulham residents and local primaries with the clear statement that the Council 'favours free schools over everything' and the implication that no primary is safe (see Appendix 2). This leaflet was accompanied by a letter to primary headteachers from the Head of Sullivan.

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We have sought to explain FBS's position where we can. Subsequent letters of encouragement have been received from the governors, heads or parents at local schools. We attach those we have been copied at Appendix 3, including: All Saints Primary, St John's Primary, Holy Cross, Queens Manor, Sir John Betts, West London Free School, Chelsea Academy. Two sample extracts follow:

A) From a primary school governor:

"I am writing both as a parent and in my personal capacity as a governor...I am aware of the difficult decisions many parents currently face as their sons approach secondary school transfer. Those unhappy with the local secondary schools available tend to make one of the following choices:

"Some move out the borough altogether when their son reaches Key Stage 2; some make the financial adjustments necessary to educate their son privately, often pulling them out before Year 6 in preparation; some do stay put but send their son to a secondary school out of the borough.

"I believe that a new CofE boys' secondary school would help to stabilise primary school year groups strengthening the education for all. It would also make for a much more cohesive local community with local boys a part of Fulham rather than apart from it..."

B) From a local secondary school head:

"I am writing in support of the local authority's plans to help find a site for Fulham Boys School. I believe that this school would make an excellent addition to the borough's schools, providing a wider choice to parents within the borough, where school places are still at a premium."

5. Local business & other organisations

Enterprise forms a key part of FBS's vision, including building strong links with business groups, local organisations and charities. A number of businesses have told us the advantage they envisage in partnering with an outstanding local school, and the important stabilizing effects of a school engendering respect for the local community and in keeping families in Fulham.

Some have written in support of this representation – see Appendix 4 – with some sample extracts below:

A) *"I have an independent local business and while the business itself remains neutral in opinion I am very aware through my customers that there is a lot of support for the plans for a new secondary C of E free school for boys.*

"My purpose in writing is simply to make sure that amidst the noise generated by the recent consultation, the council doesn't lose sight of the residents in the borough who may have been silent but support the council's plans."

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B) *"As a local resident of Crondace Road, as a parent of three children, and as a local business owner and employer, based in Parsons Green Lane, I would like to register my wholehearted support for the Council's proposals..."*

"As a parent, I know there is simply not enough choice at secondary level to answer needs in the south of the borough. As a business owner who has just successfully hired our first apprentice under the NAS scheme, I welcome the idea of a new school with ambitions for instilling enterprise in its pupils. And as a resident, I believe that Fulham will benefit enormously from the stabilising effects of a good local school for local boys - particularly one so set on promoting community enterprise."

C) *"I am a local resident, living in Moore Park Road, where I also run a Day Nursery.*

"I know from many of my ex-pupils and their parents the difficulties posed by the current lack of choice at secondary level for boys in the borough. For those for whom Hurlingham & Chelsea or Henry Compton aren't the answer - including those looking for a 'Lady Margaret' faith-based equivalent for their sons - there seems to be a stark choice between moving away, taking the financial decision to go private, or travelling some way out of the Borough.

"My nursery is similar to most other local businesses, in that it benefits from a strong and stable local community. I believe that having a Church of England Secondary school of choice, for boys, will do much to anchor boys and their families in the Borough."

D) *"I own a well-known company called WOW Toys based in Fulham... and an avid supporter of business in the community..."*

We all know that true prosperity and stability (economic and social) comes from good schools and good parenting at home. A brilliant school is a bedrock of stability and learning for any child. My daughter's school, Lady Margaret's in Parsons Green, is a perfect example of this.

Businesses in the Borough need stable local communities to thrive, and I believe that a new secondary free school for boys will do an enormous amount of good for Fulham:

- *more local boys will be educated in the borough eliminating much travel out of the Borough ;*
- *more families will stay in the borough whereas so many families in recent years leave and move to Richmond or Wimbledon for the better boys school options ;*
- *and I believe FBS's emphasis on community enterprise will stimulate interest in and respect for local business.*

I fully endorse the plans and proposed vision for this new boys' school and ask the Council to support the school in securing a permanent home in Fulham."

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6. Local churches

The Fulham Boys School is a CofE school but open to all to apply to. From the outset we have enjoyed the support and encouragement of parents of other faiths and no faith, including Catholic, Muslim and Hindu families. In FBS's oversubscription criteria, 'faith places' are far broader than most Church of England schools and encompass all Christian traditions – as reflected in the comments below and support at Appendix 5 from All Saints congregation (as the largest Parish Church in Fulham), The Vicar and PCC at St Peters Church and Twynholm Baptist Church.

A) *"I am the pastor of Twynholm Baptist Church, Lillie Road, and a parent of 5 children, including three boys.*

"I am very supportive of the proposed Fulham boys school... [it] would fulfil a real gap in the provision of secondary education in the borough. At the moment, as far as I'm aware, the only single sex secondary faith schools in the borough with places for boys are exclusively for Catholics. The only coeducational Church of England school is the other end of the borough from the potential site being proposed by the council for Fulham Boys' school.

"I am delighted that the proposal for Fulham Boys School also makes 50% of places available for people from all faith backgrounds and none, ensuring that, whilst the Christian ethos of the school is important to its identity, it is not maintained in a way that excludes boys from other backgrounds. As a Christian pastor, and a father of a girl currently enjoying the similar makeup of Lady Margaret School, I strongly believe that the potential for Fulham Boys School is to be a great asset to the provision of secondary education within the borough.

"I urge the council to take whatever difficult decisions are necessary to ensure that this potential is realised by providing an appropriate permanent site for the school."

B) *"I am writing to you on behalf of the PCC of St. Peter's Church Fulham to express our whole-hearted support for Fulham Boys School. The prospect of a new Boys Secondary School in Fulham with a Christian ethos is something that we are very much looking forward to and one that we are convinced will prove extremely popular in the local area."*

FBS is supported by the London Diocesan Board for Schools, with FBS drawing on the LBDS for project management support in preparing the school for opening. LBDS is not FBS's sponsor nor its academy provider, but has made its position of support for FBS's opening in 2014 very clear, as Inigo Woolf, LBDS Chief Executive confirmed by email:

"LBDS is supporting the proposal for setting up Fulham Boys School and I can assure you the demand is proven".

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7. Local residents

Residents local to Sullivan primary have been targeted with misleading tweets and maildrops about the impact of locating FBS in the area – see for example the leaflet at Appendix 6.

FBS has been placed in a difficult position: responsibility for finding a site lies with the Department for Education, and it would be inappropriate for FBS to say how it might use any specific site until the Department has put site proposals to us. We are thus unable to answer specific concerns made about the impact of FBS locally, save to reassure residents that there will be a full planning process prior to FBS's permanent occupation of any site and that FBS places the upmost importance on being a good neighbour and a positive asset to the community. We sought to counter some of the more misleading information about FBS in a letter distributed to residents around the Sullivan and Peterborough Road areas in October 9 (see Appendix 6), including inviting them to our School Open Days. Some attended and were hugely encouraging, others emailed responses such as:

"As a local resident, I received your letter regarding the Fulham Boys School through the door and may I say what an excellent idea it is, it is much needed for the area and we fully support you."

There is an obvious cross-over between local parents and local residents, and we have been made aware of many who feel the local residents' associations' commentary on FBS is unrepresentative. Letters received by FBS since the close of the consultation are attached at Appendix 7.

The following are a few sample extracts:

A) *"I am a local resident, living in Sullivan Rd and I wanted to write to make sure that amidst the noise and bad publicity generated in the recent consultation, the council doesn't lose sight of the residents in the borough who may have been silent but support the council's plans."*

"I feel it makes complete sense to amalgamate two schools which are under subscribed and should this amalgamation go ahead, I would really welcome Fulham Boys School on the site. I think a new secondary CofE free school for boys far from damaging the area, would enhance it. It would provide residents with boys with another much need option at secondary level and great equivalent to Lady Margret's for girls. I would encourage the council to do what it can therefore to help Fulham Boys School get established successfully, for the benefit of the whole community, including all the boys now attending Sullivan School."

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B) *"I am a local resident (and on the committee of friends of South Park but this is a completely personal email, but want to register that I am interested in local matters) and I live in Settrington Road and have done for over 7 years. We also have a 20 year old daughter so I am writing this as a local resident who will not be needing to use the school but feel the whole community could benefit from this school.*

"I endorse the plans for a new secondary C of E free school for boys and would like to encourage the council to do what it can to establish a permanent base in Fulham. I think as a resident and as a parent the most important thing we can give our children is education, choice and opportunity and the council is in the perfect position to do so for future generations of local residents."

C) *"I am a local resident, living in Ryecroft Street. My wife and I have lived in the immediate area for 20 years. We have no personal axe to grind. We have 3 daughters.*

"My purpose in writing is simply to make sure that the council doesn't lose sight of the residents in the borough who may have been silent, but support the council's plans. We are not all represented by the views that have been expressed by the local residents' associations. We strongly support the establishment of the school. As local residents I believe we cannot bemoan the lack of good State schools in the area on the one hand and then oppose steps to increase parent choice of schools on the other."

8. Sporting organisations

Sport will be central to life at FBS and the school has received the encouragement and support of a range of sporting organisations. These include: British Rowing, Shepherds Bush Cricket Club, Thames Valley Harriers, London Youth Rowing, The Tennis Foundation.

9. Political support

From the outset, local MP Greg Hands has been supportive of the idea of a Church of England Boys Secondary, to match the provision for girls at Lady Margaret School. H&F council supports FBS as part of their schools of choice programme. The Mayor of London voiced his support at Mayors Question time on October 23.

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The Fulham Boys School is gearing up for opening in September 2014. Our headmaster, Alun Ebenezer, has started on the first tranche of staff recruitment; prospective pupils have sat banding tests; new appointees are bringing invaluable expertise to our governing body; the Education Funding Agency has started negotiating the lease on the school premises we hope to occupy temporarily from September 2014; and FBS has just launched the public consultation required prior to signing Funding Agreement.

The Governors of FBS appreciate that education planning in Fulham is a much bigger picture than FBS alone. As mentioned at the outset, we believe successful primaries are crucial for successful secondaries but, beyond that, volunteer no comment on the Council's proposed merger of Sullivan and New Kings primaries. If the Council decides to proceed with its proposals, FBS will work with all local stakeholders to ensure the site at Sullivan continues to serve the educational needs of the community for years to come. If the Council decides not to proceed, we trust that our supporters have made a strong case for ensuring that our local parent and teacher led school finds a permanent home, locally.

Alexander Wade
Chairman of Governors
The Fulham Boys School

Direct line 020 7932 1165

Email: inigo.woolf@london.anglican.org



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

22 October 2013

Dear Terry,

Proposal to amalgamate Sullivan Primary School and New King's Primary School by discontinuance of Sullivan Primary School and enlargement of New King's Primary School

The London Diocesan Board for Schools did not make a representation during the consultation period as we felt that a conflict of interest arose when Sullivan Primary School approached the LDBS Academies Trust to sponsor the School as a converter academy. Now that the LDBS Academies Trust has undertaken its due diligence and agreed to sponsor Sullivan Primary School we wish to make a formal representation against the closure of Sullivan Primary School.

Sullivan Primary School held a public consultation on the proposal to become an academy on 21st October and over 150 parents, local residents, staff and pupils attended. This was their third meeting having held two successive meetings with parents of the school and, when a vote was taken, the proposal to join the LDBS Academies Trust was agreed unanimously.

Why is LDBS supporting the continuance of Sullivan School when the Church of England is also supporting the setting up of Fulham Boys School?

Sullivan Primary School is a good school with outstanding features. The LDBS has been impressed with the quality of teaching, the progress that the children are making and the benefits that the children are enjoying from the spacious site. As a child centric organisation, the LDBS would not want to see a successful school closed.

The amalgamation proposals have been drawn up on the basis that first and second parental preferences have been historically low and there continues to be spare capacity in both schools.

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The information provided to us since the proposals were first published is that demand for places is increasing now that Sullivan Primary School's reputation as a successful school is becoming more widely known – first preferences of the current reception class are 76%. Indeed as a member of the LDBS Academies Trust we would expect the School to become oversubscribed within a short time of joining our family of schools.

We note that the School has already upgraded its nursery classrooms and the outdoor learning area and expanding the nursery provision to match the numbers joining reception is part of the current school strategy so as to ensure that Sullivan Primary School can meet local demand.

In the Cabinet Decision Report of 18th October mention is made that it is unclear as to why Sullivan primary School would become more popular than it is now. We would point out that the Church of England schools in Hammersmith and Fulham are popular schools. We have made it clear to Sullivan Primary School that they have the capacity to become an outstanding school and judging from the consultation meeting on 21st October the local community has now taken on board that they have a successful primary school in Parsons Green.

In the 18th October Report the numbers recorded agreeing and disagreeing with the consultation proposal fall into a number of distinct categories. One category comprises the staff and pupils of the two schools where there was a strong vote against and another category related to a large number of parents who are keen to see Fulham Boys School established. However it should be noted that the consultation only hinted that the Sullivan Primary School site might be used for Fulham Boys School and the Cabinet Report confirmed this by saying 'a feasibility study may show that the present Sullivan School site is the right size and location for the new School'.

The LDBS has already made representation to Ian Heggs that it considers that the New King's School site should be considered as an option for Fulham Boys School. Our reasoning is that the school sites are of similar size, the existing Victorian Building is not listed, the site can accommodate a new tall building and being on a main road the impact on traffic is manageable.

When LDBS works with local authorities on new school proposals we would expect to see building options appraisals. We have not seen any detailed appraisals which indicate that building on the New Kings' site would prove more costly than building on Sullivan's site. Indeed Greg Hands in his considered response to the Consultation urged the Council to 'fully investigate' the site and it would have been helpful if the Education Funding Agency which is searching for sites for Fulham Boys School were to provide a detailed appraisal of the respective sites and the other potential sites for Fulham Boys School.

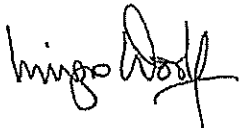
The LDBS is not afraid to close schools with falling rolls but it is unusual to close successful schools with growing rolls. We have specific concerns about the amalgamation proposals as the larger school is being closed but the smaller school's management team will take over the Sullivan site with which it is unfamiliar; furthermore there will be disruption to education with pupils coming on to the Sullivan site and then a second round of disruption with pupils moving back to

New King's site two years later. The integration risks are substantial and, with the likelihood of a large number of good teachers leaving, the potential for disruption to learning for all the pupils from both schools is not one that LDBS would countenance in its own family of schools.

Children can be very perceptive and it was interesting that four of the speakers at the Sullivan Primary School consultation on 21st October were pupils who want to see their school remain open and are already concerned about potential disruption to their learning.

In conclusion, we wish to re-iterate that in putting children first, the LDBS does not think it is right that a growing successful school should be deprived of its school site which is in a good location for the community it serves and that the likely disruption to the education of the pupils has not been adequately addressed.

Yours sincerely



Inigo Woolf, BEM, FCIB
Chief Executive

Copies to

Nick Botterill
Greg Hands MP
Andrew Christie
Ian Heggs
Rosie Wait

**HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM
TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION**
Joint Secretaries: **Dennis Charman & Amy Lassman**
E-mail HFTAnut@aol.com



Making the Right Choice

The Future of Sullivan School

The Response of the National Union of Teachers in Hammersmith & Fulham

December 2013

The Hammersmith & Fulham Teachers' Association is gravely concerned about the proposal by the Local Authority to close Sullivan Primary School, transfer its pupils to New Kings School and eventually redevelop the site as a Church of England secondary school for boys.

- We cannot agree to this proposal which will undoubtedly undermine and damage the educational progress and emotional well being of hundreds of young children. It is an established fact that primary children changing schools are detrimentally affected by the change and this will also apply when it is the school which suddenly changes around them.
- It will destroy an effective team of professionals working together at Sullivan School who are delivering an excellent, and continually improving, education to children from their community.
- Sullivan School is a viable school in terms of standards, school rolls, finance, the site, health & safety, the environment and projected developments.

These are the stark facts which the Local Authority has to accept and which must lead their decision making. Children will be damaged. Parents will be bereft of choice. Dedicated professionals will be distraught.

Local Authorities, senior Council officials and leading Councillors can only contemplate school closures when the overriding material facts leave them no choice or when the gains – *including to the children most affected by the proposal* – are so overwhelming that the only rational option is to go ahead with the proposed changes.

The Local Authority's proposal fails these tests. In doing so, the impact will not be confined to the children, parents and teachers of Sullivan School – important though that is. It will lessen the opportunities and choices for generations of children in the community around Sullivan School and it will seriously undermine the standing of the Local Authority Officers, Children's Services Department and Councillors in the eyes of the profession and staff within schools across the Borough.

The Local Authority must withdraw this proposal. It must also reconsider what its Schools of Choice policy means in an educational and statutory framework which has changed considerably since the Council Administration first adopted it. Unless the Council is brave enough to embark on such a review its Schools of Choice policy will be reduced to a mere slogan and, as such, unable to deal with the complexities and competing demands of a Borough wide educational system.

At a time when politicians are commonly seen to have very low moral and ethical standing but in a week when we have celebrated and commemorated the life of one

politician who displayed the highest moral standards, our Council leaders face a great challenge.

The leader of Hammersmith & Fulham Council, Cllr Nicholas Botterill, and the Cabinet Members for Children's Services and Education, Cllrs Binmore and Cooney can reach out to the community of supporters in and around Sullivan School, accept their arguments and look for a new way of going forward together.

Or they can retreat into their own narrow laager, stick to arguments, attitudes and facts which have been continually contested, disproved and found to be partial and not only bring down a good school but bring down their own reputation as well.

Details are also important.

The data, facts, projections and impact assessments which have been prepared by Sullivan School and its supporters do not need repeating here. It is a matter of serious concern to the NUT, however, that the Council seems unable to take on board any of these concerns.

Fact. Sullivan's roll is rising and is reasonably projected to continue rising.

Fact. An independent survey has shown that the building can be maintained in a good condition for decades ahead within the current maintenance budget which the school has adopted.

Fact. Sullivan School is achieving higher and higher standards of education and is well above expected norms. The data shows this, OFSTED recognises it and the GLA has celebrated it by awarding Gold Club status to Sullivan School – the only community school in the Borough to achieve this.

Fact. The importance of Sullivan School to the community cohesion in South Fulham is valued by the parents but also recognised by the London Diocesan Board of Schools which is enthusiastic about sponsoring Sullivan School as it is as well as the local Mosque who believe Sullivan to be a school for children of all faiths and none. None of the alternative models supported by the Council enhance this cohesiveness but rather tend to undermine and ignore it.

Fact. The support *for* closure of Sullivan has overwhelmingly come from parents of children who are *not* at Sullivan or New Kings Schools. This is because the Council launched a flawed consultation which allowed one set of parents to champion the interests of their children against the interests of Sullivan's children. People claiming to be parents who want a Church of England School for Boys were the *only* significant group of people who supported the closure of Sullivan. They did not do so in the interests of Sullivan School's pupils. It is politically, professionally and

fundamentally morally wrong of the Council to give as much weight to this as they did in the first round.

It is reasonable for the Council to make the best use of opportunities which open up as a result of any reorganisation but the reorganisation has to go forward on its own merits. In this case the facts do not merit the proposed reorganisation of provision and closure of Sullivan School.

Fact. It has to be said, and the Council has to take this into account, but a decision to go ahead with the closure will deeply demoralise a swathe of schools, staff and school leaders across the Borough. The message that Council will be sending is that it does not want schools such as Sullivan regardless of how well they are doing or how high their standards are.

The reality is that the Council does not have an effective strategy to help schools become “Schools of Choice” within its own terms of reference and yet Sullivan School could be used as a model and a resource to reach out, in conjunction with other good and excellent schools across the Borough, to develop other schools and broaden their appeal.

Sullivan School is

- A Good School
 - A school with outstanding features
 - A school which merits Gold Club standard from the GLA and Mayor of London
 - A deeply loved and valued school which is growing in popularity
 - A viable school
 - A school with a great future ahead of it in conjunction with the LDBS
 - A school with a unique environmental setting essential to the growth and well being of the children it serves.
-
- **A school that cannot be closed for any rational, professional, educational, moral or ethical reason.**



LIBERAL DEMOCRATS **Hammersmith & Fulham**

Terry Broady, London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham
By email: terry.broady@lbhf.gov.uk

Paul Kennedy
Chair, H&F Lib Dems
26 Barclay Road
Fulham SW6 1EH
Tel 020 7736 3252
info@hflibdems.org.uk

11 December 2013

Dear Mr Broady

Objection to proposed closure of Sullivan Primary School

Hammersmith & Fulham Liberal Democrats strongly oppose the Council's proposal to discontinue Sullivan Primary School (Sullivan) with effect from 1 September 2014. We see no justification for closing a popular and successful primary school, recently recognised as one of the top-performing schools in London, and with a waiting list of 29 for its oversubscribed Nursery Class. The Council's vague and vacuous 'merger' proposals with New King's School have attracted virtually no support from parents at either school, and have been roundly condemned by the local community – with the exception of supporters of a free school which potentially stands to gain from vacation of the Sullivan site. We consider the current proposals should be abandoned so as to allow time for:

- **Consideration of Sullivan's (and New King's) academy application(s) by the Department for Education (DfE)** – Sullivan's application has received overwhelming support from parents, teachers and the wider community and is backed by the experienced London Diocesan Board for Schools (LDBS); the Council is heavily conflicted by its interest in Sullivan's land and its links to a free school, and should not usurp the DfE's functions by summarily dismissing the application and purporting to take an irrevocable decision to close Sullivan now when an academy conversion takes just 3-4 months to complete;
- **The current round of primary school applications closing on 15 January 2014 to proceed in an orderly fashion** - without the risk of significant uncertainty, disruption and potential reopening of applications for families and schools across the Borough and indeed in neighbouring boroughs if a judicial review or other appeal against a perverse, procedurally flawed and improperly motivated decision is successful; and
- **A proper independent review of the Council's handling of its consultation on closing Sullivan** - in view of serious and widespread concerns about lack of pre-consultation; inaccurate, selective and misleading content and lack of balance in considering options; lack of proper differentiation, control and validation over consultation responses in the face of a concerted campaign by supporters of another school to influence the outcome; perverse, selective and unbalanced interpretation of results; summary and unjustified dismissal of Sullivan's academy proposals; the lack of independence and objectivity of conflicted decision-makers and governance over the Triborough Executive; and defects in the discontinuance notice and its publication.

The Liberal Democrats exist to build and safeguard a free, fair and open society in which we seek to balance the fundamental values of liberty, equality and community and in which no-one shall be enslaved by poverty, ignorance or conformity. We support the Coalition Government's policy of giving greater autonomy to parents and teachers, through the academies programme; and of supporting the establishment of free schools which are genuinely needed, inclusive, and properly run for the benefit of pupils and the wider community. We oppose injustice, arbitrary and improperly motivated interventions, and abuse and corruption of power by or on behalf of vested interests.

Our fundamental objection is that the Council has failed to put forward a proper justification for closing Sullivan. Apart from the historic issue of empty places in older years (and publishing incorrect data suggesting there are unfilled places in the Reception Class), the only justification put forward by the Council is that Sullivan's closure might help two other schools, one of which is small and undersubscribed and the other is looking for a site.

Sullivan appears to be a thriving and increasingly popular school, with nearly 300 pupils, a full Reception Class (76% put Sullivan as their first choice), and a waiting list of 29 children for its oversubscribed Nursery Class. Indeed it seems to be a 'pupil premium' success story: a school formerly in special measures, with a large proportion of children from disadvantaged families, which thanks to the efforts of teachers, governors and parents over the last 5 years has progressively improved its results so that it is close to being rated Outstanding, and has started attracting more applicants. Sullivan was recently awarded membership of the Mayor of London's Gold Club for top-performing schools based on exceptional KS2 results.

The main obstacle to further progress seems to be the Council itself, which is why we are backing Sulvan's academy application. The Council has blocked Sullivan's request to expand its Nursery Class to provide a regular intake for its Reception Class. Sullivan supporters complain of a lack of engagement from the Council, for example by failing to pre-consult Sullivan about its proposals, and publishing incorrect and misleading information. We are worried by the apparent failure of the Triborough Executive to engage properly with Sullivan or to offer it the same level of support it seems to be offering to the proposed amalgamated school or the free school. It seems to us that the Council is too heavily conflicted by its financial interest in Sullivan's land and its political commitment to the free school to be able to make objective decisions in the interests of the pupils of Sullivan school and the wider community. We are also concerned that the Council's proposals for two years of disruption, and the scale and location of the eventual New King's site, will deter many parents from applying to either Sullivan or New King's School in the current application round for September 2014.

The crux of the argument in the Council's public statutory notice for "amalgamating" Sullivan and New King's School is:

"We think that by bringing together these two schools on one site, building on the best from each will help the amalgamated school attract more families, fill current surplus places and provide a securer future."

It is of course true that by closing Sullivan and forcing its pupils to transfer to New King's, the Council will artificially increase the number of pupils at New King's, even though many parents have told us that they would rather move their children elsewhere. There may even be places for some of its teachers. However, it is far from clear how the amalgamated school would 'build' on any of the features of Sullivan which have made it such a success over the last 5 years. Sullivan would be demolished and its award-winning head teacher and many of its senior staff would be sacked. Sullivan pupils would be evicted from their beautiful school next to a park, and placed in a high-rise building on a busy road. There is a significant risk that the expanded New King's School would end up with more surplus places than ever, and someone would need to establish a new primary school at public expense to meet the needs of families living in South Fulham.

The vision of an amalgamated school presented by the Council and the New King's head teacher and its academy sponsors got a very rough ride indeed from parents at the public meeting I attended (along with many parents I was locked out of the first meeting which was full). We wish New King's School well with its academy application but there was no confidence at all that the proposals would address the purported concerns of the Council in relation to families living in South Fulham. The one clear message from the consultation responses is that just a handful of parents associated with the two schools agreed with the proposals while hundreds objected, and thousands objected from the wider community.

The Council has dismissed concerns about the impact of closure on pupils, despite evidence from other schools that disruption (and two moves in two years for New King's pupils) affects performance. We are particularly concerned about the impact on disabled pupils for whom Sullivan is ideally suited.

The statutory notices claim the two schools are "very close" together, and that there will be no impact on traffic and transport arrangements. However, the two schools are no closer together than other primary schools in Fulham. According to the Transport for London website (using the slower walking pace setting appropriate for primary school children and their families), the two schools are 10 minutes' walk apart (or 8 minutes plus waiting time by public transport).

Closure of Sullivan would create a large hole in primary school provision in South Fulham to the South of New King's Road and the West of Wandsworth Bridge Road, leaving some pupils more than 25 minutes' walk from the nearest English-speaking primary school, with no public transport options. In practice many of them will travel by car, increasing congestion on the New King's Road and surrounding streets. Again we consider that if Sullivan is closed a new primary school will be needed to serve its existing community.

As for the dog-whistle issue that the Sullivan site might be vacated so as to become available for Fulham Boys Free School - which attracted agreement with the Council's proposals from many of its supporters - that is not mentioned as an objective of the plans because it is not a proper reason for closing a popular and successful school. In any event, that proposal is not officially on the table. The Council's statement is equivocal and, for all we know, it may be planning to sell some or all of the land for development. We wish Fulham Boys well in its search for a suitable site. Other sites are and will become available. Closing down a

popular and successful primary school just to provide Fulham Boys with the vague possibility of a site is not the solution, as Fulham Boys itself has acknowledged. Fulham Boys' search for a site should not be used by the Council as cover for asset-stripping.

We also have concerns about the Council's handling and presentation of the consultation and its results, which have undermined public confidence in the validity of its decision-making process. The Council failed to consider other options or the prejudice which would be caused to families; and its summary dismissal of Sullivan's plans to become an academy – *"it is unclear from the proposal how the academy conversion in itself would make the school more popular with parents than it is now"* – is hard to justify given the lack of clarity about its own plans. The Council has rightly been challenged on this by the prestigious and experienced LDBS which ironically backs both Sullivan and Fulham Boys. There is one immediate step opposed by the Council – expansion of Sullivan's oversubscribed Nursery Class to match the size of its Reception Class – which would virtually secure Sullivan a full Reception Class.

A major concern we raised in response to the consultation is that it conflated three different issues in an apparent attempt to recruit supporters of Fulham Boys and New King's School to back what was in effect a plebiscite on closing Sullivan. Although the overwhelming majority of consultation responses strongly disagreed with the Council's plans, it still managed to publish a selective headline "Parents back schools plan". In fact it seems that no current Sullivan parents supported the proposals while hundreds opposed. It is also likely that at most only a handful of current New King's parents backed the proposal.

There has been an impressively concerted campaign by supporters of Fulham Boys to influence the outcome of the consultation. However, the presentation of these responses (standard comments about the need for a free school, completion of forms by canvassers, many anonymous) raises serious questions about how many of the purported respondents had properly engaged with the central issue of the 'merger' proposals in the consultation. The Council has counted these uncorroborated responses as being from 'parents' and ignored the signed petitions from over 3,000 opposing. In our view, the Council should not have treated "we want a free school" responses as supportive of the substance of its 'merger' proposals for Sullivan and New King's School either.

A particular concern about the consultation is that there were no controls or even instructions for respondents about when to self-certify as 'parents' or as being 'associated' with Sullivan or New King's Schools, as well as confusion about the question. Of the 23 respondents recorded in support of the Council's proposals who self-certified as 'parents' 'associated' with Sullivan, it seems that only one was actually a current or even recent parent known to staff. And it was clear from his comments that he had simply been confused by the question in the consultation document and in fact strongly opposed the closure of his children's school. A similar conclusion is likely for the 37 'parents' 'associated' with New King's School who were recorded as supporting the Council's proposals. The Council has made a similar point about the over 800 responses opposing closure from 'parents' 'associated' with Sullivan, but even it seems to accept that the overwhelming majority of Sullivan parents strongly oppose the 'merger'.

The Council's Education Cabinet Member is reported as saying the Council will have to take 'difficult decisions' and that:

The strength of the response on both sides of this issue has led us to decide to continue to the next phase of the process.

With respect, the strength of opposition and lack of any direct support from the consultation for the Council's 'merger' proposals should instead have led the Council to stop and consider alternatives, rather than simply "continue to the next phase" and rush out what turned out to be defective public statutory notices of discontinuance. Even now we consider that the public has not been given the full six weeks' notice of the final version of the notices, and the Council's proposals are still very difficult to find on its website, particularly when the discontinuance notice simply tells readers to go to www.lbhf.gov.uk.

To proceed now to closure of Sullivan – without proper DfE scrutiny of either the Sullivan academy application or the New King's School academy application put forward by the Council as a vehicle for amalgamation but still untested and untrusted - would not just be a 'difficult decision'. It would be a perverse, premature and irrational response to the consultation process, exposing Council taxpayers to costly litigation, and potentially plunging the current primary schools applications round into chaos.

There has been a lot of speculation about the Council's real motives in closing Sullivan, most of which we hope is untrue. To make a decision to close a school – either to get hold of its land for asset-stripping or because of local Conservatives' ideological obsession with promoting free schools or their links with Fulham Boys - would of course be disgraceful. However, even a suspicion of bias would further undermine public confidence in the validity of local government decision-making in our Borough.

The question for this Council administration ahead of the forthcoming local elections is this. Does it really want to be remembered for bringing into disrepute both the Government's flagship academies and free schools programme and local government decision-making - by closing down a popular and successful primary school in order to grab its land for a free school?

I am copying this letter and a request for an independent review of the Council's consultation process to the Secretary of State for Schools and the Minister of State for Schools and the Cabinet Office, the Secretary of State and Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, LDBS and the Governors of Sullivan. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Kennedy
Chair, Hammersmith & Fulham Liberal Democrats



PRARA

www.prara.org.uk

**Peterborough Road and Area Residents'
Association**

**incorporating Clancarty Road, Daisy Lane, Hugon Road,
South Park Mews, Sullivan Road and Settrington Road**

Please reply to: 21 Clancarty Road, Fulham, London, SW6 3AH

9th December, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Broady,

**PUBLIC STATUTORY NOTICE - LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND
FULHAM**

**PROPOSAL TO AMALGAMATE SULIVAN PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NEW KING'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL BY DISCONTINUANCE OF SULIVAN PRIMARY SCHOOL AND
ENLARGEMENT OF NEW KING'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**

On behalf of our several hundred members whose interests we are here to represent and protect, this letter is to record, in the strongest possible terms, our opposition to this proposal to close Sullivan School. On all the evidence and information made available to us, the original consultation about the amalgamation of Sullivan and New King's Primary Schools was deeply flawed as indicated below. Further, the means by which the consultation result, which was against amalgamation, turned into a recommendation to the Education Committee that the amalgamation process should proceed, is neither clear, convincing nor publicly transparent. The case for closure is therefore not proven and is eroding trust in both the democratic process and in the Council's integrity.

By way of example, we highlight the following:

- The consultation was hi-jacked by supporters of Fulham Boys School, many with unproven links to the area of concern in south Fulham, whose only objective was to secure the Sullivan site rather than to comment on Council proposals for primary education locally.
- The views of local associations, including PRARA and HDRA, were excluded from the consultation results.

Continued

PRARA STANDING COMMITTEE AND MAIN CONTACTS

Co-ordinator: Sue Oriel, 21 Clancarty Road, SW6 3AH Tel: 07768 231 058 Email: sue@sueoriel.co.uk

Clancarty Road: Anthony Williams, 59 Clancarty Road, SW6 3AH Tel: 7736 6045 Email: Gileswill@aol.com

Daisy Lane: Guy Nicolson, 21 Daisy Lane, SW6 3DD Tel: 7736 8015 Email: guy@guynicolson.co.uk

Settrington Road: Marjorie Simonds-Gooding, 50 Settrington Road, SW6 3BA Tel: 020 7731 8866 Email: marjorie@simonds-gooding.net

Hugon Road & South Park Mews and Membership Secretary: Jonnie Godfrey, 47 Hugon Road, SW6 3ER, Tel: 07952 016 223

Email: jgodfrey@icuknet.co.uk

Sullivan Road: Brendan Bird, 1 Sullivan Road, SW6 3DT Tel: 7736 8722 Email: brendanbird3@btinternet.com

Peterborough Road North: Fenella Gray, 65 Peterborough Road SW6 3BT Email: fenellagray@waitrose.com

South Park: Beth Patrick, 69 Clancarty Road, SW6 3BB Tel: 7731 0573 Email: bethpatrick1@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Watch : Lance & Sue Pierson, 48 Peterborough Road, SW6 3EB Tel: 7731 6544 Email: lance@lancepierson.org

Hon. Secretary & Peterborough Road South: Ann Rosenberg, 72 Peterborough Road, SW6 3EB Tel: 7731 5151

Email: annntony@which.net

Mr. Terry Broady from PRARA

- The manner in which weighting was applied or not applied is not apparent, with every indication that it has favoured the result that the Council wanted and is particularly unfair and unjust in respect of the pupils, parents and staff of Sullivan School.
- The Council heavily criticised the NHS for counting the 18 petitions against the closure of Charing Cross Hospital, which contained 66,000 names, as 18 responses and yet it has itself ignored the petition numbers presented in the consultation and not factored them in to the results.

The following additional statements are made for the attention and benefit of the Cabinet of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham when they consider the amalgamation proposals.

Given the Council's publicly stated desire to make the Sullivan site available for the Fulham Boys School, we must place on record the complete failure so far of the Council to provide an assessment of the potential impact that the use of this site for the Fulham Boys School would have on our area. We believe it can only be harmful to the local environment and have an adverse and unacceptable impact on the quality of life of residents. As such we consider it irresponsible of the Council to continue to promote the use of the Sullivan School site by the Fulham Boys School, and make a decision about it, in the way that it is doing without having fully considered all the implications and likely consequences of such use.

We have no objection to, and indeed sympathy for, the establishment of the Fulham Boys School and hope a suitable site can be found elsewhere.

Yours sincerely,



Sue Oriel
Co-ordinator

Copies to:

Cabinet Members: Nicholas Botterill, Greg Smith, Helen Binmore, Mark Loveday, Marcus Ginn, Andrew Johnson, Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler, Georgie Cooney

Cllrs. Frances Stainton, Steve Hamilton, Ali de Lisle and Jane Law - via e-mail

Mr. Andrew Christie, Tri-Borough Executive Director of Childrens' Services - via e-mail

Mr. Ian Higgs, Tri-Borough Director for Schools Commissioning - via e-mail

Mr. Inigo Woolf, Chief Executive, London Diocesan Board for Schools - via e-mail

Mr. Greg Hands, MP - via e-mail

Broady Terry

Subject: FW: RE Proposal to amalgamate Sullivan Primary and New King's Primary on the site of NK's Site + Proposed release of the Sullivan site for the FBS

From: Nethercot Keith

Sent: 10 December 2013 09:33

To: Broady Terry

Cc: Cllr Cooney Georgie; Cllr Ginn Marcus; Cllr Botterill Nicholas; Cllr Loveday Mark; greg.smith@lbhf.gov.uk; Cllr Stainton Frances; Cllr Johnson Andrew; mail@greghands.com

Subject: RE Proposal to amalgamate Sullivan Primary and New King's Primary on the site of NK's Site + Proposed release of the Sullivan site for the FBS

Dear Mr Broady,

We have already registered our concerns and opposition to the Council proposals regarding the above through Mr Michael DeLacey's recent email addressed Councillor Cooney.

So there is no doubt in the interpretation of the objections being made, **the Hurlingham District Residents Association** are opposed to the planned amalgamation on the grounds of the Council having undertaken a flawed 'consultation' skewing the outcome to match the Council arguments in favour of the amalgamation. The evidence is that Sullivan is a popular and academically effective school and there is no 'popular' wish by parents, most who live close by, or teaching staff for the proposed changes to be made.

In terms of the proposed Fulham Boys School we strongly believe the Council's plans have taken no account of the impact the schools' presence will have on the local community, increasing traffic, reducing car park spaces, leading to over utilisation of the local Parks especially Hurlingham Park, and creating added nuisance and stress. In terms of traffic alone, the neighbourhood is already excessively busy , a conduit for 'rat running' and its effects , together with the huge volume of traffic to the Hurlingham Club as well as traffic and Parking stress resulting from FFC and CFC matches.

It is obvious for all to see that the proposed amalgamation and effective closure of Sullivan is a convenient way of releasing a site for the FBS . Combined with a skewered consultation process the 'arguments' for releasing the site to FBS are presented as de facto : the local Community is not at all convinced and so, we oppose your proposition.

Yours Sincerely,

Keith Nethercot
HDRA

Hurlingham District Residents Association

Councillor Georgie Cooney
Head Member for Education
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham
Town Hall
Kings Street
Hammersmith
London W6 9JU

8 December 2013

Dear Councillor Cooney,

Sullivan School

It was a pleasure to meet you earlier last week with members of your team.

As agreed in view of our ongoing concerns you asked that we write to you.

Consultation Process

In the Cabinet Member Decision dated 18 October page 7 para 5.3 it states HDRA expressed concern about the impact on the local area and requested a survey.

At the meeting on Wednesday Terry Broady conceded that we had also objected to the amalgamation of the Sullivan School with the New Kings School . This should be recorded.

The question put to you was if the HDRA objection was not included then how many others were "overlooked", for whatever reason.

Like many others we question the reliability of the Consultation Process. One has the impression it has been influenced by FBS. The Council needs to assure us this is not the case.

Alternative sites available - we hear there are two. Your response was vague. PRARA asked about Earls Court. We would like further comment from you on this suggestion.

Holistic Survey/Impact on the area

Requested by PRARA over 3 months ago.

It begs the question why was it necessary for PRARA to take the initiative. A survey should have been called just as soon as the Council, or whoever, was contacted by FBS requesting a site. Why the survey has taken so long to complete only you know but it leaves one to think that you would have not called a survey unless PRARA had asked for one. It is worth noting that the survey only covers Traffic in the vaguest form.

What we expected was a survey to cover the full impact of a school of FBS size specifically on our neighbourhood.

Talk is of a figure of 800 pupils. You must not forget teachers and support staff must be included. The impact of deliveries to the school - buses for transporting students for whatever reason to venues elsewhere. Buses heading for Hurlingham Park tend to park in Hurlingham Road taking up residents parking bays.

We asked the question why did Project Centre (PC) not contact PRARA and HDRA for their thoughts/opinions.

We requested a copy of the brief you gave PC - may we have a copy?

PC failed to mention other traffic problem areas which cause a major nuisance especially around the time FBS plan to open 0900hrs close 1700hrs.

Between the hours of 0800hrs/0930hrs and 1600hrs/1900rs these are the problem times. No mention of the regular problems in NKR (Eastwards in the morning Westwards in the evening) nor Broomhouse Road/Alderville Road/Linver Road & Hurlingham Road.

Hurlingham Road has in recent years become a rat run with traffic coming off the NK Road and Wandsworth Bridge. **The Council know this.**

Sullivan School was visited by PC on just one morning. Why not also late afternoon/early evening? The survey is not complete, and that is just on traffic. Reference is made to pedestrian crossings but vaguely. Crossings, or the lack of them, are a serious problem. We are aware of one school in the area who have written several letters to the Council. They still await a response. To note HDRA have met with Councillors on this issue but no action was taken.

No mention of the likelihood of Thames Water building a sewer nearby.

Other areas not included in the survey

Located close to Hurlingham and Chelsea School - we referred to Mr Stephen Greenhalgh's comment (yr Cabinet Member Decision of 18/10 para 5.3) "expressed

concern at the proposal to locate a new boys secondary school so close to H & C".

Mr Greenhalgh's concern must be taken seriously after all he was leader of the Council and currently Chair of H&C School. One has the impression this has not been considered at all - by the Council. We gained the impression at the meeting you are more interested in the close proximity to nearby Lady Margaret's School. We can not understand why?

Hurlingham Park - likely is one of the busiest sporting parks in the Borough throughout the year - Rugby, Football and since 2009 Polo organized by City Events. They have recently signed a 7 year contract with the Council.

We understand from one of the Country's leading turf experts the pitches can not sustain additional sporting activities.

At one stage FBS claimed they had no plans to use the park and would bus pupils to other parks. Later we were told it would be used - bookings being made thru the Council. At the meeting with you, we were told FBS would **only** use it on Wednesday afternoons, by 800 boys! This is not worthy of a response from HDRA but let us say this was true with the park just across the road boys are not going to miss the opportunity to cross the road during their free time.

Residents living in surrounding streets are very worried at the thought of large numbers of 14/19 year old boys walking to/fro the school. Whatever FBS say boys will be boys out of school with every possibility of fights/trouble with H & C School.

The inevitable rubbish left by the boys. The Council is cutting back on street cleaning obviously to reduce costs to maintain their claim of being a low Council Tax Borough.

Police not consulted - you have previously told us it's premature. My understanding of the Police, granted some years ago when I was involved with a Crime Prevention Panel at Paddington Green Police Station, they like to be consulted sooner rather than later. The subject area has had serious crime problems.

The Council gives the impression they are not interested in what impact FBS will have on our area. If they were then they would have consulted with us before and given PC a proper brief - not just covering traffic. The Survey indicates you have little or no understanding of this area and the impact FBS will have.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Regards


Michael de Lacey

**Hurlingham District Residents Association
52 Hurlingham Road
London SW6 3RQ**

From: Richard Kirtley [mailto:Richard@cityevents.uk.com] **On Behalf Of** Richard Kirtley
Sent: 13 September 2013 11:35
To: 'terry.broadly@lbhf.gov.uk'
Cc: Rory Heron; Daniel Fox-Davies (Daniel@fox-davies.com)
Subject: Sullivan School Site Proposal
Importance: High

Dear Terry,

I wanted to contact you regarding the proposals regarding the future of Sullivan School on Broomhouse Lane. I have been made aware of this recently and have read all the relevant literature available. This proposal is of particular concern to me and the company I work for (City Events Ltd) due to our usage of Hurlingham Park (directly across the road from the school) as an event site. We run an annual three day event at the site, and our business is significantly reliant on this event as our primary income source.

The event is 'MINT Polo in the Park' (www.polointheparklondon.com) which has been running annually since 2009 and caters for up to 12,000 people daily across Friday, Saturday and Sunday on the first weekend of June each year. The event is a large and ambitious international sporting fixture which requires us to take over the park in its entirety for three weeks each year in order to create the event infrastructure.

Before I file our opinions on this proposal with those involved in the consultation process I have some questions I am hoping you can answer:

How do you propose to make this tiny school site cater for 800 pupils?

- Will this involve construction work?
- If so, when will this construction work be scheduled for
- What effect on local infrastructure could we expect this work to have, and how long would the work take?
- Has any thought been put into how this work might clash with the other large project up the road 'The Super Sewer'?

How will the school be accessed for the daily 'school run'?

- Which road will be designated as the primary access route?
- Will there be any work done to improve this access as these roads are notoriously congested even catering for the current much smaller school?
- What will be done about parking, drop-off and pick-ups?

I am aware that the proposed boys school is being discussed as providing a full sporting element within the curriculum – what sports are being proposed, and where is it proposed that these sports will take place?

What access to the facilities of Hurlingham Park are being discussed as potential facilities for the school?

How much access will boys at the proposed school be allowed to the park during term time?

As a business we are deeply invested in this site and the local area. As well as providing a good income to the council and the benefit the event has to the local economy, we also have a firm commitment to improving the park annually whilst working with local residents committee's to ensure we have a positive influence in the area wherever possible.

Our event is reliant on clear access to the park and unhindered, full usage of the park throughout our rental period. We have over 250 HGV vehicle movements throughout our time on-site amongst many other vehicle access movements. We are also reliant on the parks grass surface being of a certain standard in order for us to be able to create a professional playing surface in the limited time we have on-site. In the 4 weeks before we take over the site, our grounds-team require daily access to the site and regular usage of industrial size mowing, seeding, fertilising and rolling equipment. All this would be required during standard school term-time. For these reasons, you will understand my deep concern of putting any more strain on what is already a heavily over-used park, and any more pressure on what is already a choked up local highway system.

I look forward to some detailed feedback on all this.

Best wishes,

Richard

Richard Kirtley

Operations Manager
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Like: <http://www.facebook.com/polointhepark>

Follow: <http://twitter.com/PolointhePark>



One Tudor Street, London EC4 0AH www.polointheparklondon.com

Objection to statutory notice by H & F Council to close Sullivan Primary School in Parsons Green-Fulham

31 October 2013

Dear Cllr Cooney/ Cllr Binmore/Cllr Botterill

C/o Mr Terry Broady

Opposition to Hammersmith & Fulham Cabinet Statutory Notice to Close Sullivan Primary School in Parsons Green-London SW 6

As residents of Sullivan Court Estate strongly oppose Council decision and statutory notice dated 18 October 2013. Sullivan Court Estate history is intertwined with Sullivan Primary School led by an inspirational-passionate head teacher Ms Wendy Aldridge which was graded good with outstanding features by Ofsted and early this year was exempted from further inspection. You were very biased from the start of the consultation process by informing Sullivan Primary School Chair of governors and Head teacher very late before the summer break about the consultation process. Sullivan primary school was denied full information regarding consultation process under freedom of information Act. Our local MPs notably MP Greg and MP Slaughter were made aware of the residents and parents concerns regarding your decision to close a good local community school.

Results of the Consultation Process:

Quantitative Responses:

62% (2226) opposed proposal to close Sullivan and 38% were in favour. It was also clear that only 2% (60) of parents from New Kings and Sullivan Primary supported proposal to merge the two schools out of 3600 and 98% opposed proposal. Council spinned the statistics by excluding parents, residents, staff and pupils linked to the two schools and rather focussed on Free Boys Academy respondents who supported proposal by 52% as opposed to 48% against. I question why the Council reported raw data instead of using percentages which are easier to understand by majority of the respondents. Democracy dictates that once you give people a vote you have to abide by the outcomes. The vote against closure and merger of the two schools was significant at 62 % No compared 38% Yes vote. Speaker Bercow would have been very clear "the no have it the no have it".

Qualitative Responses:

1. Public Consultation debates at New Kings and Sullivan Primary school s was unanimous against merger /closure of Sullivan Primary School. Cllr Cooney failed to answer simple basic questions on promised educational provisions resulting from merger (verbatim records of minutes of the public consultations confirm this fact)

Objection to statutory notice by H & F Council to close Sullivan Primary School in Parsons Green-Fulham

2. Sullivan Primary school parents, staff and local residents opposed proposal
3. Only Free Boys Schools parents and sympathisers were sampled in some quoted respondents.
4. Concern that proposal will affect children's education especially Year 5 and 6
5. Overall lack of planning for post merger /closure transition.
6. Equal Opportunities Act ignored in staff redeployment in merged school. No advertisement of positions envisaged.

It is a matter of great public interest and concern for elected Tory Councillors to overturn the will of the respondents who voted in majority 62% (2226) against proposal to close Sullivan Primary School and give site to a Free Boys Academy. It is also unprecedented for the H & F Council to close Ofsted rated good local primary school with an inspirational experienced passionate head teacher simply because the rich parents want the site for dream single sex Free Boys Academy. Catholic London Oratory and CE Lady Margaret are outstanding schools serving community very well. Parents appreciate the dream of having a Free Boys Academy but not at the expense of closing a good local community primary school. *Council has been very silent on surplus secondary school places in the borough yet they blow up primary school surplus places which are an advantage given London wide shortage of places!!*

PM Cameron was decisive when faced a vote against Britain joining US military offensive against Syria for using chemical weapons and emphatically asserted publicly that you understood the message. He accepted defeat and by doing so diplomatically made the US President Obama to seek congressional approval which actions in the end saved lives of ordinary Syrians from missile strikes. Democracy and diplomacy worked thanked to your decisiveness after losing the vote.

We the residents and parents appeal to you councillors Binmore, Cllr Cooney, cllr Nicholas Botterill, Parsons Green /Walham Councillors Mark Loveday, Frances Stainton (Mayor) to follow PM Cameron courageous actions and accept the verdict of over 2226 respondents (62%) who opposed the proposal to close Sullivan Primary School-good local community school with a history of over 60 years. Britain gives to the world fair play and democratic values including respect for the rule of law regardless of status/position. Council has erred in ignoring the majority No vote (62%). You still hold the cards on reversing your decision to

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close a good local community school which has a proud history of over 60 years offering quality education to children in parsons green.

The decision to close Sullivan Primary School is a political decision to find a free site for CE affiliated Free Boys Academy which has been a dream for some sections of Fulham community. The point of surplus places, economies of scale, low student numbers and parental choice have been used to covertly disguise the real intent of finding a dream site for a Free Boys Academy. Sullivan Primary School nursery and foundation stage are full with waiting lists. It is also on record that it is the Council that has been sabotaging Sullivan Primary School expansion by refusing the two form entry requests.

Impact of proposal to pupils from both schools

1. Low staff morale due to resulting redundancies and loss of jobs, staff turnover
2. Parents and Children not happy with proposed status quo
3. Overcrowding and temporary teaching in porter cabins
4. Chaos and possible Ofsted inspection visit which is likely to down grade school to satisfactory/inadequate
5. Year 5 and Year 6 pupils in final years likely to miss targets as staff and management takes eyes off the ball due to instabilities resulting from acrimonious closure of Sullivan Primary School.
6. Animosity to new Principal of merged school for the cavalier way he has been used by Council to achieve objective of giving away Sullivan Primary School site to a Free Boys Academy.

Children have one chance in life to achieve the best possible results at KS2 and unfortunately our current Year 5 and 6 will be the sacrificial lambs in this biased process. Schools of Choice Agenda policy and parental involvement in decision making likely to affect children matters to all parents regardless of social economic status.

Under the statutory notice to close, respondents have new opportunities to submit their objections. I am taking this offer to appeal to your good office to counsel conservative Councillors to reverse undemocratic decision and abide by the majority decision to leave both schools open. Statistics throughout London shows lack of primary school places. Let us look beyond 5 years to 15 years in planning adequately for education provision at the

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primary school phase. The more good local primary schools we have the better regardless. Published research clearly shows a strong correlation between small class sizes and pupil outcomes.

Legal Redress:

Aggrieved parents, staff and schools have a right to seek arbitration/mediation services and if these options fail to apply to the Courts of law for either injunction setting aside the statutory notice or judicial review process. Improper use of authority, exceeding powers and public interest concerns are realistic grounds to bring against the Council. Lewisham hospital campaigners have just won a Court of Appeal decision against Secretary for health for exceeding powers. It is notable that Haringey Council has agreed to settle Baby P former director once again due to failure by council/education secretary failure to follow procedure in dismissing Director x. The Secretary for Transport after awarding train franchise was forced by courts to put process on hold after Richard Branson Virgin trains sought legal redress.

In summary, let us find a way to resolve this matter by following advice from local GP”

- 1. Allow New Kings to proceed to become an academy with likely increase in numbers*
- 2. Keep Sullivan Primary School open*
- 3. Find another site for the Free Boys Academy”*

Our children are not just numbers but have dreams and aspirations nurtured by two good local schools led by two outstanding head teachers. Education is not about quantity but quality that is why rich parents pay fees in private schools to have access to small class sizes and broad curriculum. It is good for ordinary parents and pupils to have local community schools providing smaller class sizes with verifiable demonstrable outcomes at all key stages.

Sullivan Primary School has put in a proposal to become an Academy supported by CE London Diocesan Board. We have been consulted as parents and fully support proposal as the best way of keeping our good local school open. Children have one chance in life. Sullivan Primary school staff and head teacher have for years provided outstanding quality education and after school care for our children. Results at KS1 and KS 2 do validate authoritatively the undeniable research link between small class sizes and educational outcomes. Nursery and reception places are full with waiting lists for 2014. Sullivan Primary school staff and head

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teacher have for years provided outstanding quality education and after school care for our children.

Please withdraw the statutory notice and start mediation process with the relevant stakeholders is the most sensible way forward. Councillor should listen to the voices of the concerned parents and residents. The rationale for establishing Sullivan Primary School was to provide primary education to children of ordinary residents at Sullivan Court Estate and neighbouring areas. The decision to give the most beautiful site for primary school childrens to Free Boys Academy has been democratically contested and the no vote of 62% won. Council must respect the no verdict.

We look forward to the Council accepting the majority no verdict and allow Sullivan Primary School to become an Academy.

Yours sincerely

Mr Matthias Kulubya



367 Sullivan Court

London SW6 3BZ

On behalf of Sullivan Court Estates Residents Association

And Parent of Daughter in Year 5 at Sullivan Primary School

Kulubyam@hotmail.com and 07883018090

C.c Cllr Nicholas Botterill—Leader Hammersmith & Fulham

Cllr Georgie Cooney-Cabinet Member for Education

Cllr Binmore -Cabinet Member for Children's Service

Cllr Andrew Johnson-Cabinet Member for Housing

Rosie Wait Chair of Governors Sullivan Primary School

Al-Muntada Al-Islami Trust
7 Bridges Place, Parsons Green,
London SW6 4HW, UK.

Tel: 020 7471 8271



المندى الإسلامي

7th November 2013

Dear Cllr Cooney

Response to closure of Sullivan Primary School

I am writing to express my significant concerns regarding the closure of Sullivan Primary School. As an Imam in the local community I support inclusive, community education that promotes values that transcend religious background but that are common to those of all religions and those of none. Specifically, I recognise the role that a community school has in a community and its ability to be a hub of social cohesion.

If we were to lose a successful primary school that already provides excellent education for so many from the Muslim community, and gain a secondary school that will not offer the same inclusivity, I do not believe the Council will have served the 33% of children at Sullivan Primary School that are of the Muslim faith. Moreover, you will have ignored your residents' preferences and formed an exclusive system of education.

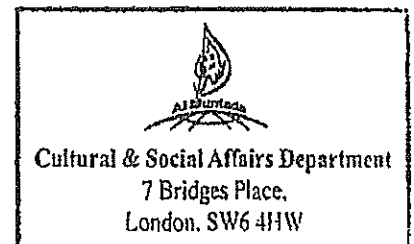
Do you feel it is right to plan for such exclusivity in Hammersmith and Fulham and the education it has a duty to provide for its residents?

Members of my community are also members of the Sullivan community. Your decision to proceed with the closure of Sullivan effectively removes their parental choice of both primary and secondary education. Should your tax payers' money be spent on a school that is not 100% inclusive? Do you feel this is putting your residents first and paying due attention to their preferences?

I support inclusivity regardless of gender, religion and socio-economic background. I presume that Hammersmith and Fulham Council do too. How does the decision, to close a school that already provides this successfully and the serious consideration of opening another that will not provide the same, fulfil your commitment to providing excellent education for all the young people in the Borough?

I await your reply in anticipation.


Wasim Kempson
Imam of Al Muntada Al Islami Trust



GREG HANDS M.P., CHELSEA & FULHAM



HOUSE OF COMMONS

Councillor Nicholas Botterill LONDON SW1A 0AA
Hammersmith & Fulham Council
Town Hall
King Street
London W6 9JU

Our ref: Iss/Sullivan/1310
20 December 2013

Dear Nick,

I have today met with two of my constituents and had a thorough discussion about the merging of Sullivan Primary and New King's Schools. Following this meeting I feel that it is necessary to seek answers to a few points I raised in my consultation response, which have yet to be fully addressed by the Council.

As you may be aware I have stated previously, both in my consultation response and outwardly in meetings, that my main concern is the overall increase in school places in Fulham. It is the primary responsibility of the Council and the Government to ensure that, based on the known demographic projections, there are enough primary and secondary school places in coming years and beyond. I believe that the Council is fulfilling its obligations to the local community by looking to increase school places, and this is therefore the main reason why I have not opposed the overall position.

I think we all appreciate the unique physical environment that Sullivan School offers. I suggested in my consultation that I would urge the Council to investigate the merits and demerits of the option of merging New King's School into Sullivan on the Sullivan site, thereby freeing up the New King's site for the Fulham Boys' School. As yet, I am not aware that this option has definitely been ruled out.

I would therefore be most grateful if you could provide more information on this option, and for any comments you may have to assure those affected by the propositions that all potential site options have been thoroughly explored.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Hands'.

Greg Hands MP
Member of Parliament for Chelsea and Fulham

