

*Residents Committee of
Court Crescent & Forge Lane*

Statutory Notice-School Standards and Organization Wales Act 2013

Ref ;Bassaleg School Proposed Expansion

"NOTICE OF OBJECTION"

Dated : 25th March 2021

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SUMMARY

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING MATERIAL (ATTACHED)

- **National School Delivery Cost Benchmarking for Primary & Secondary Schools**
- **LSE: Secondary school size; A systematic review**
- **Strategic Outline Case The Future Delivery of Post 16 Education & Training in Newport**

Introduction

Over the period from 2018 –to date The Council have continually focused on increasing the numbers at the School with no attempt to provide any meaningful infrastructure to accommodate the Traffic influx that this brings with each increase.

Newport Council announcement to create a “Super School” with provisionally 2050 Pupil places is totally mind blowing when School sizes are generally in the 1200 Pupil size. We have included in this document the analysis of School sizes and the results highlight that over 1500 Pupils results in the failure of a School in all departments except for Cost.

However because of The Councils preoccupation with Housing developments in the area this has produced numerous issues that we have failed to get addressed by the Council and neither with direct contact with the Management of Bassaleg School and the Chair of Governors.

Our Residents Committee was formed three years ago as a direct result of the issues with Traffic and School numbers. Of the 60 No. Residential Properties in Court Crescent and Forge Lane that we represent we undertook a poll of Residents to clarify what they required of the Committee to undertake and obtain some resolution on. The main feedback from 98% of Residents required a solution to the Traffic and parking issues generated by the School.

However our opinion is that Newport Council view this totally differently and in our minds judge it as a car park for the benefit of the School

Therefore we would comment on the failure of Newport City Council to engage and discuss the ramifications of your proposal as they have failed to do so in the past and to date have failed to accomplished any resolution with your Complaints Department on this subject.

ITEM 1. CATCHMENT AREA

In our opinion the catchment area for Bassaleg School should be reduced. The 340 No. Marshfield students should go to John Frost School which would increase their numbers to 1,500 Pupils.

The Council stated that John Frost School was at Capacity and Pupils would have to Travel to Llanwern School. Yet They are prepared to provide extra numbers at Bassaleg School but not spend money elsewhere or move demountable buildings from Bassaleg to John Frost to cater for the expansion. It is not unreasonable to expand John Frost School, the grounds have sufficient room to utilise three demountable building from Bassaleg School to accommodate these Pupils.

This would alleviate a large proportion of the School buses, parents cars and 6th Form Pupils from Court Crescent.

In addition Bassaleg School has allowed 275 No. Pupils to attend the School who are out of the Catchment Area. We fail to understand how The Council have allowed this situation to occur as it adds to the Traffic situation to quite a large degree.

Reduction in school numbers could be achieved from either the redeployment of the Marshfield students or those outside the catchment area which would negate any expansion of the School.

ITEM 2. IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The Neighbourhood is at total gridlock during the Monday to Friday period of the School days. The present levels of traffic are due to the last four years of the increase in Pupil numbers and Housing Developments in the area. Parents and School Buses continually block access into Court Crescent and with on occasions Buses stationary on the A467 Dual Carriageway, which is a major hazard to Traffic.

Pollution levels in the area of the front of the School and Caerphilly Road have been analysed and are as per the following;

Pm10, s –The EUs safe level of 40 micrograms per cubic metre was exceeded and a reading of 128. Micrograms per cubic metre was recorded. ¹

Similarly the Pm2.5 levels -with an unhealthy level above 25-was recorded at 116.

Wales Online "The forgotten people left to grow-up, live and die in pollution caused by the M4"

...On four occasions WalesOnline measured the air quality along Caerphilly Road during morning rush hour.

To do this we used both a Flow pollution monitor from Plume Labs and a nitrogen dioxide monitor from Point Safety Ltd.

The readings were startling.

For context, a 24-hour concentration of PM2.5 (the more dangerous one) is considered unhealthy when it rises above 25 micrograms per cubic meter.

Our highest reading was 116.

For PM10 EU's safe particulate matter level, which stands at 40 micrograms per cubic metre.

Our highest reading was 128.

¹ <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/forgotten-people-left-grow-up-17920075>

Pupils are affected by these levels on a daily basis both mornings and afternoon, yet Newport Council have paid no regard to this appalling situation considering Pupils are having to breathe in these levels for the seven years of their School Education.

This alone should pinpoint the abject failure of this Planning Application and the negativity of the proposals.

In your Consultation document you stated that the Traffic impact has largely been accounted for due to the improvements carried out by the Welsh Office to Bassaleg Roundabout. We cannot accept that you think that there is no issue with Traffic. Addition of Jubilee Parks development brings with it conservatively another 2000 vehicles/day

See photographs below



Pupils are affected by these levels on a daily basis both mornings and after school. The Newport Council have said in regard to this appalling situation considering pupils are having to travel in these levels for the seven years of their school education.

The above should prompt the school to submit the Planning Application and the necessity of the proposal.

In your recent decision you stated that the traffic impact has largely been accounted for in the improvements carried out by the Welsh Office to Bassaleg roundabout. We cannot accept that you think that there is no issue with traffic. Addition of school bus development brings with it a considerable amount of traffic on a daily basis.

See plan for details of proposed development.



Court Crescent / Forge Road
Gridlock



Buses Leaving Bassaleg School

The Traffic Enforcement Team was heralded as the solution to tackle inappropriate parking outside schools. However in reality they have totally failed to tackle this issue, using the five minute rule as the reason for inaction. Therefore it would be prudent to remove the Double Yellow lines and replace with a single Red line –No Stopping at any time. Then you new camera car could issue the appropriate fines.

In addition it is highly likely that we will face a further increase in vehicular traffic with the addition of another 1,000 properties being built at Jubilee Park and with the ongoing developments in the Caerphilly area at Bedwas and Machen of 600 properties this will also add to the present grid lock and increase in Pollution levels.

ITEM 3. NEW 1000 PUPIL CAPACITY SCHOOL

The building of a new School in Rogerstone off Chartist Drive would benefit all pupils in the area of Jubilee Park, High Cross, Mount Pleasant etc without the need for the provision of Newport Transport Bus Services. It would negate the need for Parents using their cars to drop pupils off at School. This alone would assist in greatly reducing pollution levels and Traffic snarl ups.

You have stated that you don't have the funds for a new school, however the attached document ² used by local councils in England for the Provision of such Schools verifies that the cost would be under £20 million pounds (£17401 x 1000 = \$17.401 million).

National School Delivery Cost Benchmarking | Primary, Secondary & SEN Schools
 Part Three | Secondary Schools | **New Development Refurbishment Summary**

A small sample of New Development and Refurbishment projects has been obtained. It is not possible to draw any conclusions or provide further commentary, but this information is given to show the emergence of the sample.

Figure 8 | New Development Average Cost Summary

| GIFA (m ²) | Gross Cost per m ² | | Net Cost per m ² | | Cost Per Pupil Place | | Sample Size |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| | Average | 20th Percentile 80th Percentile | Average | 20th Percentile 80th Percentile | Average | 20th Percentile 80th Percentile | |
| 0 - 2,500 | £2,129 | £1,922 £2,334 | £2,029 | £1,903 £2,195 | £11,107 | £7,721 £13,052 | 2 |
| 2,500 - 5,000 | No Data | | | | | | |
| 5,000 - 7,500 | £1,944 | £1,770 £1,917 | £1,444 | £1,309 £1,600 | £15,745 | £15,454 £16,035 | 2 |
| 7,500 - 10,000 | £2,397 | £2,194 £2,473 | £1,638 | £1,549 £1,741 | £19,795 | £15,905 £20,504 | 5 |
| 10,000 - 12,500 | £2,391 | £2,006 £2,692 | £1,645 | £1,485 £1,800 | £19,387 | £15,886 £20,534 | 3 |
| 12,500 - 15,000 | £2,725 | £2,725 £2,725 | £1,903 | £1,903 £1,903 | £23,205 | £23,205 £23,205 | 1 |
| Whole Sample All GIFA Bands | £2,294 | £1,941 £2,624 | £1,695 | £1,455 £1,915 | £17,401 | £14,845 £20,533 | 13 |

Figure 9 | Refurbishment Average Cost Summary

| GIFA (m ²) | Gross Cost per m ² | | Net Cost per m ² | | Cost Per Pupil Place | | Sample Size |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| | Average | 20th Percentile 80th Percentile | Average | 20th Percentile 80th Percentile | Average | 20th Percentile 80th Percentile | |
| 2,500 - 5,000 | £1,270 | £1,270 £1,280 | No Data | | £13,361 | £13,250 £13,467 | 2 |
| Whole Sample All GIFA Bands | £1,278 | £1,269 £1,286 | No Data | | £13,361 | £13,258 £13,467 | 2 |

Key Definitions
 New Development & Refurbishment
 Category definitions can be found on page 31.

Location Factor
 All costs have been normalised to a common UK average price level using regional location factors published by BCIS to accord with the UK Mean 100. Index taken at November 2017.

Inflation
 All costs have been updated to the latest Building Cost Information Service (BCIS) ALL-IN Tender Price of Index (TPI) of 1st Quarter 2017 of 298. Index taken from August 2017 data forecasts. This adjusts costs for inflation. VAT is excluded throughout.

Further definitions of key terms and footnotes outlining how the data has been treated can be found on page 31.

Hampshire County Council | EAST RIDING | Department for Education | Local Government | EBDGO | Page | 22 of 33 February 2018

National School Delivery Cost Benchmarking for Primary & Secondary Schools, page 22

This would therefore release £8 million pound to refurbish Bassaleg School and to provide additional classrooms at John Frost School.

² National School Delivery Cost Benchmarking for Primary & Secondary Schools

With the difficulty of obtaining clarification of your long term plans on future Housing Developments in the area we feel Newport Council should note the existing collaboration of Caerphilly Council on cross border use of Risca Comprehensive School which is closer to for some pupils than Bassaleg School and Newport Council are not being honest that this school will not be in an expansion mode again.

ITEM 4. SCHOOL ATTAINMENT

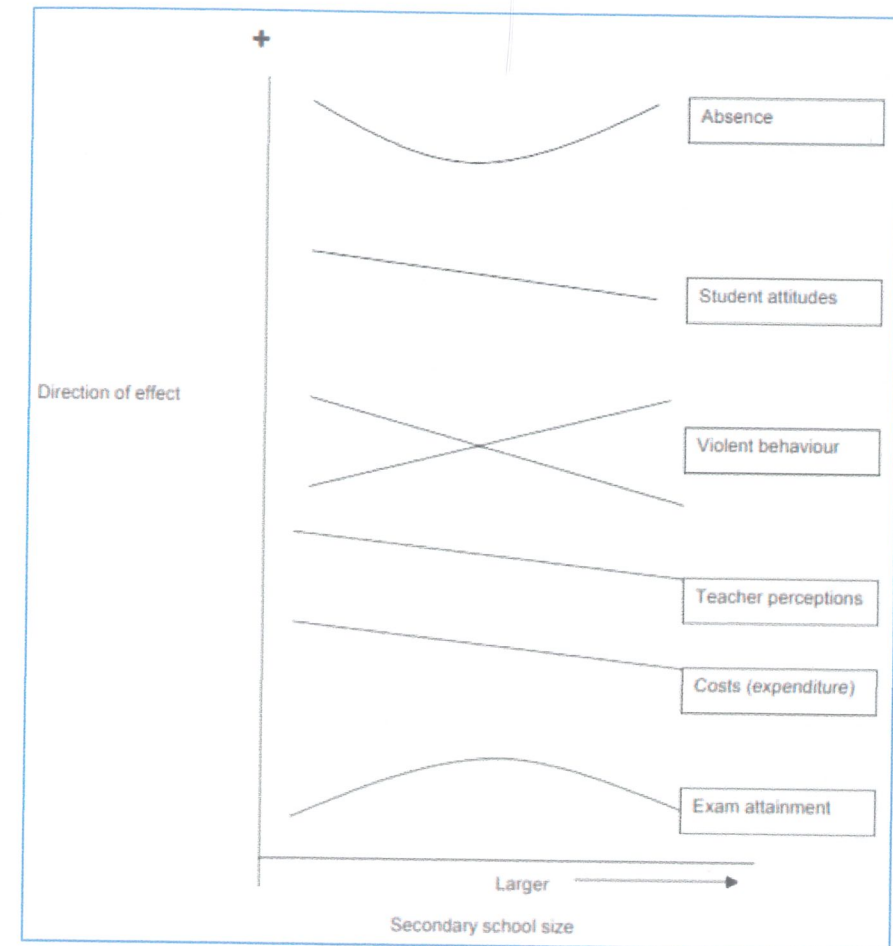
It is interesting that your Proposal encompasses the building of a Super School with a Capacity to make it one of the largest Schools in Wales. Bassaleg School is totally in the wrong location, being hemmed in by two trunks roads with no means of Pupils arriving at the School except by crossing a Trunk Road. Pollution affects every pupil attending this School and your planning Statement on providing safe routes to School/Cycle Routes/walking will NOT address the Pollution impact on Pupils.

We have attached a copy of a Report carried out by Lancaster University for the Department of Education³ Their summary is that schools over 1500 pupils in size fail in all attributes except in cost savings⁴.

Yet Newport Council appear to have totally ignored this aspect and adopted the position that this document does not apply where Bassaleg School is concerned.

³ LSE: Secondary school size; A systematic review, page 2 "achievement increases as school size increases up to approximately 1,200 (for 11-16 schools) or 1,500 (for 11-18 schools) students (a quadratic relationship). After this point, achievement decreases as size increases"

⁴ LSE: Secondary school size; A systematic review, page 75, figure 5.1



LSE: Secondary school size; A systematic review, page 75, figure 5.1

ITEM 5. 6TH FORM COLLEGE

From your Freedom of Information we list the numbers of 6th Form pupils that attend the following Schools;-

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Newport High</i> | <i>= 169</i> |
| <i>Liswerry</i> | <i>= 116</i> |
| <i>Llanwern</i> | <i>= 165</i> |
| <i>John Frost</i> | <i>= 122</i> |
| <i>Bassaleg</i> | <i>= 329</i> |
| <i>St Julians</i> | <i>= 214</i> |
| <i>Caerleon</i> | <i>= 293</i> |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>= 1691</u> |

In 2010 under a Strategic Outline Case for the future delivery of Post 16 Education and Training in Newport - Newport Council decide on Option C⁵ and split the Secondary Schools in Newport on an East/West Basis which presently means 6th Form pupils at Bassaleg School are transported to three other Secondary Schools for their lessons –mini bus and driver utilised with appropriate cost implications.

Strategic Outline Case The Future Delivery of Post 16 Education & Training in Newport, page 6

C: Operate two local curricula based on either a north/south or east/west split, with common links to the college

This option also addresses some of the key issues raised by the option A. While it would not give quite the same spread of subjects as a single consortia or tertiary option, it would enable all schools to meet the measure and quickly exceed the minimum requirements. Each of the two consortia could maximise the use of their specialist staffing, buildings and resources for the benefit of all the learners in their partnership. A major benefit of this option is that it has the potential to reverse outflow of pupils to schools outside the authority by opening up curriculum choices to Year 11 learners who are not currently accommodated in sixth forms of their choice. By linking schools that are geographically close, it would minimise travelling

⁵ Strategic Outline Case The Future Delivery of Post 16 Education & Training in Newport

distances and times. Various models might be considered – there are currently two obvious geographic clusters of three schools: Bassaleg / Duffryn / St Joseph's and Caerleon / St Julian's / Hartridge. This would leave Lliswerry and Newport HS to be part of either consortium depending on whether the rationale was considered stronger for either a north/south or east/west split. This Strategic Outline Case is not destined to confirm which Option split will be taken forward, that decision however was made by the Learning Partnership in October and will be reflected in the Post 16 Project Implementation Executive meetings during November, 2010.

Therefore now that The Council propose to build a £90 million College⁶ in the Centre of Newport that could accommodate all 6th form Pupils this circumnavigates you continuing with Option C as you stated at the time and can revert to Option E

Then we have the position that the Marshfield students could attend the John Frost School where they now could be accommodated , because Marshfields 6th Forms Pupils and John Frost 6th Form Pupils would no longer be in attendance at this School but at the new college.

Item 6. Issues that have perpetuated with Bassaleg School

Irrespective of the outcome of your proposals it is important to raise the effects that the present school size impacts on our community.

Despite numerous requests directly to the School there is a total failure on the Schools behalf to address the Noise from the perimeter fence adjacent to Court Crescent.

Music/Screaming/Football/Foul Language and because of the close proximity to the boundary fence it has a detrimental effect on the adjacent Residential Properties in Court Crescent. In addition these issues show the total lack of supervision by Staff during break times. This noise twice a day prevents Residents from enjoying their benefits of their properties not having to have all windows and doors closed .

The incoming driveway from Court Crescent is used as a Canteen for pupils. Litter is an ongoing issue –the School has now installed litter bins down the drive . However this misses the Point as to where are the facilities to mitigate this .Do we have to continue with this appalling situation of litter all over Court Crescent. It is bad enough that The Council Grounds Maintenance Team blow all the grass cuttings and leaves from the School into Court Crescent and with no Road sweepers visiting the Crescent its an absolute disgusting situation. Residents are continually having to deal with the litter issue by collecting it and disposing of it in our recycle boxes (see picture below for inadequate litter provisions at the School)

Noise Readings during the Morning and Lunch Time Breaks have been measured and are as follows;-

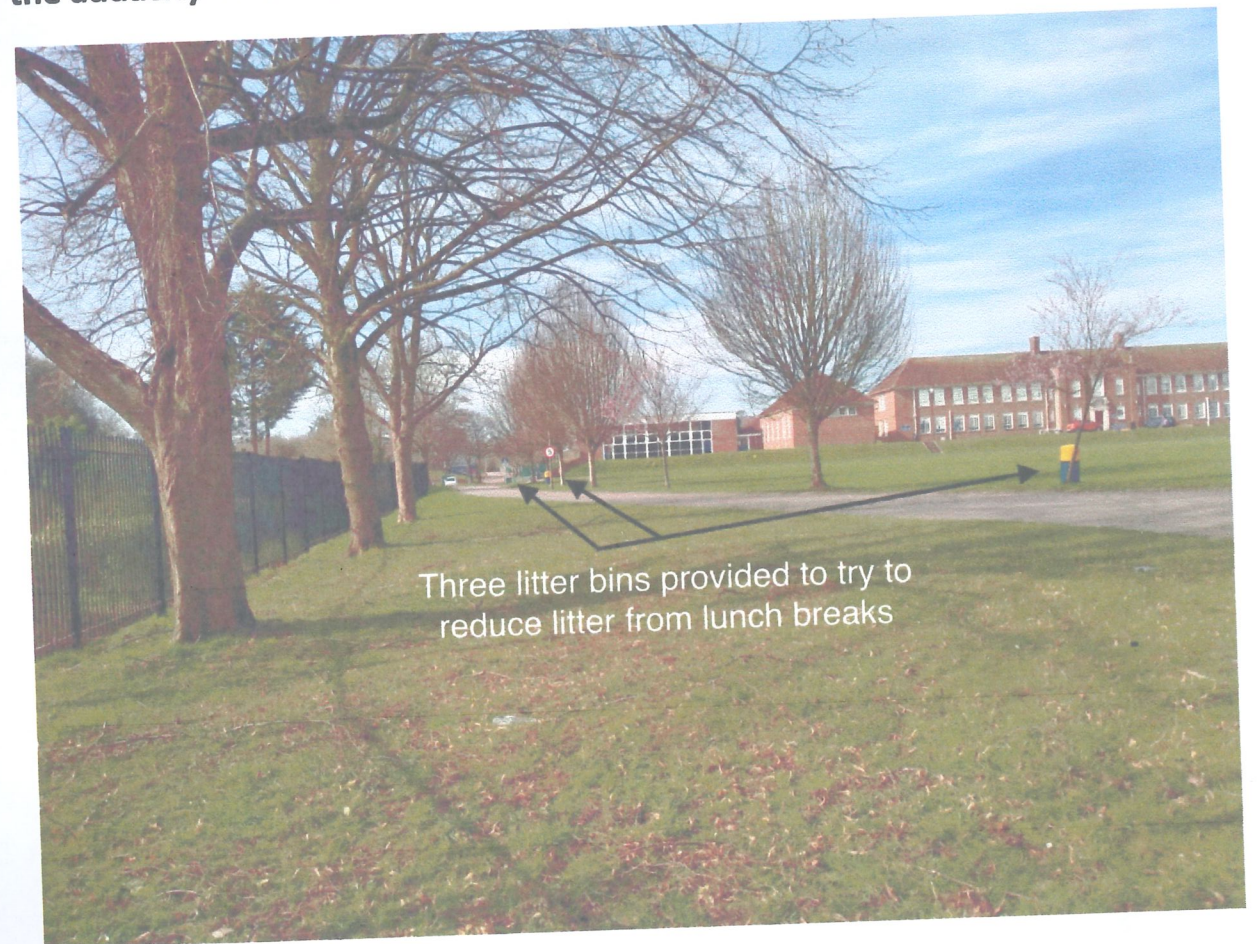
- > No Pupils on the Front Field; Average 65db
- > During Break Times; 85.5-90.2 - These levels are equivalent to HGV vehicles/Power Tools and Motorcycles at a continual level during these breaks

School trips and out of hours activities using the entrance in Court Crescent is another issue which is unacceptable . The School has a main gate with adequate parking facilities which should be used and an example of the total

Lack of understanding by the School is when we have a School trip to Iceland starting at 4am -5.30am and the return at 12.30 am-1.30am with the associated noise, car horns, pupils shouting/doors slamming there is no consideration whatsoever given to the Residents.

Despite a Formal Complaint to the School in February 2019 on the subject of the trip to Iceland it was acknowledged that they would look at another venue to depart from. We have tried to obtain some resolution to this issue but have failed to get a response. Had we not gone into lockdown for COVID we were going to formally present this issue to the Head of Education.

Additionally we have three Teachers since last September parking in Court Crescent yet despite an email to your Education Department and to the Chair of Governors no response. Therefore do the Management of the School and Newport Council think that they are above reproach and we should not have the audacity to take them to task on issues like these



SUMMARY

The Consultation Document that you produced along with LRM, Planning Document has shown how inept this process has been with totally flawed statements.

At no stage have The Council been prepared to have a meeting with Residents of Bassaleg to let them express their views on this expansion.

Your results provided in your Consultation Documents so far are totally flawed with the Planning Statements made.

Any one of the included items in this Document i.e.:-

CATCHEMENT AREA,

NEW 1000 PUPIL SCHOOL,

6TH FORM COLLEGE

has a valid input to reduce the proposed numbers at Bassaleg School and the Cost of £28 million pounds being spent. Most of all they have in turn a positive impact to negate the Pollution effect on the Pupils and reduce the Traffic levels.

We therefore feel that Newport Council should take on board all the key facts listed in this document before proceeding with the application that could be possibly be subjected to a Judicial Review.