



The Castle Partnership Trust
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SECTION 10 CONSULTATION REPORT
PROPOSED: ISAMBARD KINGDOM BRUNEL PRIMARY SCHOOL
OPENING SEPTEMBER 2020

NOVEMBER 2019

1. SECTION 10 CONSULTATION REPORT

This Consultation Report has been compiled in response to the recent public consultation on the proposal to create a new primary school, Isambard Kingdom Brunel Primary School (IKB) at Longforth Farm, Wellington in order to alleviate capacity pressures at other primary schools in the area and a result of new housing developments in the locality.

The document summarises the activities undertaken during the consultation, the responses received by interested parties and The Castle Partnership Trust's response to comments submitted, in compliance with Section 10 of the Academies Act.

2. PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTATION REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform the outcome of the consultation held during the period 29 July 2019 and 11 October 2019 between all stakeholders and interested parties listed below.

Please note this consultation is not related to any building or planning applications surrounding the new school; it is solely to consult on whether appropriate persons support The Castle Partnership Trust to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to run Isambard Kingdom Brunel Primary School.

3. TARGET AREAS FOR CONSULTATION

Consultation activities were carried out to ensure the whole community of Wellington were involved including:

- Residents in Longforth Farm and Cades Farm Wellington, immediately affected by the proposed school development
- Prospective parents in the Wellington community
- Wellington primary schools

4. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

The consultation took place between the dates of Monday 29 July and Friday 11 October, which includes 6 term time weeks. The consultation was promoted via:

- Online consultation via the new school website www.ikbschool.co.uk The school website also included full details of the proposed school development. (Appendix 1 – copy of online consultation).
- Doorstep distribution of 2000 consultation flyers to the houses and businesses closest to the proposed school site, including the Longforth Farm and Cades Farm housing developments notifying and inviting residents to participate in the consultation process. (Appendix 2 – copy of consultation flyer).
- Distribution of above flyers in local shops and community areas.
- Social media posts
- Two prospective parent evenings were held on 26 September and 3 October 2019, where members of the community, predominantly those interested in their child attending IKB, were able to meet key members of the Trust. Admissions arrangements were discussed at these events and information provided for parents.

5. SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

We received zero in number completed questionnaires. We received three emails from local residents and parents, outlining their concerns. These emails all raised the same areas of concern:

Disappointment in delay in opening the school

At early stages of planning, IKB was expected to open in 2019 which was a selling point to new families to the Longforth Farm residential estate. Due to delays within the Department of Education and planning processes, the school opening was subsequently delayed and is now due to open in September 2020. This required parents to send children to other primary schools in Wellington.

Disappointment in not allowing older child transfers

Following on from above, parents voiced their frustration at not being able to transfer older siblings to IKB, due to the school only starting with a reception class. Parents expressed their disappointment that their oldest child now attends a school out of their direct local community and hence any subsequent siblings will also follow their first child as multiple school drop off is not time feasible.

A question was also raised over the lack of older peers within the school for younger children.

Lack of involvement in the community

Families voiced their disappointment that their children would be attending a school other than IKB, and therefore would not be included in the sense of community that IKB would create.

Impact on environment

Families voiced their views on the environmental impact of having families driving their children to alternate schools rather than being able to walk to IKB.

Response to prospective parents evening

The two prospective parent events were warmly received with approximately thirty-eight families represented over the two events. Feedback was very positive with a number of parents indicating they would be applying to send their child to school at IKB. Families indicated they were also keen to start siblings in the nursery alongside older children in reception. Three parents also volunteered to participate in the Headteacher recruitment process and were keen to become involved in either the Parent, Teacher Association or **as** Governors once the school opened.

Families were responsive to the support available by The Castle Partnership Trust and the sharing of best practice between schools to enhance children's learning.

No concerns were raised at either evening.

6. SUMMARY OF SUGGESTED ACTIONS FROM CONCERNED PARTIES

Included within the emails were the following suggestions to overcome the above issues:

- Opening the school with Key Stage 1 and nursery
- Open one class per year to allow older children transfers
- Consider mixed year classes to allow older children transfers

7. THE TRUST'S RESPONSE

The emails received have been responded to and families were invited to attend the information events on 26 September and 3 October.

The Trust recognises the frustration of the families that have registered their concerns and have had to arrange schooling for their children in schools other than IKB. The Trust also recognises the continuing effect this has on families with younger children due to start school in September 2020 and in future years.

The Trust has an ongoing commitment to the whole of the Wellington community and all of the schools within that reach. The opening of IKB with a single reception class and nursery intake is done so with the objective not to disrupt other schools, their class sizes and subsequent funding. The Trust has received guidance from the Local Authority on expected requirement for school places in September 2020 and believes that opening with a reception class meets those requirements and adding additional year groups would not be of benefit to the school or those pupils within.

In light of the very low response rate to the public consultation, The Trust feels confident that the Isambard Kingdom Brunel Primary School will be well received by local residents and will grow to be a valued part of the Wellington community.

Sarah Watson

CEO, The Castle Partnership Trust

Date: November 2019

Appendices

1. Copy of consultation questionnaire
2. Copy of consultation flyer
3. Copy of Information event flyer

Appendix 1 – Consultation questionnaire

Consultation on the new Isambard Kingdom Brunel Primary School

The Castle Partnership Trust currently comprises The Castle School, Court Fields School and Wellesley Park Primary School.

The Trust is due to open a brand-new primary school at the Longforth Farm development in Wellington in September 2020 – the Isambard Kingdom Brunel Primary School (IKB). The school will be built on a sloping site surrounded by mature trees, ponds and fields and will include modern, state of the art facilities.

The Department for Education (DfE) has agreed to fund the new school due to the rising population in Wellington and increasing demand for primary school places that cannot be met in existing schools.

Eventually IKB will run two classes for each year group (14 classes in total) plus a nursery/pre-school. However, in its first year we only intend to open for nursery and reception children, rolling the groups forward each year, to ensure there is no turbulence within existing primary schools in Wellington.

We are keen to engage with the community and parents of prospective pupils of IKB to make this school the best it can be.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire, we really appreciate your input.

*Required

1. Name*

2. Email Address*

3. Are you (Please tick all responses that apply)

- a resident of Longforth Farm
- a resident in Cades development
- other resident of Wellington (not Longforth Farm or Cades)
- parent of a child aged 0 – 3 (prospective pupil of IKB)
- parent of a child aged 4 – 11
- other (please specify) _____

4. How do you feel about the opening of this new school?

- Extremely happy
- Quite happy
- Neither happy or unhappy
- Quite unhappy
- Extremely unhappy

5. Please provide your main reason for your response to question 4.

6. Are there any considerations you think should be taken into account in setting up IKB Primary School?

- 7. What additional information would you like us to provide about IKB in the months before it opens?**
- 8. Should The Castle Partnership Trust enter into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State to open the new IKB free school? A link to the Department for Education's model funding agreement is provided here for those interested:**
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/694394/Maistream_Supplemental-v6_March2018.docx
- Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
- 9. Would you like to be involved further in the development of IKB primary school (eg prospective Parents' Consultation Forum, Parents/Friends of the School Association, prospective school governor)?**
- Yes
 - No
- 10. Would you be interested in finding out more about the Bright Sparks Nursery which will also be opening in Sept 2020?**
- Yes
 - No
- 11. Do you have any other comments you wish to make in relation to the new school?**



**HAVE
YOUR
SAY!**



New and exciting Primary School opening near you

Planned opening Sept 2020



Appendix 2 – Consultation flyer – back page



The Castle Partnership Trust comprises The Castle School, Court Fields School, Wellesley Park Primary and a new school to be situated on Longforth Farm, Wellington, the Isambard Kingdom Brunel Primary School (IKB).

We are founded on the principles of giving every child in our local community the very highest quality education, to see themselves as successful, to participate in enrichment and learning and to be full citizens locally, national and globally. IKB will have at its core the Trust's commitment that:

- Every Child Achieves
- Every Child Belongs
- Every Child Participates in learning, enrichment and the community

We would like to hear your thoughts, your ideas and even any concerns you may have, in relation to the opening of IKB.

Should The Castle Partnership Trust enter into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State to open the new IKB free school?

What issues matter to you?

Would you like to be involved in the consultation process?

Would you be interested in hearing about the Bright Sparks Nursery which will also be opening in Sept 2020?

Please go to our website: IKBPrimary.co.uk and complete the online survey.

Please visit our website for regular updates. Look out for our social media pages on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram coming soon.

Email: ikboffice@castle.somerset.sch.uk



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Information Evenings

for prospective parents

**Does your child start school next September?
If so, come along and find out about the new
Isambard Kingdom Brunel Primary School (IKB)
opening September 2020**

Information Evenings

Thursday 26 September - 6pm

Court Fields School, Wellington

Thursday 3 October – 6pm

Wellington Baptist Church Hall,
28 South Street, Wellington

**Admissions
details
available**



To book a place:

<https://ikbprospectiveparents.eventbrite.co.uk>

or email ikb@castle.somerset.sch.uk or call 01823 274073

For further information about IKB visit: www.ikbschool.co.uk

