

PAIGNTON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

- Blatchcombe
- Clifton with Maidenway
- Goodrington, Roselands & Hookhills
- Paignton Town
- Preston



c/o 34 Totnes Road
Paignton
TQ4 5JZ

29 May 2016

By email to schoolscapital@torbay.gov.uk
Samantha Poston Schools Capital & Planning Officer,
Schools Capital & Planning Team,
TDA
3rd Floor Tor Hill House
Union Street
Torquay
TQ2 5QW

Dear Ms Poston

Relocation of Torbay School, Consultation

Thank you for the opportunity to submit the Forum's views to the Council by no later than 30 May 2016.

The Forum does not support the proposed relocation for the reasons given below.

As required by the consultation parameters, the reasons relate directly to the impact of the proposed changes to the school in question and impact on teaching and learning and on the Council's statutory duty for providing school places:

Demographic assumptions

It is noted that approval by the Council in February 2016 to relocate the school is subject to the consultation outcome. It is also noted that justification for the relocation has been made in part based on the need to increase school capacity in response to future growth assumptions. It is therefore relevant to raise concern that all previous estimates of future growth in Torbay since 2001 (and with it school place requirements) have been overestimated very significantly in comparison with actual outcome.

Between 2001 and 2011 the census comparisons show that Torbay's resident population grew by less than 1,400 over the entire 10 year period. This was far less than all official projections previously made. The number of school children in Torbay aged 5 to 15 years also reduced from 15,470 to 13,400 (rounded).

Closer examination of Torbay's actual demographic change shows that it is net-inward migration driven. This has not increased as previously forecast, and by a large margin. As a result, all previous mid-year population estimates had to be revised downwards by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) in the release issued on 29 January 2014. Further details are shown in Appendix 1 attached.

It is noted that the latest population projections again assume growth is based on net-inward migration arising from future house building. However, it would appear the number of existing homes vacant for more than 6 months in Torbay has increased very significantly over the past 12 months from just under 1,100 in October 2014 to somewhere between 1,700 and 2,100 in 2015 based on latest available information from Council records. Net growth in job numbers has also declined from 59,000 in 2012 to 57,200 in 2015.

It is therefore not accepted that the assumed growth in school places the Council is seeking to provide for is soundly based by looking only at short term school roll changes. This also impacts on the assumed distribution of places required.

Future use of the vacated site

The Council report of 6 April 2016 indicates that the vacated Torbay School site would be used to provide a new primary school, yet appears from the information included could be better located in Torquay to serve future needs if they arise.

In addition, the consultation information shows the existing school site accommodates 60 places and Parkfield new build would be for 64 places. Such a very small change in capacity is not considered to be educational value for money, and would be unjustifiably disruptive to existing school users.

Unsuitability of the Parkfield site

Parkfield is not a suitable location for the addition of a school. Whilst it may be possible to adapt and extend the existing building, the means of access through a public car park used by tourists in summer and beach hut storage in winter, would not be appropriate for school users and associated vehicles. The area defined as the 'main entrance and drop off' would be inadequate for educational needs of the school, pupils, teachers and parents.

Alternative locations

It is agreed that relocating the school west of Paignton would not be appropriate having regard to flood issues and needs of the existing population for educational places within the existing urban area.

For the above reasons relating to educational needs, the Forum does not agree with the proposal.

Yours sincerely

David Watts

Forum Chairman

Enclosure – Appendix 1 Summary of ONS projections

cc. Mike Parkes, Forum Secretary.

Appendix 1

ONS Subnational Population Projections & Revised MYE's 2001-2012 Torbay

Mid Yr to Mid Yr	1 Issued 2006 (2004 based)	2 Issued 2008 (2006 based)	3 Issued 2010 (2008 based)	4 Issued 2012 (2010 based)	5 Issued 2012 (Interim 2011 based)	6 Issued 29 Jan 2014 Revised MYE 2001-2012	7 Issued 29 May 2014 (2012 based)
2001						129,965	
2002						130,521	
2003						131,238	
2004	132,500					131,937	
2005	134,000					132,178	
2006	135,400	133,200				131,857	
2007	136,800	134,200				132,172	
2008	138,200	135,300	134,000			132,070	
2009	139,600	136,400	134,600			131,641	
2010	141,000	137,600	135,300	133,300		131,443	
2011	142,400	138,800	136,000	133,700	131,200	131,193	
2012	143,700	140,100	136,800	133,900	131,900	131,492	131,500
2013	145,100	141,300	137,600	134,300	132,700		131,800
2014	146,500	142,600	138,400	134,600	133,400		132,200
2015	147,900	143,900	139,300	135,000	134,200		132,700
2016	149,300	145,200	140,200	135,400	134,900		133,200
2017	150,700	146,500	141,100	135,800	135,700		133,700
2018	152,100	147,900	142,100	136,200	136,400		134,200
2019	153,500	149,300	143,000	136,700	137,200		134,800
2020	154,900	150,700	144,100	137,200	138,000		135,400
2021	156,200	152,100	145,100	137,700	138,800		136,000
2022	157,500	153,500	146,100	138,200			136,600
2023	158,800	154,800	147,200	138,700			137,300
2024	160,100	156,200	148,200	139,200			137,900
2025	161,300	157,500	149,200	139,700			138,500
2026	162,500	158,900	150,200	140,200			139,100
2027	163,700	160,200	151,200	140,700			139,600
2028	164,800	161,500	152,200	141,300			140,200
2029	165,900	162,800	153,200	141,800			140,800
2030		164,000	154,200	142,300			141,400
2031		165,200	155,200	142,700			142,000
2032			156,100	143,200			142,500
2033			157,000	143,700			143,100
2034				144,200			143,600
2035				144,700			144,100
2036							144,600
2037							145,100

Source: ONS

1 - Released 29 May 2006
2 - Released 26 May 2008
3 - Released 27 May 2010
4 - Released 21 May 2012

5 - Released 28 Sep 2012
6 - Released 29 Jan 2014
7 - Released 29 May 2014

