



The Future for Willows High School

REPORT FINDINGS



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Background

The Welsh Government wants all schools in Wales to be fit for the 21st century, with high quality buildings, modern facilities and enough places for pupils of all ages.

Delivered under Cardiff Council and Welsh Government's 21st Century School Programme, the existing Willows High School is to be relocated to Lewis Road

New School Building

- The new school site will be situated on three parcels of land at Splott Market, Portmanmoor Road and 3G pitches at the former tennis centre.
- This provides enough space for the new school building without taking away any existing open spaces.
- The new school will have places for up to 900 learners, age 11-16; made up of 180 pupil per year group (six forms of entry).
- The new school building will allow for future expansion if needed.
- The design and build of the school will allow for future expansion up to 240 pupils per year group.

Methodology

- The consultation was live from Monday 14th June to Friday 23rd July.
- A letter was sent to parents of children at Willows High School, local primary schools, local residents and businesses, advising them of an engagement document that was published on the Council website, the letter also encouraged parents to take part and advised them how they could get a hard copy if needed.
- A sustained promotional push was used on the Council social media platforms.
- Posters were put up in the local area.
- A series of drop in sessions were arranged where the public could drop in and talk to staff from education about the new school. A list of the drop in sessions can be viewed below:

Date and Time	Venue
Tuesday 22 June 2021 (10am to 12 noon)	Tesco, Pengam Green
Thursday 24 June 2021 (12 noon - 2pm)	Brewery Field (opposite Rubicon Dance)
Wednesday 30 June 2021 (2pm – 4pm)	Old Library, Singleton Road
Tuesday 6 July 2021 (6pm – 8pm)	Splott Park Sports Pavilion
Monday 12 July 2021 (10am - 12 noon)	Butetown Hub, Plas Iona, Bute St
Thursday 15 July 2021 (4pm - 6pm)	Butetown Hub, Plas Iona, Bute St

- A number of workshop sessions were held for primary school aged pupils.
- Respondents were provided with several options in how they had their say, these were:
 - Completing the online survey
 - By e-mail to schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk

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- By post to School Organisation Planning Team, Room 401, County Hall, Cardiff, CF10 4UW
- By phone on (029) 2087 2720

Responses

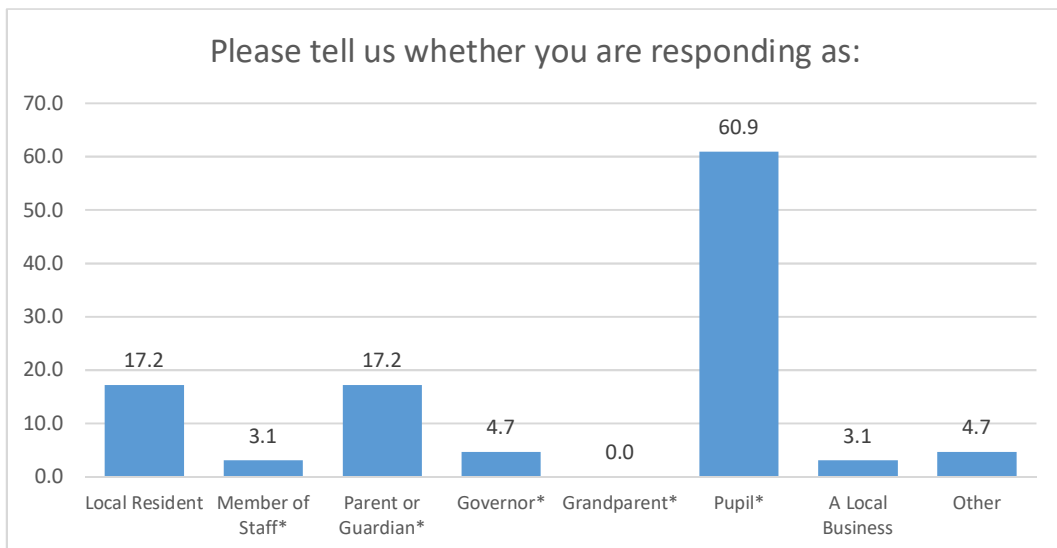
There were 68 responses received in total

There were 6 emails / letters received in relation to the consultation, these can be viewed in Appendix A.

Results

Are you responding as.....

Three in five (60.9%) responses to the survey were from pupils, this was followed by around one in six that came from local residents / parents or guardians (17.2% and 17.2% respectively).



N.B. Percentages do not sum to 100% as respondents could select more than one option

Please confirm which school/s you are affiliated with:

School	No.
Tredegarville C.I.W primary school	26
Willows High School	19
Moorland Primary School	3
St Albans	2
Howardian Primary School	1
Mount Stuart Primary	1
Total	52

What do you like about the plans for the new school?

A 'New modern building' (30.3%) was seen as the thing most people liked about the plans for the new school, this was followed by 'Facilities' (24.2%) and 'More space / size' (15.2%).

Theme	No.	%	Example Comments
New Modern Building	20	30.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I like that there will be a new stable building that will be safe and sufficient for learners to excel. New modern building away from the factories. The current Willows building is old and outdated beyond use so a new building is ideal. I really like the modern look. And the bike parking place could encourage people to ride bikes, scooters etc.
Facilities	16	24.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I think the pool is a good idea. Lockers for bike users. The sports facilities.
More space / Size	10	15.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That it will be bigger. The size. That you're building the school bigger.
Unsure	7	10.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> So far I am unsure what the finish will look like but if it is similar to Eastern High or Fitzalan then it looks promising. Only a layout has been provided and no plans of buildings. I am not sure.
Location	6	9.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The distance from my house. Also the sports facilities that could be used by the surrounding community. It's close to my area.
General positive comments	6	9.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's a great idea! I think they are great and it's amazing what you're doing.
Nothing	5	7.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing.

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Clean/Fresh environment	5	7.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new willows school sounds EXACTLY like what the area needs! It will give children a fresh outlook on learning. I truly believe when surrounded by clean fresh and tidy environment it will encourage their learning and behaviour too. Willows over the years has held a bit of a bad reputation, not for the teachers but the children that go there. Perhaps this will be the fresh start that the youth need. A better learning environment.
Misc.	6	7.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment. Planned for the way teachers teach.
Total Respondents	66	-	

NB. Percentages do not sum to 100% as respondents' comments could fall into multiple themes

Do you have any suggestions to make it even better?

Respondents were then asked if they had any suggestions they'd make to the plans, to make the school even better. One in five (18.5%) respondents to this question suggested 'More indoor / outdoor space'. This was followed by 'More facilities' (19.0%) and a 'Change of location' (13.8%).

Theme	No.	%	Example Comments
More Indoor / Outdoor Space	12	20.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maybe make the rooms a little bit bigger when u rebuild it so there's more space for the people. More green space - lots of the pupils enjoy the current wellbeing garden. Resources for SEN - currently the school has the Willows 2 facility will this be continued? How accessible is it for cars, buses and walking? - Both staff and pupils travel in a variety of ways. Is travel to classrooms accessible? E.g. will the corridors/stairs become too crowded? You can like do it more bigger to let the people be like free in beak time so that will be better :)
More facilities	11	19.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Probably a basketball court, hockey field, Balconies to sit while eating, cafeteria bigger and a sitting place outside. Swimming Pool?

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add a gym.
Change location	8	13.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not place it on Lewis road. • Do not put it in this location. Right by a busy industrial estate with heavy industrial traffic. On the outskirts of the area it serves. • Build it elsewhere, unsuitable site.
Safety / Road concerns	7	12.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure local road safety is enforced. • The roads leading to Lewis Road are only pedestrianised on one side which will make travel to school dangerous. Long distance for pupils in Tremorfa. • I think a safe way to get to and from school is key.
6th form provision	5	8.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There's need for Six Form from the community that this high school is going to serve. We would like it to have a Six Form. • Sixth form should be added.
Don't know	3	5.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't know.
Need more info	3	5.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When we are able to see the plans, I look forward to being able to collaborate and help to suggest ideas for the Performing Arts Centre and theatre, which could be affiliated with a leading theatre in the city.
Additional Subjects Taught	3	5.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maybe you can teach other languages.
General Positive comments	2	3.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No I think it's great.
Misc.	9	15.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get rid of the school the teachers and students are diabolical. • Probably when it comes to students, maybe appointing peer counsellors to help each other. • Listen and talk to others and joint ideas to make the school better.

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Total Respondents	58	-
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NB. Percentages do not sum to 100% as respondents' comments could fall into multiple themes

How can the new school benefit the community?

Almost a third (32.3%) of respondents that left a response to this question cited 'Availability of facilities within the community' as the main benefit that the new school could bring the community. This was followed by 'Better facilities / grades / education' (10.8%) and 'Integration with other services' (9.2%).

Theme	No.	%	Example Comments
Facilities available for community use	21	32.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I feel that with sports and open area facilities these could be shared with the local community to bring them closer to the school. Having community usage for evening classes which are wanted and catered for the communities' wants and needs. It will be more community centred so family learning, sports facilities etc. will be more accessible for the community. Performing Arts facilities/Sport facilities that the community could use. The school could and should be the hub for the community, including meeting rooms for outside community groups.
Better facilities / Better grades / Better Education	7	10.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having better facilities should hopefully improve student's opportunities and in turn reflect on young people's behaviour outside of school. It can help people to get better education when they are in a better environment. If the new school has six form then the school would benefit highly from the community. The community would invest in their children's education which would raise the school's standards. The school would have an opportunity to close the gap from rich and poor. The new state of the art schools would be pride for the under privileged surrounding community.
Integration with other services	6	9.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Willows High school is currently benefiting the community, joining litter picks, firework display. Access to sports equipment.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By being a community facility that provides a hub for community services i.e. not an education island within the community. Integration with local services, local business and voluntary sector.
Don't know	5	7.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't know. • No idea.
It can't	4	6.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is mostly trading estate so very little community close by apart from a school that is welsh so no benefit. • It can't as it's out of the community.
Negative Comments	4	6.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It appears it will only be a detriment to Splott. • It will cause disruption to Old Splott with the additional traffic and footfall.
Local kids get taught near home	4	6.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local school for local children. • It can benefit the community by being closer for some people as they live far away.
Improved community spirit	3	4.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By respecting the people and being kind and nice to each other.
Improved school	3	4.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making working more less stressful because it can get annoying and harder to work and make it more quiet and comfy so there more less stressed.
More green space	2	3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It can benefit the community by having a load of grass.
Misc.	6	10.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having more options of things that people like. • By putting near a really packed town.
Total Respondents	65	-	

NB. Percentages do not sum to 100% as respondents' comments could fall into multiple themes

How can the community benefit the new school?

'Raising money / income generation' (17.5%) was deemed as the main way the community could benefit the new school.

Theme	No.	%	Example Comments
Help generate / raise income	10	17.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise money for school events. • Donating equipment and money so the school can get better. • By giving them money.
Don't know	10	17.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't know. • No idea. • Idk.
Community resources / input	8	14.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More qualified people in the governing body. • People in the community with skills/hobbies e.g. gardening could come into school and share their knowledge. • Promoting active travel for everyone attending or visiting the school, not just pupils.
Better for local children	8	14.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe environment both on the way to school and inside school with all needs met. • The community would have an opportunity to have their children go to local school that has all the amenities needed for them to thrive in their learning. • Pupils will have a new place to learn a bigger one to teach even more pupils.
Partnership work	7	12.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with local groups like railway gardens, Oasis etc. • Working together to reduce fear of the children. • It can be by giving tech to people that don't have it.
Engagement	6	10.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By engaging with school leadership to connect / align services.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expertise in a variety of community groups that could give opportunities to pupils, parents and engage staff as a wider community. • By giving them ideas to put in the new school.
People will respect / look after the new building	5	8.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community can respect the school property and sometimes donate to help the school. • A fresh start is always needed. If you had a pair of shoes you owned for 5 years and they were battered, you wouldn't care about how dirty they got, you would walk in a muddy puddle because they are old shoes. Same applies for the school or anything in life. When you have something new, you treat it better. Therefore the children may have more respect for their school, their teachers, and the local community too.
Negative Comments	3	5.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No benefit at all unless all the surrounding businesses move elsewhere. • The community of Splott will only be hurt by the plans.
Education is good for the community	3	5.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved standard of education will benefit the community. • Students after graduation will contribute to the community.
Total Respondents	57	-	

NB. Percentages do not sum to 100% as respondents' comments could fall into multiple themes

What do other schools have that you would like to see at Willows?

Respondents were then asked what other school have that they'd like to see at Willows. Over one in four (26.7%) would like to see 'Better sports / playing facilities'. This was followed by 'Better / Additional education provision / Improved results' (21.7%) and 'More space / colour' (20.0%).

Theme	No.	%	Example Comments
Better Sports / Playing Facilities	16	26.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A real gym. • A parking spot for cycles, scooters and probably skateboards • Monkey bars. • Swimming pool.
Better / Additional education provision / Improved results	13	21.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better GCSE and A level results. • More additional education help for those with Dyslexia, ASD, and ADHD etc. • A wider variety of subjects and a sixth form. • Better reviews. Hopefully starting from scratch will enable the pupils to enjoy their new facilities and know time and effort has been put into them.
More space / colour	12	20.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Others schools are bigger and more colourful and bright. • Community green and gardening spaces, outdoor classrooms. • Different colour windows. • A balcony with more space.
Don't know	6	10.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't know. • ?
Arts and Culture	4	6.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A theatre that could house professional productions and be hired by outside agencies, with lighting rig and workable backstage area. Sound proofed music practise rooms. • A lot of art rooms I saw in these other schools.
Green space / Clean air	4	6.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School in the community not a trading estate. Clean air not surrounded by roads.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green playing Fields free from close car pollution.
Modern / Safe building	2	3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I would like to see the children provided with a structurally sound building.
Library	2	3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A fantastic library space, opportunities for arts and culture, space for all children to learn.
Improved Uniform	2	3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A lot. Willows need to stop being so picky on the uniform #i.e. footwear.
Nothing	2	3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing.
Misc.	2	3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food warmed.
Total Respondents	60	-	

NB. Percentages do not sum to 100% as respondents' comments could fall into multiple themes

What is good about the current Willows that we can continue in the new school?

Almost one in five (18.6%) respondents to this question stated they didn't know what was good about the current school that could be continued in the new school.

'Classroom size / design' (15.3%) was cited as the best feature respondents would like carried over from the old school to the new build, this was followed by 'Specific facilities' (13.6%).

Theme	No.	%	Example Comments
Don't know	11	18.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have never seen the inside of the current school. I don't know. No idea.
Classroom size / design	9	15.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I like the Welsh class room interior. The space and learning different languages. The classes because of the space.
Specific Facilities	8	13.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The theatre on the stage.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitch actually on-site and not a walk away. School in the community. • The PA department currently has a recording studio, practise rooms and radio broadcasting room which would need to be included in the build to continue the development of the new curriculum.
Nothing	6	10.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absolutely nothing. • Nothing.
Location	6	10.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The location is good and any new school should be kept in the same place. • Set back away from any main roads & has green playing fields.
Specific Subjects	5	8.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music. • The languages that you teach and I think that's really good that you should carry on it.
Staff	5	8.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tight knit teaching team from Willows are second to none! • The hard working teachers who help and believe in their students.
School ethos	4	6.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The willows way, along with the discipline and character building work being undertaken. • The school ethos.
Misc.	8	13.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The positive quotes on the walls and doors of classrooms. • An assurance that there will be enough places for children from my ward, Splott and Tremorfa and Butetown.
Total Respondents	59	-	

NB. Percentages do not sum to 100% as respondents' comments could fall into multiple themes

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About You

What was your age on your last birthday?

Almost a half (48.4%) of respondents were aged under 16.

	No	%
Under 16	33	50.0
16-24	2	3.0
25-34	7	10.6
35-44	13	19.7
45-54	4	6.1
55-64	4	6.1
Prefer not to say	3	4.5
Total Respondents	66	100.0

Are you...?

Over a half (55.0%) of respondents were female.

	No	%
Female	33	55.0
Male	23	38.3
Other	2	3.3
Prefer not to say	2	3.3
Total Respondents	60	100.0

Do you identify as a disabled person?

More than four fifths (84.1%) of respondents do not identify as disabled.

	No.	%
Yes	8	12.7
No	53	84.1
Prefer not to say	2	3.2
Total Respondents	63	100.0

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Please tick any of the following that apply to you:

24 people stated they had one or more of the health conditions listed.

	No	%
Deaf/Deafened/Hard of Hearing	1	4.2
Learning impairment/difficulties	1	4.2
Wheelchair user	0	0.0
Long-standing illness or health condition (e.g. cancer, HIV, diabetes or asthma)	6	25.0
Mental health difficulties	2	8.3
Visual impairment	2	8.3
Mobility impairment	3	12.5
Prefer not to say	8	33.3
Other	5	20.8
Total Respondents	24	-

N.B. Percentages do not sum 100% because respondents could select multiple conditions

What is your ethnic group?

Where the term 'British' is used, this refers to any of the four home nations of Wales, England, Northern Ireland and Scotland, or any combination of these.

Respondents of a White British background make over half (53.2%) of all those responding to the survey.

	No.	%
White - Welsh/English/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	33	53.2
Arab	3	4.8
Asian/Asian Welsh/British – Pakistani	3	4.8
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups - White and Black African	3	4.8
Asian/Asian Welsh/British - Any other	2	3.2
Asian/Asian Welsh/British - Indian	2	3.2
Black/African/Caribbean/Black Welsh/British - African	2	3.2
White - Any other white background	2	3.2
Asian/Asian Welsh/British - Chinese	1	1.6
Black/African/Caribbean/Black Welsh/British - Any other	1	1.6
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups - Any other	1	1.6
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups - White and Black Caribbean	1	1.6
White - Irish	1	1.6
Prefer not to say	4	6.5
Any other ethnic group (please specify)	3	4.8
Total Respondents	62	100.0

APPENDIX A - RECEIVED EMAILS / LETTERS

Local Resident Response

To whom it may concern,

My husband and I are both professionals, educated to Degree level and beyond, as are many of the families who have moved into this area over the last decade.

Our children are currently in Moorland primary school in Splott and we are delighted with the school and its standards. However, we are concerned about where to send them for high school.

Many of our friends in Splott have chosen to send their children to other high schools such as Cathays or St Teilos, which I feel deprives Willows of children with supportive parents, the majority of which are likely to achieve good grades and could have brought up Willow's standards academically and in terms of behaviour.

We know the staff at Willows are excellent, however I also know the level of disruption and additional challenges they face from the demographic of children that have historically attended Willows.

We feel the relocation of the new high school will help in many ways. Good architecture has been proved to have a positive effect on students and their learning and the new location is in a more neutral and secure location.

However, one of our largest concerns still exists and that is that there is no sixth form. Children very often benefit from the continuity and security of a sixth form when they do not have a clear career path in mind. By not having a sixth form you are creating a 'ceiling' for the area's education and deterring children and parents who would like to progress further.

I would be very grateful if you could please consider that the demographic of Adamsdown, Splott and Tremorfa is rapidly changing with many more professionals and their children having already moved into the area and that we want to fully be part of this community long term, which will benefit the community at large. We do not want to continue seeing families move away as soon as their children reach high school age. Please seriously consider adding a sixth form to Willows as I believe this will go a long way towards parents such as ourselves seeing it as a viable option for our children.

Many thanks.

Kind regards

Local Resident Response

Hi all

In response to the news that the 3G pitches at the new Willows High site will be leased to the House of Sport, is there any guarantee that this will be made available at affordable prices? Currently the price to rent the pitch is £90-£108 indoor or £65 for a half size outdoor, both considerably more than competitors such as Power leagues and Gol.

There are several sports teams in the area that would welcome the facilities but will likely be priced out.

Local Resident Response

Hello there.

I am writing to you at this very early stage of the planning for the new Willows High School building in the hope that you will take note of the contents, share with the contractor and apply them to the plans.

My email is about the regulations in the U.K. which should shape the provision of toilets within schools to students and pupils. The legislation can be read here

- https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1999/2/regulation/3/made?fbclid=IwAR3zdFVWti_JwSEpjx-WJomFegCimZ_FSX4wGplCdra59F80vQD-H16T0hA

You will see, on reading, that the The Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 say, schools are required to provide single sex toilets for children over the age of 8. This includes the provision of separate sinks which can be within completely enclosed toilet cubicles or as a separate single sex facility (not shared with the opposite sex) but should not be shared. It is notable that recent new build schools in Cardiff have not provided toilets that adhere to the regulations. This may be because the contractor/planner/architect has not been correctly informed of the regulations by the council.

Recent consultations for another Cardiff secondary school

(https://cardiff.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s26936/Cabinet%2024%20Jan%202019%20SO P%20Fitzalan.pdf?fbclid=IwAR09lv1Dxmqu_rl4RjXl99BDpfAuKffDKYRDcrLfcC7YQcAVya51_Q1FD0k) did show that there are concerns about mixed sex toilets in schools and as a parent of a child who will be attending willows I would like my concern that regulations regarding single sex toilet provision are being ignored to be noted in the consultation for Willows High.

It is not good enough that those planning the schools are not notified by the Local Authority that regulations are being broken. There is also Welsh Government guidance on this issue which the local authority must be aware of.

Yours faithfully

UKSE Response

Just to confirm that we have circulated the details of the public engagement plans to our tenants at the Cardiff Bay Business Centre.

In reality, there was little for them or us to comment on in the survey provided, which seems to be designed for parents of the school more than anything, with a focus on what they would like to see at the proposed new school.

As you will be aware, we have a mixture of small industrial units and offices at the Business Centre and the crux for us and for our tenants will ultimately be around more practical issues, such as:

- The physical location of the proposed new school.
- Noise levels and disturbances associated with the construction phase of the proposed new school.
- The design and layout of the proposed new school and its impact on the Business Centre.
- Access implications to the Centre with schools on either side of us - there is already an impact on ease of access during certain times of the day from the existing Ysgol Glan Morfa, which is smaller than the proposed new school.
- Transport and congestion implications in the immediate surrounding area with increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic coming to the school.
- Additional increased congestion issues because of the closure of part of Lewis road on the rest of Lewis Rd itself, East Tyndall St, Freshmoor Rd and Portmanmoor Rd.
- Increased pedestrian traffic with pupils having to cross these roads to access the proposed new school.
- Noise levels from the proposed new school on a day to day basis and its impact on the working conditions of tenants at the Centre.

We appreciate that it is early days with the proposal, but it will clearly have a direct impact on the Business Centre and its tenants and we look forward to getting involved in more detailed consultation with you on this matter in due course.

Kind regards.

Fluidity Freerun Response

Hi there! Great to hear from you - got some ideas I'd like to put forward on behalf of ourselves at Fluidity Freerun Academy, and also as an Elected Director of ParkourUK (our sports national governing body) .

At the moment there is a huge push for getting Parkour/Freerunning in for physical education across the UK - this has always been a large passion of ours and especially with local schools in Cardiff where we have delivered over the years.

On top of this, Parkour UK have Tutors that can teach Parkour as a CPD course for PE teachers to be able to safely implement and deliver Parkour/Freerunning within their PE classes . We are also looking at providing equipment via Fluidity as well, and I have also taken the course to be able to tutor these courses.

It goes without saying that Physical education and play are incredibly crucial parts of a child's development for life skills, and the push to change attitudes and the ways in which sport is delivered in school in modern times is a big one!

Parkour is one of the most popular activities kids are watching online, and wanting to partake in (<https://parkour.uk/sport-englands-active-lives-adult-survey-nov-17-18-parkour-freerunning-participation-figures/>) , and we are aware of the number of kids in our local area to that frequent our venue and practise outside.

As the only parkour centre in Wales with qualified coaches, we would love to be able to get involved somehow , and can offer talks/assemblies, workshops, as well as the teacher training or internal or external sessions (we currently have a few schools who come to us for their PE sessions or have us come to them on a regular basis!)

Would definitely be keen to talk more if this was something of interest!

Here are some links

<https://parkour.uk/what-we-do/>
www.fluidityfreerunacademy.co.uk

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board Response

The design of a school is extremely important because it can have one of the greatest impacts on shaping our lives from an early age. For Willows High School, it is situated in the catchment of Splott, Adamsdown and Tremorfa in the Eastern part of Cardiff, which is one of the most deprived communities in the region. That said this school is on a really important journey which has seen it become one of the most improved schools in Wales. The investment in a new school building will not only provide the most effective learning environment for our children and young people, but it will be designed to effectively support the new Curriculum in Wales. It will give the community the boost it needs to thrive in the years to come by giving students the skills they need to effectively participate in the world of work. This extremely important investment will ensure the journey of Willows can continue. Schools are an integral part of our communities and neither one can work effectively without continued support.

What do you like about the plans for the new school?

Although the layout and plans are not detailed, the facilities that have been identified will cover the areas of learning experience as identified in the Careers and Work Related Experience consultation which is the most important part of the design. The design must allow the new Curriculum for Wales to be delivered in the most effective way for learners and teaching staff. Having reviewed the CGI for the new Fitzalan High School which gives an impression of what Willows could look like, it is good to see the importance of collaborative and flexible learning spaces, that embraces new technology for today and in the future. In terms of health and wellbeing bright colours, natural light, and more open spaces have been shown to contribute to the most effective learning environments. The location of the school is approximately 1 mile from the existing location, which is important so that school journeys are not adversely effected. In addition, it is good to see that facilities will be available to allow cycling to school and that the school is committed to active travel. The option to have increased numbers in the year groups is good, as it can grow with the community, but this happening should not adversely affect the standards of the teaching provided.

Do you have any suggestions to make it better?

It would be good to see the layout include spaces where teaching can take place outside that students are not confined to classrooms unless the teaching/subject dictates this. Also from an inclusive and equality point of view it would be good to see that facilities such as toilets and changing rooms are planned to ensure that all students no matter of background are comfortable in their environment.

How can the new school benefit the community?

The school needs to have a multi-purpose approach, that it can be used as a community hub for events outside of school hours. Being in a deprived area it is likely that parents are past pupils of the school and may have experiences which holds them back from taking part in school activities which benefit their children. A new building in a new location has the

The Future for Willows High School

potential to build back some of those relationships and increase the support of a more cohesive community around the school.

How can the community benefit the new school?

An important part of the new Curriculum for Wales is the integration of Careers and Work Related Experience. In order for this to happen effectively the local community must be able and willing to engage with the school. Whether this be through careers talks, careers fairs or role models discussing their career pathways. These opportunities need community support so that children and young people can be inspired, be ambitious and are able to see the opportunities that are available to them.

What do other schools have that you would like to see at Willows?

I think that the facilities on offer at the new school will be a huge improvement to what they currently have. This new building will provide all of the opportunities needed to ensure a well-rounded education and preparation for work life. I cannot think of anything else that needs to be included.

What is good about the current Willows that we can continue in the new school?

Although the building may no longer be fit for purpose, the school has been on a journey of improvement that I would like to see continue, the availability of this new building will be an extremely important investment in their future.

Kind regards

Next steps

- During the summer holidays the views expressed during this engagement process will be looked at. Willows High School will use this information to help shape the vision for the school.
- Autumn Term - Using this information we will be able to ask for feedback on the new vision for the school, which will help shape the design brief and requirements for the school.
- After this, we will appoint a contractor to design and build the school. Once we have a design it will go to planning, which will include a statutory consultation process.
- Further engagement will take place when a set of design drawings are available.