

Proposed relocation of Wilby Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School to the Glenvale Park Development (new school), Wellingborough

Consultation Analysis Report 2023

October 2023

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to set out the proposed relocation of Wilby Church of England Voluntary Aided (VA) Primary School to the Glenvale Park Development (new school), Wellingborough consultation process, and key consultation findings (including an understanding of who participated in the consultation), the results of which will be used in the governance and decision-making process.

2. Executive decisions and formal consultation

Consultation commenced 5 September 2023 and concluded on 5 October 2023.

The public consultation was supported by the Council's Consultation and Engagement Team. The structure and design of the consultation set out the proposal and enabled both online and non-digital means of participation, in accordance with nationally recognised good practice.

A paper on the final proposals is scheduled to appear before the Council's Executive on 16 November 2023.

3. How was the consultation promoted?

The consultation was hosted on the Council's Consultation and Engagement Hub website. Councillors, local MPs, Town and Parish Councils, partner organisations, voluntary and community sector organisations, and members of both the North Northamptonshire Residents' Panel (circa 625 members) and the Council's Consultation Register were invited to give their views and asked to promote the consultation to their members, or within their local area where appropriate.

Opportunities to take part in the consultation were also promoted in the local media via press releases. The press release went to 26 newsrooms (local, print and broadcast including the Northants Telegraph and BBC Radio Northampton), plus individual reporters and other local news sites. It was promoted through the Council's Leaders' Update, the Council's website, e-newsletters and social media channels, enabling both internal (e.g. staff) as well as external consultees to get involved in the process. The Facebook reach (i.e. the number of people who saw any content from or about the consultation web page) was 1,044; the X (formerly Twitter) Impressions (i.e. the number of times any content from or about the consultation web page entered a person's screen) was 333; and LinkedIn impressions were 277.

In addition to the above Wilby Church of England (VA) Primary School promoted the consultation amongst their school community.

4. How did consultees have their say?

Local people, organisations and other interested parties were able to have their say about the proposals in a range of ways, by:

- Visiting [Proposed relocation of Wilby Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School to the Glenvale Park Development \(new school\), Wellingborough webpage](#) and completing the questionnaire or requesting a paper questionnaire
- Accessing the online questionnaire free of charge at any NNC library
- Emailing schoolconsultation.nnc@northnorthants.gov.uk
- Writing to Consultation: Wilby CE VA Primary School relocation to Glenvale Park site, North Northamptonshire Council, Bowling Green Road, Kettering, NN15 7QX

5. Number and type of responses received

During the consultation period, using the various means available to consultees, local people, interested parties and organisations contributed to the consultation 204 times. Nearly all of the feedback received was via the questionnaire, with 202 respondents participating via the questionnaire and two respondents submitting a written response.

Within the questionnaire, respondents could choose which questions they responded to, and so there are lower response numbers to each question when compared with the overall number of participants.

During the consultation period, an interim summary of the consultation responses received were circulated to the project team and all responses received were circulated to decision makers upon conclusion of the consultation to enable them to see each response in full.

6. What did people say?

This report is a summary of the feedback received. It is recommended that it is read in conjunction with the full consultation results. The full consultation results have been made available to Members and are available on the [Consultation & Engagement Hub](#).

The following documents were published alongside the consultation questionnaire:

- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) document](#)
- [Equality Screening Assessment](#)
- [Equality Impact Assessment](#)

6.1 Wilby CE VA Primary School relocation to Glenvale Park Consultation Questionnaire

In total, 202 respondents filled out a questionnaire on the proposed relocation of Wilby CE VA Primary School to the Glenvale Park Development, either partially or fully. Respondents did not have to answer every question and so the total number of responses for each question differs and is shown in relation to each question.

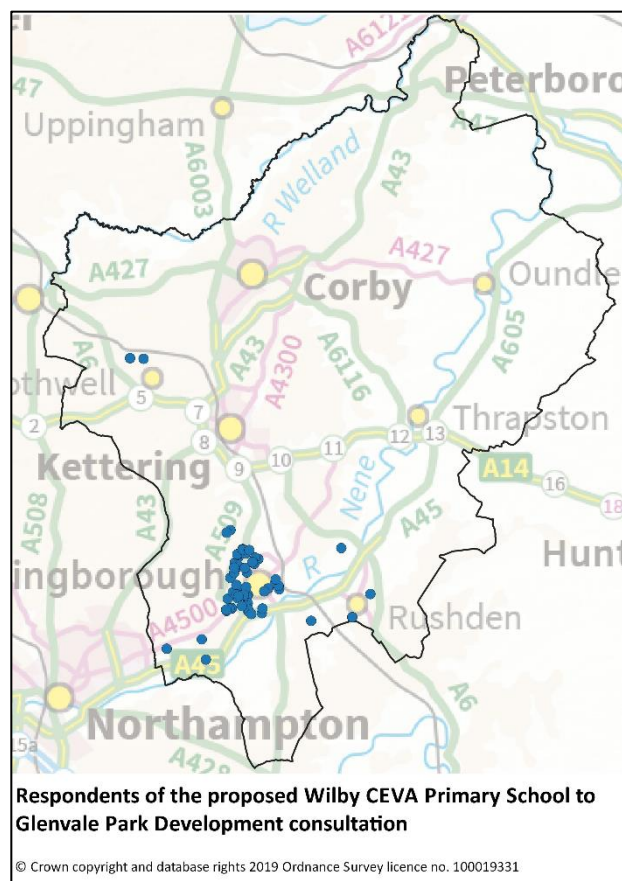
6.1.1 About the respondent

Respondents were asked in what capacity they were responding to the consultation. There were 192 responses to this question, with respondents being able to select more than one option if applicable. The majority of respondents said they were a parent/ guardian/ carer of pupils at Wilby CE VA Primary School (64). The second highest response rate were from residents of Glenvale Park (29), followed by residents of Wilby (26). This was followed by members of staff at Wilby CE VA Primary School (17). The following table details the various respondent types to the consultation questionnaire.

	Response number
Pupil of Wilby CE VA Primary School	2
Parent/carer/guardian of a pupil of Wilby CE VA Primary School	64
Member of staff at Wilby CE VA Primary School	17
Member of a Parent Teacher Association (PTA)	1
A North Northamptonshire Council Councillor	2
A Town or Parish Councillor	5
Local resident of Glenvale Park	29
Local resident of Wilby	26
Local business	7
Local community group who uses Wilby CE VA Primary School for running activities	0
Member of staff at North Northamptonshire Council	4
Other (please give details below)	47

There were 41 respondents who made comment within the 'Other' text box. Approximately a quarter of these identified themselves as a local residents of either Wilby or Wellingborough. A similar number also identified themselves as a wider family member (i.e. a grandparent or aunt). Other respondents include former teachers/ pupils; educational professionals; respondent from a religious organisation; parents of young children who wish to send their child to Wilby CE VA Primary School; and consultation database panel members.

Individual respondents were asked to provide their postcode to give us an understanding of where respondents live. There were 115 valid postcodes provided for North Northamptonshire. The below map broadly shows where these respondents reside. There was one postcode from outside of North Northamptonshire.



An [equality screening assessment](#) (ESA) was undertaken to help inform the proposal. As the ESA identified a potential impact on the categories Disability and Health & Wellbeing the main body of the consultation questionnaire included the following two corporate equality monitoring questions, which were taken from the Council’s Equality Monitoring Form.

Do you have a disability?

	Response number	Percentage (%)
Yes	8	5.3%
No	129	86.0%
Prefer not to say	13	8.7%
TOTAL	150	100.0%

Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a physical or mental impairment which has lasted, or is expected to last more than 12 months?

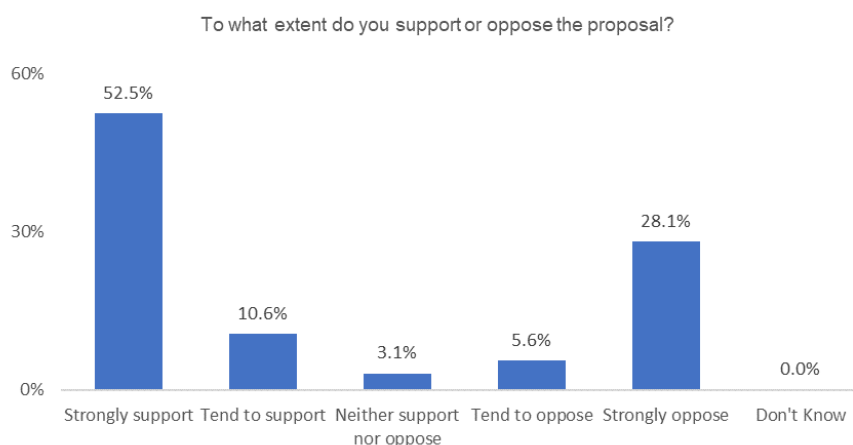
	Response number	Percentage (%)
Yes, limited a little	5	3.3%
Yes, limited a lot	4	2.7%
No	128	85.3%
Prefer not to say	13	8.7%
TOTAL	150	100.0%

6.1.2 The Proposal

Respondents were then reminded that the proposal under consultation was to relocate Wilby CE VA Primary School to the Glenvale Park new school building. This means that Wilby CE VA Primary School will be located on the Glenvale Park site, and the vacated smaller school be reutilised for other educational purposes.

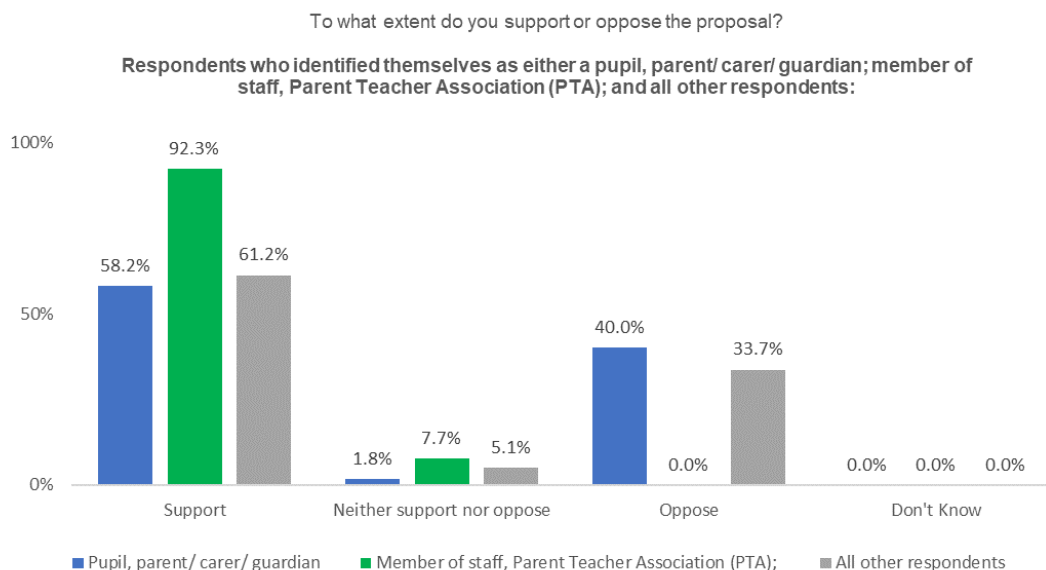
Respondents were then asked to what extent they support or oppose the proposal.

There were 160 responses to this question. Approximately two thirds of respondents (63.1%) said they strongly support or tend to support the proposal, while about one third (33.8%) said they strongly oppose or tend to oppose the proposal. No-one said ‘Don’t know’.



When comparing responses to this question to the different types of respondents we can see that out of the 66 respondents who identified themselves as either a pupil or a parent, carer or guardian of a pupil of Wilby CE VA Primary School, 58.2% support the proposal and 40.0% oppose. Of the 18 members of staff at Wilby

CE VA Primary School and Parent Teacher Association (PTA), 92.3% support the proposal and none of them oppose. Of all the other respondents 61.2% support and 33.7% oppose.



6.1.3 Positive impacts

Respondents were invited to share their feedback on why they felt the proposal would have a positive impact. A total of 103 respondents shared their views.

Nearly three quarters expressed their general support for the proposed relocation and welcomed the provision and benefits a spacious modern building and facilities would bring and thought it would provide enhanced opportunities for the pupils to thrive. These respondents felt a more reliable infrastructure and support system would also help the growth of the local community. It was commented by some that they feel the current Wilby primary school is no longer fit for purpose and has restricted facilities for the growing needs of the pupils.

Approximately a fifth of the comments to this question stated that the proposed relocation would provide pupils with more outdoor, communal and/or green space which would enhance physical education.

A similar number of comments felt the proposal would reduce the volume of traffic in the Wilby area and that the Glenvale location provided better parking, for both staff and parents, and drop-off options. Although, there were a small number of comments relating to concerns over transport and/or safe routes to the new school, with one reference to an assurance being made regarding free transport to the school for pupils.

Several respondents thought the potential relocation to an established school would be beneficial in relation to preparing pupils for secondary education, being able to intake all year groups together rather than staggered, and potentially attracting more diverse teaching staff.

A similar number of respondents claimed the potential relocation would support the growth and development of the general Glenvale community, offer opportunities for the community to come together and help house sales in the local area.

There were a few respondents who said the new school building would provide additional facilities for SEN (Special Educational Needs) provisions, PPA (planning, preparation and assessment) time, interventions, meeting rooms, cooking facilities.

A local Parish Council commented its full support for the proposed relocation, following an extensive consultation with Governors and teachers.

There were a small number of comments that there were in fact not perceived positives to the relocation, or comments that were negative; including that Glenvale School was for the Glenvale estate so moving another school is not beneficial; and that some people moved to the estate believing there would be a new school that didn't open so their children now attend a school out of the area.

6.1.4 Negative impacts

Respondents were then invited to tell us of any negative impacts they feel the proposal may make along with any suggestions on how any potential negative impacts could be reduced or avoided. There were 74 responses to this question.

Almost half of the responses to this question were in relation to how they thought the relocation of the village primary school would impact on the wider community of the village. They felt the potential relocation of the school would take away what was referred to as 'the heart of the village'. It was felt the relocation of the school would impact on the community as a whole and potentially reduce the popularity of the village overall. These respondents also commented on how they preferred the small village school and its link with the nearby church.

Approximately a third of comments related to the additional travel that some parents and children would need to undertake, adding additional vehicles to the current traffic and burden to parents time due to travel logistics.

Alongside this, about a quarter of comments related to concerns regarding the environment with the additional traffic on the road and/or safety concerns for the children, with a perception of no safe walking routes to Glenvale Park from the Wilby area or having young children needing to travel on buses.

Several respondents raised their concerns over future plans and/or the intake process challenges that may occur later for Glenvale primary school. They were concerned there would be oversubscription in the future and Wilby children may be placed in town schools further away. They were also concerned that Glenvale estate children would have priority for the allocated spaces. There was also an indication that by the time the building is ready for intake, there would be enough pupils to initially open multiple year groups on a one form or mixed class entry, which would accommodate families with children of differing ages. This could then increase as the school fills with more children joining the local catchment area to accommodate a two form entry.

A similar number of respondents raised their concerns that the school may prioritise admission on faith and a perception that this would remove choice, with a risk that the diverse local community may be discriminated against.

There were a few comments received about concerns regarding the health and wellbeing of both children and staff, and the impact of perceived disruption the proposed relocation would cause.

A similar number of respondents mentioned the current cost of living crisis and were worried about the additional financial burden new school uniforms and travel would add to some family's outgoings, and how this may be a bigger challenge for some families more than others. There was also one reference to the cost of the relocation of the school on the public purse.

A small number of comments referred to parents who had made a historic choice to send their child to a village school and that choice is now being taken away from them.

There were a small number of additional comments querying where the additional budget for potential school transport would come from when NNC budgets are being challenged; that the new school building could be better utilised for a SEN or secondary school provision. There was also reference to a perceived lack of stakeholder engagement or alternative options considered and mention of a local petition against the relocation. There was a reference to one of the reasons for the relocation being the need for costly maintenance and modernisation but even if the school is relocated and the building utilised for something else, that maintenance and modernisation will still be required.

A few respondents offered suggestions on how any perceived negative impact could be reduced or avoided. These included provision of a shuttle bus from Wilby primary school to Glenvale Park or free school transport and moving the start/end time of the school day to mitigate the additional traffic. It was also suggested that consideration should be given to students already attending Wilby primary school as a core ambassador group to continue the culture of the school and support new pupils. It was said these students and their parents need to be made to feel they belong to the school community. It was also commented that strong communication and transparency between the school administration and Wilby village is vital to address any concerns and maintain trust. It was suggested it would have been better to choose a school closer to Glenvale estate to avoid causing as much disruption. It was also suggested that a one form entry school would have helped the school to reach full capacity.

Some thoughts were also shared on the proposed reutilisation of the Wilby primary school building with a feeling that it should be decided now, rather than later; ideas included using the building for meeting rooms, youth meetings, village shop, and a nursery.

6.1.5 Other comments

Respondents were invited to tell us of any other comments that they had not already shared. There were 51 responses to this question. Responses to this question were mixed.

The highest number, approximately one fifth of responses to this question, shared their positive sentiment regarding the potential relocation.

There were equal numbers of comments, each about one tenth of respondents, regarding the potential relocation being unnecessary or needing reconsideration; expression of a preference for a village school to remain as it is more personable and the relocation would take away choice; concern over the school intake process for the new school with suggestions to delay the intake until the school can be filled from the Glenvale estate or the estate build is complete; concern that a faith school may deter attendance or create bias.

There were a handful of comments expressing concern over transport to the new Glenvale school and whether transport would be provided from Wilby village; how the empty Wilby school building would be repurposed; and what that the proposal might mean for Wilby village.

6.1.6 Demographic information

The questionnaire then invited organisational respondents to provide more detail about their organisation by providing their organisations name and their job title/ role. The two respondents who provided this information identified themselves as a Parish Council and a local Church. We have not listed the job titles/ roles of respondents within this report to ensure respondents' anonymity is retained.

Respondents who were not responding on behalf of an organisation were asked a range of equality monitoring questions to help us understand the characteristics of people who have taken part in the consultation.

Many respondents did not complete the equality monitoring form, although key demographic data was captured within the main questionnaire, as presented earlier within this report. The following is a brief summary of the data received from the equality monitoring form.

More females (55.6%) completed the equality monitoring form than males (44.4%). All of the equality form respondents said they were the same gender as they were assigned at birth. There was a wide breadth of age ranges of respondents, with the age band of 35 – 49 being the most frequent (27.8%).

Most of the respondents identified themselves as being married (77.8%), followed by widowed (11.1%), with divorced and cohabiting both being 5.6%. All respondents who disclosed their sexual orientation said they were heterosexual (100.0%).

Predominantly respondents identified themselves as White British (83.3%), with the remainder identifying themselves as White other and Asian. The most frequent religion identified was Christian (61.1%), with 22.2% of respondents saying they have no religion.

6.2 Written responses

There were three written responses received.

One submission expressed concerns over the proposed relocation and felt several issues had not been thoroughly considered. They felt the process had been directed towards confirmation of the proposed relocation, without balance. They questioned the rationale regarding the birth rate of Wilby residents (and other villages in general) and the number and reasons pupils outside of the village attend the school. The response was strongly supportive of village schools and the environment they provide, especially to SEN pupils, and felt the relocation of the school removes the choice for the families who prefer a village school, including those whose children require additional SEN provision. They said the impact of such a change should be fully assessed before any decision is taken.

The second respondent expressed concern regarding a faith school and thought that perhaps a non-faith school would be a better option. They added they had chosen to move to the Glenvale Park community expecting a new primary school, but not a faith school.

The final written submission confirmed a preference for their child to attend Wilby school in its current location, next to the church.