

# Consultation Report

## Former Queens Hill School Newport

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Newport City Council and Residual Lands Ltd held a public exhibition on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> April 2013 to gather feedback from the local community about their views of the site and opinions about its future.

The initial ideas shared with those that visited the exhibition included the regeneration of the site following the demolition of the remaining existing buildings, the replacement of the existing vehicular access with an improved, safer access, new homes, a clear area for St Mary's Primary School to use and improvements to the school facilities.



Over the two days **172** people, including local councillors visited the exhibition. A total of **92** questionnaires were completed and returned. **38** of the questionnaires were completed by individuals that have a connection with St Mary's Primary School, either because they are employed there, have children there, or both.

In the following report they will be referred to as 'having a connection with the school' and the remainder will be referred to as 'local residents.'

The following are the results of the responses to the questionnaire.

### What is your opinion of the appearance of the site:

It is clear that the site has features that are valued in the area but there are significant concerns about its appearance and future:

**54%** think that the land and buildings are attractive.



**68%** consider that parts of the land and/or buildings are deteriorating



**94%** agree that the trees on the site are an attractive feature.



**51%** consider that the site is not well maintained.



**37%** consider that the railings and wall along Queens Hill are an eyesore.



### What is your opinion of the use of the site:

There is significant concern about the problems caused during drop off and collections at the school:

Apart from traffic issues, **84%** consider that the school use causes no problems or disturbance but **73%** identify problems during drop off and collections.



Only **11%** of local residents identified problems with anti-social behaviour at evenings and weekends.



**How should the site be used in the future:**

There is overwhelming support for the re-use of the site for other uses:  
**89%** consider that the site should not remain largely unused and should not continue to fall into disrepair.



**53%** of those with a connection to the school and **74%** of local residents think that the site should be used for other purposes.



There is generous support that St Mary's should remain at Queen's Hill and that the school facilities should be expanded:

All of those with a connection to the school and **96%** overall agree that part of the site should continue to be used for the school.



**83%** disagreed with the idea of moving the school to a new site.



**72%** overall considered that the school should be expanded.



**What uses should the existing BUILDINGS be used for:**

The largest support for the re-use of building was for improved school facilities with support also for use for residential, employment and social services:

**30%** overall consider that the existing buildings should be used for an employment use,



whereas **93%** overall agree that they should be used for improved school facilities.



**19%** agreed with the idea of social services using the buildings.



**69%** of local residents disagreed that the existing buildings should be used for residential purposes.



**What should the LAND be used for:**

There is tremendous support for the retention of open space on the site for sports/play and an expanded school as well as substantial support for new housing on the site:

As regards the land, **92%** overall agreed that some of the site should be retained as open land.



**96%** of those with a school connection and **80%** of local residents agree that the land should accommodate an expanded school.



Overall **19%** consider that the land should be used for employment uses.



**37%** of local residents and **24%** of those with a school connection agree that the site should be used for new housing.



**96%** overall agree that the land should be used for outdoor sports or a play area.



### Comments on the initial concept for development:

There was considerable support for the area shown for the school use and ample support for the areas shown for new housing:

**23%** of local residents agreed with the areas shown for new housing.



**60%** overall agreed with the area shown for the school use,

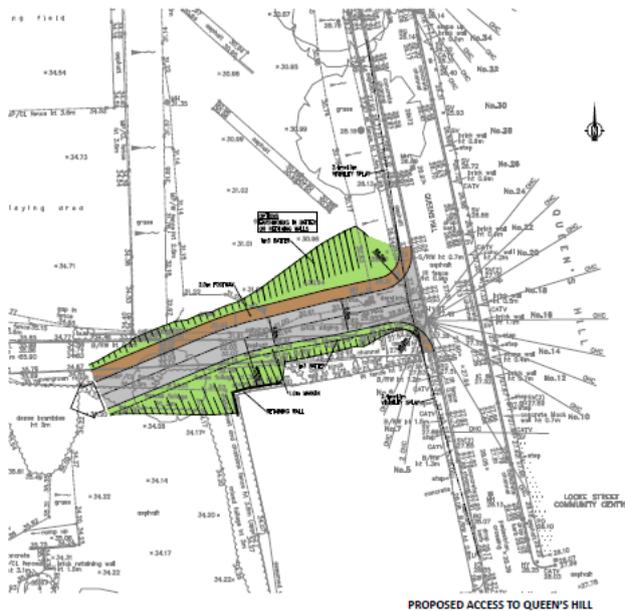


Virtually all were agreed that a drop off area should be provided for the school together with extensive support for an improved access:

**94%** agreed that a drop off area should be provided for the school.



**89%** consider that the vehicular access should be improved to reduce congestion.



Individuals completing the questionnaire expressed their preferences for the various types of housing by agreeing with their preferred types or by disagreeing with the types they disliked the most.

There was greatest support overall for detached dwellings, with semi-detached and retirement accommodation coming second and third. The least support overall was for affordable dwellings, terraced or flats:



The types of housing that were disagreed with the most overall were flats, then affordable and terraced housing coming joint second. The types that were disagreed with least were detached, then retirement homes, then semi-detached.

### **Next steps**

Based on the feedback received, Newport City Council and Residual Lands Ltd have instructed their design team to prepare detailed proposals taking into account the comments received during the consultation exercise and intend to submit a planning application later this year.

If you have any questions please contact:  
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