

**Statement of Community Consultation:
Proposed Woodley School and College at
Fernside Avenue in Almondbury, Huddersfield**

July 2024

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document has been prepared following the public consultation on the proposed new building for Woodley School and College.
- 1.2 At Kirklees Council we want our children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) to live and be educated in Kirklees.
- 1.3 To enable more children and young people to secure places and thrive in local educational settings, the replacement and rebuild of two special schools was approved and is part of the wider SEND Transformation Programme.

2. Public Consultation

- 2.1 Between 7 May 2024 and 17 June 2024, public consultation took place on the proposed newly built special school on Fernside Avenue in Almondbury, Huddersfield.
- 2.2 The details regarding the consultation were shared by both a public consultation poster and leaflet ([Appendix 1](#)).
- 2.3 The consultation involved sharing draft site plans ([Appendix 6](#)), including proposed landscape spatial arrangement, proposed floor plans along with an artistic illustration.
- 2.4 The public's views were gathered via a survey, asking four questions ([Appendix 3](#)). The survey was available both online and a paper copy.
- 2.5 The online survey was set up and managed by the Kirklees Council Consultation Team. A freepost address was available for paper surveys, and these were received to the Kirklees Council Mailing Services.
- 2.6 Two key stakeholder groups were identified, in addition to the wider Kirklees population, for the consultation:
 - a. The Almondbury area;
 - b. Parents / carers of children and young people with SEND and partners / professionals supporting children and young people with SEND.

The Almondbury area

- 2.7 1025 addresses neighbouring or close to the site were identified ([Appendix 2](#)). A letter, information poster and paper copy of the survey (with freepost return address) was sent via mail directly to these addresses.
- 2.8 The nearby schools (Hill View Academy and Southgate School) were included within the direct mail out.
- 2.9 Almondbury Ward Members were emailed providing electronic copies of consultation material, with printed copies available on request.

Parents / carers of children and young people with SEND and partners / professionals supporting children and young people with SEND

2.10 The information leaflet was shared with Woodley School and College and cascaded to parents and carers of existing pupils and shared with their staff and governor teams.

2.11 Information was accessible on the Kirklees Local Offer website which is accessible to all.

Kirklees wide

2.12 Two drop-in sessions were held:

- a. 14 May, 4.30pm-6.30pm at Woodley School and College – representatives from Kirklees Council, Frank Shaw Associates, Woodley School and College were in attendance with support from PCAN¹ – 5 conversations took place with 1 paper survey completed.
- b. 21 May, 3.30pm-5.30pm at Hill View Academy – representatives from Kirklees Council, Frank Shaw Associates, Woodley School and College were in attendance with support from PCAN – 9 conversations took place and support provided to 3 people to complete the electronic survey.

2.13 A webpage for the development was available ([Appendix 5](#)), a QR code and weblink to this page was included on the information leaflet and poster. The page had 459 unique views (647 views in total). The page included a link to the online survey.

2.14 An article was published on the Kirklees Together platform on 8 May including the link through to the webpage above. The article had 1694 views.

2.15 An article was published on Kirklees Business Solutions, accessible to all Kirklees schools, on 13 May. The article had 338 views.

2.16 An article was included in the May edition of the SEND Transformation Newsletter, which was published on 21 May. The distribution of the newsletter includes Portfolio Holders, MPs, Cabinet Members, Councillors, various Boards, partners across Health, Education, Social Care, internal council services and via the Local Offer platforms.

2.17 The SEND Transformation Newsletter was shared on Kirklees Business Solution on 23 May.

3. Consultation Findings

3.1 50 survey responses were received ([Appendix 4](#)), of which 46 were submitted online, 1 paper survey was completed during drop-in sessions, and 3 paper surveys were returned via the freepost address.

¹ PCAN - Parents and Carers of children with Additional Needs: parent-led forum in Kirklees for all parents and carers of children and young people with additional needs aged from birth to 25 years.

3.2 Question 1 of the survey asked “Please tell us anything you like about the proposed development”. Out of a possible 50 responses; 35 were positive, 1 negative, 6 comment/neutral, 8 were blank.

3.3 Broad themes of positive comments were:

Theme	Comments – direct quotes from the consultation
a. Overall design of the site	“It will be beautiful school with green areas around it.” “The site looks incredible, comprehensive and well thought out. I think parents will appreciate the car park especially for those with disabilities that require longer time to get into the school. The forest school provision is also extremely positive!” “Amazing design, very clever.” “The plans look great and think this would be a great replacement for the old Almondbury school and associated grounds.” “The bus drop off system looks well thought out and systematic and should greatly improve the smooth running of the before and after school routines for the children.” “It look very well planned and fit for purpose. Great use of space and love the outdoor areas. Good parking areas and drop off points.”
b. Increasing special school places	“Great for SEND kids to have extra provision in a purpose built school” “Excellent idea to increase Send provision in the area” “I think it's a good idea if it's helping people also if it's helping Kirklees Council not having to pay so much money out to transport children all over Yorkshire” “This will provide specialist facilities that are required in the Huddersfield area.” “The school is good news as we need more SEND places. The site needs to be used and it's better than building houses on it.”

3.4 Question 2 of the survey asked “Please tell us anything you dislike about the proposed development”. Out of a possible 50 responses; 16 were positive, 12 negative, 12 comment/neutral, 10 were blank.

3.5 Concerns regarding the proposed development related to:

Theme	Response
a. Traffic and parking	The site is accessed off Fernside Avenue, via an upgraded access point realigning the existing access. to allow for two-way traffic flows. On entering the site a Visitor Car Park (including 23 standard bays, 3 accessible bays, 4 EV bays) is located by the site entrance. A small internal access road leads to a Staff Car Park which has 118 parking bays including spaces for 4 minibuses, 3 accessible bays and 6 standard bays. The site has been designed to accommodate a flexible student drop off / external play area, located to the east of the main school building which is accessed via the staff car park. This provides an informal drop-off loop for 18 mini-buses and 12 cars, designed to be utilised as soft and hard external play when not in use as a drop-off space. This is secured via fence and gates from the staff car park and gives direct access into the courtyard. This allows students to safely access the school building. The car parks have been designed so that vehicles waiting to pick up students are within the school site and do not back on to the local highways network and sufficient onsite parking is provided to accommodate staff and visitors to the school. Kirklees Council has employed a Transport Consultant to assess the traffic impacts and a Transport Statement produced.
b. Impact on local community spaces	Following approval for the rebuild and expansion of Woodley School and College on the former high school site at Fernside Avenue, Frank Shaw Associates were appointed to undertake the master planning of the site in order to determine the best position for the school and the extensive grounds required for a 180 place school for children and young people with Complex Communication & Interaction (CCI) needs (including Autism Spectrum Condition). The master planning exercise determined that a cleared site approach would provide the most cost effective and efficient design for the new build school. This requires the clearing of several existing

Theme	Response
Continued - Impact on local community spaces	buildings on the site, making way for construction of the new, specially designed Woodley School and College. The buildings affected by the clearing of the site, are the former high school buildings, an unsustainable swimming pool close to life expiry, an unsustainable closed sports centre in the middle of the site not suitable for a special school and a building used by a private pre-school on a lease basis. Working in partnership with the private pre-school, work is now underway to relocate the provision into Almondbury Library and Children's Centre. Minor alterations have been completed to make more effective use of an underused crèche facility in the centre, with an appropriate lease arrangement being agreed by both parties. This helps ensure this important service remains in the heart of the community to serve local families. The development has been designed to enable separate access by the local community to sports facilities and ancillary facilities including the main hall and MUGA. As such, the proposed development will enhance opportunities available to the local community to utilise the development as a community sports facility. In addition, the proposed development will have no impact on the existing sports pitches as site levels and banking have been designed to not impact the existing pitch lining. The proposed banking will provide an opportunity for spectators to sit and watch games played on the sports pitches and will also create an attractive landscaped setting for the development. Therefore, the development protects these existing sporting facilities.
c. Costs	The Council is currently involved in the High Needs Block Safety Valve Programme and has been successful in securing £33.5m of revenue funding and £8.2m of capital funding. As part of the Safety Valve plan to reduce the historic deficit position, work is ongoing to increase local capacity through the development of Additionally Resourced Provisions (ARPs), Special School Satellite Provisions and the rebuilding of two of our existing special schools. The rebuild and expansion of Woodley School and College and Joseph Norton Academy are vital

Theme	Response
Continued - Costs	elements increasing local capacity for children and young people with complex Special Educational Needs. The agreement states the Council's commitment to; 'Implement joint commissioning and sufficiency strategies, re-balancing the range of placements, services, and provision locally. These will include rebuilding and creating additional SEMH and Complex ASD special school places and increasing additionally resourced provision, to ensure a sufficient mix of flexible services and local placements for children and young people. Kirklees will have sufficient local education places that meet the needs of their population. This includes re-building 2 schools that will create an additional 100+ places. The current spend from the High Needs Block (ring fenced government funding) for Independent School Places is around £11.1m per year, for 198 pupils. By developing local high-quality capacity, there is an explicit assumption that the number of children educated at Non-Maintained Independent Special Schools (NMISS) will reduce as we will be able to accommodate the needs of our children locally. The current average cost of these placements is £60K per annum and the current average cost of a place at Woodley is £28K per annum (a difference of £32K per year), and at Joseph Norton Academy £37K per annum (a difference of £23K per year). The DfE expect that saving assumptions have been factored into the Safety Valve for each school rebuild meaning that over time, and in line with trajectory management that securing sufficient places locally would contribute to our High Needs Block being financially sustainable. Increasing places earlier has the potential to improve upon the Safety Valve position. In addition to the Safety Valve capital funding, High Needs Provision Capital Allowance funding (which can only be used to support places for children with SEND) will also contribute to the cost of rebuilding the special schools.

- 3.6 Of the total possible 200 comments available from the 50 individual responses received, the number of comments relating to the concern themes above were:
- a. Traffic and parking – 18 comments from 13 individual responses
 - b. Impact on local community spaces – 21 comments from 13 individual responses
 - c. Costs – 5 comments from 5 individual responses
- 3.7 During the consultation period, no emails was received to the available email address – SEND.TransformationProgramme@kirklees.gov.uk.

Appendix 1: Public consultation poster and leaflet

Consultation Poster

Public consultation on proposed new building for
Woodley School & College
Provision of a newly built special school on Fernside Avenue in Almondbury



Kirklees Council and Woodley School and College are working in partnership to create a purpose built special school, on Fernside Avenue in Almondbury, Huddersfield, with approximately 180 places for children and young people with complex autism to replace the current school and college facility at the site off Dog Kennel Bank, Huddersfield.

You are welcome to view the proposal, ask questions and give us your feedback at one of our public consultation drop-ins. There is no need to book, just come at the time that suits you best. **The consultation finishes on 17 June 2024.**

Tuesday 14 May Woodley School & College,
Huddersfield, HD5 8JE (4.30pm – 6.30pm)

.....

Tuesday 21 May Hill View Academy,
Almondbury, HD5 8YE (3.30pm - 5.30pm)

If you are unable to attend a drop-in event, please scan the QR code or visit kirklees.gov.uk/woodley-school-and-college and have your say.



Public consultation on proposed new building for **Woodley School & College**

Provision of a newly built special school on Fernside Avenue in Almondbury

Tuesday 14 May

Woodley School & College,
Huddersfield, HD5 8JE
(4.30pm – 6.30pm)

Tuesday 21 May

Hill View Academy
Almondbury, HD5 8YE
(3.30pm – 5.30pm)

Kirklees Council and Woodley School and College are working in partnership to create a purpose built special school, with approximately 180 places for children and young people with complex autism.

Woodley School and College is currently situated on a site off Dog Kennel Bank in Huddersfield, operating from multiple buildings including two Grade 2 listed buildings. Additional teaching spaces have been added over time, however, any further developments are restricted due to the site.

The preferred site for the replacement new school is land that was formerly home to a high school on Fernside Avenue, Almondbury. An illustrative layout for the new school building and site is shown overleaf. Our intention is to apply for planning permission during the summer, but we are very keen to hear your views on the project first.

The development will create additional special school places for pupils aged 5-15 years, with a post-16 provision. The new school will provide a suitable environment for a high level of therapeutic support, alongside excellent teaching for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).



It is hoped that work to start clearing the site will begin in the coming months followed by the construction phase.

We would like to invite you to a public consultation drop-in at which you are welcome to view the proposal, ask questions and give us your feedback. There is no need to book, just come at the time that suits you best.

If you are unable to attend a drop-in event, please scan the QR code or visit kirklees.gov.uk/woodley-school-and-college and have your say.

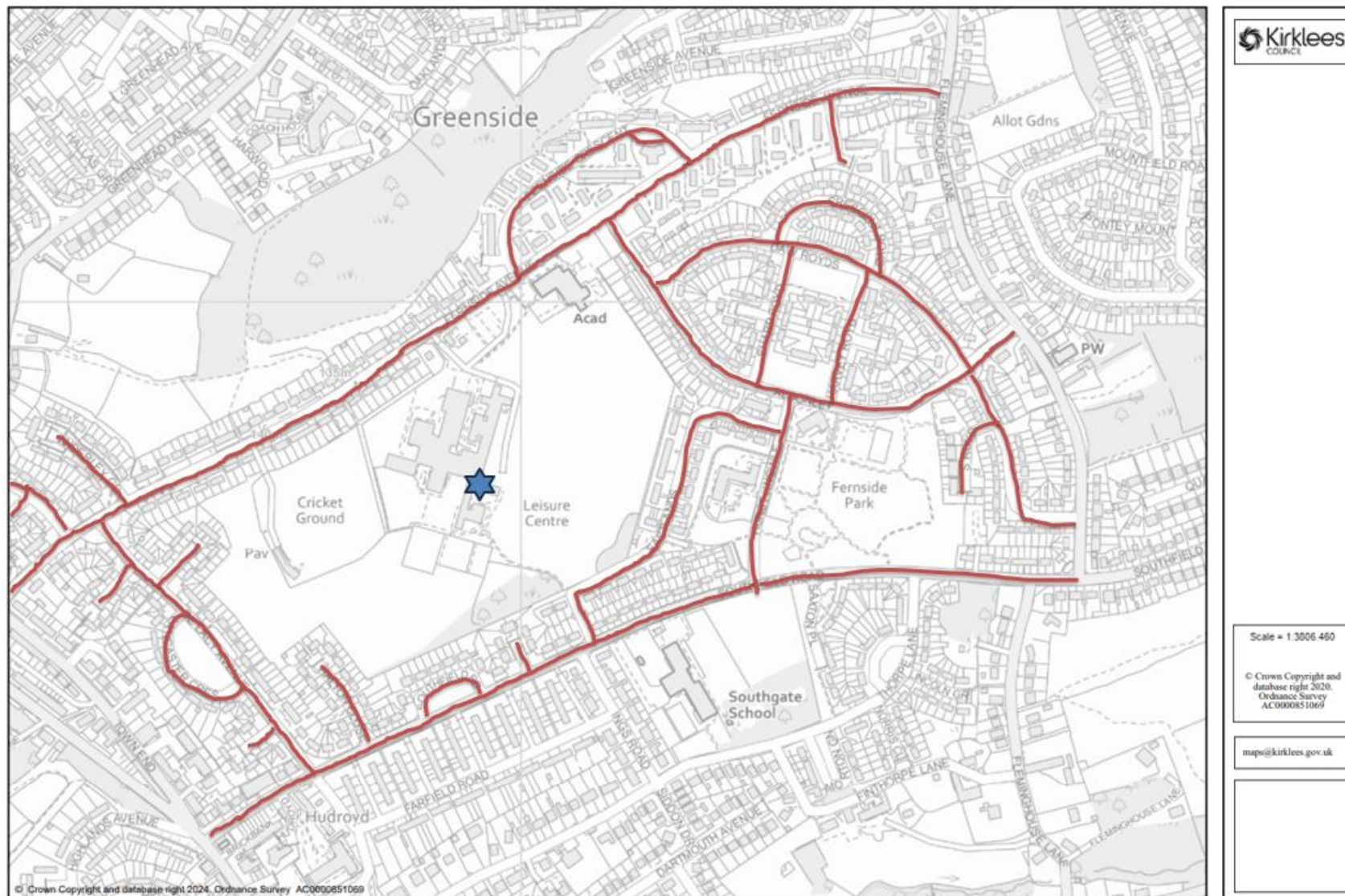


**The consultation finishes
on 17 June 2024.**



Appendix 2: Public consultation targeted mailout

Almondbury



Appendix 3: Public consultation survey questions



Consultation on Woodley School & College

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about our proposals for the new Woodley School & College site in Almondbury.

The questions below will give you an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed development.

The proposals referred to here are available online at kirklees.gov.uk/woodley-school-and-college



Please provide a response by 17 June 2024, either online, by post or by handing in this paper questionnaire at one of our in-person consultation events.

Please use this box to tell us anything you like about the proposed development.

Please use this box to tell us anything you dislike about the proposed development.



Please use this box to tell us anything you think could be improved.

Please use this box to give us any further comments you may have.

Thank you for participating.

You can find details of our in-person consultation sessions at kirklees.gov.uk/woodley-school-and-college

You can return your questionnaire by post to:
Freepost Kirklees Council
Almondbury Consultation



Appendix 4: Public consultation responses

Woodley School & College - New Building

Consultation Responses (as submitted – direct quotes received during the public consultation)

Q1 Please use this box to tell us anything you like about the proposed development?

Online response(s) submitted

- Whatever happens on this site please ensure that sufficient space for vehicle parking and transits are allocated within this enormous site. Sufficient meaning for the needs of all staff, visitors, deliveries, pupil transport and parent/guardian needs. This should include a system to prevent any overspill onto the local roads (especially Fernside Avenue). There is clearly the opportunity to completely avoid the disgraceful situation that developed outside Southgate School on Southfield Road where there has been a clear underdevelopment of such capacity such that the local road is regularly abused mainly by school staff and visitors particularly at school opening and closure times. As I write there is a vehicle (almost ce trainload associated with that school) obstructing the recently repositioned bus stop area.
- It looks like a fantastic school for our community. It's a good use of the space. I like the design. Community activities?
- This development does not make sense. There is a school already on the site. it will impact all the houses around the school the photo looks like there are none. This is not the case.
- It will be beautiful school with green areas around it.
- I think the support for SEND students is absolutely incredible. Whilst we do not need it, I have many friends whose children have suffered greatly. The site looks incredible, comprehensive and well thought out. I think parents will appreciate the car park especially for those with disabilities that require longer time to get into the school. The forest school provision is also extremely positive!
- Brilliant for SEND children, great to see council thinking forward.
- its not ALMONDBURY, you will find lowerhouses, moldgreen or woodlane newsome, but almondbury starts higher up somerset road
- This sounds amazing. There aren't enough provisions in all areas with the knowledge and expertise around SEMH, neurodiversity and trauma experience! I hope this unit provides these children and young people the opportunity to access education under bespoke personalised timetables, too many of them are being forced to confirm to the mainstream madness of regimented regimes and the national curriculum!
- I like that it is located close to the nearby Southgate School as it will be a familiar environment for students who may move between schools.
- Brilliant idea to use the school for special needs. I live on De lacy Ave and can see school. I have no complaints with that. Also it save sending those with special needs out of the area, when we have a building that can facilitate right on our doorstep.
- School seems a good idea

Q1 Please use this box to tell us anything you like about the proposed development?

- Fantastic all for it.
- It's a good idea to help those in need and give them the space of a large building to use as it was previously a school .
- Brilliant use of a perfectly good school. Please ensure that the swimming pool is available for other schools in the area to use and other groups outside of school hours.
- Great for SEND kids to have extra provision in a purpose built school
- Hydro pool. Water therapy area like at castle hill school. Place to teach skills of swimming too or just water therapy
- The bus drop off system looks well thought out and systematic and should greatly improve the smooth running of the before and after school routines for the children. The forest s hook area will be really lovely for the students.
- Excellent idea to increase Send provision in the area
- I think it's a good idea if it's helping people also if it's helping Kirklees Council not having to pay so much money out to transport children all over Yorkshire
- I think that its a great idea...Easy to get to, nice open land
- Amazing design, very clever.
- The catchment area and location at Almondbury is accessible.
- It is very much needed for the students with complex autism. These students need somewhere to develop
- I would like to know what if any proposals have been made to address parking outside the entrance to the school so as not to inconvenience the residents living in the adjacent house, which has in the past cause problems of people parking across driveway and refusing to move as they are waiting to drop or collect children.
- About time! A school like this is much needed, although only 40 pupils?
- Development be good bit will they upgrade the pool for public use got plenty use over the years we need one in the area
- As a parent of two autistic children (one of whom attends woodley) I am so excited to read these proposed plans. The area and surrounding fields would be of so much benefit for children needing space, and therapeutic activities such as cycling or walking tracks.
- The plans look great and think this would be a great replacement for the old Almondbury school and associated grounds.
- A great idea, probably needs a couple more extra schools like this to accommodate the ever growing diverse needs. State of the art needs staff who are all qualified in autism across the board. Will be a great asset but sadly some will still miss out and fall under the radar. Small classes are of great benefit and a chance to put in place individual learning plans for all ranges of autism.
- No objections to the Development at least the building will be good for the future generations.
- I think it's a great idea for children who need extra support. There's not enough help out there for children these days.
- This will provide specialist facilities that are required in the Huddersfield area.

Q1 Please use this box to tell us anything you like about the proposed development?

- The school is good news as we need more SEND places. The site needs to be used and it's better than building houses on it.
- In favour of the development. Pleased that buses will be used to limit traffic.
- It look very well planned and fit for purpose. Great use of space and love the outdoor areas. Good parking areas and drop off points.
- I write as chair of governors of Woodley School and College. I am very much in favour of the proposed development as it will meet the needs of the students and will give equality of opportunity as is correct.
- I like the design aspect of what the new school will look like
- My understanding is that the design team have worked closely with the very experienced Head and the business manager at the school to ensure that the needs of the young people with complex autism can be met. This means that the design is likely to be the best possible within the available budget. There seem to be a commitment to make the school as carbon neutral as possible with PV panels and solar heat pumps.
- I like the overall look, of the building. I have worked at Woodley School and College, as a supply special needs Teaching assistant for ten months. It will be excellent for pupils with autism, as long as it has low level lighting.

Paper response(s) received during drop-in sessions

- Fantastic proposals and plans for future of Woodley School. Access to outdoor space for many learners. Purpose built provision designed together with professionals. Extremely positive. Drop off area. High quality fresh design tailored to needs of young people.

Paper response(s) received via freepost address

- Great idea. Better than letting a good site go to building more houses which would put pressure on all amenities.
- I think this is a fantastic idea. Would make good use of the land. Also maybe build some houses around the site.

Q2 Please use this box to tell us anything you dislike about the proposed development?

Online response(s) submitted

- The time lag between this proposal and the abandonment as a high school site is pitiful.
- I don't think this proposed development should go ahead, you claim the reason for this development is to give kids a better start in life but you plan to spend a ridiculous amount of money on one school that includes a potential petting zoo. I honestly believe you should think about all of the kids in this area and put that money to better use by improving the many schools in disrepair who barely have the basics for learning or playtime, never mind there own petting zoo, I know of schools in Kirklees that don't have proper learning materials or anything for the kids at playtime, you need to change this before you give 1 school something they seriously don't need.
- The green space is limited for the school.
- All off it. Why spend money that the council say they dont have when the building already exists
- Nothing from our perspective.

Q2 Please use this box to tell us anything you dislike about the proposed development?

- Closing swimming pool... could it not be included in planning?
- the loss of longley hall old building, and the old layout of the grounds down to the stream, plus public rights of way
- I dislike the lack of continued use of older buildings. The schools sports centre for example is not outdated and could have continued serving a purpose. I understand the desire to provide the latest quality care but it just seems a bit wasteful.
- It should have kept open as a high school. With gym for public use.
- Dislike nothing.....brilliant idea
- The need to clear the existing site to build another school, wasteful of tax payers money when the council is already in debt due to other wasted use of money.
- Nothing at all, it's well needed for this community
- I don't have any dislike for the proposal
- Almondbury pool and sports centre had provided good community services for a very long time. It's seem stupid to knock it down and not rebuild it.
- The cost of building the school only for an extra 40-50 places does not seem justified when the need for places far exceed this. Why can't the site be an additional school for Kirklees and Calderdale and not a replacement for Woodley? It will not resolve the problem of students waiting on specialist schools. What is happening to the Woodley old site? I hope it is remaining an SEMH or SEND provision of some sort.
- It would be better if the entrance and exit was further down from the existing entrance so that the volume of mini buses and cars was not direct in front of the houses I know we have got the yellow lines outside of the houses but we still have a lot of problems with cars taxis etc blocking our driveway it can cause problems if needed to get out.
- Nothing
- Nothing
- No details about quality of staff at this state if the facility. Will quality extend to staffing of this institution? Along with experience will the staff employed have relevant qualifications to allow for a good standard of teaching and educated nurturing of young people with complex needs at this setting.
- People objecting to it
- Will there be coaches waiting on the road while waiting to gain entrance to the school with their engine's left running churning out fumes and pollutants, which often seems to be the case.
- Parking is already an absolute nightmare at school pick up and drop off. Busses and emergency vehicles have frequently been blocked in or out of Fernside Crescent.
- Parking on fernside avenue need bigger car park
- Nothing, I believe that substantial consultations with relative professionals to meet the needs of Kirklees SEND children.
- None
- Probably not enough spaces
- Nothing
- There's nothing I dislike, it's just concerns. The Southgate school on

Q2 Please use this box to tell us anything you dislike about the proposed development?

Southfield road has caused nothing but mayhem for parking.

- When will it actually be ready? The grand nature of the proposal appears to have a vague essence of large budget, big plans, and the potential for delays, over budget.
- There are only 40 additional spaces from the love - what provisions are being put in place to further develop the site and make spaces for more pupils in the future?
- It's a shame the old school has to go. Amount of traffic and congestion is a safety issue.
- Parking is a concern, traffic/congestion including double decker buses, fire engines up and down the road. Restricted access for tradespeople. Can't always get people to do work because there is no where to park. Rumours that parking restrictions will be reinstated. Lack of caretakers / security at night, kids managed to get in and climb on to the roof.
- Nothing
- I am pleased with the plans.
- My biggest thing I don't like about the proposed plans, is not knowing the plans for the rest of the playing fields. As a very concerned resident who lives on Eastlands I would really like to know what the plans are for the bottom half of the playing field. I have had numerous incidents where kids have trespassed through my garden to get on to the playing field, and I would like this to stop. The only way this will happen is either the old perimeter fence is extended passed my house. Or it would be good if the bottom half of the playing field could be opened up as public accessible for dog walking and for kids to play football. It will stop kids constantly trespassing through residents gardens
- N/A
- I don't dislike anything, though if it were me I would put in a sensory garden. For example a herb garden with Rosemary and mint for example, with a seat in. The herbs could be in raised up beds, so that they are not eaten by slugs or snails.

Paper response(s) received during drop-in sessions

- Nothing

Paper response(s) received via freepost address

- Forced a perfectly decent high school to close. No investment. Kids pushed into other oversubscribed schools. King James is now bursting. Plus you closed junior school. Unfair.
- There is nothing I dislike about the idea.

Q3 Please use this box to tell us anything you think could be improved?

Online response(s) submitted

- Please ensure there is a resurrection of sporting facilities, especially swimming pool, made available for other local schools and the general public.
- More green space.
- Making sure there is enough parking for staff and visitors. Also for disabled people.

Q3 Please use this box to tell us anything you think could be improved?

- Needs to look at what the use for the rest of the field stretching down to as far as Eastlands is going to be. Residents on Eastlands have had issues with kids using gardens as cut through to get on to the playing field. If the full field is not going to be used by the school is the field going to be opened up for dog walkers / as a park area where kids can play football
- Add public swimming pool to school plan
- build on the golf course
- We need more schools like this!
- Although this isn't stated within the description. I would like to say that prior to about a decade ago, the fields surrounding the school were open for public access. This provided large greenspace in Almondbury for public use and a convenient shortcut for people wanting to go from Southfield Road to Fernside Avenue. I understand closing it during school hours for the safety of the students but reopening this would be a benefit for all the public, not just those who have the privilege of accessing the school grounds.
- How will the small roads cope with extra traffic
- I hope they take over the whole field and stop those nuisance motorbikers using the field.
- Improve the existing site so it is fit to use
- Speed cameras on Fernside Avenue would be an advantage.
- May be another road that could be made through the side of the school which is on Southfield road so it would make traffic flow .
- I would like to see you consider a purpose built pool and gym so it can be a benefit to the local community again.
- Hydro pool. Water therapy area like at castle hill school. Place to teach skills of swimming too or just water therapy
- The dining facilities look quite small. Is there adequate seating space for catering for 150 children?
- Moving the entrance further down where the houses end next to the exit then there is no blocking of people's driveways and causing any problems residents have paid a lot of money to get there cars off the roads to give access to vehicles over the years and we get blocked in.
- Perhaps more playing fields
- As mentioned above if the quality of staff has not been factored in it really must be. Having taught in different settings from private to council for young people in care, Special schools, Behavioural units it has been noticed that the standard of staff is not the best. Yes the building is lovely can we look at investing in people too please.
- Just how many cars and others vehicles can we expect too be using this road as the state of Fernside Avenue is already in a poor state of repair.
- Parking
- More use for public such as pool, tennis courts, football and rugby fields
- To ensure there are adequate outdoor areas for summer houses, gazebo and minor livestock. This will allow to school to develop specific areas for solitude and learning
- I do have concerns about the use of the wider space which aren't detailed in the plans, there appears to be open space left where the playing fields are and this concerns me that other use will be sought, such as additional

Q3 Please use this box to tell us anything you think could be improved?

house.

- More schools required like this throughout the Kirklees district
- Nothing
- No it all looks really good
- The location of the school is rather far south? Is this geographically central to the SEND requirements for the area? What about the recently closed school in Golcar - the former Beech Primary / Lily Park. Would this be available immediately? Could this asset be re-purposed?
- Happy with proposal, particularly the fact everything will be on site and confined.
- It would be good to have some tree planting as soon as possible in the forest school area.
- Tell residents who have issues with kids trespassing through their gardens what the plan is with the rest of the playing field
- Has the provision of batteries been considered to make more efficient use during the school day of the solar energy generated out of school hours. Is there any provision for community use of the EV charging facilities eg during the school holidays?
- As above.

Paper response(s) received via freepost address

- Yes, too late now for expensive consultation when you have already made your mind up! Woodley could stay where it is, expand there. Re do Almondbury High for future students.
- About future expansion possibly to the new school and college. Maybe plant also a new more trees around the grounds.

Q4 Please use this box to give us any further comments you may have?**Online response(s) submitted**

- Please ensure that the repurposing process is as efficient as possible with time and money.
- I know this project is to help children with SEND but I honestly think you should think about every child in the general area and sort out the schools that have been asking for help for years, I personally think that Woodley school is fine as it is at the moment I, they have everything they need and more, it's time to help out all the schools suffering instead of just SEND schools
- It will be beautiful place to work. About time SEND children will have school building built around their needs.
- Parking on the road is already a problem by the existing SEND school on southfield Road How do they plan on accessing the new site Will it accommodate all the staff parking Transport vehicles How will it impact the local road network
- As a resident who lives on Eastlands, I'd like to know what the plans are for the rest of the playing field that backs down as far as the houses and flats on Eastlands. If the main school is going to be situated up towards the top end of the field and is only going to use some much of the field space whats going to happen to the rest of the space I've several issues with kids trespassing through my garden to get on to the field behind my house to

Q4 Please use this box to give us any further comments you may have?

play football, if the rest of the field is not going to be used by the school are the old boundary fences for the old Almondbury school site going to be removed, and the rest of the field made open for dog walkers with dedicated public foot path entrances for kids to use to access the field so as to prevent them trespassing through peoples gardens

- there use to be plenty of wildlife in those woods the embankment over the stream, will become unstable due to the water tunnel being blocked over the last 40 years
- n/a
- Keep as much green space as possible. Possibly allow community to use pool/ gym.
- I think this is a brilliant idea as a mother with a send child who is struggling in mainstream and always suspended it gives people like me hope for mine and other children
- No further comment
- What is happening to the swimming pool on the current site? What a waste not to provide swimming facilities. The children will have to be bussed to local pools
- Great idea for a new school but entrance and exit need to be further down the road away from the houses thanks
- Much needed provision
- All the Best with the school.
- It will definitely be a better way to use the space. Also it will look better when passing a boost to Almondbury
- If parking restrictions are place as happens outside the entrance this only is inconvenience the residents as it restricts when people can call to do work and stops visitors in general as there is limited parking on the road in any case. And occupants who work shift patterns would not be able to park outside there own house and park further u or down the road causing further restrictions to the limited available space.
- If the classes are to be as small as suggested, why so many hard surface sports courts? Surely grass would be better, easier and safer?
- I am a resident a few minutes walk from the proposed site. It was just a few years ago that this community was subjected to worldwide news, subjected to scrutiny and accusations of racial hatred and division. My experience as a parent whose child now in year 11 at woodley is very fortunate, many parents with children like mine are forced to travel out of area as there is no room. There is plenty of room here, and village community to meet their needs
- None
- Nothing
- Just the parking, ensuring there's enough spaces for the volume of staff and parents etc biggest mistake the school did on Southfield Road was considering residents' parking/driveways.
- It is good to hear that this proposal is progressing. Although like many schemes, the formal grand nature of the proposal just appears to cause delays as it progresses through the various stages, when a simpler solution may be possible in a location that in more central to the pupils it is intended

Q4 Please use this box to give us any further comments you may have?

to serve and adaptable facilities already exist. Admittedly it may be smaller - but for the time this facility has been "needed" It could come on line "quicker"

- I think this is very much needed as a parent of a Autistic child and governor at Woodley I know how much thought and planning has gone into this build. They have done a fantastic job making do with their current place but it is definetly outgrown and this new build will make the childrens day to day life so much more fulfilled and space for further students.
- We are grateful for the support of Kirklees Council and for the work of all those involved in the planning and design proccesses. As a further point it is good to see wider benefits such as energy efficiency, opportunities for community links in the locality.
- Playing field issue that is my biggest concern.
- I am a governor at the school.
- I experienced the best ten months, of my career at Woodley. Those staff members are the best set of staff, I have ever met. If you have been attacked, as I have, they will look after you. Over six years on supply I have met a lot of mainstream School staff and Nursery staff. The staff at Woodley are patient and kind. I hope they are very much appreciated, as they are doing a very stressful job there.

Paper response(s) received during drop-in sessions

- Wonderful design, calming neutral tones. An experience that has been considered from start to finish / young people's journey.

Paper response(s) received via freepost address

- Will you allow the community to still access the gym? Pool? Community orchard?
- May I also make suggestions about the old peoples home opposite of the park now boarded up this could be used for possibly two/three/four/five houses (maybe more). Also living quarters maybe bungalows at the former WMC (Almondbury) top of Southfield Road (working mens club).

Appendix 5: Development webpage



Menu ☰

Make a payment 

Planning and development

[Home](#) > [Planning and development](#) > [Regeneration and development](#)

Woodley School and College



We've progressed plans for a new special school in Almondbury, which will create new, purpose-built facilities for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Why the new school is being built

One of our priorities is making sure young people have the best start in life.

As part of a large investment in local SEND schools, Woodley School and College is one of two special schools which are set to be relocated and improved, creating better provision locally and reducing the need for children and young people with special educational needs to travel outside of Kirklees for education.

The new development will provide a bespoke, high quality school for these students, greatly improving on the school's current facilities and allowing it to increase the number of places it offers.

Have your say on our plans

We are working in partnership with Woodley School and College to create a purpose-built special school with approximately 180 places for children and young people with complex autism.

Woodley School and College is currently situated on a site off Dog Kennel Bank in Huddersfield, operating from multiple buildings, including two Grade II listed buildings. Additional teaching spaces have been added over time, but any further developments are restricted due to the site.

The development will create additional special school places for pupils aged 5-15 years, with a post-16 provision. The new school will provide a suitable environment for a high level of therapeutic support, alongside excellent teaching for pupils with SEND.



[Proposed landscape illustrative masterplan](#)



[Proposed first floor plan](#)



[Proposed ground floor plan](#)

The preferred site for the replacement new school is land that was formerly home to Almondbury Community School. Before we apply for planning permission, we want to hear your views on the project.

How to have your say on Woodley School and College

Complete our simple online form.

Public consultation is open from 7 May to 17 June 2024

[Have your say](#)

Other ways to have your say

There will also be in-person sessions where you can view the proposal and chat to members of our team. These are:

- Tuesday 14 May, Woodley School and College, Huddersfield, HD5 8JE (4.30pm - 6.30pm)
- Tuesday 21 May, Hill View Academy, Almondbury, HD5 8YE (3.30pm - 5.30pm)

What happens next

The plans require the clearing of several existing buildings on the site, making way for construction of the new, specially designed Woodley School and College.

The buildings affected by the clearing of the site, which is on Fernside in Almondbury, are the former school, the swimming pool and sports centre, and a building currently used by a private pre-school.

The sports centre is currently disused, and Almondbury Swimming Pool is not open to the public. Alternative locations were recently found for swimming lessons and club activities during a temporary closure.

We're also working closely with the private preschool to move it from its existing site on Fernside Avenue to the purpose built Early Years facility at Almondbury Children's Centre and Library, off Farfield Road, for the continuity of its services.

It is hoped that work to start clearing the site will begin in the coming months, followed by the construction phase.

Why Woodley School and College needs a new building

Currently, the council does not have enough special school places for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. This means some children have to go to school outside of Kirklees or to independent schools, which are very expensive for the council and not always the best option for the child or their family.

The new school building will increase the number of places available at Woodley School and College to 180.

The increase in places cannot be achieved at their current site. The current school buildings are dated, with any further developments being restricted due to the site.

Contact us

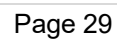
✉ SEND.TransformationProgramme@kirklees.gov.uk

Appendix 6: Draft site plans

Artist Impression – Rear Aerial



July 2024



July 2024



Proposed First Floor Plan

