



# Statement of Community Involvement

## Gomersal St Mary's CE(C) Primary School, Gomersal

Prepared by Stonyrock Limited on behalf of Bowmer + Kirkland

26<sup>th</sup> March 2026



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## 1.0 Engagement summary

### 1.1 Introduction

This Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) has been prepared on behalf of Bowmer + Kirkland (B+K) by Stonyrock Ltd. It supports the planning application for the regeneration of Gomersal St. Mary's CE(C) Primary School, Shirley Avenue, Gomersal, BD19 4NA.

The scope of the engagement exercise was to inform the community and stakeholders about the revised proposals and seek their feedback. The exercise complemented the consultations undertaken by other members of the project team who continue to liaise with statutory consultees and Council officers through the planning process.

- The community engagement strategy has been to involve and seek feedback from;
  - Neighbours of the site (residential and businesses)
  - Parents/carers, staff and governors
  - Political and community stakeholders



- Headlines from the community engagement:
  - Engagement with Councillors and community groups.
  - Letter invitations posted to 100 neighbours of site.
  - 1000 flyers distributed to the community.
  - Email invitations issued to stakeholders including Councillors, community representatives, community groups and other local schools.
  - The school issued invitations to parents/carers.
  - Preview of the public exhibition for school staff and parents/carers.
  - Public exhibition on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at Gomersal St Mary's CE(C) Primary School.
  - Project website [gomersalstymarysplans.co.uk](http://gomersalstymarysplans.co.uk)
  - 95 people attended the public exhibition.
  - Feedback form to share views.
  - 18 people completed the feedback form.
  - Press advertisement.
  - Project telephone and email address have been used by the community and enquiries responded to.

Feedback has been responded in section four of this document. Those who completed feedback forms selected the three key elements of the proposals: comprehensive Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to help minimise disruption to neighbours; modern, inspiring, sustainable school and multiple and varied areas for outdoor play, learning and sport.

## 1.2 Community engagement guidance

In undertaking community engagement for the plans, Stonyrock followed best practice provided by national and local legislation and guidance.

### 1.2.1 The Localism Act 2011

- The Localism Act 2011 introduced a requirement for developers, in certain circumstances, to carry out pre-application consultation when making certain applications under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (TCPA) (see Section 61W). The Act also places a duty on developers to take account of responses arising from this process.
- Section 61W outlines that developers must notify the local community about its proposals to “bring the proposed application to the attention of a majority of the persons who live at, or otherwise occupy, premises in the vicinity of the land.” It states that such publicity must explain how the developer can be contacted by those “wishing to comment on or collaborate...on the design of the proposed development.” Feedback received during consultation must then be taken into consideration by the developer.

### 1.2.2 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) December 2024

- The National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024) recognises the benefit of early engagement with stakeholders and communities, stating that:
  - Good quality pre-application discussion enables better coordination between public and private resources and improved outcomes for the community. Section 4, paragraph 39.
  - Early engagement has significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system for all parties. Good quality pre-application discussion enables better coordination between public and private resources and improved outcomes for the community. Section 4, paragraph 40.

- They [Local Authorities] should also, where they think this would be beneficial, encourage any applicants who are not already required to do so by law to engage with the local community and, where relevant, with statutory and non-statutory consultees, before submitting their applications. Section 4, paragraph 41
- So to is effective engagement between applicants, communities, local planning authorities and other interests throughout the process. Section 12, paragraph 131.

### **1.2.3 Planning Practice Guidance Revision 2019**

- The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) is an on-line resource, which is designed to bring together planning practice guidance for England in an accessible and useable way. The Guidance provides further detail to assist in the understanding of planning policies set out within the NPPF, including requirements for pre-application engagement.
- The section entitled Guidance Before Submitting a Planning Application sets out the process and expectations on pre-application discussions. It states: “Pre-application engagement by prospective applicants offers significant potential to improve both the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system and improve the quality of planning applications and their likelihood of success. This can be achieved by:
  - providing an understanding of the relevant planning policies and other material considerations associated with a proposed development.
  - working collaboratively and openly with interested parties at an early stage to identify, understand and seek to resolve issues associated with a proposed development, including, where relevant, the need to deliver improvements in infrastructure and affordable housing.
  - discussing the possible mitigation of the impact of a proposed development, including any planning conditions
  - identifying the information required to accompany a formal planning application, thus reducing the likelihood of delays at the validation stage. The information requested must be reasonable.
- It states that “pre-application engagement with the community is encouraged where it will add value to the process and the outcome.”

### **1.2.4 Kirklees Council Statement of Community Involvement**

- Kirklees Council Statement of Community Involvement Adopted March 2024. The community involvement and consultation methods detailed within the SCI are based on national planning legislation and regulations as well as the Council’s own policy and procedures. The document sits alongside ‘Our Development Management Charter’ December 2024.
- Kirklees Council Development Management Charter details the Validation Requirements for the Submission of Planning Applications, May 2024 including the submission of an SCI for major planning applications.

### **1.2.5 Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO)**

- Stonyrock Limited is registered with the Information Commissioner’s Office, the UK’s independent authority set up to uphold information rights in the public interest, promoting openness by public bodies and data privacy for individuals.

### 1.3 Engagement programme

The open and collaborative engagement programme was designed to:

- Connect with stakeholder groups
- Establish a collaborative relationship with stakeholders
- Complement the engagement with statutory consultees
- Present the revised plans clearly and widely
- Listen to views from the community
- Respond to any issues raised.

| <b>Activity</b>   | <b>Date</b>                       |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Invitation to all parents/carers and school community   | 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2026    |
| Invite to MP, Councillors including leadership          | 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2026    |
| Letter posted to 151 immediate neighbours               | 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2026    |
| Website launched  | 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2026    |
| Flyer delivery to local community                       | 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2026    |
| Local newspaper advertisement                           | 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2026    |
| Email to community stakeholders and local schools       | 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2026    |
| Reminders to school community, stakeholders/subscribers | 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2026        |
| <b>PUBLIC EXHIBITION (4.00pm-7.00pm)</b>                | <b>11<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b> |

Engagement activity will continue throughout the planning process and beyond and will include:

- Update emails to subscribers
- Support school sharing updates with staff and families
- Letters or newsletters as required
- Meetings with stakeholders and neighbours
- Website updates
- Guidance on how to comment on the application
- Next steps through construction until project completion.

### 1.4 Website

Our project website [gomersalstmarysplans.co.uk](http://gomersalstmarysplans.co.uk) provided the opportunity to review the proposals and leave feedback.

The website launched on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026 enabling the community to register for updates and contact the project team. The website was updated following the public exhibition with detailed exhibition display after the event. This ensured those unable to attend or those seeking further reference could view the proposals. The website had 342 views during the consultation period, and will be available through to construction.



## Planning for our future



Artist's impression of reception outdoor play space

**Bowmer + Kirkland has been selected by the Department for Education (DfE) as the main contractor on plans to redevelop Gomersal St Mary's CE(C) Primary School in Gomersal.**

Some of the current buildings at the school are in a poor condition and approaching the end of their useable life span. The proposals include the demolition of four existing buildings and the construction of a new school building, new external facilities and layout. The Children's Centre building will remain.

The DfE has tasked Bowmer + Kirkland with developing a scheme that will better accommodate pupils, staff and the community, enable the school to remain operational on-site during construction, targets net zero carbon in operation, and provides improved facilities.

The project team has been working closely with the school in preparation of the proposals. This website helps support our programme of community engagement and will be updated as the plans progress.

**REGISTER FOR UPDATES**  
[Click here](#) so we can keep you informed.

### Public exhibition

Please come along to meet the project team on:

**Wednesday 11th March 2026**  
**Gomersal St. Mary's CE(C) Primary School, Shirley Avenue, Gomersal, BD19 4NA**  
**4.00pm – 7.00pm**

If you are unable to attend, the exhibition display and an online feedback form will be available on this website after the event.

If you know of anyone in the community without internet access please ask them to call us on 07592 570528 so we can share information with them.

Your views are important to us. The exhibition display and a feedback form will be available on this website after the event. Please share your feedback by 23rd March 2026. The project team will carefully review your feedback along with that from other consultees before submitting a planning application to the local planning authority.

#### CONTACT US

✉ [info@gomersalstmarysplans.co.uk](mailto:info@gomersalstmarysplans.co.uk)  
 ☎ 07592 570528

[Privacy policy](#)

### 1.5 Digitally isolated

We informed those without internet access about the plans via a newspaper advertisement, letters and flyers.

The map below shows flyer delivery carried out on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026 to 1000 residential and commercial properties.



### 1.6 Media Coverage

- A quarter-page advertisement was published in the Dewsbury Reporter, Batley News and Spenborough Guardian on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026 with a group audience of 17,490.
- A Facebook post by Gomersal St Mary's CE(C) Primary School on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 with 351 followers, received 12 likes and 5 shares.
- A Facebook post by St Mary's Church, Gomersal with 688 followers was shared twice.

### Batley & Birstall News – Advertisement – 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026

**NEWS**

## Those living with aphasia invited to join new support group

**Doreen Bevan**  
doreen.bevan@batleynews.co.uk

A new Kirkless based support group for people living with hidden communication difficulties to take part in what is described as a 'life-changing' rehabilitation programme.

Delivered by the charity Aphasia Support, this project is based to support people of working age who are living with aphasia – an often invisible disability caused by damage to the brain.

Aphasia can affect someone's ability to speak, read, write and communicate. It is most commonly caused by a stroke, and can have a life-changing impact.

The charity's newest group in Kirkless is funded by Healthy West Life in place programme from the West Yorkshire Combined Authorities Integrated Care Board.

From March, weekly sessions will be held at Batley Community Centre and at Cleithra Methodist Church in Huddersfield, offering welcoming and supportive spaces for people to come together.

The group is designed to be friendly, accessible and tailored to each person's needs. It aims to help people with aphasia rebuild their confidence, strengthen their communication skills, and reconnect with their community.

**Project, delivered by Aphasia Support, is designed to support people of working age (18-65) who are living with aphasia.**

Paul, who attends one of the charity's support groups, described his experience as "brilliant" and "rewarding".

"By now, as you see, you feel lost. You're not who you were, and everything takes such a long time. The group has helped every part of my life and helped me move forward after my stroke. Everyone there has made a massive difference."

It's hoped that the support is open to Kirkless residents aged 18 to 65 who are living with aphasia and not currently in employment. Anyone who meets the criteria, or knows someone who might benefit, is warmly encouraged to get in touch with Aphasia Support to find out more about taking part.

### St Mary's Church, Gomersal Facebook post – 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026

St Mary's Church, Gomersal  
26 February at 19:38

Can I draw your attention to a public exhibition of major development plans for St Gomersal St Mary's Primary School?

### Housing development could be built 'within two years' if plans approved

**Catherine Gannon**  
catherine.gannon@batleynews.co.uk

Plans have been submitted to Kirkless Council for a new housing development in Batley.

The plans, submitted by Jones Hatten (Yorkshire) Ltd, include building 22 homes on land off Hurley View, off White Lane Road to the west of the town centre.

A planning statement submitted alongside the proposals said the site could be fully delivered "within two years of the commencement of development".

At a 10:00 am meeting on Wednesday 25 February, under the plans, half of the site would remain as public open space.

A range of detached and semi-detached houses are proposed, with the applicant stating this mixture had been "carefully considered within the context of local market needs".

Proposals include each house having an entrance of two parking spaces, as well as a private garden.

An existing residential development along the north-west edge of the site was constructed by the same applicant.

A public consultation period will close on March 5.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**  
FEBRUARY 2026

## Planning for our future

**PUBLIC EXHIBITION**

Bowmer + Kirkland has been selected by the Department for Education (DfE) as the main contractor on plans to redevelop Gomersal St Mary's CE(C) Primary School and would like to invite the local community to review the plans at a public exhibition or via our website.

Please come along to meet the project team on:

- Wednesday 11th March 2026, 4.00pm – 7.00pm
- Gomersal St. Mary's CE(C) Primary School, Shirley Avenue, Gomersal, BD19 4NA

Have your say at:  
[www.gomersalmarysplans.co.uk](http://www.gomersalmarysplans.co.uk)

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**  
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## 2.0 Engagement activity

### 2.1 School community

The school community was informed of the public exhibition by the school by email and a school Facebook post. A poster was provided to the school to publicise the staff and parent/carer engagement session, in addition to material for the public exhibition.

A preview of the public exhibition was held for staff from 2.30pm-4.00pm on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026. The project team were able to explain details of the plans and construction programme.

The exhibition display has been left with the school.

### 2.2 Political stakeholders

Prior to the consultation launch following a detailed stakeholder mapping exercise, political representatives and community stakeholders were contacted. All Councillors were emailed details of the proposals and exhibition and will be kept informed as the project progresses. No political stakeholders made themselves known at the public exhibition.

### 2.3 Immediate neighbours

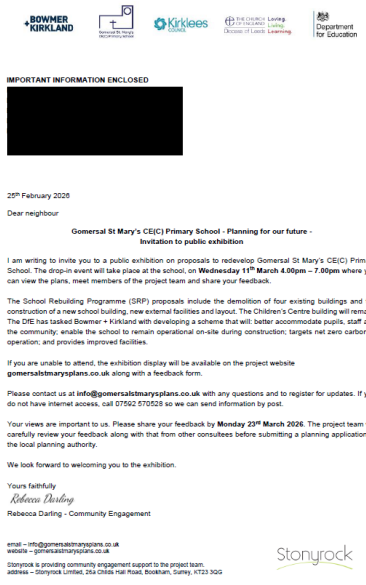
Letters were posted to 100 immediate neighbours of site inviting them to the public exhibition to discuss the proposals and providing contact information for the project team, adjacent example. 1000 flyers were distributed in the area. Some registered for project updates ahead of the public exhibition.

### 2.4 Community groups

Community groups including local churches, heritage and local interest were contacted prior to the exhibition, encouraged to share information and will be kept informed as the project progresses.

### 2.5 Public exhibition

The public exhibition was held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026, Gomersal St Mary's CE(C) Primary School. The community were invited by letter, flyer, social media posts, newspaper advertisement, stakeholder emails and parents/carers by school email. The event was run as a drop-in session from 4.00pm to 7.00pm.



## 2.5.1 Public exhibition display

Scan the QR Code to access our feedback form and share your views

**WELCOME**



Welcome to our exhibition on plans to redevelop Gomersal St Mary's CE/EC Primary School. Gomersal Bowmer + Kirkland has been selected by the Department for Education (DfE) as the main contractor. The project team has been working closely with the school in preparation of the transformational plans you can see today.

**Why is this project necessary?**  
Some of the current building at the school are in a poor condition and deteriorating the overall appearance of the site. The DfE has asked Bowmer + Kirkland to develop a scheme that will better accommodate pupils staff and the community, enable the school to ensure operations are safe during construction, target not over carbon in operation and provide improved facilities.

**What is being proposed?**  
The plans represent a major investment from the DfE and involve working alongside and with the school to build and repair. The proposals include the demolition of four existing buildings and the construction of a new school building. The Children's Centre building will remain. The regeneration will be largely constructed off site to help minimise disruption to the school.

**How can the community share their views?**  
Below we support our partners in providing an online feedback from the community. Please share your views via our website, scanning the QR code above or by filling in one of the feedback forms available here today. If you have friends or family who are unable to attend the exhibition, display is available at [www.gomersalmarysplans.co.uk](http://www.gomersalmarysplans.co.uk)

**At Gomersal St Mary's CE/EC Primary School we are fully committed to ensuring our pupils' only views and support each other to improve positive learning for all our pupils. We are a school determined that our children will reach their full potential. Following an extensive design process with the DfE and consultation on the project there are no alternatives to be able to show what our proposals for the future of our school. The regeneration plans will help our school to have a safe environment where our staff and children will thrive. Mrs Barker, Headteacher**

**Planning for our future**

[www.gomersalmarysplans.co.uk](http://www.gomersalmarysplans.co.uk)

Scan the QR Code to access our feedback form and share your views

**PROJECT TEAM**



**The Department for Education (DfE)** is responsible for children's services and education, including early years, schools, higher and further education and apprenticeships and under 25s in England. Gomersal St Mary's CE/EC Primary School was awarded through the CE/EC Conversion Programme plan to be used to address the condition issues in some of the existing buildings.

**Bowmer + Kirkland** is appointed by the DfE as the main contractor to deliver the school's new building and to provide a most market standard construction contract and delivery of education in the borough and leading of the construction site on behalf of the existing building.

**Kirkland Contract** is the Local Education Authority for the authority and Gomersal St Mary's CE/EC Primary School responsible for the provision and delivery of education in the borough and leading of the maintained school. The Council is committed to ensuring that every child and young person in Kirkland receives an excellent education by continuing to work closely with all schools.

**Church of England Diocese of Leeds** (the diocese) is a charity that provides religious and spiritual support for other people in a local area. We work with our schools to improve the curriculum for the pupils in their care, focused on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural education of young people.

**Stonyrock** is a creative, friendly and collaborative team of designers and experienced landscape professionals, committed to delivering projects that restore our links with nature and establish a real sense of place. Our work is characterised by our drive to integrate quality of the outdoor spaces, topographical context and create adaptable resilient landscapes that help to build the environmental appreciation of our staff and students of all ages.

**WSP Planning Consulting and Heritage** works with clients and design teams to secure planning permission for new development. Securing a sustainable future for our land and buildings, WSP work collaboratively to secure the interests of key stakeholders and the requirements of the planning authority.

**Stonyrock** has been supporting Bowmer + Kirkland with community engagement since the start of the project. From the initial design through to construction, we have been working with the school and the community to ensure that the project team understand the views of residents and other stakeholders.

**Planning for our future**

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Scan the QR Code to access our feedback form and share your views

**LAYOUT**



The layout of the site has been a key consideration in planning the regeneration of Gomersal St Mary's CE/EC Primary School and includes the following elements:

- 1. Welcoming main arrival which provides landscaping and clear pedestrian routes
- 2. Multiple areas for outdoor play and learning including canopy
- 3. Welcomes Children & Nurseries Club, community and public trees of increased canopy
- 4. New sports facilities including hard and soft PE pitches
- 5. Efficient car parking, updated site security, maintenance and user safe strategies
- 6. Careful consideration of surrounding homes and site level changes
- 7. Improved opportunities for community use outside school hours
- 8. Consideration the built area creating more suitable outdoor spaces and a fully accessible layout

**Skating site**  
The site currently has no buildings, the main school building, the nursery, classroom in a single temporary accommodation building, the double classroom temporary accommodation building and the Children's Centre which is built on the ground level. The Children's Centre will be used for construction office during construction (see planning section).

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Scan the QR Code to access our feedback form and share your views

**DESIGN**



Matching the vision of Gomersal St Mary's CE/EC Primary School the architects have followed a comprehensive set of design principles including:

- 1. Creating a more compact single storey footprint with less empty school hall
- 2. Ensuring the existing school can remain operational throughout construction
- 3. Energy efficiency - The new building is targeted to be net zero carbon in operation
- 4. Materials and building technology that create a low carbon area to meet taking advantage of natural light

**Sustainability credentials**  
The new building delivered under the School Rebuilding Programme will target Net Zero in operation. Bowmer + Kirkland chose the Fabric First Principle which ensures the fabric, heating, ventilation, water and lighting systems are designed to be energy efficient and robust. The following sustainability and biodiversity supporting aspects are being considered for the new building:

- 1. Bio solar roof
- 2. Effective surface water management
- 3. Air sourced heat pumps
- 4. Reduction of CO2 emissions through incorporation of high radiation standards
- 5. Reduction of water use in building fabric
- 6. Compliance with best building practice and the DfE's approach of the Green, the Green and the Green

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**CONSTRUCTION PHASING**

Bowmer + Kirkland (BK) has extensive experience of managing sites where the school remains open. Modern Methods of Construction and improved components for efficient manufacturing methods were used to ensure fast and safe delivery. Bowmer + Kirkland will manage the site and ensure an excellent quality (local management) plan, safe and the maintenance of high quality education environment. Following planning authority approval, the proposals for the main construction will be phased over approximately two and a half years.

**Phase one**  
The first phase will see replacement building, widening of the site entrance and installation of a new temporary site office. Bowmer + Kirkland are providing the use of the public car park to support the school entrance for site visitors and staff. Construction of the new school building will begin underway.

**Phase two**  
Once the school has moved into their new building, demolition of the existing school will start. The use of the site, school staff will move to the public car park to support the school entrance.

**Phase three**  
The final phase will see the completion of external works such as car parking, playground, hard PE and planning. Bowmer + Kirkland will look on site by making good the section of the Children's Centre they occupied during construction.

**Planning for our future**

[www.gomersalmarysplans.co.uk](http://www.gomersalmarysplans.co.uk)

Scan the QR Code to access our feedback form and share your views

**SOCIAL VALUE**



Bowmer + Kirkland creating social value means making a positive impact on people's lives and the local environment. For the proposed Gomersal St Mary's CE/EC Primary School rebuild, Bowmer + Kirkland will meet the DfE framework and deliver. Community social value opportunities, and comply with the Public Services Social Value Act by:

- 1. creating a more compact single storey footprint with less empty school hall
- 2. ensuring the existing school can remain operational throughout construction
- 3. energy efficiency - The new building is targeted to be net zero carbon in operation
- 4. materials and building technology that create a low carbon area to meet taking advantage of natural light
- 5. using a social value calculator (SVCs) to quantify social value (SV)
- 6. documenting social value impact through case studies
- 7. having a dedicated social value resource to meet them

Once planning permission has been granted Bowmer + Kirkland will target on the following SVI:

- 1. spend with local suppliers
- 2. provide local T level placements
- 3. employment of local labour
- 4. participate in local education programmes
- 5. using the local Jobs Hub of interventions
- 6. engage local organisations
- 7. improve opportunities for community use of new school facilities
- 8. prioritise pupils with improved security environment for all pupils and staff
- 9. offer site visits for local schools and groups to help local schools
- 10. complete the Green facilities
- 11. complete the Green facilities
- 12. complete the Green facilities

**Planning for our future**

[www.gomersalmarysplans.co.uk](http://www.gomersalmarysplans.co.uk)

**NEXT STEPS**

- This exhibition display is available on the project website
- Please share your feedback via the QR code, paper forms available today, the website or by email by **Monday 23rd March 2025**
- The project team will review your comments together with those from other stakeholders before submitting a planning application to Kirkland Council
- The detailed planning application documents will be available on the Council planning page (part of the local authority website) from the start of the exhibition
- If the plans are approved construction will be phased over approximately two and a half years including final landscaping

**Thank you for coming to our exhibition.**

- Modern, inspiring and sustainable primary school
- Multiple and varied uses for outdoor play, learning and sport
- Transformation of the building environment for all pupils and staff
- High quality architectural design which includes the vision of Gomersal St Mary's CE/EC Primary School!
- Landscape design that respects the site's grade and carefully considers surrounding properties
- Improved opportunities for community use of new school facilities
- Prioritise pupils with improved security environment for all pupils and staff
- Complete the Green facilities
- Complete the Green facilities
- Complete the Green facilities

**Planning for our future**

[www.gomersalmarysplans.co.uk](http://www.gomersalmarysplans.co.uk)

### 2.5.2 Project team attendees

Members of the project team answering questions represented:

- Department for Education (DfE)
- Main Contractor - Bowmer + Kirkland
- Gomersal St Mary's School
- Technical Advisors – Turner & Townsend
- Landscape Architects – One Environments
- Planning Consultants - WSP
- Community Engagement – Stonyrock co-ordinated the event

### 2.5.3 Photographs from the public exhibition



#### **2.5.4 Public exhibition feedback summary**

Participants were encouraged to provide feedback using the paper form provided or using the QR code on the exhibition display to link to the website form.

In total 95 people attended the public exhibition, including 40 mostly neighbours and local families in the evening session and 55 parents, carers, pupils and staff in the afternoon. We were pleased that boundary neighbours attended and that we now have communications established with them. Attendees spent time with the contractors discussing the construction phasing, wider benefits of the proposals for the community and sharing her support.

Although there was some concern about change, people were grateful to have the compromises and constraints that the project has on site explained to them and welcomed the investment in the community.

The school has kept the display and the St Mary's Vicar visited and promised to share again with their congregation.

### 3.0 Community feedback

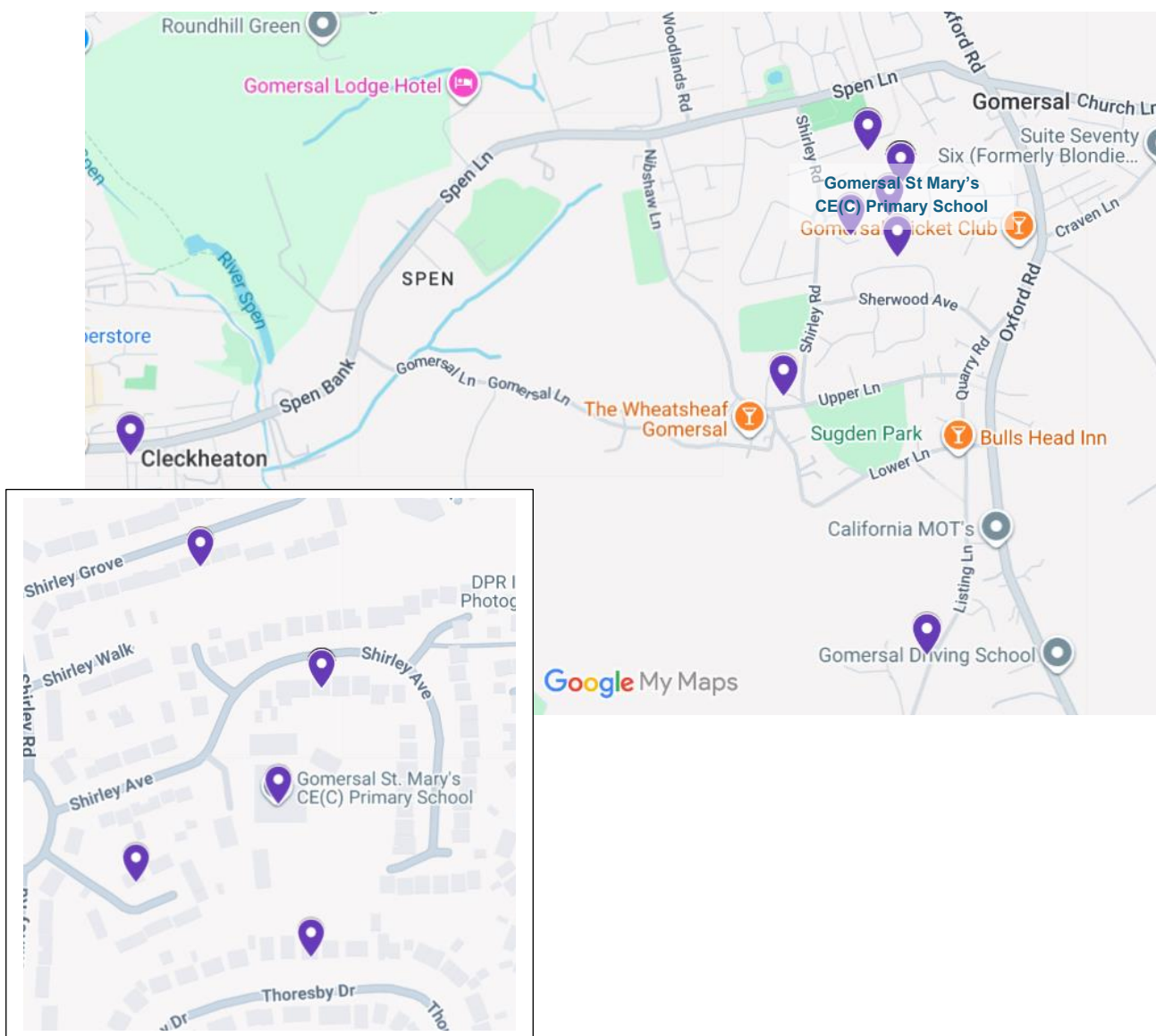
In total 18 individuals shared their feedback via online or paper forms. Emails were also received with additional comments. Feedback has been carefully reviewed by the project team.

Responses from feedback forms are detailed below:

#### 3.1 Online feedback

##### Question 1. About you

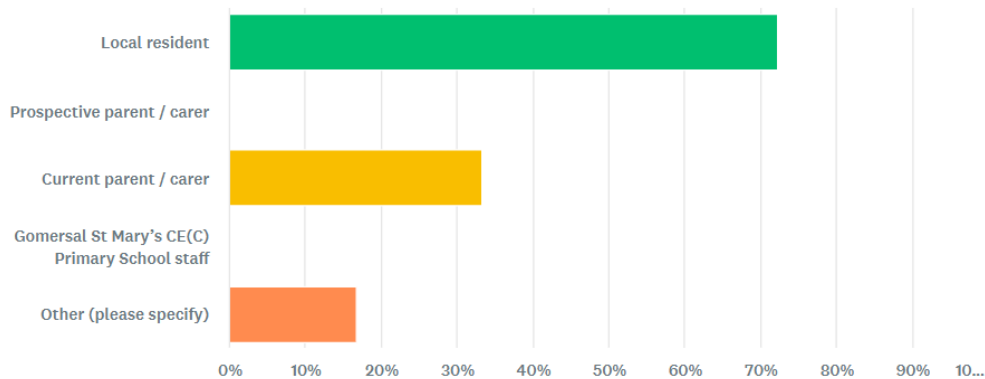
18 people provide their postcodes. These are plotted on the map below with the school site labelled. The insert map shows in more detail the postcodes of those who provided feedback.



**Question 2.**

Which category best describes your interest in the school?

Answered: 18 Skipped: 0



**Question 2 – Summary of responses**

We wanted to ensure all neighbours were informed, given the opportunity to review the plans and share their views. We wrote 100 letters to neighbours of site, distributed 1000 flyers to local addresses and emailed our database of local stakeholders.

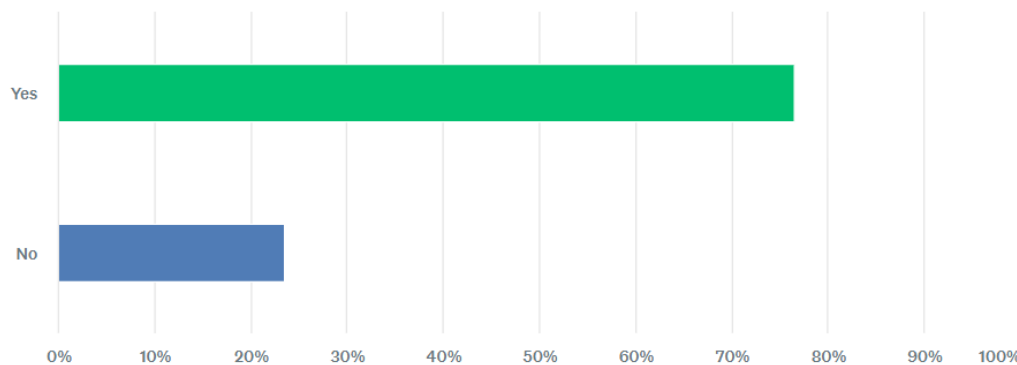
We were pleased 72% of respondents are local residents. Many confirmed they had received the letter inviting them to the public exhibition. We are pleased that current parents/carers are engaged and we were able to respond to their questions on the proposals.

The 'Other' category included Governors and those with links to the Church.

**Question 3.**

Do you support the plans to regenerate Gomersal St Mary's CE(C) Primary School?

Answered: 17 Skipped: 1



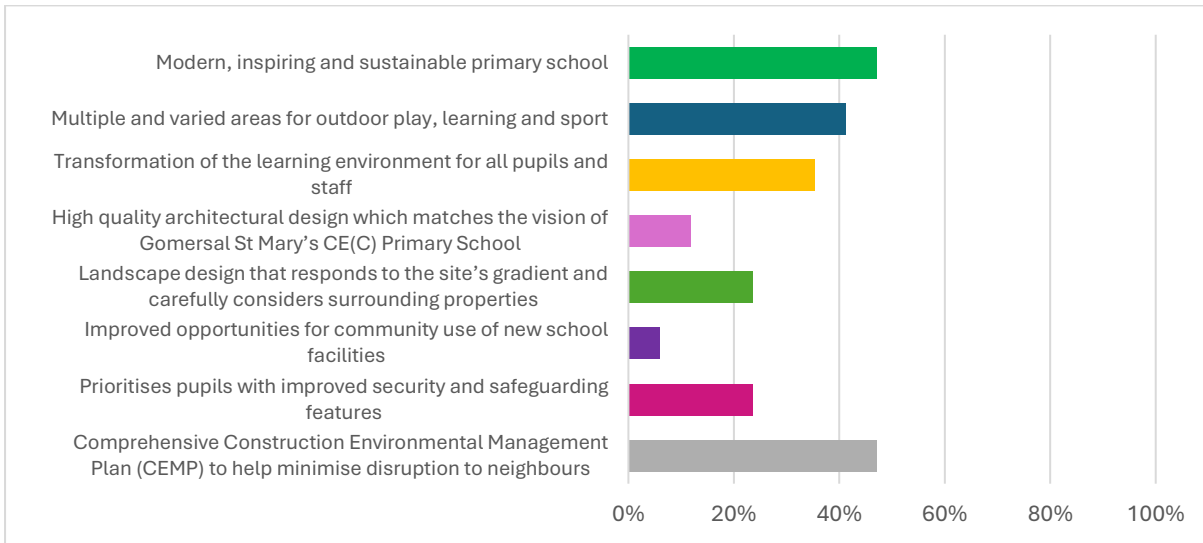
**Question 3 – Summary of responses**

Of the 18 responses to this question, 76% support the plans to regenerate Gomersal St Mary's CE(C) Primary School. Support for the proposals was evident during conversations at the public exhibition.

**Question 4.**

Which elements of the proposal would you consider to be the most important? (Please choose your top three)

Answered: 17 Skipped: 1



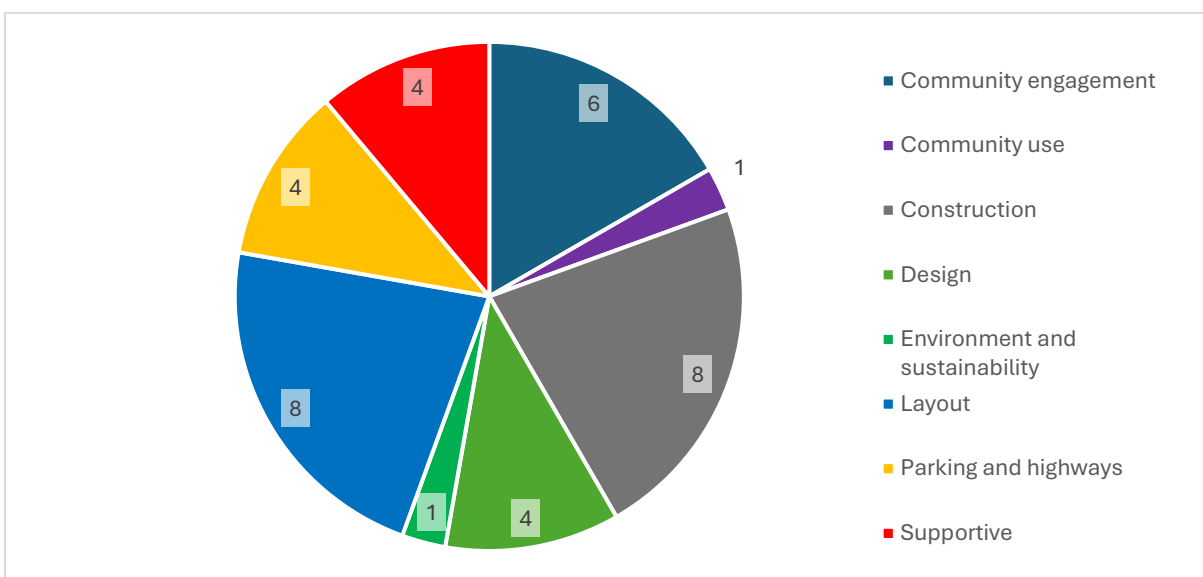
**Question 4 – Summary of responses**

17 people answered this question. The key elements of the proposals for respondents are: comprehensive Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to help minimise disruption to neighbours; modern, inspiring, sustainable school and multiple and varied areas for outdoor play, learning and sport.

**Question 5.**

Respondents were asked if they had any other comments on the proposals. In total, 14 responses were received online and in feedback forms. In addition, some email comments were received. Comments are detailed below.

The diagram below shows the feedback categories and number of individuals who commented on these categories. Categories are responded to in section 4.



**Construction** **Parking and highways** I believe the time scale and disruption this will cause to residents with parking already being an issue along with noise that will disturb children trying to learn as well as us residents for such a long time needs to be considered. The safety at school drop offs will be so hazardous along with the site been at risk on evenings too when its not monitored oportunities for theft and vandalism. Maybe this should be done a lot more quickly which I have seen in other schools been redeveloped. I am concerned there will be a devastating accident.

**Construction** Living next door to school, will we regally have mess on street reins debris , work Lorrie's and noise disturbing the area and street? What is being put in place to prevent noise disruption and ensure I am not blocked in my house with extra cars or trucks

**Construction** The constraint of keeping the school open during construction works is forcing a solution which is dangerous to children in the short term and DOES NOT CAREFULLY CONSIDER SURROUNDING PROPERTIES.

**Community Use** **Design** **Layout** **Supportive** I would like to comment at this early stage regarding the proposed redevelopment plans. Firstly, I would like to say that I am supportive of investment in and improvement of the school's facilities. Upgrading the existing buildings and creating better spaces for students is clearly beneficial for the school and the wider community, and I welcome that in principle. However, I do have great concerns about the proposed building that would be located close to our boundary. The plans indicate that the green section of the new structure would reach approximately 8.334m in height and be positioned around 11m from our boundary fence. This represents a substantial increase in scale compared with the current low portacabin structure. From our garden, the new building would sit directly behind the boundary fence and would significantly alter the outlook. The increased height and massing would introduce a large built form where there is currently a much lower structure, which risks creating an overbearing visual presence when viewed from our property. There are also potential concerns about the impact on natural light, particularly given the scale of the building and the fact it would replace a much smaller structure. As the proposed building will house the sports hall and main assembly space, we are also concerned about the potential for increased noise. Activities within a sports hall, assemblies, and possible evening or community use could generate noise that may carry into neighbouring gardens and homes, particularly given the proximity to our boundary. While I support the overall aim of improving the school facilities, I hope that consideration can be given to how the design, height, and positioning of the building might be adjusted to reduce its impact on neighbouring residential properties. I would appreciate the opportunity for these concerns to be considered as the plans develop. Kind regards.

**Design** **Layout** I am disappointed that the school is so close to my boundary. I understand there will be trees and shrubs next to the fence to give privacy. What sort of trees will they be and how tall, as they will be very close to my house. Who will maintain them. At the moment the school does not maintain any trees which causes issues with neighbours. Also what sort of external lighting will be on the school. The current lighting is on all night and extremely bright. If the buildings are closer to the neighbours these lights will be too bright and shine into houses.

**Layout** My main concern is with regard to an increased impervious surface coverage. The increase in impervious surface coverage will potentially artificially concentrate the natural flow of stomwater, directing it onto my lower-lying property and exceeding the capacity of the soil to absorb it.

**Community Use** Please advise where I can send our objections to these development plans

**Community engagement** **Construction** Construction site parking for contractors. Very helpful discussions with representatives at the information evening. Thanks.

**Construction** Concerned about how parking will be organised during the build, both for staff and for safety of parents and children being dropped off and collected.

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**Layout** **Supportive** Love the school design. It seems more practical, better functional layout. Better outdoor areas for play time and there is more space to utilise for learning.

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**Community engagement** **Supportive** Thank you for showing and explaining the plans. I hope the Gomersal children and community will appreciate the improvements and will look after it.

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**Supportive** We look forward to the build beginning and our children being able to move into a new purpose built school which will enhance their learning in a warm, friendly environment.

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**Community engagement** **Environment and sustainability** **Layout** I would like to see the current amount of green space and biodiversity maintained /extended. It seems a shame that the mature trees can not be incorporated to form part of the forest school area. Receive updates via governor meetings/updates.

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**Community engagement** **Construction** **Layout** **Parking and highways** DfE need to discuss with the LPA on traffic outside of school (drop off /pick up). This is an issue the council should have addressed but may and put on DfE. Not having technical work complete for consultation is disappointing. Limited access for construction will cause traffic. Plat areas close to residents to the east will be a nuisance with kids screaming throughout year. Need to confirm hedgerow height adjacent to fencing. Lighting assessment should be undertaken despite single storey. Development likely to impact neighbouring properties hours of lighting in summer months.

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### 3.2 Email Feedback

The project team have received emails from boundary neighbours of the school regarding construction, layout, parking and highways and design. We are continuing to discuss the detail of the project with them, focusing on their issues with the proximity of the proposed new school building. In order to protect privacy of those neighbours we have not published their emails here however, we respond generally to the main issues raised below.

## 4.0 Responding to feedback

The project team has responded to the feedback categories in the table below. Other technical reports accompanying the application provide more detail on the proposals and mitigation measures being undertaken and are available to view on the Council's planning portal.

| Feedback  | Response  |
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| <p><b>Layout – 8 comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Position on site</i></li> <li>• <i>Height</i></li> <li>• <i>Green space &amp; impervious surfaces</i></li> <li>• <i>Planting</i></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Gomersal St Mary's CE(C) Primary School has grown in a piecemeal fashion. An extensive design process has been undertaken including the examination of alternative layouts. Key considerations included maintaining school operations throughout construction; topography of the site; retention of the Children's Centre building; school standards and requirements / minimum sizes internally and externally; proximity to neighbouring properties and maintaining existing accesses. The outcome of which is the proposals we shared at the public exhibition.</li> <li>■ The School Rebuilding Programme (SRP) proposals include the demolition and or removal of existing school buildings which have reached the end of their useable lifespan and the retention of the Kirklees Council Children's Centre.</li> <li>■ Pupils will benefit from a vastly improved accessible school with brand-new facilities. Separation of key stages, connecting key spaces to external areas and excellent passive supervision.</li> <li>■ The proposals consolidate the built area, creating a more compact single storey footprint with a two-storey school hall.</li> <li>■ Site sections provided as part of the application demonstrate that the proposals satisfy the Housebuilders Design Guide SPD June 2021. The guide provides a benchmark for assessing separation and privacy, requiring a 12m distance between windows of habitable rooms that face onto windows of a non-habitable room.</li> <li>■ Given the primarily single storey nature of the development, and the separation distances set out above, we do not anticipate the development resulting in any overshadowing issues. A daylight report accompanies the planning application.</li> <li>■ The two-storey hall section is 10m by 18m and 8.3m in height with no windows above ground floor level.</li> <li>■ The masterplan layout indicates an existing storage container will be relocated and new cycle parking for the nursery school.</li> <li>■ A planting strategy will be included as part of the planning application which will detail the size and species of proposed trees.</li> <li>■ The school has been informed that some residents have comments that trees are not currently well maintained.</li> <li>■ The boundary fencing is detailed in the Design and Access Statement.</li> <li>■ By consolidating the buildings, the proposals provide more useable external multipurpose space, including green space for</li> </ul> |

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|  | <p>the forest school, wellness garden and soft PE. New hard PE and separation of key stages as shown on the masterplan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The proposals deliver a comprehensive drainage strategy.</li> <li>■ Although, impact on property values is not a planning consideration, the proposals are for the delivery of a replacement, modern, fit for purpose school which is likely to be popular with local parents.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Construction – 8 comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Maintaining school operation</i></li> <li>• <i>Traffic</i></li> <li>• <i>Parking &amp; access</i></li> <li>• <i>Noise</i></li> <li>• <i>Dust</i></li> <li>• <i>Safety</i></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Bowmer + Kirkland will manage all aspects of the project to ensure the works are carried out safely, on time, to the right quality and with the least disruption possible.</li> <li>■ Bowmer + Kirkland has extensive experience of managing sites where a school is operational. Proposed phasing was presented at the public exhibition and will be detailed in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).</li> <li>■ The CEMP will set out proposed approaches to managing potential disruption and effects on amenity, including noise mitigation and air quality (dust management).</li> <li>■ The construction programme is designed to minimise disruption to neighbours, staff and pupils. Maintaining school operation on site during construction is a key consideration of the School Rebuilding Programme. Construction will be phased over approximately two and a half years.</li> <li>■ The retained buildings will be accessible as well as the temporary nursery building throughout construction. Temporary relocation of the school fence will provide segregation at the front of the school and solid hoarding erected along the school playing field to segregate the playing field from the construction site.</li> <li>■ Construction traffic access will be via the main school entrance off Shirley Avenue. A traffic management plan will be in place with construction traffic routes planned and deliveries scheduled. Details of site security, road safety measures and washing down of vehicles (Traffic Marshalls and Banksman) for construction traffic access.</li> <li>■ Off-site methods of construction and optimised components for efficient manufacturing help to reduce time on-site and improve health and safety.</li> <li>■ Some staff parking will be made available on council owned land opposite the school entrance on Shirley Avenue. Construction workers will park off site. Appropriate locations will be agreed with the Council.</li> <li>■ Construction will take place in accordance with regulations and as determined by conditions agreed with the Council, this may include weekend working. Some activities will be scheduled for school holiday periods.</li> <li>■ Bowmer + Kirkland will work with the school to use the project as a learning tool for pupils.</li> </ul> |

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| <p><b>Community engagement – 6 comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Public exhibition</i></li> <li>• <i>Information availability</i></li> <li>• <i>Flyer distribution</i></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ This document outlines all those consulted ahead of the public exhibition and ongoing engagement activities which will include informing subscribers when the planning application can be viewed and commented on using Council's planning register.</li> <li>■ We were pleased attendees found the public exhibition to be informative. Members of the project team were on hand to respond to questions and explain information on the exhibition display.</li> <li>■ The consultation takes place ahead of submission to allow the project team to consider community feedback, as a result not all technical reports are prepared in time for the public exhibition.</li> <li>■ Following the submission of the application Bowmer + Kirkland is committed to continuing dialogue with residents and stakeholders.</li> <li>■ Flyer distribution is arranged with a company who operate nationally to provide reliable distribution and tracking services.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Design – 4 comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Appearance</i></li> <li>• <i>Noise</i></li> <li>• <i>Light</i></li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The architects followed a comprehensive set of design principles, to deliver a high quality and sustainable place to teach and learn.</li> <li>■ The choice of materials is in keeping with the setting and follows discussions with the DfE, local authority and school. The materials and building technology create a low acoustic environment and take advantage of natural light.</li> <li>■ The proposals involve the replacement of an existing school and will not result in an increase in the number of staff, pupils, or vehicle movements at the site.</li> <li>■ The tallest part of the school building is the school hall area, which is two-storeys. The internal layout has been agreed to meet DfE standards, the needs of the school and ensure a practical approach to the school day, which necessitates the kitchen and hall are adjacent for dining purposes.</li> <li>■ The application will be supported by a Noise Impact Assessment demonstrating that the proposal is acceptable from a noise perspective. The proposals will not result in any community use of the external areas.</li> <li>■ Lighting is designed to comply with relevant regulations and takes neighbouring properties into consideration. Internal lighting uses absence detection meaning it will switch off automatically if there is no one present in a room/area and both internal and external lighting will utilise timers which will be set by the school.</li> <li>■ An external lighting layout plan will be submitted as part of the proposals. There is no floodlighting proposed as part of this development.</li> <li>■ Improved safeguarding pupils ensuring use of the Children's Centre can be maintained and a fencing strategy to ensure a clear secure line are documented in the Design and Access Statement.</li> </ul> |

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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The school will meet all DfE specification including teaching, learning spaces and communal spaces with regards to capacity, size, ventilation (passive cooling and heating) and accessibility.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Parking and highways – 4 comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Parking</i></li> <li>• <i>Pedestrian safety</i></li> <li>• <i>Drop off/pick up</i></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The proposals create clearly segregated vehicle and pedestrian routes and access control to the main gates. Early Years (nursery and reception) and KS1 and KS2 have separated entrances once on-site to avoid disruption.</li> <li>■ The number of staff and pupils is not changing.</li> <li>■ Staff parking is provided for 18 vehicles including two accessible spaces and four EV spaces.</li> <li>■ There is no vehicle drop off area however, the new pedestrian plaza provides ample space for pupil drop off and parent waiting.</li> <li>■ The pedestrian plaza can be utilised outside of school pick up/drop off times for maintenance access. A bin store is provided adjacent to the staff parking and a substation (with separate entrance) is adjacent to the school entrance.</li> <li>■ A Transport Statement will be submitted as part of the planning application.</li> <li>■ A Travel Plan will be submitted with the application, which outlines how the school will encourage sustainable transport for all staff, pupils and visitors.</li> <li>■ The school actively participates in Kirklees Modeshift Stars encouraging sustainable travel to school.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Supportive – 4 comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ We are pleased support for the proposals shared at the public exhibition was reiterated in feedback forms.</li> <li>■ Respondents recognised the need for the regeneration and the benefits this will bring to pupils, staff and wider community.</li> <li>■ The layout and provision of a modern school were praised.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Community use – 1 comment</b></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The Children's Centre has been engaged by the Council regarding the proposals.</li> <li>■ The Children's Centre will be used by Bowmer + Kirkland as a site office and by the school for meetings during construction. It will be returned to its current condition on completion of works.</li> <li>■ On completion, the school could consider managed community use through a Council approved Community Use Agreement.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Environment and sustainability – 1 comment</b></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The proposed building has been targeted by the Government as being Net Zero Carbon (as defined by the UK Green Building Council) in operation.</li> <li>■ Bowmer + Kirkland use a 'Fabric First Principle' which ensures the fabric, heating, ventilation, water, and lighting systems are designed to be energy efficient and robust helping the school make savings on running costs.</li> <li>■ The scheme will provide a 10% biodiversity net gain. However, due to the limited scope within the site to deliver the necessary</li> </ul>   |

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|  | <p>habitat units, some off-site units will need to be secured. This will be agreed as a post-determination matter in line with the relevant guidance.</p> |
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## 5.0 Conclusions and next steps

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### Consultation summary

- The community and political stakeholder engagement supported the proposals for the regeneration of Gomersal St Mary's CE(C) Primary School. This exercise complemented pre-application consultation undertaken by other members of the project team with statutory consultees and Kirklees Council.
- Key activities included consultation with the school, key community users and neighbouring school, a public exhibition, letters to neighbours, emails to stakeholders, flyer delivery, media coverage, project website and the opportunity to feedback on the plans.
- The project team discussed the proposals with neighbours, staff, community representatives and parents/carers during the public exhibition and were able to explain how the plans respond to key points raised. Conversations with boundary neighbours are on-going.
- It can be seen from the preceding sections that the consultation process undertaken has been comprehensive. Easy to understand information was shared directly and through the project website. There were opportunities to meet with the team and discuss the proposals in more detail as well as having the opportunity to participate and comment.
- The project team are confident that having followed a comprehensive set of design principles working with the school and DfE they will deliver a high quality and sustainable primary setting to teach and learn.
- Support for the proposals was evident during the engagement. Comprehensive Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to help minimise disruption to neighbours; modern, inspiring, sustainable school and multiple and varied areas for outdoor play, learning and sport. were the three most important elements.

### Ongoing engagement

Following the submission of the planning application Bowmer + Kirkland is committed to continuing dialogue with all residents and stakeholders. The exhibition display has been left with the school. We will issue updates throughout the planning process and if granted consent through construction.

Bowmer + Kirkland will work with the school to use the rebuilding project as a learning tool, encouraging pupils to look at the many different skills and activities in construction. This is one of many social value initiatives they will establish as part of the project.

Bowmer + Kirkland will strive to meet the DfE Framework's and Council's social value expectations, and to comply with the Public Services (Social Value) Act. If planning permission is granted targets will be set including spend with local suppliers, notify the local Jobs Hub and engage local apprentices and T Level placements.