



Consultation on Les Quennevais School site options

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

November 2015

States 
of Jersey



We already have outstanding teachers and fantastic students. When you also have a 21st century building with the right facilities, that's when magic happens.

SARAH HAGUE
Head Teacher, Les Quennevais School

This report

In an eight-week period from 14 September to 08 November 2015, the public of Jersey were asked to consider potential sites for a new Les Quennevais School.

Education, Sport and Culture worked with Jersey Property Holdings to identify locations that would meet the requirements for a new secondary school in the west of the Island. Three options were shortlisted from an initial list of more than 17, including refurbishment of the current site:

Option 1: South-east corner of Les Quennevais sports field

Option 2: Fields south of Rue Carrée

Option 3: Fields south of Rue Carrée
plus St Brelade football pitch site

Each of these was a viable option and met the criteria for a new school in terms of site size, location and proximity to students. However, before making a final choice or proceeding with a planning application, it was agreed that a public consultation should be carried out to explain the selection process to date and gauge public views about the options.

It was clear from the outset that the concern was likely to be expressed about the options: Two sites would have an impact on agricultural fields in the green zone and the other would affect a popular public open space currently used for competitive sport and informal physical activity. The purpose of the consultation was to clarify the strength of public opinion in each case and help assess which would be the most preferable location for the majority of island residents.

This report provides an overview of the consultation and a summary of the responses received. It highlights the concerns raised most frequently by respondents. The report will be used to help inform the decision about which site is chosen.

Contents

Consultation in numbers

Executive summary

Main concerns

Who responded

Views from St Brelade

How we consulted

The next steps

Responses in detail

Consultation in numbers

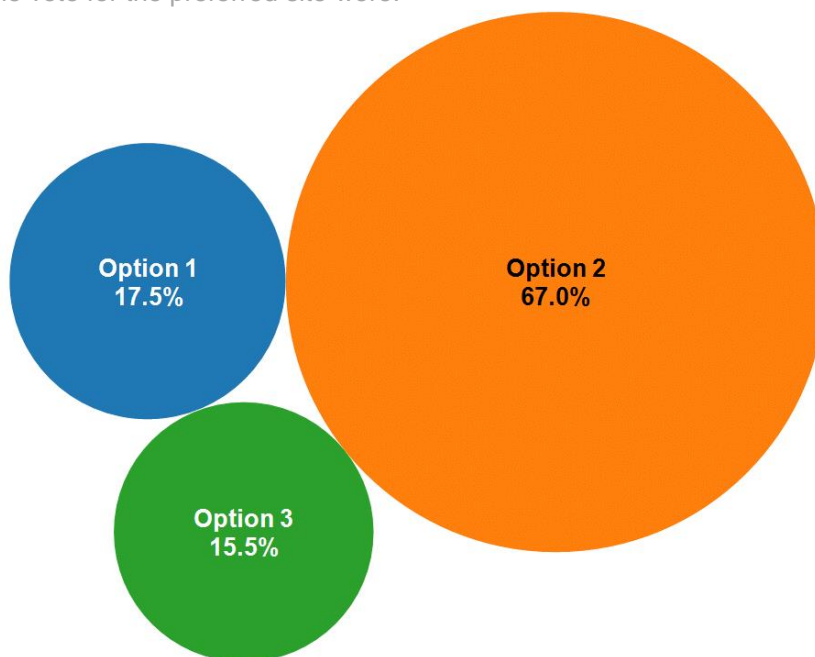
<p>Responses by Parish</p> <p>42% St Brelade (highest)</p> <p>2% St Mary & St John (lowest)</p>	<p>747 comments</p> <p>266 to protect sports facilities 65 to protect St Brelade pitch 52 concerns about traffic 43 to protect green fields</p>	
<p>6</p> <p>Parents' meetings at schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Les Quennevais • Mont Nicolle • St Peter • Bel Royal • St Mary • Les Landes 	<p>1,353 responses received</p> <p>25% were parents of future pupils</p> <p>21% were past pupils</p> <p>1.5% were current pupils</p>	
<p>5</p> <p>youth project sessions</p>	<p>Preferred site</p> <p>Option 1 17.5%</p> <p>Option 2 67.0%</p> <p>Option 3 15.5%</p>	<p>137</p> <p>Leaflets filled in at</p> <p>3</p> <p>on-street stalls</p>
<p>56% of respondents who gave their age were 30 to 50 years old</p>		<p>67 letters hand-delivered to homes near the sites</p> <p>5,000 consultation booklets given out</p>

Executive summary

Total of **1,353** responses were received over the eight weeks of the consultation. The information collected was both quantitative and qualitative: People who took part were asked to nominate their preferred site from the three options proposed. They could also submit comments of any length and on any issue. Just under 64% of responses were received through the online survey. The remainder were on A5 paper flyers, in writing or by email direct to the Education, Sport and Culture department.

Option choice

The results of the vote for the preferred site were:



The views of St Brelade residents were looked at separately. Their order of preference for the sites was the same although the percentage in favour of Option 2 was smaller.

Comments

Overall, islanders expressed strong support for the concept of a new school, particularly at the public events. Of the 1,353 consultation responses submitted, **747** included comments. Significantly more comments were received on one issue than all others: A total of **266** called for the sports and community facilities at Les Quennevais playing fields to be protected and they opposed Option 1. Many stressed the importance of sports facilities to the health and well-being of the population.

In addition, there were 65 comments expressing concern about the future of the St Brelade Sport and Social Club. The third most frequently occurring issue raised in the comments related to traffic on La Route de Quennevais. 52 responses highlighted the potentially negative impact of Options 2 and 3 on congestion and road safety there. A similar number (51) cited the good access and transport links as a reason for choosing these sites.

Respondents

The online survey collected information about respondents. The highest proportion by parish of residence was St Brelade at 42%, by far the largest single group. Of the participants who gave their age, 56% said they were between 30 and 49 years old. Nearly 6% were aged 4 to 19.

Main concerns

The comments and letters submitted were varied in length but certain themes recurred. There was general support for a new school and recognition that the current buildings are no longer fit for purpose.

The consultation received far greater support for Option 2 than any other and this appears to be a direct reflection of the public desire to preserve the existing sports and community facilities at Les Quennevais playing fields. Although there was concern about the loss of agricultural fields, which was commented on 46 times, by far the overriding issue raised was the loss of sports and leisure amenities, which was highlighted in 266 submissions. The aim of the consultation was to clarify the relative popularity of these three options and the results show a strong support for sport facilities.

Traffic was a concern for all options. In relation to Option 2 there was an almost equal number of concerns about poor access as there were comments about good access to the site. Some issues came to light in the consultation that had not been raised in the consultation booklet, including the proximity to the airport and impact on the Parish cemetery. Further work will be undertaken to assess the impact, including more detailed analysis of the traffic implications.

Rank	Issue	No of comments
1	Loss of sport/community facilities at LQ	266
2	Loss of St Brelade Sport & Social Club	65
3	Traffic problems (Route de Quennevais)	52
4	Good transport/road access (Option 2)	52
5	Future expansion possible (Option 2)	49

Also notable were 43 concerns about the loss of agricultural fields/green open space in Options 2 and 3. The comments are listed here in descending order of frequency and responses are available in detail at the back of this report.

General

New school is long overdue/get on with it/ current buildings outdated	33
Use existing site/buildings	26
Concern or suggestion for the use of the existing site	20
Do not like any of these options	18
Good for education	17
Concern about cost	16
Should include a sixth form	9
Not in St Brelade – should be another Parish	8
School needs own gym and sports facilities	6
New school should have at least three floors	4
Need to widen Rue Carree	4
New school will add to community facilities	3
Public library should be included	3
Should tackle education structure	3
Build Option 2 school on Option 3 site	3
School only needed because of high immigration	2
Ensure there are green environmental features in the new building	2
Use the south-west corner of the playing fields	2



Option 1

Need to protect/maintain community and sports facilities, especially the cycle track	266
Traffic concerns, especially for Don Farm	40
Positive that school would be close to existing sports facilities	25
Sports centre parking will be badly affected	10
Nearby residents, particularly elderly, will be affected	7
Concerns about where lost facilities will be relocated	6
Better access than current site	6
Negative impact of construction	3
Area will be overcrowded	2

Option 2

(Some of these issues were highlighted in relation both to Option 3 and Option 2)

Concern about traffic especially on La Route de Quennevais	52
Future expansion possible/large enough site	49
Good access and transport links/close to main road	51
Need to protect green zone/agricultural fields/green lung	43
Not taking anything away from the community/least disruptive	29
Concern about airport safety, fumes or noise	28
Area already overdeveloped/too much building along the road	22
Maintains space between school and houses	15
Better parking	3
Negative impact on homeowners in Rue Carree	3
Land acquisition will add to cost	3

Option 3

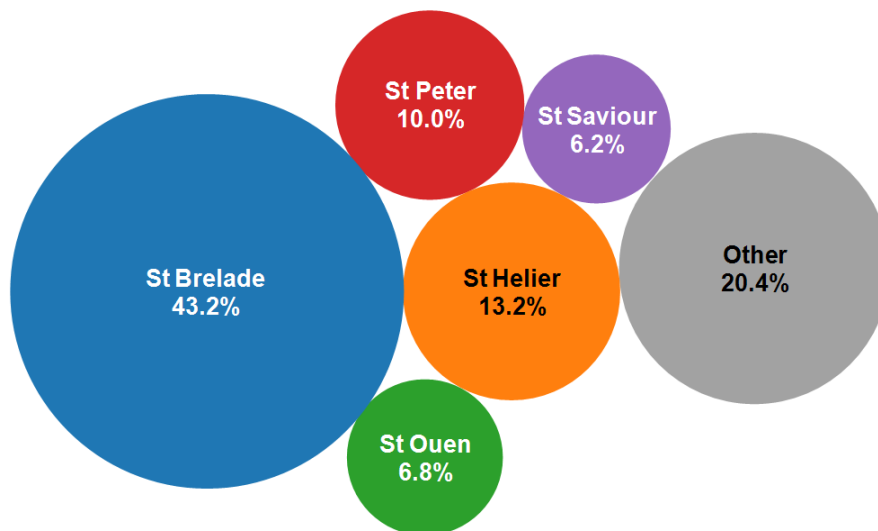
Need to protect St Brelade Sports & Social Club	65
Too close to the cemetery	13
Too close to homes	8
Best size/expansion space	4
Closer to existing built-up area	3

Who responded

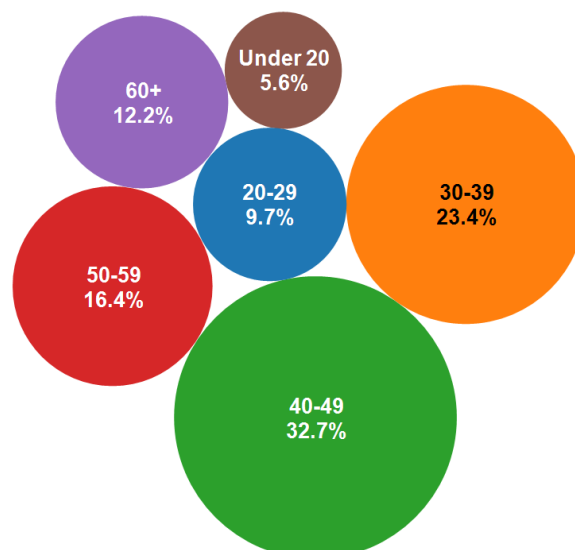
The consultation was self-selecting, which means that it was primarily people with an interest in the issue who responded to the questionnaire. The number of responses is therefore an indication of the strength of feeling and it was higher than for most other recent States consultations. The profile participants might not be a representative cross-section of the community in demographic terms but it shows the views of stakeholders and those most directly affected or engaged by the issues.

People who responded through the online survey were given the option of providing their age, parish of residence, connection to the school and contact details. The majority completed the factual questions. The sample gives an indication rather than a full picture but is useful nevertheless.

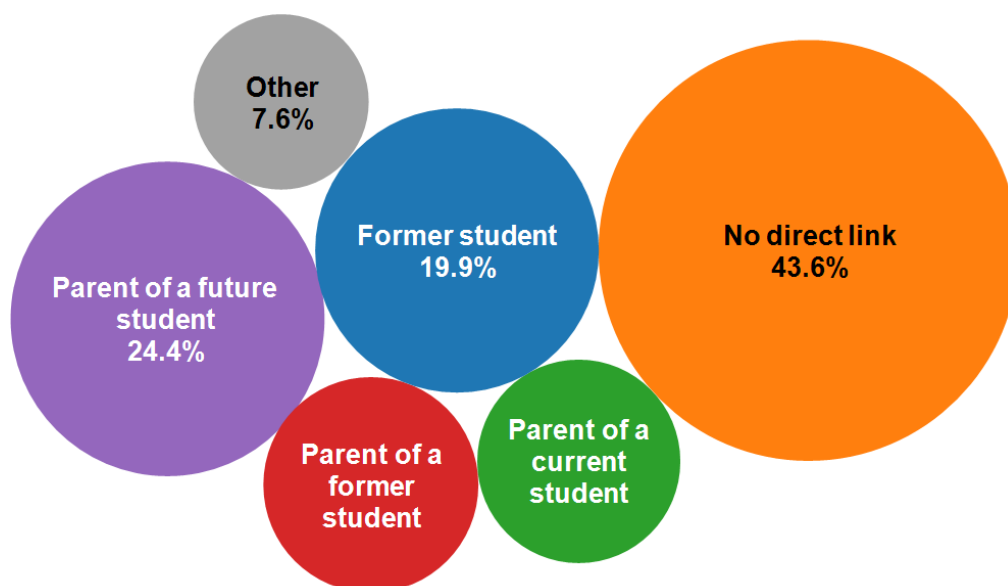
The results showed a higher number of responses came from St Brelade than other parishes. 813 people answered this question and 351 stated they lived in the parish. The second largest parish response rate was from St Helier, which had 107 respondees. Responses from the parishes not named in this diagram were all under 5%.



People responding to the online survey were also asked to specify their age. Only 26 people decided not to answer this question. Students of all ages were able to take part and the majority who did were of secondary school age and from Les Quennevais.



The majority of respondents – nearly 57% - were aged between 30 and 49, which is the age people are most likely to be parents of children at primary or secondary school. No conclusion can be drawn from this because it is also an age range when people are physically active and likely to use the sports facilities. A question about the participant’s link with the school showed that 10% of respondents were parents of current students and 11.5% of former students.



The source of A5 flyers was recorded with 30% coming from the on-street stands, 28% from Les Quennevais School (the majority from students but some from parents and staff) and 15% were received from Les Quennevais sports centre which hosted the display for nearly a week in the Reception area.

The A5 flyer was distributed island-wide through schools, libraries, parish halls and a mailshot to homes. Out of 473 returned, 137 were collected at on-street stands and 127 came via Les Quennevais School.

Views from St Brelade

The answers of the St Brelade residents can be separated out and compared with the overall results for the island-wide responses. The order of preferred sites mirrors the total result but the percentages are not identical. In the comments, some people clearly identified themselves as residents of the parish or of properties near one of the proposed sites.

	St Brelade residents	Overall result
Option 1	23%	17.5%
Option 2	59%	67%
Option 3	18%	15.5%

How we consulted

The aim of the consultation was to reach a wide range of Jersey residents who might wish to express a view.

A consultation booklet was produced to summarise the background to the project, the requirements of a modern school and the reasons for choosing the three options. It also highlighted the potential impact of each option in terms of key themes. 5,000 copies of this booklet were distributed to schools, Parish Halls, libraries, sports venues and were available at all meetings, displays and stands. The information in the booklet was transposed by Jersey Property Holdings on to four display panels used throughout the eight-week period.

The consultation was highlighted by an A5 flyer which could also be used as a reply slip and was delivered via Jersey Post to all island homes. Roadside banners were placed at several locations to raise awareness of the consultation.

At the start of the consultation, the options were explained to Les Quennevais students and staff at special briefings attended by the Minister and/or the Director of Education. Six meetings were arranged for parents of current and future pupils. These took place at Les Quennevais School and the five primary schools whose students are most likely to go there. These are Mont Nicolle, La Moye, Bel Royal, St Mary and Les Landes. The largest audience – of 200 – was at a school where a prearranged parents' evening was also taking place.

Two public meetings were held. Approximately 80 people attended the first at Les Quennevais School and the second, at St Brelade's Parish Hall, attracted an audience of 50 people. A separate meeting was held for representatives of sports groups to explain the plans for Option 1 on Les Quennevais playing fields. There were also briefings for Parish politicians and States members.

The display and booklets were available at three on-street stands in public locations during September and October. These were staffed by officers from Education, Sport and Culture and Jersey Property Holdings and took place at the Vintage Fair in St Aubin, Les Quennevais Precinct and King Street in St Helier. Members of the public were able to ask questions and discuss the three sites. 244 conversations were logged over the three days and 137 leaflets were completed at the time.

The next steps

This report and the detailed responses to the consultation will be considered by the Education, Sport and Culture Minister alongside other detailed information relating to each of the site options. This will include landscape impact assessments, environmental impact studies and traffic analysis.

The combined information will be used to make a final decision on which option is most suitable for a progressing as a site for a new Les Quennevais School. Jersey Property Holdings will then start work on a planning application and building design, which should be submitted in the first quarter of 2016.

Providing no unforeseen issues emerge, the aim is currently to start construction early in 2017 on whichever site is chosen. This could mean a new school opens its doors in 2019.



RESPONSES in detail

Questions asked at meetings

Log from street stalls

Comments from online survey

Comments from leaflets, emails and letters

These attachments are in a separate report. Notes were made of questions asked at workshops, public meetings and school meetings to ensure a full record was kept of concerns that have been raised. Comments made as part of the submissions have been included but without names or identifying details. Two comments have been omitted either because they were inappropriate or defamatory and two because they referred to private legal issues.

This report has been designed and produced in-house at Education, Sport & Culture.

