

# **Appendix A**

## **Beauty Bank**

### **Summary of objection letters and itemised points of objection**

## Objection Letters Summaries

Letter No	Objection codes	Status	Signatures	Summary
41	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	Parent / Carer	1	Communication. Consultation period. Suitability of options. Annexing Beauty Bank to Greenfield. New school build. Space at surrounding schools. Fairness of LEA actions.
80	2, 5, 7, 13	Unknown	1	Effect on children. Problems with teaching. Consultation period. LEA accusations.
104	1, 2, 5, 8, 10, 11	Parent / Carer	1	Merger of schools. Running of two sites. School buildings. Space at surrounding schools. New school. Budgets. Consultation period. Inclusion in responses.
109	5, 8, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	Parent / Carer	2	Change of proposals. Limited supporting evidence. Different options. Freedom of Information. Money. Staff. Annexation. Events. Budgets. Legal Responsibilities. OFSTED reports. Cultural and socio-economic differences. New school build. Surplus capacity. Extending Greenfield site. Impact of disruption.
110	7, 9, 10, 11, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26	Headteacher	1	Positive points to proposal. Negative points to proposal. Opportunities. Stability. Social integration. Nursery facilities. Effects on cost. New school development. Stigma. Workload. Budgets. Maintenance. Staffing. Admission numbers. Facilities. Surplus capacity in surrounding schools. Quality of service.
121	27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33	Parent / Carer	1	Pressure and stress. Achievements of school. Special needs facilities.

				Bullying. Adult Learning facilities. Facilities. Regulations. Attitudes of other schools. Alternative proposals. Birth Rates.
123	2, 7, 8	Unknown	1	Disruption. Integration problems. New build. Acquisition of land. Consultation period.
148	2, 8, 10, 13, 34	Parent / Carer	1	Consultation period. LEA intentions. Annexation. New build. Lack of space and facilities at Greenfield. LEA attitude.
149	2, 5, 7, 10, 35	Parent / Carer	1	Affect on staff and pupils. Funding. New build. Birth rates. Efficiency of management and leadership. Consultation period. School choice. Travel between two sites. Space in other schools.
150	2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 36	Parent / Carer	2	Over capacity at Greenfield. Building work. Facilities. Effect on pupils. Burden on management and teaching staff. Mixed year classes. Relocation of pupils on split site. New build. Guarantees. New / Re-development. Consultation period.
151	2, 4, 7, 10, 12, 27, 29, 30, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47	MP	1	Consultation process. Inadequate response. Rejections. Information to MPs. Individual support. Affect on students, families and community. Loss of career or job relocation for staff. Affect on citizens. Affect on businesses. Guarantees. Special Needs. Freedom of choice. Quality of teaching. Rationale of choice by DMBC. Political representation. Extended services. Converted buildings. Alternative purposes.

				Funding. Birth rates. Immigration. Authority responsibilities.
234	2	Parent / Carer	1	Consultation period.
285	48, 49, 50	Parents	2+	Condition of other schools. Annexation. Temporary classrooms. Catchment areas.
288	14, 28, 37, 38, 43	Staff / Governors	2	Proposals. Consultation period / process. Representation. Legal position. Special Educational Needs. Areas of multiple deprivation. Removal of nursery provision.
289	2, 37	Parent Governor	1	Inadequate response. Consultation period. Participation in consultation period. Staffing. Mismanagement and incompetence.

## Itemised Points of Objection.

Obj Code	Objection point
1	Greenfield Primary parents, staff and governors only found out about the plan to make Beauty Bank an annex of Greenfield Primary through the local press. Why were we not informed properly in a reasonable amount of time?
2	Due to Council members not being available for meetings to discuss the implications of your proposals, Greenfield parents were only given a few days to formally respond to the consultation and left little time to digest the information and for the proposals to be considered.
3	Greenfield Primary is already over subscribed and is very short on space. Raising the admission numbers will only make this worse. The location means access is already difficult and there is inadequate playground space as it is. There is no room for expansion. Parents may no longer choose to send their children to a crowded school therefore affecting the intake to Greenfield.
4	It is uneconomical to keep Beauty Bank open as an annex even with an additional grant. Can you provide details of funding in order for the annex to be implemented successfully and, more importantly, sustained?
5	The annex will dilute the leadership and management of Greenfield Primary as the workload will increase significantly. It took two leadership teams before so how can you expect one to cope? Especially with a distance of half a mile between the two schools.
6	The excellent ethos, standards and atmosphere of Greenfield Primary will be ruined if it becomes a split site school. At present Beauty Bank and Greenfield both have very different catchment areas with very different needs.
7	If Beauty Bank does become an annex of Greenfield does this mean that Greenfield children and staff could be moved to the Beauty Bank site to even out class numbers? Won't this have a detrimental effect on the teaching standards and education?
8	The LEA have mentioned the building of a new larger school in the area for pupils of Beauty Bank and Greenfield. If there are already excess places in Stourbridge why would we need this? Assuming that it is actually possible (permission, budgets etc), how can the Council justify the cost when Greenfield is a modern, well-located school? How will it affect staff and pupils? By this time won't Beauty Bank pupils already have been absorbed into other schools?
9	It seems the LEA are fixed on the proposal that Beauty Bank will become an annex to Greenfield and have not given any thought to alternative options. It looks like the Council using their position to influence the outcome they want which is unfair to pupils, staff, parents and leaders of both Beauty Bank and Greenfield Primaries.
10	If numbers are dropping and budgets are cut we are concerned that a new school may not materialise. Can we have any reassurance that this will happen and that it will be in place within 3 to 5 years? If it doesn't happen and Beauty Bank has been annexed to Greenfield in anticipation of it, both of these schools could fail.
11	There are plenty of surplus places at Gigmill, St James CE and Amblecote primaries. Why can't Beauty Bank pupils be absorbed by these schools? Surely this would cause less disruption to all schools involved and be more financially viable?
12	If numbers continue to fall in the Stourbridge area does this mean that staff in all schools, especially Beauty Bank if it does close, will be under threat of redundancy?
17 13	At the meeting for parents of Greenfield Primary an LEA representative accused some parents of being cynical. It is this sort of action by the LEA that engenders this cynicism and leads to distrust.
18 14	We feel that the proposal to annex Beauty Bank to Greenfield has appeared with limited supporting evidence and we fail to follow the basis on which it was formed. There would appear to be many different options proposed so why pick this one? As a matter of public record some evidence to back up this proposal should be made available. We would also like to know of the legal position on which DMBC has based this proposal.
19 15	The basis of the LEA proposals is to save money. How can maintaining two under capacity schools for 3 to 4 years whilst building another one possibly save any

	money?
20 16	There is a lack of clarity in how the annex will operate in relation to the main school. Will there be combined events / assemblies / lessons / facilities? If so what are the timescales for this? How will the budget be split between the modern larger school and the 'condemned' smaller school? Beauty Bank may need even more funding to bring it up to Greenfields standards.
21 17	How will the legal responsibilities be managed? How regularly will either the annex or the main site be without a member of senior management? What procedures will be put in place to manage the increased risk of incidents, which warrant their attention having to be managed by others without seniority? In a climate of increased legislation, can the Council be sure that they will meet their obligations over the 3 – 4 year period of split site management?
22 18	OFSTED reports for Beauty Bank and Greenfield show some very pronounced differences between the two schools. Beauty Bank has poor results compared to Greenfield and has above national average free meal places (30%) whereas Greenfield is low nationally (3%). Attendance at Beauty Bank is well below national average whilst Greenfield is consistently above. Such cultural and socio-economic differences should be considered and addressed. The next OFSTED report for Greenfield may be affected by these factors. What effect will this have on staff and the school as a whole? Where will management have to spend their time to bring the standards up?
23 19	Instead of wasting money on a new school or overcrowding Greenfield as it stands, why can't Greenfield be extended upwards to accommodate Beauty Bank pupils?
24 20	Annexing Beauty Bank will only provide short-term stability for children. It is just postponing the inevitable – children will still have to move to a different school with different children at some time.
25 21	The financial saving as a result of a lost Headteacher will not be a significant value. The ISR of the larger school will increase and the pay scale of the Greenfield Head will increase together with the deputies. The deputy of both schools will need additional increase salary due to extra responsibilities. Additionally, other leadership posts will need to be implemented.
26 22	If annexation is successful, Greenfield school could be more attractive with its additional building and early years centre. Governors could see possibility of increase in numbers at Beauty Bank site. This could cause problems in other local schools. Setting admission numbers at 20 at the Beauty Bank site could put Governors under pressure to increase as new pupils are attracted to Greenfield. Please remember that Greenfield currently turn new children away due to space problems. The annexe at Beauty Bank could allow for this.
27 23	If annexation is unsuccessful, pupils might leave and put the annexe under worse pressures than at present. Smaller classes, some year's merged, low budgets and unfair equality of resources between the two schools. This will see the option of a new build school taken out of the equation with parents and carers selecting other local schools which was the first proposal now achieved by default but prolonging the agony of inevitable closure with decline in standards at the annexe.
28 24	If numbers reduce across the two sites the increased staffing will be subject to reduction. Possible redundancies may occur across more staff than at present causing greater problems to staffing and LEA.
29 25	Beauty Bank has facilities that are not available at Greenfield at present such as field, maintained early years facilities and catering facilities. Opportunity for the use of these facilities will have to be made available to all pupils and their families. Movement of families and children between schools may have to take place, is this efficient?
30 26	If the new build is a high possibility why should the Beauty Bank site be available only to those parents who wish for their children to attend Greenfield school? All current families should have the opportunity to attend the new school without having to make choices through admissions. Parents and carers have chosen Beauty Bank for their own personal reasons and the forced re-direction goes against democratic principles. Through this process even less pupils will be left at Beauty Bank Primary School.
31 27	Do you realise the amount of stress your proposals have put on the on the entire community of Beauty Bank especially pupils and parents? Beauty Bank is the highest

	achieving school in the area – beating the other local schools with education levels and achievement standards. Our children are happy and content at Beauty Bank and YOU are going to destroy all of this. Do you realise the impact it is already having and what is to come if the school does close? Why close us when we have so many good things at our school?
32 28	Beauty Bank is capacitated with all the Special Needs Facilities that is required. We have a disabled toilet, flat access to ALL areas of our school, ramps and children who are well mannered and offer help, when needed, with our disabled children. Are children at other schools respectful enough to do this? Would they be able to deal with it? Have all the other schools got flat access? Have they all got disabled toilets at their schools? Do you have Special Needs teachers at all the other optional schools? Greenfield School has an IT room that is upstairs and also a library. Does this mean that children with mobility difficulties, will have to have these lessons on their own as they will not be able to access these facilities?
33 29	Do you guarantee that the change to another school WILL NOT affect the children, Special Needs children in particular, with regards to bullying and alike? Do the other schools have teachers trained to cope with children with ABN or MLD? Basically, I feel the cost that will be involved, as regards to installing all these facilities, within all of these schools, could keep Beauty Bank open for, possibly, the next five years!!
34 30	Beauty Bank offers several courses, FREE, for Adult Learning. It has utilised its facilities that are available, on-site, to cater for this. It has worked tremendously, bringing in parents and friends together from Beauty Bank and other schools around and out of the area. It's a beautiful, peaceful and friendly community room. We have all our own facilities that are required, toilet, kitchen etc. Also again it has flat access to cater for disabled adults. The courses run on days of the week and also are available at nights for people who have daytime commitments. The tutors are friendly and pleasant and put you at ease and have time for one to one teaching if needed. Many of the parents from Beauty Bank who attended these courses now work within the school as Classroom Assistants! If it wasn't for these courses this would not have been possible. It has given us more confidence and enthusiasm to go back to full time employment. If the school were to close, all this would be lost and would take away the learning facilities available for adults too therefore taking away another facility for a deprived area.
35 31	Greenfield School has no sports field on-site. Children need recreation areas at playtimes, just a concrete playground is not good enough, and with the extra children possibly attending the school it would make it more open to accidents. Have you thought about this? What about the fire regulations? Are the other schools going to be within the regulations regarding numbers of children in the school and are there adequate fire escapes to deal with extra children?
36 32	What is proposed to happen to The Robins Wood Centre? Couldn't that be re-opened and Greenfield move to that site? Beauty Bank as it stands could take in Greenfield pupils from Nursery, Reception, Class 1, Class 2, Class 3 merged with ours. The Robin Wood Centre would accommodate for Class 4, Class 5 and Class 6 merging our pupils into theirs – basically having an infant and junior school on the same site. Greenfield pupils would then have an on site playing field and all accessible areas for disabled etc. All children from both schools would obviously be kept within the same vicinity; hence no child would lose their friends and experience any trauma of any kind.
37 33	You have predicted that birth rates are falling and are to continue for the next five years – what if they don't? Birth rates have a cyclical nature. We had a baby boom in the 60's – 70's who's to say that won't happen again? What if it does? Will you have the funding to build yet another school?
38 34	At Greenfield School there is already no space for any special needs teaching, music lessons or 1-to-1 reading (corridors, the staff room and the head and deputy head teachers' rooms are frequently used for these purposes). The library is often used as a teaching area, quiet areas are now used as cloakrooms and there is hardly any storage space. Playground / PE space is already overused and restricted as the school playing fields are not adjacent to the school.
39 35	Whatever happened to freedom of choice? By annexing the schools you are taking away parental choice in the area.

40 36	The inevitable redevelopment of the Enville St / Beauty Bank / Gas Works areas will most likely increase residential capacity in the catchment area of both Beauty Bank and Greenfield. New developments attract families and pupil numbers will rise. Immigration and the Black Country Study may also attract people to the area. Have you taken this into account? There may be a need for both schools to continue as they are now.
41 37	No adequate response was received from Dudley Council to questions, points and proposals sent in during the initial consultation period. In addition, minutes of meetings were not made available as promised.
42 38	Almost three quarters of respondents rejected the Authority's plans in the initial consultation.
43 39	Dudley Council failed to inform all four Borough MPs of their plans until after informing the local press. This shows total disdain for the office of Member of Parliament and for the constituents it represents.
44 40	Is there a guarantee that students will be able to attend the closest schools if Beauty Bank closes? A guarantee will help provide a smooth transition and the least drastic amount of change which will cause less disruption.
45 41	Local citizens will be affected by the change in traffic flow and business owners will be affected by the reduction in customers.
46 42	How were the schools to be closed chosen? It is hard to understand the rationale of choice as not all of the schools are losing pupils at a fast rate and there are other schools in the borough whose rolls are falling faster.
47 43	For all citizens affected by the school closures, their political representation at council level is with an opposition party or in an area of high deprivation, minority ethnic concentration or on land which would release a high resale value. This is an unusual statistical anomaly which merits further investigation.
48 44	While Beauty Bank is an integral part of the community, its role will be inherently different if the building is no longer a school. Any converted buildings have different community roles. The needs of the community must be taken into account if the building is converted. If Beauty Bank Primary School must be converted it must remain as a community centre and is not used for any other purpose or bulldozed in order to have the land sold.
49 45	Reassurance is needed that any monies saved through combining the schools will be reinvested into education and not be used in other pursuits.
50 46	Ideally Beauty Bank Primary School should remain as a primary school in order to have it remain in its same and present community role. Has the Council explored the option to use the available space in the schools for alternative purposes? If available space is used in more creative ways, education money can be saved and the changes in the community will be the least drastic. Many other authorities have faced falling rolls and employed creative ways of using premises such as children's centres, Sure Starts and so on. I would like the Authority to confirm and show evidence that they have investigated this and other options such as federation as suggested by local parents. I believe demonstration of such studies is a requirement of the Ministry's guidelines also.
51 47	The Borough's track record is less than sparkling when considering that its plans to merge two Church of England schools in Halesowen, St John the Baptist and Hasbury have been rejected by the Education Minister twice already. Can the Authority guarantee this will not happen to their plans this time around?
52 48	Many new school buildings are desperately needed in Dudley. Old Park Special School for example, where severely disabled pupils are in dismal conditions and Bromley Hills school is, in parts, leaking and worn. Why consider building a new Beauty Bank / Greenfield School when the building and education within is superb and other schools are in greater need?
53 49	An annexe would be insulting to Beauty Bank pupils, they need to be split and welcomed into thriving vibrant school communities.
54 50	As parents we feel that a more workable solution would be to build a few new temporary classrooms at Greenfield School for the 35 children presently at Beauty Bank who would be designated to Greenfield if split between three schools. In the longer term a solution would be to change the catchment area slowly so a few

children each year in the South Avenue/ Road area and beyond go to Gigmill School which has spare places to take them. This would therefore free up places for a percentage of the Beauty Bank area children to be admitted to Greenfield each year. Surely this would make a less stressful solution for all involved and would involve minimal cost and upheaval for everyone.
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