

Hill View School



Section 10 Consultation Report

Monday 13th November 2023 - Friday 12th January 2024

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Executive Summary

Hill View School is a special school providing education for 120 learners aged 5 - 16 years with, with Social and Emotional Mental Health and/or Speech, Language and Communication Needs as the identified primary need. The school situated at Main Street, Ash, Martock is in the pre-opening phase, with an intended opening date of September 2024. The school will open with an intake of 60 learners, growing over 3 years to a full capacity of 120 learners.

The school will form part of The Oak Partnership Trust, a Multi Academy Trust that currently operates five schools in the Taunton area. Hill View School is intended to meet need across South Somerset, although there is no defined catchment area on a map and no number of places set aside for children who live in a given part of the county. Placement decisions are made through consultation with the LA SEND team and they will always seek to place children in the nearest suitable special school to home. This report will detail stakeholder engagement alongside the formal Section 10 Consultation.

About Oak Partnership Trust

The Oak Partnership Trust moved in to the 2023-24 academic year with five clear strategic priorities:

Alongside focusing on: Quality of Education (Aim 1), building sustainable relations with our Communities and enhancing the school Environments (Aim 2), ensuring our Effective Business Function supports school leaders (Aim 3), and securing Capacity for Trust Growth (Aim 4), we are committed to developing our SEND and Inclusion Strategy (Aim 5).

Within this aim (5.2), we outline our vision for growing our 'specialist provision offer alongside strategic partners providing learners with provision that is commensurate with their needs.'

We see our existing relationship with Somerset Council, through Selworthy Special School, the development of The Cove and engagement with Somerset's Education for Life Strategy Board (and Thriving Schools Steering Group), as a crucial element of this strategic aim. We recognise the opportunity of creating connectivity across Special School provisions that will improve outcomes for learners with SEND across Somerset, both through the continued development of satellite provisions linked to mainstream schools and the opening of new Special Schools. We have a strong case study of our relationship with Somerset Council through the establishment of The Cove. There have

been significant successes – recognised by Ofsted – and we look forward to strengthening this provision further.



Additionally, our wider Trust vision and values are clear, regarding our commitment towards inclusion, our children and young people as well as the communities in which we serve.

Our vision for our schools (and those we support) is unwavering: high quality teaching, learning and curriculum and excellent

outcomes for all in an enabling environment, with each school central to its community, working to strengthen the social contract. We believe, considering the South Somerset context, that this is an integral part of the school opening.

With an all-through special school (Selworthy), senior school leads with expertise in SEMH and school improvement and operational capacity, TOPT are positioned to ensure the integration of Hill View's learners, staff and community is well-considered, rapid and thorough. This would be through effective governance systems that operate seamlessly from local to Member level and from internal leadership systems to ensure Hill View leaders and staff are connected to peers, across the Trust, so that the balance between support and challenge is maintained.

Initial Phase

The Oak Partnership Trust were informed in September 2023 of its successful bid to open the new Special School.

The previous MAT involved with this project (WAVE) organised community engagement events prior to their planned formal consultation. The MAT also consulted with various local stakeholders when circulating their section 10 consultation in April 2022.

Statutory Consultation Process

As part of the pre-opening phase The Oak Partnership Trust is legally bound to hold a public consultation (under Section 10 of the Academies Act 2010) to determine whether the Trust should enter into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State. The consultation commenced on Monday 13th November 2023 and ran for nine weeks,

concluding on the Friday 12th January. The purpose of the consultation was to engage and inform stakeholders about the project, the Trust and allow them to share their views.

Stakeholders

A wide range of stakeholders were consulted including:

- Local residents
- Staff and governors from local schools
- Community groups
- Parents
- Local business
- Councillors and any other interested parties
- Local Authority

The formal consultation process was promoted via different channels to a broad range of stakeholders, with information being provided in the following forms of communication.

Consultation survey

This survey was available on the Trust website, which included details of the Trust, and school proposal. The survey was designed to draw opinions and feedback from the local and wider community with regard to the new school. The Trust also encouraged interested parties to email any questions or concerns to office@oak.education or telephone (01823) 284970. (Appendix A)

Email to all local schools (including Special Schools)

An email informing of The Oak Partnership Trust consultation was sent to all local schools.

Email to Sen.se (Partnership between special schools and specialist provisions within Somerset)

An email informing of The Oak Partnership Trust consultation was sent to all Somerset SEND provisions with the support of Julie Walker (Sen.se Executive Officer)

The Oak Partnership Trust website

The website provided information and links to

- Section 10 questionnaire
- Trust Vision
- Consultation information

Local authority circulation

Local Authority publicised the consultation via 'SEND News', a monthly newsletter that is e-mailed to over 4,000 subscribers, that include:

- Parents/carers/families of children with SEND
- Somerset head teachers (alerts are cascaded by SAPH, (SASH) and sen.se
- SENCOs
- Other School Staff
- Early Years providers
- Post-16 providers
- SEND Inspection Board
- SEND Partnership Board
- Local Area Improvement Network
- Children's Services staff
- Health colleagues (alerts are sent to comms teams at NHS Somerset ICB, Somerset NHS Foundation Trust and Yeovil District Hospital who cascade to staff through newsletters and internal websites)
- Other key stakeholders – usually people from organisations who have attended SEND conferences in the past or anyone that has subscribed to the newsletter through the form on the Local Offer website

It was also featured on the LA website

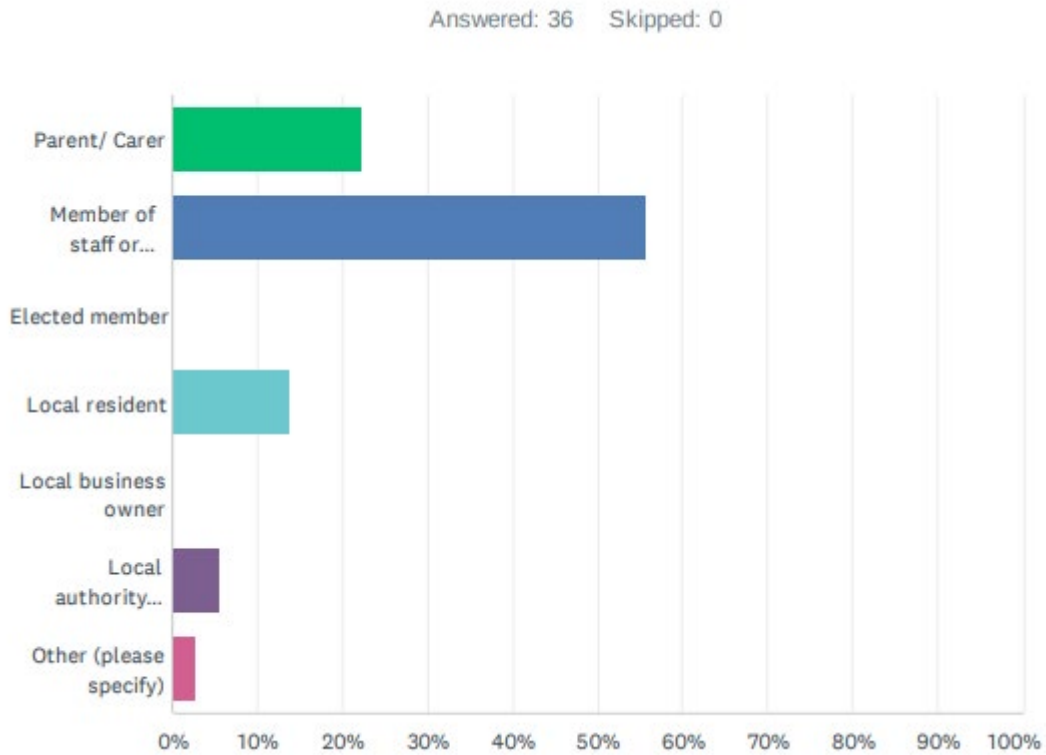
<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/news/hill-view-update-and-consultation/>

Feedback from Section 10 Consultation

In total 36 responses were received during the consultation period. This section of the report contains a summary of all responses.

Question 1

About you: which of the following best describes you?



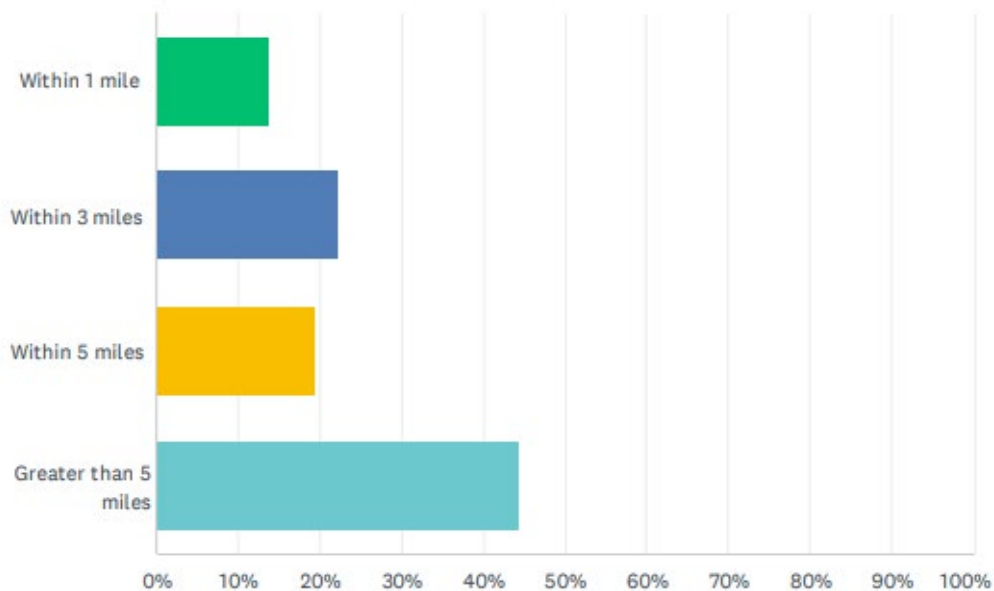
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Parent/ Carer	22.22%	8
Member of staff or governor at a local school	55.56%	20
Elected member	0.00%	0
Local resident	13.89%	5
Local business owner	0.00%	0
Local authority employee	5.56%	2
Other (please specify)	2.78%	1
TOTAL		36

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Staff member at school in the same county	12/4/2023 9:48 AM

Question 2

Where do you live, approximately, in relation to the proposed site – Hill View School?

Answered: 36 Skipped: 0

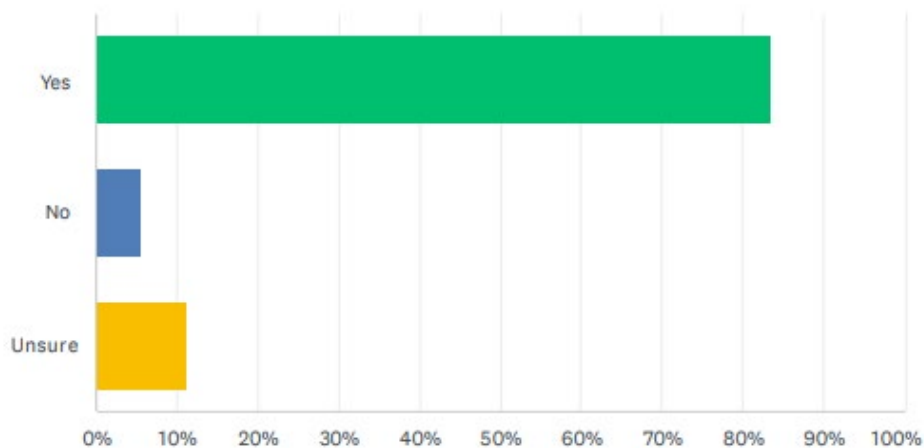


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Within 1 mile	13.89% 5
Within 3 miles	22.22% 8
Within 5 miles	19.44% 7
Greater than 5 miles	44.44% 16
TOTAL	36

Question 3

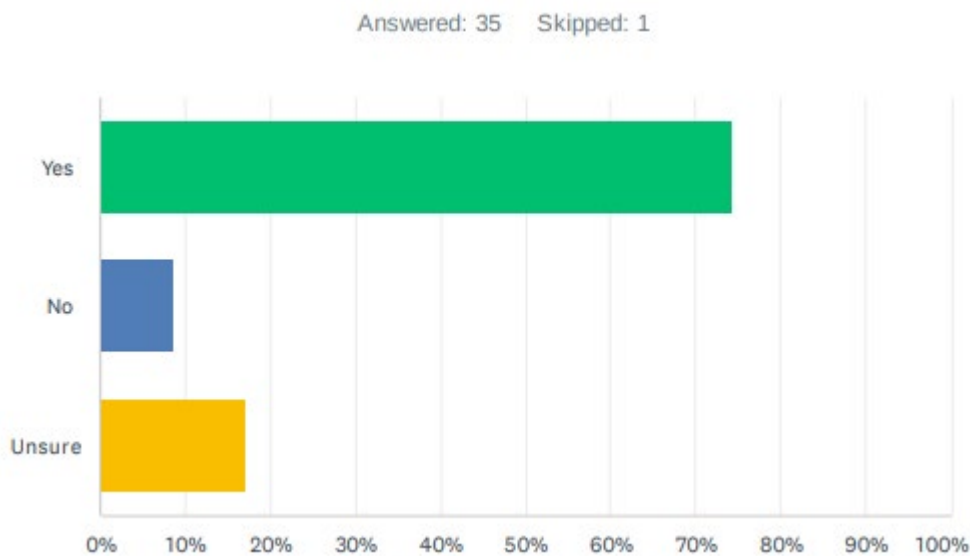
Do you agree that opening the proposed Hill View School will provide extra choice for parents and meet a need to provide additional school places in Somerset?

Answered: 36 Skipped: 0



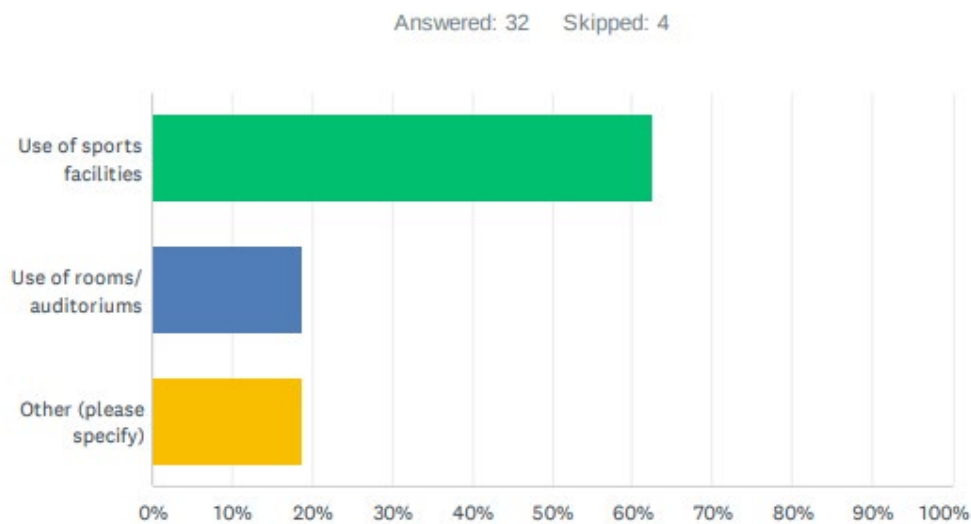
Question 4

Do you agree that the vision and values of Hill View School meet the needs of the community?



Question 5

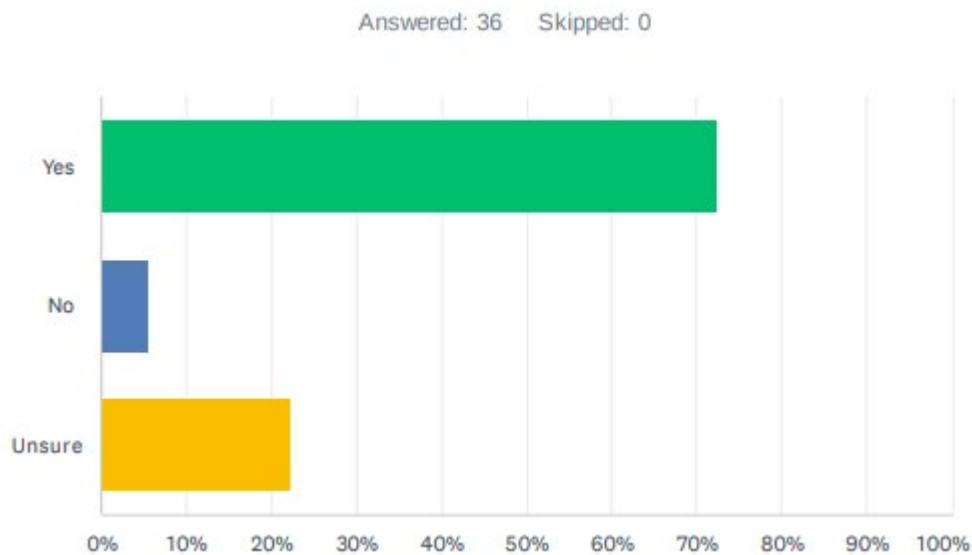
We want the school to be an important part of the local community. Are there any services you would like the school to offer the local community?



#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	NA	12/4/2023 9:48 AM
2	All facilities for the children should be made available for local children	12/1/2023 2:52 PM
3	All of the above options. Should be check boxes!	11/30/2023 8:04 PM
4	All - including training for members of the public interested in helping their own children	11/29/2023 1:48 PM
5	Both of the choices. Rooms/auditorium/sports	11/29/2023 7:39 AM
6	Both of the above	11/27/2023 2:22 PM

Question 6

Should The Oak Partnership Trust enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education in order to open this school? It is the central government who are funding the building of this new school. In order for the school to open it will need to sign a contract (called a Funding Agreement) with the Department for Education.



Question 7

Please provide any comments and feedback

Comment	Stakeholder	TOPT Response (if relevant)
Please ensure that this new school benefits the local community - particularly the local children in this area	Member of staff or governor at a local school	TOPT are committed to work closely and collaborate with the local community on projects that broaden the horizon for hill View learners and benefit the local community.
None	Local resident	
Fairly pointless questionnaire in truth, with leading questions and doing nothing to address and allay the valid concerns of residents over issues such as traffic etc.	Local resident	TOPT are aware that this has been well considered during the planning stage in 2022. It was outlined during the assessment that: <i>"The trip generation for this type of school is unique in that the traffic movements are tidal; the vast majority of vehicles</i>

		<p><i>will arrive in the morning and leave in the evening which shortens the times of conflict with existing highway users. They are also generally outside the usual peak flow times meaning there is limited conflict."</i></p> <p>TOPT will work hard to limit the impact to local traffic and the local community by implementing on site protocols ensuring traffic movement at the start and end of the school day is safely and effectively managed.</p>
Encouraging to see a school being built which focuses on support for children with special education needs	Parent/ Carer	
I think it is important for this school to have an in house therapy team - specifically a speech and language therapist and an occupational therapist - to ensure EHCP needs can be met. I would question if the needs would be able to be supported appropriately without the specialist support that is consistent.	Member of staff or governor at a local school	<p>TOPT wholeheartedly agree that having an in-house therapy team is crucial for supporting the diverse needs of our SEND students at Hill View School.</p> <p>Concerns about ensuring EHCPs are met are completely valid, and TOPT understand the importance of consistent specialist support in achieving optimal outcomes for our learners.</p> <p>TOPT will be actively working towards establishing a robust in-house therapy team, and are committed to recruiting qualified and experienced speech and language therapists (SLTs) and occupational therapists (OTs) to join our team.</p>

Opening this free school would contribute to the much needed SEND provision in Somerset	Local authority employee	
A fantastic opportunity for those who need educational support to meet their future goals.	Member of staff or governor at a local school	
A much needed school for vulnerable learners that require a special school of this nature.	Member of staff or governor at a local school	
Much needed specialist provision of this type in south Somerset.	Member of staff or governor at a local school	

Additional Supporting Evidence

Somerset Council
County Hall, Taunton
Somerset, TA1 4DY



Mr I Robinson CEO
The Oak Partnership Trust
Central Operations Office
Selworthy Special School
Hazelbrook Campus
Lyngford Road
Taunton
Somerset
TA2 8HD

12 December 2023

Dear Ian

Hill View Academy

Thank you for launching the section 10 consultation on Hill View Academy and inviting local stakeholders to submit their views.

The new school will be vital in helping to meet the needs of children and young people in South Somerset and surrounding areas that have education health and care plans with social and emotional mental health and/or speech, language and communication needs as the identified primary need.

I am writing on behalf of Somerset Council to formally confirm the Local Authority fully supports The Oak Partnership Trust's proposal to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to open the school in September 2024.]

Yours sincerely

Lewis Andrews
SEND Sufficiency Manager
Somerset Council
Tel: 07970 701927

From: Julie Walker - SEN-SE <julie.walker@somerset.gov.uk>
Sent: 04 January 2024 14:59
To: Oak Office <Office@oak.education>
Cc: Stu Lambert <slambert@hv.oak.education>
Subject: Section 10 consultation - Hill View School

Sense (Special Educational Needs Somerset Expertise) works in partnership with a wide range of organisations, parents and families to equip our students with the life skills and qualifications they need to reach their potential as adults living as independently and autonomously as they can. Collectively we have created a unique and ambitious landscape for young people built on a foundation of collaboration, shared moral purpose and expertise the partnership is instrumental in fostering opportunities unattainable for individual institutions. We welcome the development of Hill View School, lead by The Oak Partnership Trust and hope the school will join our partnership and be instrumental in further developing opportunities for young people and their families in Somerset.

Best Wishes

Julie

Julie Walker
Sen.se Executive Officer
www.sen-se.org.uk
07702593684
Julie.Walker@somerset.gov.uk



Transformation Through Collaboration

Consultation Outcomes

This report outlines a positive outcome from the statutory consultation on Hill View School. 72% of respondents supported The Oak Partnership Trust entering into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to open and operate the school.

While two objections were raised, they lacked specific explanations. After comprehensively reviewing all feedback – which you can find detailed in the report – the Trust is moving forward with the Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State. We are confident that Hill View School will not only fill a critical gap in SEND provision across South Somerset but also become an invaluable community asset.

We would like to like to thank all the stakeholders that took the time to provide their feedback and engage with us during the consultation period.

Our commitment to engagement doesn't end here. We will continue to actively involve stakeholders throughout the pre-opening and post-opening phases, welcoming further feedback and addressing any concerns.



**The Oak
Partnership Trust**

Hill View School Section 10 Consultation

Thank you very much for completing this form. We welcome your views in order to provide the best school possible.

Question Title

1. About you: which of the following best describes you?

- Parent/ Carer*
- Member of staff or governor at a local school*
- Elected member*
- Local resident*
- Local business owner*
- Local authority employee*
- Other (please specify)*

Question Title

2. Where do you live, approximately, in relation to the proposed site - Hill View School?

- Within 1 mile*
- Within 3 miles*
- Within 5 miles*
- Greater than 5 miles*

Question Title

3. Do you agree that opening the proposed Hill View School will provide extra choice for parents and meet a need to provide additional school places in Somerset?

- Yes*

- No
- Unsure

Question Title

4. Do you agree that the vision and values of Hill View School meet the needs of the community?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Question Title

5. We want the school to be an important part of the local community. Are there any services you would like the school to offer the local community?

- Use of sports facilities
- Use of rooms/ auditoriums
- Other (please specify)

Question Title

6. Should The Oak Partnership Trust enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education in order to open this school? It is the central government who are funding the building of this new school. In order for the school to open it will need to sign a contract (called a Funding Agreement) with the Department for Education.

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Question Title

7. Please provide any comments and feedback: