



2nd December 2020

CENTRAL TRUST OFFICE
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Dear Parents and Guardians

Proposal for The New Arden Academy – The Centre for Community Learning

Hopefully you are aware of our aspirations to create a New Arden Academy, a Centre for Community Learning, which we have been promoting for several years through the KDBH Neighbourhood Plan and Solihull Local Plan Review process. During this time, we have liaised closely with local residents and community groups, SMBC and other local land owners and relevant third parties, with the aim of realising this once in a lifetime opportunity to create a 21st Century Community Learning hub. More details can be found at <http://www.arden.solihull.sch.uk/new-arden/>

The Council has now published the Draft Submission Version of the Local Plan ('Draft Submission') for consultation. This is the final chance for us to make representations before the Plan is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for independent examination prior to adoption. **The consultation runs from 30th October 2020 to 14th December 2020.**

The Draft Submission includes numerous areas of land throughout Solihull. **The area relevant to the New Arden Academy is Policy KN2. This specifically refers to the land south of Knowle (Arden Triangle)** as an allocation for 600 dwellings, together with the redevelopment of the Arden Academy secondary school, and a new co-located primary school (to provide an 'all through' school).

The concept masterplan follows a place-based approach that will benefit all parts of the local community. The new schools will:

- Meet the educational needs of both primary and secondary pupils in the settlement in a single location, utilising shared and modern facilities;
- Provide a purpose-built educational setting to replace the out-dated, ageing fabric of the existing Arden Academy, much of which is increasingly expensive to maintain and service, energy inefficient, has poor infrastructure and a lack of community facilities;
- Deliver improved and modern infrastructure that will support education and increase opportunities for pupils at all stages of their learning, as well as providing better sport, leisure and learning facilities that can be used and enjoyed by the wider community;
- Be located away from Station Road with the main vehicular access taken from Warwick Road. This will displace school traffic away from Station Road, improving highway safety, reducing traffic congestion and alleviating parking problems;
- Provide a safer environment when travelling to and from school, with good pedestrian and cycling connectivity from both within and through the site to the schools;
- Allow the release of the existing Arden school site to provide for new residential development on the most accessible and sustainable parts of the Arden Triangle site, near to village centres and public transport links. The proposals will provide a mix of market and affordable homes, including smaller homes for young people and specialist

housing to meet the needs of older people. This will also help regenerate Knowle and our wider local community by supporting local businesses seeking increased footfall along the high street to maintain economic strength and viability.

We fully support these proposals as the culmination of long-standing collaboration among stakeholders to find a deliverable and realisable development solution. It is clear that new residential development within Knowle is an inevitable consequence of Local and National planning needs and obligations. Given this, we firmly believe that these proposals maximise the community benefit of these inevitable developments.

We now need your assistance to help us bolster support for Policy KN2 (and the accompanying concept masterplan) and secure development in a way that will help us realise our vision for a new school and much needed community facilities.

We encourage you to follow the links below to the Council's website which provides further details about how to access the Draft Submission and accompanying concept masterplans document, and how you can make a representation <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/lpr>

Representations can be made either:

- **By completing a written form you can download from this link [Representation Form for R19](#) that can then be emailed to the Council psp@solihull.gov.uk or sent by post to LPR Consultation Policy and Delivery, Solihull MBC, Solihull B91 3QB**

OR

- **On-line** (you will need to set up an account with a password) - www.solihull.gov.uk/lpr.

If you would like to make a supporting representation, you may wish to draw from the bullet points on the first page of this letter. The attached Reference Sheet (Appendix 1) provides further information needed to complete the written form. We would however, emphasise that these points are not intended to guide or in any way limit what you wish to say or to influence the priority that you attach to specific issues.

A relocated and redeveloped Arden School alongside a new primary school will provide a wonderful opportunity for the whole of our community, bringing educational, economic and social benefits for everyone. The new Local Plan is the only mechanism by which we can realise this aspiration. Formally expressing your support for Policy KN2 at this crucial Draft Submission stage is therefore hugely important in making this happen.

Thank you very much indeed for your support.

Yours sincerely

Martin Murphy
CEO Arden Multi Academy Trust

Mr D. Warwood
Associate Head Teacher

Mr Martin Carter
Chair of Governors



Appendix 1 Reference Sheet

Making a representation to the Solihull Draft Submission Version of the Local Plan

- If you are in agreement with the school in supporting the proposal for the site, as set out in Policy KN2, we would be delighted if you would complete a written form you can download from this link [Representation Form for R19](#) that can then be emailed to the Council psp@solihull.gov.uk or sent by post to LPR Consultation Policy and Delivery, Solihull MBC, Solihull B91 3QB
- You can also do this by following this link (you will need to set up an account with a password) - www.solihull.gov.uk/lpr.

This Sheet provides reference details to assist you in completing the representation direct or completing Part B of the written form and ensuring that it is valid:

Part A – fill in your personal details

Part B – Question 3

- Policy KN2- South of Knowle (Arden Triangle) can be found on pages 198 – 199 of the Draft Submission.
- The Justification for Policy KN2 is set out in paras. 720 – 729 on pages 199 – 200 of the Draft Submission.
- The related concept masterplan for Policy KN2 is shown on pages 82 – 87 of the Solihull Local Plan Concept Masterplans document October 2020.
- The Site is notated on the Proposed Policies Map as an LPR Proposed Housing Site.

Part B Question 4

Tick yes to 4(1), 4(2) and 4(3).

Part B Question 5 and 6

We would encourage you to submit your own words when responding to these questions but the bullet points in our letter may assist you.

Part B Question 5

I/we confirm that I fully support Policy KN2 – South of Knowle (Arden Triangle) and believe it meets the Tests of Soundness and is compliant with relevant legislation. I/we have arrived at these conclusions as follows:



Soundness and Legal Compliance:

The Policy KN2 Concept Masterplan follows a Placed Based approach and I/we believe will benefit all parts of the local community over the term of the Local Plan and beyond.

Please feel free to draw from the bullet points set out in our letter (above) to explain further why you support the proposals.

The proposed Concept Masterplan is the outcome of a lengthy collaborative approach involving landowners, Arden Academy, parents, students, and many members of the local community who, alongside the Council, have sought to establish a Place-Based concept masterplan that all parties can support in principle, as an effective solution to meeting the needs of the whole community.

In our view, this open and collaborative approach to the production of the Policy KN2 Concept Masterplan meets the required tests of soundness and legal compliance.

Part B Question 6.

I/We are satisfied that Policy KN2 has been sufficiently well developed in collaboration with all parts of the community and represents a Place Based approach that I/we can fully support without further modification.

