



Solihull MBC Local Plan

Publication Stage Representation Form

Ref:

(For
official
use only)

Name of the Local Plan to which this representation relates:

Solihull

Please return to psp@solihull.gov.uk or Policy and Engagement, Solihull MBC, Solihull, B91 3QB BY Monday 14th December 23:59

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This form has two parts –

Part A – Personal Details: need only be completed once.

Part B – Your representation(s). Please fill in a separate sheet for each representation you wish to make.

Part A

1. Personal Details*

**If an agent is appointed, please complete only the Title, Name and Organisation (if applicable) boxes below but complete the full contact details of the agent in 2.*

2. Agent's Details (if applicable)

Title

Mr

First Name

Stephen

Last Name

Rouse

Job Title

Resident

(where relevant)

Organisation

(where relevant)

Address Line 1

Line 2

Line 3

Line 4

Post Code

Telephone Number

E-mail Address

Part B – Please use a separate sheet for each representation

Name or Organisation:

3. To which part of the Local Plan does this representation relate?

Paragraph Policy Policies Map

4. Do you consider the Local Plan is :

4.(1) Legally compliant	Yes	<input type="text"/>	No	<input type="text"/>
4.(2) Sound	Yes	<input type="text"/>	No	<input type="text" value="x"/>
4 (3) Complies with the Duty to co-operate	Yes	<input type="text"/>	No	<input type="text"/>

Please tick as appropriate

5. Please give details of why you consider the Local Plan is not legally compliant or is unsound or fails to comply with the duty to co-operate. Please be as precise as possible.

If you wish to support the legal compliance or soundness of the Local Plan or its compliance with the duty to co-operate, please also use this box to set out your comments.

I do not think that the reasons for demolishing the existing Arden Academy and loss of so much green belt for housing has been justified by the evidence.

At para 700, it is accepted that there are many good buildings on site. These include the music block, the 6th form block and the new 3 storey block. The main problem is that the classroom spaces have been allowed to expand but no thought was given to the communal facilities. The hall, canteen, locker areas and gyms do not, therefore, have enough capacity. These are now driving the quest for a whole new school and the consequential amount of housing to pay for it.

The Council previously consulted on two options; one to retain the school (option 1) and the other to relocate it (option 2). There was no option to retain the school and improve the facilities.

At no time has any proper analysis been made available of the pros and cons of options 1 and 2. There is no evidence to demonstrate why the existing buildings cannot be extended and improved, making good use of the land to the side of the main building and the adjoining piece of land which is now redundant following the abandonment of the Knowle by pass. A new facilities block could be built here, linked to the main building which could then be reconfigured to provide remodelled main entrance, new lockers etc. Such an option should be thoroughly and properly explored and costed before going down the route of a whole new school with reprovion of playing fields and all the damage to green belt and

landscape that will ensue.

As submitted, there is no evidence to demonstrate that relocation of the school is either necessary or the best option. If an improvement option were to be thoroughly tested and was shown to be a more viable solution, then there would not be the need for so many houses or such extensive and damaging loss of green belt. The village character will be seriously adversely affected by such large scale development with consequent impacts on its infrastructure which will struggle to cope. It is essential therefore that all options are demonstrated to have been fully assessed - and they have not been to date.

In conclusion, the Council has not justified the need to relocate and rebuild the Academy. It has offered no evidence in relation to either the physical or financial viability of improving the Academy in situ. The justification for Policy KN 2, involving the allocation of a large site capable of delivering a new secondary and primary school plus 600 houses, is therefore totally inadequate and the Plan is not sound.

(Continue on a separate sheet /expand box if necessary)

6. Please set out the modification(s) you consider necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant and sound, in respect of any legal compliance or soundness matters you have identified at 5 above. (Please note that non-compliance with the duty to co-operate is incapable of modification at examination). You will need to say why each modification will make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.

Evidence to demonstrate that improvement of the Academy in situ is not viable should be submitted alongside evidence to show how it compares to the viability and delivery of the relocated Academy. Without such evidence, the Plan is unsound and Policy KN2 should be deleted.

(Continue on a separate sheet /expand box if necessary)

Please note In your representation you should provide succinctly all the evidence and supporting information necessary to support your representation and your suggested modification(s). You should not assume that you will have a further opportunity to make submissions.

After this stage, further submissions may only be made if invited by the Inspector, based on the matters and issues he or she identifies for examination.

7. If your representation is seeking a modification to the plan, do you consider it necessary to participate in examination hearing session(s)?

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No, I do not wish to participate in hearing session(s)

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Yes, I wish to participate in hearing session(s)

Please note that while this will provide an initial indication of your wish to participate in hearing session(s), you may be asked at a later point to confirm your request to participate.

8. If you wish to participate in the hearing session(s), please outline why you consider this to be necessary:

Please note the Inspector will determine the most appropriate procedure to adopt to hear those who have indicated that they wish to participate in hearing session(s). You may be asked to confirm your wish to participate when the Inspector has identified the matters and issues for examination.

9. Signature:

S. Rouse

Date:

14/12/2020