

From Amber Dopson  
Senior School Infrastructure and Place Planning Officer  
Devon County Council

10 November 2023

Dear Mr Bradley

The existing Proposed Submission of the Teignbridge Local Plan 2020-2040 consists of Policy EE1 Markham Village. The Addendum version of this document (November 2023) entered a public consultation period on 08/11/23.

Live consultation of the Local Plan Proposed Submission Addendum (Regulation 19) - Teignbridge District Council

The wording for policy EE1 currently suggests a 2.3ha site will be allocated for a primary school at Markham which could accommodate a 3FE primary school with early years provision. This reflects Teignbridge District Council's (TDC) previous proposal (Proposed Submission of the Teignbridge Local Plan 2020-2040) to deliver a 2FE school, with scope for expansion, serving development proposed at both the Marham and Peamore. The LEA objected to this based on the lack of appropriate infrastructure links between Markham and the Peamore site. This wording of policy EE1 and the required size of the school site will be highlighted to TDC in due course.

Based on the 900 homes which were previously proposed for Markham, the LEA's latest advice to TDC was as follows, 'should the Local Planning Authority decide to allocate the site with a primary school, a commitment will be required to fully fund a 210 place Primary School plus Early Years provision.' (DCC Markhams and Peamore clarification letter to TDC - July 2023).

In response to your questions:

Q1 Would Ide School close, and the new school accommodate Ide School's 120 pupils?

Devon County Council has a presumption against closing schools unless on educational grounds. The importance of Ide school and its role in the local community has been considered in our strategic planning for education provision in South West Exeter (and Teignbridge.) Firstly, it could not be expanded to meet the needs of circa 200 additional primary students, nor does it have the infrastructure e.g. roads, parking etc to absorb the development. There is no intention to close Ide school in relation to this development.

Q2 If the answer to this is "yes", what would happen to the Ide School site? Would you need to sell it for development to contribute to the shortfall in developer funding for the 420 space new school?

Not applicable, the additional site is prudent for longer term planning, but there is currently no need for a 420 place school even without the places offered by Ide Primary school.

Recent information from Teignbridge suggests they are considering a reduced size development of 575 dwellings in the plan period up to 2040, resulting in about 150 primary school pupils.

Q3 Is this too small to require a new school? Or would you assume that the remaining 325 houses will come anyway after 2040 and plan on that basis? We have based our response on the basis the site will support 900 dwellings, we would review our response should numbers drop significantly.

Q4 If too small, would they have to go to Ide or Alphington? If they went to Ide School I assume the development would pay for the necessary extension and refurbishment? Or maybe Alphington has space due to the new school at Matford?

The school would only be delivered if deemed viable, if the allocations were to drop significantly then it is possible that a different strategy, Exeter facing, could be pursued which could involve some minor expansions but most schools are on constrained sites. The allocation of a school site protects the Local Authorities position.

Q5 Finally, are we correct in assuming there is sufficient capacity for secondary school pupils with the new Matford Brook School opening on site soon?

Yes, the impact of the development on secondary capacity will be included within proposals for Exeter Local Plan, it is likely their designated school will be Matford Brook Academy which has been built with a capacity of 750 secondary places.

If you have any further questions, please let me know. I would be happy to come to a Parish meeting to explain this further if that would be helpful.