

# Turing's intake intact

By George Odling

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TURING House School will be keeping its 80:20 split between Teddington and Whitton children despite an "overwhelming" consultation response calling for this to change.

The school is expected to move from its temporary Teddington home to Hospital Bridge Road in Whitton in two years' time and consultation over issues, including the admissions policy, concluded this week.

Of the 412 people who responded, 266 said the school should change the proportions, which currently have 80 per cent of the school's intake from the school's admissions point, Teddington, and 20 per cent from the school's intended permanent site in Heathfield.

131 people agreed with the split and 15 did not know whether it should be changed.

The consultation report said the school is prepared to compromise over this policy

by pressing ahead with the 80:20 split for 2017 and then revisiting the issue for the 2018 admissions.

Councillor for Whitton, Grant Healy, who has called for a 50:50 split, said: "I am very disappointed in the decision by the school board of governors to stick to the 80:20 when overwhelmingly the people have voted in good faith against this.

"All we want to get is a fair deal for Whitton should the school be built on the Hospital Bridge Road site and I don't call it a compromise for them to just kick the issue into the long grass and say they can pick it up later."

Heathfield councillor John Coombs also expressed disappointment in the announcement and said having a school the other side of the A316 would create a great deal of cross-borough traffic.

The consultation report stated that just 11 per cent of the applications for places at the school in 2016 were from Heathfield and Whitton, but Cllr Coombs said it is likely most parents did not apply to the school because they did



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not know they could.

He said: "They are not going to apply to a school where their children have got to cross the A316."

Twickenham MP Tania Mathias remained opposed to the Whitton site altogether and said: "It does not reflect the current demand for school places in the borough and I have called for more suitable locations to be considered."

She highlighted a recent impact assessment for Turing House which illustrated a surplus of school places around the proposed site, with places at Twickenham and Hampton Academies unfilled.

Dr Mathias added: "Pushing forward with the current site will only harm the long-term financial viability of lo-

cal schools in the immediate vicinity, rather than addressing the need for more school places in the borough.

"Although I accept that there are few suitable sites elsewhere, I would prefer a site closer to home for Teddington and Fulwell families."

It is understood that the Education Funding Agency and Hounslow Council are still negotiating over the Hospital Bridge Road site.

Both parties have been contacted for comment.

The school's published admissions number (PAN) will remain at 150, after 198 of the respondents disagreed with the proposed increase to 200.

Richmond Council's cabinet member for schools, Councillor Paul Hodgins, said though the admissions policy is at present for the 2017 intake, he was disappointed with the response to the consultation.

He said: "Turing House is not giving any indication that they are minded to change their policy when they move to their permanent location, and seem to

reject most of the results of the admissions part of the consultation.

"Moreover, they seem to blame many of the responses on local councillors campaigning on behalf of their residents. These are councillors who are trying to find a positive outcome for all, and quite rightly have encouraged people to respond.

"We will continue to strongly advocate a policy that is fairer to the local residents, while still serving the demand in the borough. It is clear from the consultation results that residents will also be looking for that change."

It is understood the Education Funding Agency and Hounslow Council are still negotiating over the Hospital Bridge Road site. A spokesman from the Department for Education said he could not comment further.

## In brief

**LEAD TAKEN:** Thieves took £6,000 of lead from 20 Teddington homes by peeling it from the porch roofs, police said.

The thieves struck at about 3am on February 19 in Shaef Way but were heard as they made off with the lead protective linings, worth about £300 each. They left no forensic material or tools behind. Three young men dressed in dark hooded tops and tracksuits were spotted. Anyone with information is urged to call 101.

**CHARITY THEFT:** A man who stole a charity box and a bottle of champagne has been fined £90. Stuart Craigan, 51, of Beccree Avenue, Dagenham, stole a charity box belonging to the Osteopathic Centre in Upper Richmond Road on July 27 and a £255 bottle of champagne from Waitrose in Wandsworth's Southside shopping centre on March 10 2015.

He pleaded guilty to both offences at Wimbledon Magistrates Court and was sentenced on February 26.

## Flat fire probed by crews

A FIRE damaged a home in a Teddington block of flats on Monday, February 29.

Four fire engines dealt with the blaze, in Twickenham Road, which began shortly after 9am and was under control by 9.51am.

A four-roomed flat on the third floor was partially damaged, but nobody was injured.

Police also attended and the cause of the fire is under investigation.

## OAP hurt in crash

A car flipped over in Hampton and trapped an elderly woman inside.

Fire fighters from Twickenham Fire Station had to cut the roof off the car and peel it back to rescue the woman, aged in her 70s, when her car flipped over in Hollybush Lane on Tuesday at about 7pm.

There was no sign of injury but the woman was taken to hospital as a precaution.

A spokesman from Twickenham Fire Station said he did not know how the car had flipped over, as it was a very quiet road.



(L-R) Karina Telesia, Francesca Boncey (three), Phil Vickery and Tracey Boncey.

## Six Nations trophy on display

THE Six Nations trophy went on display at NatWest in Twickenham prior to England's game against Ireland

at the national stadium. Rugby fans and customers had the opportunity to meet former international Phil

Vickery, who said: "Having the opportunity to get up close to the trophy makes it real for people."



## Police hunt knife man

TWO teenage girls were left "highly distressed" after being approached by a knife-wielding man near to Powder Mill Lane, Whitton.

The girls were able to run away from the man after he started threatening them on January 22 at about 9.30pm.

An e-fit of the man was released by police this week.

The man they wish to speak to is described as Asian, 6ft 2ins, chubby, in his mid-20s with a full beard and gelled-back dark hair.

He was wearing a dark

jacket with orange lining and dark jeans at the time.

Detective Sergeant Darren Young, of Richmond CID, said: "Understandably the victims were left highly distressed and shaken by this incident.

"Incidents like this remain extremely rare in the borough but I would appeal to anyone who may have information to call the police."

Call Richmond CID on 0208 721 5840 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 with information.