



STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Replacement College Building and associated works

Hopwood Hall College

MAY 2025

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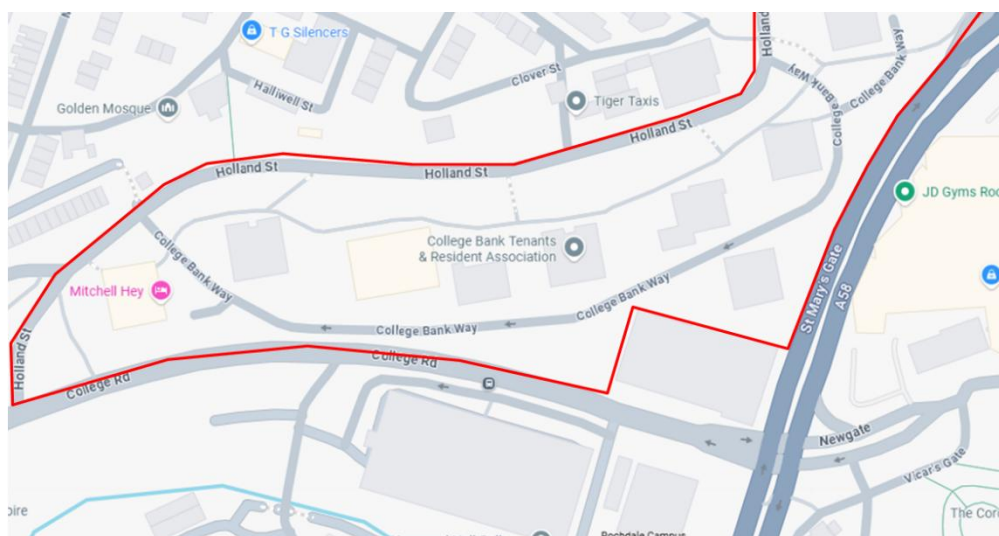
1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Statement of Community Involvement sets out the comments received from the public consultation held in a drop-in event at Hopwood Hall College on Wednesday 7th May 2025 and has been hosted online since Monday 5th May 2025¹.

- At Appendix A is a copy of the consultation materials displayed at the event and online.
- At Appendix B is copy of the general letter issued to residents and the area of the addresses consulted.
- At Appendix C are full details of all comments received at the event and online with personal and identifiable information redacted.

2 CONSULTATION

2.1 A drop-in event was held at Hopwood Hall College open to all on Wednesday 7th May, between 4.30pm and 7.30pm. A total of 232 letters were posted across the 'Seven Sisters' on College Bank to the occupied homes, (there are 437 currently unoccupied homes). The plan below highlights the location of the 7 apartment buildings.



Postal area for notification letters to resident

2.2 A copy of the letter issued can be found in Appendix B.

2.3 In addition emails were issued to Ward councillors, lead councillors at Rochdale Council and lead officers to inform of the drop-in event taking place with open invitation to attend if appropriate.

¹ The website remains live for comments at time of compiling this report on 21st May 2025 prior to submission of the planning application

- 2.4 The website consultation page went live to view and to provide comments online from Monday 5th May, with copies of the consultation boards used in the event available as PDFs to view or download. The website remains live for viewing and for comments at time of compiling this report.

The website can be found at: <https://www.planred.co.uk/consultation>

- 2.5 4 residents attended the event over three hours, with all arriving in the first hour. A further 13 members of staff arrived within over the first two hours. Of those that attended no one left a written responses, though all were invited to do so.



- 2.6 Online the consultation received only 20 unique hits in the first week and 30 hits in total since going live. No online response forms have been received to date. This is a very low level of engagement. For context consultation sites typically receive 200-300 unique hits when first posted and response rates are usually between 3-5%.

3 COMMENTS AND RESPONSE

- 3.1 As no formal comments were received in person or online there is no specific analysis or response.
- 3.2 Informal conversations with the attendees did yield interest in the proposals and support. The scale, location and purpose of the replacement teaching building was understood and seen as an improvement. Loss of some of the car parking was remarked upon by one person but they felt the town centre location meant this was a sensible compromise. A few remarks were made about the history of the site, before the present college and that the existing Block B Benjamin Rudland Building was previously named after Leopold Solomon (1919-1976), a renowned artist and former Principal of Rochdale College of Art.
- 3.3 Staff attending were interested in the proposals and how their teaching areas would be affected or replaced in the proposals, including the new nursey.
- 3.4 No Ward members or other councillors attended the event or responded by email.