

Consultation Outcomes – Proposed merger and new build at Canal St

Operational Personnel at St Helens and Eccleston

The following table outlines the dates where Operational personnel at St Helens and Eccleston held a consultation discussion. Staff were given the proposals as outlined in the consultation document and invited to provide comment or raise a query.

Meeting	Date
50 Red	18/09/15
50 White	13/10/15
50 Blue	08/09/15
50 Green	09/10/15
52 Red	12/10/15
52 White	12/09/15
52 Blue	21/09/15
52 Green	13/10/15

The discussions were mostly quite positive and most personnel accepted that changes were necessary. The following is a precis of a few areas that personnel wished to talk about, albeit that not all of them were relevant to the consultation specifically. They have been ordered in highest priority first, based on number of times each was raised.

- A. Some real concern over what will happen to the personnel at Eccleston due to St Helens 24 unit being populated already. This was raised on a number of consultation meetings. This was also on the back of being informed that Newton was remaining LLAR (many saw this as a straightforward transplant into Newton at the time), but now there is real concern over where they will end up. With Whiston closing and Huyton being a 24 Unit, they all perceive they will be scattered quite some distance from St Helens where many of them live. There was a sincere request for some guidance on this.
- B. There was confusion over why both Eccleston and Whiston should close immediately while Prescott and Canal St had not been built. Many felt this presented a great deal of risk for property in the intervening area between the existing sites of St Helens and Huyton. The query is why Eccleston could not stay open as there should be enough people to run it.
- C. Some commented that the language in the documents felt disingenuous (it is not a merger but a closure), especially because it would bring the number of wholetime pumps in the area down to 1 after 2200 hrs (due to Newton being LLAR)
- D. Some were concerned that the cuts appeared to hit the St Helens and Knowsley areas in greater severity than elsewhere (an example was given as Liverpool).
- E. There was concern by a few about the 2nd pump attendance times to any significant incident in the area. They accepted that the 1st pump times were negligible (may actually slightly improve for some), but the 2nd pump would need to come some distance.
- F. What were the likely the likely completion times for these proposals – when would Prescott be built and when would Canal St likely be built if given the go ahead?

- G. There was some concern over size of the site and would the station be big enough for everything – the ask being that some plans be issued to them before anything is finalised for the Canal St proposal
- H. A few people believed that cuts to St Helens and station movement would likely impact upon the most deprived areas of St Helens.
- I. Would the size of the gym equal that of St Helens and would there be enough space to accommodate partners that relied on it (in reference to Healthy Living)?
- J. One query raised was why Rainford had been given no specific consultation venues/dates, given they would likely be affected by the proposal.

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Partners on station at St Helens

Meeting	Date
Youth Offending Service	26/08/15
MPH Training	18/09/15
Healthy Living	21/09/15
For Real Training	*
Parr Band	*

A discussion was held with a representative of the units listed and the intent of the consultation explained. A copy of the consultation document was provided for each unit, and each unit either provided some feedback/comments immediately or they asked to go away and consider before replying. My contact details were provided to each (SM D Watson). The summary below reflects a precis of the comments that each group made. It was explained that if the move to Canal St was made the Authority could make no firm guarantees that each partner would be able to transfer with the current provision that they had at St Helens.

Youth Offending Service	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explained that the team operated as part of restorative justice to help offenders reintegrate into the community. They are St Helens Council organised as part of the Chief Executives portfolio Would like to move with the station if it went to Canal St, as they believe that the interaction they have had with the personnel on station has had a positive effect on the work they do They would need little to operate at a location (probably a Portacabin or similar), but accepted it may not be possible to move to the new location Was invited to send through further queries via email – indicated they would probably do so (<i>at time of report, nothing has been received</i>) 	

MPH Training	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mentioned that she was concerned it was unlikely that they would be able to move to the new site with the station (primarily due to the footprint MPH use for provision of their services – garage unit, quite a number of rooms in permanent use etc.) Asked what would become of the Parr Stocks Rd site after MFRS had vacated, and asked if it would be possible that they could still use it when MFRS had left. Was invited to send through further queries via email – indicated she would probably do so (<i>at time of report, nothing has been received</i>) 	

Healthy Living	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keen that the contact with the station should continue as it was a good community resource. He thought that a good sized community gymnasium would encourage other people to come 	

along, especially one that catered for disabled persons – good floor space for classes etc.

- Large community rooms for dual purpose use, such as cookery demonstrations and use of kitchen facilities etc.
- Proposed location of new station would not negatively impact on their service if they were allowed to continue, as it has good bus routes
- Some small multi use rooms for consultations would be good if it was possible to design them into the station
- The class leader was asked to give some comments also: *The group provides strong group cohesion for the elderly in particular, and makes a huge difference to people's lives, including people with diabetes, arthritis, COPD, heart problems, osteo issues, psychological problems, bereavement, stroke, and other carers of them. It being a fire station increased the appeal to many, as opposed going to other gyms where their culture and expectations didn't seem to support the gradual goals of the group.*
- The main ask from the group was to be able to use the gym and community rooms like they currently do
- Was invited to send through further queries via email – indicated he would probably do so (at time of report, nothing has been received)

Parr Band	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Was unable to make contact directly with the band due to availability – an email inviting comments and queries was sent to the organiser, with a link to the consultation material on the website• At time of report, nothing has been received, but it is clear from emails that the organiser would like to discuss this	

For Real	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unable to make contact with the group – no contact details available at present• Attempts will be made to make contact with the group to explain the process and gather any feedback	