

I think the intended outcome of having about 3 or 4 extra classes at Kanes Hill, by 7 years time, might be partly achievable in the school building by using the music room, for example, as a classroom, but I think there would be need for some building programme. It would be a terrible shame if the hard work of the Into Music project, and the fantastic music provision, was difficult to continue with limited space available without a dedicated teaching area. In the consultation, for example, it mentions that spare classrooms currently used by pre schools might be reinstated into the school estate, and I could see how this would be a sensible solution at Kanes Hill, where the pre school occupy one of the classrooms in the early years area. I would like there to be some assurance in the plans that the pre school would be able to continue on the site. It would be a shame if in enhancing the provision for school age children, the council did not take account of the needs of pre school children and families, who need a pre school to be handy so they can pick up children from both at the same time.

My son is due to start school in September 2012, we are desperate to get him into Portswood Primary as it is such a good school, however, as we are 0.3km out of the catchment area, we will likely be bottom of the list, having done some experience in our catchment school I am adamant he should not go there. I welcome the possibility of new places being made available and hopefully that will give us a good chance of getting Portswood Primary, I only welcome it on the understanding that class sizes will not go up a huge amount to cover this and therefore the school can maintain their great results.

Many thanks for your response, it's very interesting to hear of these projects and maybe we will get a place in Portswood if Highfield is expanded.

If you could expand the catchment of Portswood Primary to cover SO17 2LN, I would be most appreciative!!!

I have received this email with attachments today (I presume via my Head Teacher) and on reading the attachments I am a little worried that you do not appear to have received the response of our Full Governing Body.

The attached was completed and submitted via post some time ago – it should be self-explanatory but do let me know if you need anything further.

Whilst the proposal to expand our school is in principle welcome, there is a strong sense of irony in responding to the authority's consultation. The last consultation that directly affected our school included a proposal to close us – one of the many elements of our successful case against this and continued existence as a one form entry Primary school was that the birth rate would increase (thus requiring more available primary school places). We have clearly arrived where we predicted ...

Moorlands Primary school is on the boundary of the city. A large number of our families and their children were drawn to our school, its community and ethos because it has "a village feel on the edge of a city". This can be intangible and means different things to different families. Increasing the schools numbers risks endangering this but we have faith that our excellent staff team will be able to maintain and develop our school ethos and community "feel".

On balance our preference would be that Moorland Primary School remains a one form entry school. We have barely had the opportunity to finish our journey to outstanding Primary school serving our children and wider community and would ideally have completed this before any further major changes.

However we are a pragmatic school with a robust and adaptable community. The wider context of this review is that there is pressing need for additional Primary school places within Southampton and we are very well placed to assist with this. Due process must be allowed to run its course and we are very aware of potential and actual funding restraints but we would be happy to work with you on developing our school into a two form entry Primary. On the premise that any proposals are properly funded and delivered in a manner that minimises disruption on the existing school community as it grows, we are able to take a strategic view that a two form entry Moorlands Primary school would maximise both opportunity and benefit to all involved - the authority, the school and its community.

As part of a partnership with you to deliver an expanded school we have a number of key concerns that we would look to address. Whilst we appreciate you will likely be aware of these and take a similar view as to the significance of them, we feel it important that they form part of our response to the consultation proposals:

- **Existing school buildings** - there are maintenance needs for the existing building if we are working together to secure a two form entry primary school fit for purpose going forward. Some of these are already being addressed but the existing buildings must be fit to integrate with any new building work.
- **Existing site infrastructure** – principally this refers to access and parking. This is already at maximum capacity so would need to be carefully considered as part of any expansion plan. We are acutely aware that a substantial, favourably placed school site in a residential development has neighbours and it is in all of our interests to ensure we do not raise objections from them in any plans to expand the school.
- **Internal configuration of buildings** – this is not just about the size of our school hall (which is not large enough now) - we are realistic enough to realise that addressing it would be cost prohibitive in itself. The school would potentially require enhanced kitchen facilities, improved on site facilities for staff, secure storage for musical and other valuable resources as well as of course the new classrooms.
- **Existing site services** – the full governing body are completely committed to our school continuing to offer wrap around care on site. This is of great significance to a section of our school community and is one component of our extended schools provision. At present this wrap around care is provided by a private provider and in the short and medium term it is in all of our interests to do all that we reasonably can to maintain their presence on site.
- **Financing** – We make no apologies for returning to this issue. Whilst completely acknowledging and understanding the challenges of the current environment in relation to financing, any partnership between the authority and the school in achieving a two form entry Primary school has to be appropriately funded. The school would be fully open to discussions about how that might be achieved but it is fundamental to success and our full support of any expansion plans. To be clear, this is not an unrealistic wish list – building, infrastructure and staffing provision fit for purpose, delivered on time and properly funded. We are well managed and within budget year on year, with staffing provision appropriate to the needs of our children. In principle we would be supportive of any plan for expansion that does not threaten this.

We envisage the above resulting in everything we are and strive for now but as a two form entry primary school with the resulting benefits to all concerned. However in arriving at this vision we would expect the school to be an equal partner in the process with promised works properly funded and delivered on time. If the decision is to expand our school to a two form entry Primary we look forward to working with you in achieving this.

Many thanks for the response, very helpful indeed (apologies for the strange hour of reply, I do shifts in the NHS in my paid job!) ☐

A shame we seem to have got lost in the office move but glad this is recorded now. I think we will be fine, we are a pragmatic bunch and your response here confirms what I have been hearing from the preliminary meetings with the Head and Deputy in terms of being aware of our key concerns (which I suspect are consistent with a number of the schools involved). We have been able to address at least some of the pressing issues with existing buildings through other funding and once due process has been allowed to run I look forward to a successful partnership to ultimately everybody's mutual benefit.

The roads around the Tanners Brook Schools cannot cope with any more traffic. It was gridlocked again after school today -people park on pavements, on the double yellow lines and have no consideration for pedestrians, some will three point turn up on the pavements and it is not safe for the number of children walking out of the school.

Recently, a survey was undertaken to provide a purpose built pre-school on the school grounds - it was decided that there was nowhere suitable for a preschool to be built, nor could the school be adapted to create space within - how come all of a sudden, new classrooms can be planned for every year group????? If there was no money to build a pre-school, how come, given the change of government and the supposed cuts being made, can there be any money for additional classrooms?

Many thanks for this email to me and subsequent email informing all interested parties of the publication of the Statutory Notices and complete proposals.

The Trustees have considered the Notices and the related complete proposals and have raised a number of concerns. The Trustees note:

- The Council is making all the proposals across the City
- The proposals are not linked
- The Council's proposals for St Patrick's are to:

(i) increase the Published Admission Number from 45 to 60 with effect 1 September 2012; and

(ii) to enlarge the school from a capacity of 304 to 420.

- The issues about costings and available funding described in para 12
- That the implementation of proposals are not expected to be met by governing bodies although a contribution may be sought from DFC (refer para 12).

In order to respond, the Trustees wish:

(i) to be advised of the plans as to how the Council, in its proposal to enlarge St Patrick's, is intending to increase the capacity from 304 to 420 of the School, although they acknowledge that a detailed feasibility study has yet to be undertaken; and

(ii) to receive confirmation that the costs of the works associated with the plans to enlarge the School from a capacity of 304 to a capacity of 420 will be met by the Council.

It will be difficult for the Trustees to support the proposals in the absence of the above information and assurances.

I look forward to hearing from you in the very near future so that a formal response to the Notices can be submitted within the statutory timescale.

We have now discussed this at Governors and will be getting together with Infant school Governors to talk it over with them.

Some questions that came up at our meeting are:

- Will catchment areas be redrawn as a result of changing sizes of school?
- How much money is available for new building? (also would any school land be sold to fund a build?)
- Will schools know ahead of time whether new building or temporary classrooms are their option?
- In the case of Tanners Brook schools - can there be consideration of provision of a proper pre school, as the existing one is already inadequate and more places will be needed?

As you probably know already, there is a lot of concern about parking and access to our schools through this thin crescent. There has been discussion about whether Highways could make it one way?

This process is full of uncertainties and so it is very difficult to take an informed view. One thing I very much want to avoid is extending the school so we always have a number of empty places.

Thank you for considering our questions. I look forward to sharing your reply with my Governors.

We have concerns about the nature of the accommodation proposed (as described below) and how the scheme will be funded. I appreciate full feasibility studies have yet to be completed. However, unless the Trustees have the necessary assurances/guarantees they will not be able to support the proposals. I understand the deadline for comment on the proposals is 1st February 2011 which makes the matter urgent. We would advise that it makes more sense to defer the proposals to expand St Patrick's until such time the feasibility studies have been completed and appropriate and sufficient funding secured.

The Council's complete proposals state that no governing body is expected to meet the costs of expansions. However, because of the shortfall of funding available for all the proposals, schools will be asked to contribute some of their DFC towards their project. No mention is made of LCVAP.

Trustees need to have the assurance that the Council's proposed accommodation is adequate and appropriate for the School and will be funded from the funding available to the Council. The Trustees are concerned that there is sufficient funding allocated to this project specifically.

Without the adequate information and assurances, the Trustees will not be able to support the proposals.

Your email

With reference to your email, I have consulted with colleagues about the content and thought it might easier to respond by making comment throughout the text of your email (refer below).

- The extension of the small YR classroom *Probably sensible*
- The re-organisation of the toilet/cloakroom area, to provide an additional classroom *Concerned that this will be very expensive as the wall they are planning to remove, while currently internal, is actually the main supporting structure for the roof. It could not be completed during the summer break and it is unclear how it is proposed to teach the existing children housed in the 4 classrooms effected.*
- Utilise the communal area in the KS1 block to a library/communal area Possible, but area currently unheated and leaks, it is effectively a roofed in courtyard and has existing concrete/tarmac floor and exposed drainage. It will not be a cheap conversion.
- Build a classroom in the space between the hall, the library area and the key stage 2 block. *This has been previously considered and rejected due to the adverse impact on the hall (it would remove natural light/ventilation).*
- Build a new classroom/locate a modular building on the grass/soil area outside the music room. *Possible, but eats up the already restricted playground.*

These alterations would provide the school with the additional space for 2FE and a total capacity of approx 420. I hasten to add that this proposal was not agreed, but was suggested to the HT and governors. The next stage is that Mike Ambler (Capita Surveyor) will draw up the plans (and possibly indicative costs) and we can present these to the school/Trustees. I'm afraid it will not however be possible to have a full feasibility study and detailed costs prepared prior to the end of the consultation period. ***On this basis we would advise the proposal be deferred until such time the feasibility is complete and funding agreed and secured.***

The major concern with this project is that all these options, while possible are expensive and

time consuming. They also do not bring the school in line with BB99 requirements for a 2FE school, and if these proposals carried out as stated, it is unclear how the school could ever be brought into compliance due to continued single story extension on a confined site. What is needed is some two storey construction, either within the current footprint or with demolition.

It was anticipated that the majority of the expansion of St Patrick's would be funded by 2012/13 LCVAP *There is currently no allocation for 2012/2013 LCVAP and DFE have indicated that a revised funding system may be in place then.* and that the LA may also contribute some funding to the project *Southampton has a dedicated budget for Basic Need which is specified to be applied to VA and Community schools on an equal handed basis. We hope that the initial feasibility study that we prepare will give an indicative cost and that this will allow us to negotiate with the Diocese for the LCVAP 2012 funding to be allocated to this project. LCVAP is not equivalent to Basic Need it is equivalent to the Local Authority maintenance budget, and needs to be spread equitably across 4 primaries and 2 secondary schools. St George and St Anne are both in significant need (particularly St George which had let buildings run down in anticipation of demolition during BSF rebuild. We are not aware of any Southampton capital being reallocated to St George following the collapse of BSF? We recognise that there may be differences of opinion, at this stage, as to how the expansion is achieved and funded, but we hope to work together with the school and the Diocese to develop a scheme to which will provide extra catholic school places at the school in a positive learning environment. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.*

I look forward to hearing from you so that a formal response to the Notices can be submitted within the statutory timescale.

I am writing on behalf of the Full Governing Body to confirm our concerns in relation the above.

At the meeting of the Full Governing Body held on 24th January, the head teacher and her deputy appraised us on the progress of the conversations with the Primary Consultation Review Project team, in relation to our potential expansion as an outcome of the Primary Consultation review.

Our previously documented position of working pragmatically in partnership with the team and Local Authority remains and we are already working hard to maintain a positive outlook on the potential benefits and opportunities that this can realise. The proposal to expand already requires significant compromise on the part of the school and its community. This we have supported and can understand the implications within the wider financial and political context.

However, the Governing Body wishes to register its formal concern at the indicative position being taken by the authority and project team in recent communications with our School's senior leaders. We are very clear that there is a world of difference in these proposals between the legal minimum requirement and what is actually fit for purpose in supporting a growing and evolving Primary school which supports your need for additional school places whilst meeting its full potential to the benefit of all involved.

Whilst we look to work with you to achieve this goal we must be very clear that we will not support excessive compromise that jeopardises a high quality learning environment in favour of short term financial or political expediency.

Over the last two decades the council has systematically removed school places due to falling rolls. The NUT has worked with and supported teachers during school closures, amalgamations and changes from infant and junior schools into primary schools. These changes have had huge repercussions for children and families, the local communities and staff of the schools concerned. School closures and the sale of school sites have also had ramifications for the other local schools as children have to travel further to school, the merging and adjustment of large groups of children into existing school communities etc. The Mayfield Academy is a recent case in point.

The recent Primary Review of Pupil Places began as a review to close one of the inner city infant schools due to falling numbers but within a very short time the local authority realised

that pupil numbers were increasing and now find themselves in the situation of trying to find up to thirty eight million pounds to fund the new primary places that will be needed over the next four or five years. In this age of austerity shouldn't the city council be looking for ways to fully utilise spaces in existing schools rather than making some infant and junior schools extremely large with additional building works or temporary classrooms. There are schools in Southampton that were built as three form entry and where falling rolls has resulted in internal changes to make these schools two form entry.

A building programme to provide additional places in primary schools must result in additional secondary places being required and this again will result in even more money being spent to provide for those children in the new primary places. Yet very recently the city closed four secondary schools due to falling rolls and two academies were created. These schools are now outside the Local Authority's control.

It could be argued that forward planning of school places has not been as rigorous as it should have been as this recent rise in places seems to have been unexpected and places needed to be found urgently for children needing reception places. Once these places have been provided is it projected that pupil numbers will remain at that level, continue to rise or will the city be facing another round of school closures as rolls fall again? Will the new accommodation be temporary classrooms that could be removed if rolls fall again or permanent buildings which could result in more school closures? Have these issues even been thought about in the feasibility studies that have been undertaken?

The NUT believes that all children have the right to a good education in a good local school and would want the Local Authority to recognise the NUT concerns about the long term future of children and schools in Southampton

NUT Southampton would strongly urge the resolution for permanent places and permanent buildings to accommodate them. We have urged before rational approaches to school places where falling rolls could meant smaller class sizes and provide for future flexibility. We again urge such foresight.

Response of the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth in respect of the Notice under section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 – Alteration to St Patrick's Catholic School from 1 September 2012

As you are aware the Trustees of the Diocese have concerns about the Council's proposals to expand St Patrick's Catholic School from 1 ½ FE to 2 FE from September 2012. They are particularly concerned about the nature of the accommodation that might be agreed given the difficulties of the site and existing accommodation issues. Furthermore, given that it is the Council proposing the expansion, the Trustees are concerned that sufficient funds are made available by the Council to enable the works to be carried out.

The Diocese fully appreciates that full feasibility studies have yet to be completed and costed. However, Trustees will need the assurance that the proposed accommodation finally agreed is adequate and appropriate for the School and is compliant with specified regulations. They acknowledge that officers of the Council and Diocese are working closely together with the School towards reaching a solution which meets the aspirations and expectations of all parties with children and their needs at the heart of their deliberations.

There is further concern that there is sufficient funding allocated to the expansion of St Patrick's. Given that it is the Council proposing the expansion of St Patrick's, the Diocese expects the project to be funded by the Council. It is also mindful that the proposals clearly state that no governing body is expected to meet the costs although schools will be asked to make a contribution because of the shortfall of funding

available.

The Diocese is keen to continue to work in partnership with the Authority and the School in overcoming the difficulties and to reach agreement on the way forward. It is expected that by the time the proposals are laid before the Council's Cabinet for the final decision, this will have been achieved and the appropriate assurances given to the Trustees. Should this not be achieved within the timescale available, the Diocese would expect the Council to defer the proposals for St Patrick's expansion until such time all interested parties were agreed and the necessary assurances in place.

Should you need further information or clarification on any aspect of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Sholing Infant School

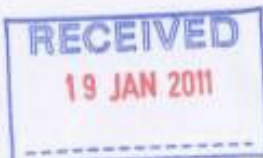
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18 January 2011



Primary School Review – Phase 2
School Organisation Team
Children's Services and Learning
3rd Floor, Southbrook Rise
4/8 Millbrook Road East
SOUTHAMPTON
SO15 1YG

Dear Sirs

We are writing to express our concerns as a Governing Body over the level and nature of consultation which has so far taken place between Southampton City Council and the various parties affected, both directly and indirectly, by the proposed increases in pupil numbers at Sholing Infant School.

In September 2010 Sholing Infants School Governors wrote to yourselves expressing broad support for the "feasibility of an expansion to this school", whilst also outlining a number of major issues which we felt would require serious consideration prior to any such expansion taking place. We note that in the latest round of information posted on the council's website, some of these points have been noted as having been made, which is all to the good. To date, however, none of the concerns raised have been addressed and we have yet to see any information from the council as to exactly how it is proposed that the school be expanded to accommodate not only the initial extra 30 pupils in 2012, but also the additional 60 pupils across the following two years.

As stated in our letter, we have every faith in the ability of the staff and Senior Management Team at Sholing Infant School to rise to the challenges that such expansion would bring. Indeed, on consultation with the SMT, we can also foresee a number of ways in which the school's expansion could be a positive force for the school's continued improvement. However, we feel that at this stage in the process, there has been little or no actual consultation between Children's Services & Learning and either the school, the governors or indeed the wider community. Whilst it is true to say that there have been notices in the local press and on the council's website, these have never gone beyond simply stating the need to expand the school's intake from 60 to 90 pupils. At no stage has there been any actual indication, whether firm or otherwise, of exactly how these extra numbers are to be accommodated. The "drop-in" sessions of last autumn were equally unenlightening. Indeed the comment has been made from several quarters that people felt unable to give any considered response to the proposed expansion, either in support or opposition, as there has been no detail given on exactly how the expansion is to be implemented.

As mentioned above, we on the Board of Governors at Sholing Infant School are broadly in support of the proposed expansion. However, we must stress that this support comes with the caveat that we see some evidence of actual plans, not only for the proposed expansion in September 2012 but also for how the increased numbers from the current approx. 180 pupils on role to 270 by 2014 are to be accommodated. As outlined in our previous communication, we are also interested to see how the council intend to make provision for the increased numbers as they move through the education system, with the pro rata increases in pupil numbers up to secondary school level.



Also of concern to both the school and the wider community is the matter of traffic management. With there being so many schools in close proximity, not to mention Ichen College, traffic is a perennial problem in the area and is frequently a point of some friction between the schools and local residents. We feel that it is vital that any increase in pupil numbers be managed in conjunction with proper consideration to traffic management. We feel strongly that this matter be treated as being of high importance as there will inevitably be increased traffic which, in turn, will increase the risks to children and other pedestrians.

Over recent years Sholing Infant School has made excellent progress, with the latest rounds of inspections bearing this out. We are confident that, as highly skilled and professional people, the staff at Sholing Infant School will be able to meet the challenges and bring a positive approach to proceedings. As the governing body, it is our desire to support the school's SMT and staff and aid them where we can. It is also our duty to ensure that as matters develop the school is able to maintain the high standards it currently attains, with a view to continued improvement. A vital component in this level of achievement is the very nature of the school premises and the sense of community engendered within, and we are keen to ensure that any expansion be made in sympathy with, rather than in spite of, this vital strength of the school.

We are painfully aware of the very pressing timescales involved here, September 2012 is only just over 1½ academic years away! Discussions between staff and governors here have resulted in a number of ideas and suggestions for how the proposed expansion may be a positive move forward but until such time as we have some firm idea of what these proposals will actually entail, we are unable to make any plans ourselves for the future. At the very least, there is the issue of staffing levels to consider, for which adequate time must be given for recruitment. This current four week period of statutory consultation is now well advanced but there are still no plans on which we can say we have actually been consulted. We would therefore, urge you to come forward and table any plans so that we are able to fully absorb, discuss and give our reactions. Until such time, whilst we remain in broad support of expansion, we are regrettably unable to fully give our endorsement as there are no concrete plans available to us for consideration.

We look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours faithfully



Mrs T Diggle

Chair of Governors on behalf of the Sholing Infant School Governing Body

The following responses were received after the consultation period had closed:

I am emailing with regards the proposals to expand both Tanners brook infant and Junior schools. I attended the meeting at Tanners brook infant school with regards these proposals, and felt that whilst the cities birth rate has increased and therefore the need for school places has increased, it is not justified to increase this school size. After learning that the current Lsa pay is being cut, whilst class sizes remain the same, is in itself ridiculous. Let alone increasing the workload for extra staff. There is neither the space nor infrastructure in place to cope with the extra classes. As a resident of Stanton Road, and an ex pupil of the school myself, as well as my 2 daughters, I feel it would be a health and safety issue too with regards the amount of traffic due to increased amount of pupils. We currently have a big issue with parking and lack of respect of parents of these pupils, so to have potentially extra 150+ children being dropped off and picked up would increase the problem substantially.

The school is currently a lovely, local friendly, and great environment for the children to learn. Adding extra classes would lose the feel of the school. I understand the proposals for the extra room initially for the extra class, but space in the dining hall, assembly hall, hallways and toilets is already at full capacity. I think the school would struggle to cope with the changes. It was also made clear that the extra buildings required may not be permanent ones, therefore suggesting that portacabins etc. would possibly be used.

Overall it seems that maybe rather than build one whole new school to cope with the extra demands of increased children, it seems that a cheaper far less effective and much more cost effective option has been chosen at the expense of the children's education.

Whilst my children are having a good education currently at these schools, I feel if these proposals were to go ahead the standard of education would drop substantially.

I have children at both Tanners Brook Infants & Junior schools, making these schools bigger doesn't seem like a good idea.

The walk to school can be quite dangerous at times with all the cars trying to get as close as possible to the school gates.

The feel of the schools is already big, and they have trouble trying to fit the children in to assemblies, productions, special events and the dinner hall.

With more children I feel that the school would be disjointed and the children's education would suffer.

As a parent I believe that these schools already need to improve and will really struggle with an extra 90/120 children, by the end of the phase.

A lot of parents do not want the expansion and I expect that the local residents don't either, they have enough trouble now.

It seems that the money it costs to extend the schools and employ more staff would be better spent elsewhere.

Infants schools should be small and provide a safe and caring environment, where the classes are not over crowded, and use of facilities stretched.

Lastly if the schools applications only increases for one or two years what happens then?

My school Governors met with the Infant School Governors to discuss this news and Rita and I have been asked to draft a joint reply.

Concerns raised at our meeting:

Parking and traffic flow are already a major hazard and a 33% rise in traffic will have a dreadful effect. Community relations with our immediate neighbours are unnecessarily strained because of parking problems and there are constant arguments between our parents too.

The Infant school is concerned that no proper discussion has been given to additional requirements beyond the proposed classrooms. The impact on toilets, staff room, dining hall and recreation hall and break out spaces has not been considered. The junior school have had no proposal about even the main classrooms and are not happy that the funding undertaking does not include their expansion. As the Junior expansion is tied in with Infant expansion, as in a through primary why is the funding commitment not given at the same time.

With regard to funding the statement is not clear about what is included in the 'cost of building or refurbishment' and what constitutes 'additional furniture and ICT equipment'. In the case of the Infant school who pays for moving the ICT suite and cabling etc? Are carpets and blinds included?

With children arriving in school in September will the budget be released to furnish and employ staff in preparation, ahead of the January PLASC?

We would also like to ask who has decided 'options for expansion that are both cost effective and **meet the needs of the schools involved**'. The Junior School has only had one, initial, exploratory talk with Colin Floyd when the idea was first being explored. The consultation meetings have been vague and not given us any informed answers to our questions. We would like a meeting now to hear exactly what is planned for us and put forward the needs of the schools formally with Governors.

Governors also asked if the catchment boundaries would be redrawn as a result or whether all these extra children were actually going to come from our area?

In summary, we all feel that we are unable to give a response to the expansion at this time as there are just too many unanswered questions.

We would appreciate your comments.

I am really concerned about the proposal related to the schools footing the bill for increased classes. Our experience at Moorlands during the phased building works in order for us to be a "fit for purpose" one form entry Primary School was not altogether a positive one. The work was not ever completed to a satisfactory level and indeed the "snagging" tasks were never finished. In fact, much was a fiasco.

In order to provide for our pupils all furniture, resources, including ICT was funded by the school. This put great pressure on a budget that was already stretched. Indeed, it necessitated us seeking support from our PTA to fund many resources, including furniture. This, I hope you agree is unacceptable.

Now it is proposed that we repeat this again but over a period of seven years by which time we will be a complete 2 form entry Primary. This, in an already difficult financial climate, will be extremely challenging. My concern also is that we may not even fill those classes which will be an extra burden on our budget. The impact on our pupils is potentially a significant worry.

After discussions with Colin Floyd, we also have to lose our ICT bay to home a staff room. Who will pay for the loss of our equipment and the potential replacement with laptops and trolleys? That aside, our wireless connections are poor as it is. Who will fund that aspect of the ICT infrastructure? I have grave concerns about the whole process. I understand that we are all working within a challenging financial environment and a 65% reduction in the devolved formula capital is a worry.

However, I do feel that there has been a significant lack of strategic planning on the LAs part and now as usual is just being reactive and putting a plaster over the wound.

I am aware that we have little control over the outcomes of the consultation and as a school we do desire to work with the LA but have genuine concerns that as a head I need to voice.

I would like to just raise with you a couple of issues around our increasing numbers.

Firstly, we have an ongoing problem with I.T. and connectivity. When we first met to discuss changing areas into classrooms, we had invested in three laptop trolleys which we were hoping to use around the school, thus removing the need for an IT suite. However, we have since discovered that we have limited connectivity around our school, and therefore cannot use the laptops in classrooms. In order to ensure the children are receiving their entitlement to IT education we have had to reinstall an IT suite in the Breakfast Room. The Breakfast Room is due to become a classroom when our numbers increase. We have had a quote for wireless connection throughout the school, which is roughly £20,000. Obviously we have not got this sort of money, and therefore will need an IT suite for the foreseeable future. We will have a problem in where to house an IT suite as all spare space is going to be needed for

classrooms. Help!

Secondly, I was wondering if it was possible to recommend a company for the work to be completed? We have used CMS (UK) LIMITED for two projects within the school and have found them to complete work to a high standard and be very easy to work with.

When we first met as part of the Primary review to discuss changing areas into classrooms, we had invested in three laptop trolleys which we were hoping to use around the school, thus removing the need for an IT suite. We decommissioned our existing suite.

However, we have since discovered that we have limited connectivity around our school, and therefore cannot use the laptops in classrooms. In order to ensure the children are receiving their entitlement to IT education we have had to reinstall an IT suite in the Breakfast Room. As you are aware, the Breakfast Room is due to become a classroom when our numbers increase. We have had a quote for wireless connection throughout the school, which is roughly £20,000. Obviously we have not got this sort of money, and therefore will need an IT suite for the foreseeable future. We will have a problem in where to house an IT suite as all spare space is going to be needed for classrooms. Please Help!