

Tuesday

News

- Features
- Education
- Opinion
- Teens Town Talk
- Sport
- Wolves
- Contact us
- World news from Sky
- Regional Weather

Business

with Rosemary Clark Warrington

- On-line shopping
- Business news
- Business guide
- Recruitment

Community

- Discussion Forum
- Lymm Life
- Commons Viewpoint
- Readers Letters
- Where are they now ?
- Burtonwood Memories
- Crime file
- Cyberdoc
- Cyberchurch
- Free Classifieds
- Weddings
- Obituaries
- Community links
- Accommodation



What's on guide

with David Hughes Warrington

- Gig guide
- Park events
- Exhibitions
- Clubs and Associations

Warrington-Worldwide Discussion Forum

WHY not join our Discussion Forum! You can discuss local issues, appeal for old friends and relatives to get in touch - or just talk about old times with other visitors on our *Warrington-Worldwide* forum. Just click here to be taken to the forum and 'Register' to be able to post. Choose to remain anonymous or allow other visitors to e-mail you.

Villagers celebrate after school plan is thrown out

by David Skentelbery

VILLAGERS are celebrating a famous victory after planners at Warrington threw out the controversial proposals to demolish Stockton Heath Primary School and replace it with a new building.

The borough council's development control committee voted 7-1 to refuse their own education department's application to go ahead with the plan – already approved by the council's executive board.

Thirteen members of the public attended a packed meeting to speak against the plan.

Just three people spoke in support of the scheme – one of them the council's acting education director Tim Warren.

Officers had recommended the scheme be approved.

But after hearing the arguments, the committee voted to refuse the application on the grounds that it was contrary to the council's own Unitary Development Plan and damaging to the amenity of nearby residents.

Council chiefs will now have to go back to the drawing board and decide whether to switch to a refurbishment scheme for the old building or come up with a less controversial demolition plan.

One issue concerning councillors was the question of whether the 96-year-old school should be Listed as a building or architectural of historic interest.

Planning chief John Groves said English Heritage had informed the council they did not consider it suitable for listing. But a message from Euro MP Den Dover – a former pupil – indicated that he was still in discussion with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport about whether listing would be appropriate.

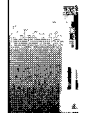
Another was that English Heritage had stated that the school was an interesting building, the loss of which would be "significant" and that had it been in a Conservation Area they would have been prepared to give it Listed status. Critics condemned the proposed new building as "resembling



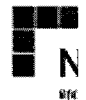
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- Theatre and Concerts
 - Other events
- All about Warrington**

- About us
- History
- Visitors guide
- Visitors guide
- Books

a factory" and complained that it had a planned life of 60-years.
 Coun George Warburton (*pictured*) said the existing school had stood for 96 years and, suitably refurbished would last another 100.
 He added: "In 30 years time it will be a Listed Building."



Elections in all but three wards

by staff reporter

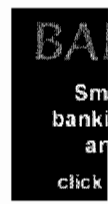
ELECTIONS will take place in May in all but three of Warrington's 23 wards.

A third of the seats on the borough council will be up to grabs on Thursday, May 4.

Residents will be going to the polls in 19 wards as follows: Appleton, Bewsey and Whitecross, Birchwood, Culcheth Glazebury and Croft, Fairfield and Howley, Grappenhall and Thelwall, Great Sankey North, Great Sankey South, Latchford East, Latchford West, Lymm, Orford, Penketh and Cuerdley, Poplars and Hulme, Poulton North, Poulton South, Rixton and Woolston, Westbrook and Whittle Hall.

A second seat will be contested in Grappenhall and Thelwall following the Recent death of Professor Coun Barbara Mawer. The wards where there will be no election are Burtonwood and Winwick, Stockton Heath and Hatton, Stretton and Walton.

Nomination papers for people wanting to stand as a candidate are now available from the council's Elections Office and the closing date for nominations is noon on Monday April 3.



A coffee morning with special meaning



A CHARITY coffee morning at Warrington Hospital held a special meaning for one of its organisers. Staff in the hospital's radiology department held the event to raise awareness and funds for ovarian cancer, a killer illness that senior radiographer Paula Evans has already fought and beaten.
 Paula, 30, from Warrington, was delighted the morning was

