



To Parents and Stakeholders of Stockton Heath  
Community Primary School

Tim Warren  
Head of Service  
(Strategic Management,  
Planning and Access)

Our Ref: TW/JH  
Your Ref:  
Date: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2006

Children's Services Directorate  
New Town House  
Buttermarket Street  
Warrington  
WA1 2NJ

Dear Parent/Stakeholder

**Stockton Heath Community Primary School**

I refer to my letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> May 2006 and enclose a short questionnaire aimed to seek your views on the options set out in that letter.

Since the letter was sent out I have received numerous comments and questions. Although all comments are considered and discussed it is not possible to reply to every comment individually. I would like to take this opportunity to try and clarify some issues that have been raised.

Firstly no decision has been reached as to which option should be progressed further. However all options are being considered. As stated in the previous letter the Council has requested that an independent CABA Advisor evaluate the feasibility studies and assess to see if the Council's judgement has been flawed in any way.

This letter and the questionnaire is being sent to all stakeholders (as identified in one of the first letters circulated) and also to other people who have written into the Council regarding this matter (where an address has been provided). A questionnaire will be posted to any member of the Community on request. The questionnaire will allow the Council to consult with all stakeholders, the comments received will help inform the decision making process.

Malcolm Roxburgh  
Strategic Director  
Children's Services

The questionnaires will be numbered and posted to stakeholders. They will be collated and analysed by officers of the Council. However copies of the completed questionnaire will be made available at the school (please telephone for an appropriate time) and Children's Services Department for any interested person to independently analyse and verify the results.

Chief Executive  
David Whitehead

[www.warrington.gov.uk](http://www.warrington.gov.uk)  
If you have difficulty making  
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The grant provided by the DfES was to build a two form of entry primary school. In the Review of Primary Provision (Autumn 2004) it was forecast that there would still be sufficient pupils for the 2FE school. Copies of this document were sent to all parents/carers of the pupils in the schools being reviewed (Stockton Heath CPS being one of them), to numerous other stakeholders and copies were available at previous Stockton Heath meetings. The consultation for the Primary Review received no responses regarding Stockton Heath continuing as a 2FE school. This information along with the newly notified grant received from the DfES was reported to the Executive Board of the Council in January 2005.

Last year feasibility studies were commissioned on both a refurbishment and extend option and new build and demolition option. From the results of the feasibility studies the Council's Executive Board (September 2005) considered in the educational interests of the pupils that the new build and demolition option was the preferred option. It was at this stage back in September 2005 that all work stopped on the refurbishment and extend option. The plan provided was an initial proposal and would have been developed further if that option had been chosen.

A condition of the DfES grant is that any new building should meet various guidelines, i.e. Building Bulletin 99, BREEAM, Acoustics, etc. It was considered that the refurbishment and extend option did not meet some of these requirements and the aspirations of the teaching staff and school governors. For example not all of the sustainability and environmental issues could be met, playground facilities were reduced, classrooms were left at inappropriate sizes and difficult supervision areas on the stairs would continue. It was also considered a more disruptive option for the pupils in that they would have to be moved from the building a number of times as the work progressed. However it is appreciated that both options will cause some disruption (i.e. due to building works on the school site, etc). In the refurbishment option more resources would need to be spent on temporary classrooms and therefore not on the actual building. This option would also take longer to complete.

It is obvious from the school's high standards that good education can be achieved in unsuitable buildings (the Horsa Huts being a prime example). However this is at the cost of additional resources deployed by both the teachers and the school, emotionally and financially. It is hoped that a building will be constructed that will empower staff rather than set barriers for them.

However, as you are aware, there are some people who do not agree to the above analysis and believe that the school building is a valuable piece of heritage within Stockton Heath. Requests have

been made to the Council to conserve the building for its historic and architectural importance.

The budget was increased for the inclusion of the nursery provision but this will be recouped from the providers over future years, therefore not depriving the educational facility.

The findings of the independent assessments and questionnaire will be shared with all stakeholders in the most appropriate manner (as indicated in the questionnaire) at the end of the summer term.

Thanking you for your time and patience regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely

*Tim Warren*

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