



Parents/ Carers/Stakeholders of Stockton
Heath Community Primary School

Tim Warren
Interim Operational Director of
Education

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

Date 24th November 2006

Dear Parent/Carer/Stakeholder/Citizen

I write to inform you that the planning application to rebuild Stockton Heath Community Primary school is to be submitted next week. The plans will be available for you to inspect at the Planning Department at New Town House, Buttermarket Street, Warrington which, is the normal procedure for planning applications. A copy of the plans will also be available at the local library and at the school on the following dates:

Plans are available to view at the school on:

Monday 4 th December 2006	08:00 to 09:00	15:10 to 18:00
Tuesday 5 th December 2006	08:00 to 09:00	15:10 to 17:00
Wednesday 6 th December 2006	08:00 to 09:00	15:10 to 20:00

On Wednesday 6th December 2006 the pupils will be going to the theatre. It would be appreciated if people would park on the Forge Car Park to try and alleviate traffic congestion due to numerous coaches expected at the school from the theatre trip. The first two hours of parking are free at the Forge Car Park but you must display a ticket.

In August 2006 the Council's Executive Board committed to submitting a new planning application for a new building, to replace all the existing buildings and provide 420 places to accommodate all the foreseeable needs of Stockton Heath Community Primary school as a two form of entry primary school serving the area.

Norma Cadwallader
Strategic Director
Children's Services

Those who object to this proposal do so because they seek to preserve an Edwardian school building that English Heritage do not consider to be worthy of listing "A 1910 board school, which although locally significant does not possess sufficient architectural quality or innovation of floor plan within a national context to qualify for listing." Many of them will argue that the Council should pursue the remodelling option.

Chief Executive
David Whitehead

These arguments, however, are historic and confuse the issues as it now stands. Having explored all possible options, the new build and demolish option is now the **only** way in which the Council can provide

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sufficient suitable accommodation for the children of Stockton Heath and its surrounding areas.

There is no longer a remodelling option as:

- **The Council does not have sufficient resources to provide such an option as independently verified by the Lathom report.**
- **Even if it were affordable, pursuit of a remodelling option would delay the provision of suitable accommodation by a further 12 months.**
- **The additional forecast shortfall of £800,000 would rise still further as a result of such a delay, given the current high rates of building inflation.**
- **The Council cannot be sure that the DfES grant would be available to support a remodelling option as it falls short of certain requirements as confirmed by the independent Lathom report.**

Accordingly when considering whether or not these proposals (for the new building for which the Council is seeking Development Control Committee approval) justify the demolition of the locally listed building, members will need to compare the educational vision outlined for the children in the new building with that of the educational detriment of the same children remaining in the existing building.

That is the real alternative that Stockton Heath children will face if this application is refused as there is no other viable affordable option open to the Council despite a lengthy process of consultations and option evaluations. It is therefore clear that the educational advantages of this proposal far outweigh the justifications for retaining a locally listed building. As Professor Stephen Heppell says "Quite simply, we put children's education at risk if we fail to move forward".

Support to this application is crucial to enable the Council to provide sufficient suitable accommodation for the pupils and staff of Stockton Heath Community Primary school. The formal planning process will ask for your comments on the proposed planning application. All comments will be considered and so I write to request your support, please send your comments to Environment Services Directorate, New Town House, Buttermarket Street, Warrington, WA1 2NH.

Yours sincerely

Tim Warren

Tim Warren

Interim Operational Director of Education

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STOCKTON HEATH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Comments Form for the New Build Planning Application

Please tick the relevant box (es) to indicate any of the following that apply to you:

Parent/Carer of Present Pupil (s)
Parent/Carer of pre-school Child
Pupil

Governor
Member of Staff
Resident

Other (Please specify)

Name

Address

I support the planning application submitted to build a new school at Stockton Heath Community Primary school

Signed Date

Please add any comments you wish to make.

Comments – please continue overleaf (and on additional paper) if necessary. You are also welcome to write your own letter.

Please return to: Environment Services Directorate, Warrington Borough Council, New Town House, Warrington, WA1 2NH.