

Gary Robinson

From: Val Thompson
Sent: 26 September 2012 07:31
To: Gary Robinson
Subject: FW: Response to Consultation

Gary

Could you include this in the responses please.

Thanks

Val

Val Thompson
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Sunderland
City Council

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 September 2012 22:24
To: Val Thompson
Subject: Response to Consultation

Response to Consultation Regarding the Proposed Options For Primary Schools in Red House.

The Governing Body at Hylton Red House Primary School strive for an outstanding school to serve our community.

To this end, we have worked closely with our counterparts at Bishop Harland C of E Primary School and officers from the Local Authority. This is because we wanted to come up with a local solution to the problems facing both schools. Following years of problems, both schools are now improving schools. Indeed, Hylton Red House was recently judged by Ofsted to be 'good' with outstanding features. We need to build on this upward trend to ensure children of this area have the education they deserve to enable them to reach their full potential.

The Local Authority have presented three options to us.

1 – **Do nothing.** We do not feel the option 'do nothing' is the way forward. We are concerned because of falling rolls, surplus places, and therefore budgetary constraints. In addition, our building is old and in need of major refurbishment. In the current political climate, we believe it is imperative to be pro- active and to find a local solution, in collaboration with the Local Authority, rather than face the possibility of an imposed resolution.

2 – **Close Bishop Harland and transfer the children to Hylton Red House.** We do not see this as the way forward. This would result in parental choice in our area being limited due to the loss of a faith school. The loss of a C of E school in the area would be a severe blow to the Diocese and therefore they may not see this

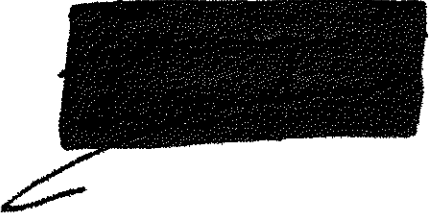
26/09/2012

as a viable option, thus seriously affecting our strong partnership and collaboration. Additionally, this may increase the vulnerability of Hylton Red House Primary.

3 – Close both schools and establish a new Cof E school on the Hylton Red House site. This is the preferred option of the Governing Body. We see this as the way of securing the future of a primary school in the Red House community. The new school would be the way forward and the next step to the soft federation that currently exists. It would allow economies of scale and address the surplus places problems at both schools.

Comments:

We acknowledge that a separate successful nursery school exists on the site. Governors at HRH would have liked their preferred option to include the provision of a nursery class. Bishop Harland currently has a successful nursery class and this will be a loss of choice and provision in the area. The July 2012 OFSTED report stated that children in the early years Foundation Stage at HRH make good progress from starting points below, and sometimes well below, those typical for their age. Inclusion of a nursery class would allow the new school autonomy to address these issues.



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Executive Headteacher: Steve Williamson M.A.

25th September 2012

Response to consultation on options for the future of Bishop Harland Church of England VA Primary and Hylton Red House Primary Schools.

As a headteacher, Governor and staff member, I am fully supportive of Option 2.

It is clear that the two schools were, until recently, in significant difficulty. Attempts to turn the schools around had failed. By working with staff and pupils to assert a joint, team approach we have so far achieved OFSTED gradings which demonstrate a positive upward trajectory and place the schools in the top 5-7% nationally for value added in terms of pupil progress at Key Stage 2.

Option 3 is not supported

The easiest option would be to continue the current drive and embed the systems around developing teaching and learning in both schools separately. However, easiest is not necessarily best and to do nothing would be to ignore three important aspects:

- a) there is limited capacity in the teaching cohort across both schools to increase/maintain the rate of progress. Doing nothing would only compound these issues and would likely cause good and outstanding teachers to leave in favour of widening opportunities across the city's schools thus slowing the rate of future progress.
- b) pupil numbers are low and unlikely to increase giving rise to already developing budgetary concerns. Currently both schools are solvent because significant cuts to staffing have been made over a 3 year period. However, this has led to mixed classes, teaching roles being unfilled and added stress to already overloaded staff. Doing nothing would be to neglect our statutory Duty of Care to staff and teachers in terms of work/life balance. It would be detrimental to pupil progress.
- c) the DfE need a local solution to Bishop Harland CofE Primary. Without a local solution, a forced Academy with an unknown sponsor seems the only other solution, taking decision making away from local elected members and placing it in the hands of central government. This development would likely have an impact on the dwindling numbers in our local primaries as well as Hylton Red House Primary.

I am assured by all staff, Unions, Parents and Governors that Option 3 is not supported.

Option 1 is not supported

Closing Bishop Harland CofE VA Primary and moving children to Hylton Red House Primary may seem more palatable for a number of reasons. It would preserve Hylton Red House Primary staff positions, ensure that all children are educated at a good school and maintain a Community School where elected members would have influence. However this Option is flawed because:

- a) it takes a parochial view and fails to take into account the need for all children in the local community to succeed
- b) it is not supported by Unions, staff at both schools, the Diocese of Durham and Newcastle for a variety of reasons expressed at the consultation meetings.



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Aiming high together*



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c) it would mean that there would be no Church of England Primary North of the river and therefore fail to support the LA's statutory obligations to ensure parental choice for schools as far as is practicable.

d) staff would be made redundant on a greater scale than Option 2.

If we are to build on the success that the schools working in soft federation have already achieved, it does not make sense to support Option 1 and lose the intellectual and social capital built up thus far; Option 1 is not supported.

Option 2 is fully supported

It is not because Option 2 is the only remaining Option that there is a wealth of support for it from all stakeholders. It is the best way forward because it makes sense and builds on our current success.

- ☒ By combining both schools we would have the opportunity to capitalize on social and intellectual capital that has been built up through the period of federation.
- ☒ Because the approach is less parochial it assures success at a local community level which supports the Local Authority's development towards locality services and the 'people directorate'.
- ☒ Because we already work in strong partnership with the cluster of local schools we could more easily strengthen transition to Secondary Education and fully engage with Red House Academy assuring higher results for pupils.
- ☒ This option sustains parental choice of primary education
- ☒ Pupil progress would certainly improve as disruption caused by staffing cuts could be avoided.
- ☒ The new school would be financially solvent and operate at full productivity.
- ☒ Option 2 has the support of the school community with only a few objections which are limited to logistical issues which can easily be solved but are important to note.
- ☒ This option avoids competition rules on the establishment of a new school.

The Local Authority School Improvement Service has altered dramatically during my three years in Sunderland. Whilst terrific work has been completed in raising standards, 40% schools remain subject to greater OFSTED scrutiny and require improvement. Option 2 creates a chance to establish an outstanding new school which will complement the work of the developing Teaching School in offering a support mechanism for those across our City in need of assistance. Our proven support plans have already made impact at Southwick Primary during our recent support programme. With Cabinet's support, we can assure a positive future for all of our children. That is why I fully support Option 2 as the best way forward.

Steve Williamson
Executive Head Teacher



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Agnes Rowntree

From: Steve Williamson [steve.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk]

Sent: 28 September 2012 15:15

To: CS Response

Subject: Pupil Response to consultation round ending 28.09.12

Bishop Harland Church of England VA Primary
Hylton Red House Primary

Pupil response to consultation on options ending 28.09.12

The consultation of pupils is a sensitive matter and best completed on an 'organic' basis through general conversations over a period of time.

Approximately 25% of the pupil cohort from both schools was sampled over a period of 2 weeks by the Executive Headteacher. Several random groups of junior pupils were spoken with informally. Discussion formats included: general talk over playtime sessions, discussions over lunch, talking to small groups of pupils during lesson times, chatting to pupils during school trips.

Questions were framed in the following ways:

'What do you think about.....?'

'Is there anything that would worry you if we?'

'Do you have any ideas that would make things better for both schools?'

Responses were then noted simply and collated:

Almost all children thought that it was a good idea to create a 'new school' from the two existing schools. Some children said that they would be anxious but agreed with others that if we worked together more for activities, then making new friends and classmates would be a good idea.

All children agreed that it was unfair to close Bishop Harland and allow teachers to lose their jobs.

No child was concerned that a 'new school' would mean a new uniform and new name. Whilst discussing this, several children referred to Townsend-Bexhill Academy and said how it had made that school better so they could see no problem with making a new school.

All children at Hylton Red House Primary said that they would like to see their school developed and said that the dinner hall was their biggest worry because it was already too busy at lunchtime (and some of us don't have enough time to eat our lunch (service currently lasts (1 ½ hours).

About 10% pupils at Bishop Harland said that they would want to have lots more opportunities to meet new classmates, but that they were anxious to see what the school would be like, however they wanted to make new friends.

About 90% pupils at Bishop Harland pupils had no issue with moving to the red house site but almost all of the pupils said they would initially feel sad to say goodbye to their school. They recognised that it would be a good challenge though and wanted new opportunities.

Steve Williamson MA. MF. FCT.

Head Teacher

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KEEP BISHOP HARLAND CE PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN

Please sign this petition to help us prove to
Sunderland Council how much we need Bishop
Harland CE Primary School to remain as it is.

Signed

Address

REDMOND ROAD, SUNDERLAND
RADCLIFFE ROAD, REDHOUSE

Redmond SQ

Redmond SQ

Redmond Road Sunderland

Quint

SR5 5PT

Sunderland

Raleigh Square SR5 5RA.

Coventry B Redhouse

Rawden RD Redhouse

Rupert SQ Redhouse.

Redmond Rd.

Redmond SQ

School

KEEP BISHOP HARLAND CE PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN

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Harland CE Primary School to remain as it is.

Signed

Address

KNARESBROUGH SQ. D'HILL.

Kingsdere Sq. Downhill

Kingsdere Ave. Downhill

Ramillies Road, Redhouse

Ramillies Road, Redhouse

Rishon Sq Redhouse.

Redesdale Road

Ramillies ROAD

REEDLING COURT

REEDLING COURT.

Reedling Court.

Ramillies Road, Redhouse

Ramillies Road Redhouse

[REDACTED] Rotherham Road

[REDACTED] Redesdale RD

Signed

Address

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Renwick R'D Renwick

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Kentchester RD Kentchester

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] gambia square

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Kingswood Sq

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Kemble Sq.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Rutherford Rd

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Rutherford Rd.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Kingsclere av

[REDACTED] Kingsclere av

[REDACTED] York St

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ravenscourt Rfd.

[REDACTED] RAEBURN Rd.

[REDACTED] RAWMARSH RD

[REDACTED] Kingsland Sq.

[REDACTED], Ravenswood Sq

Kemble Sq.

Signed

Address

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[REDACTED] Ruthegen Rd, Redhouse

Rathernam Rd

Ramsdale Rd.

RED ROAD

[REDACTED] WILTSHIRE ROAD

[REDACTED] WILTSHIRE ROAD

[REDACTED] KILDARE SQUARE

Red house

NEWCLAND

[REDACTED] Ramsdale

[REDACTED] Ruthegen Rd.

capetown road.

[REDACTED] Randon Road

Rosyth Road.

[REDACTED] Ruthegen Rd.

[REDACTED] ROE DEAN RD

Ramsay Square

ROSyth Road

Signed



Address



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WILTSHIRE Road
Witherweek.

Signed

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Address

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Kensworth Sq. Downhill
Kensworth Sq. Downhill.
Redmond Ro. Redhouse
[REDACTED] Rainulke's Ro Redhouse
Kenny Road Redhouse

