

APPENDIX B

Summary of responses by school

People allied to Arrowe Hill Primary School

Falling rolls

- Data on school rolls is incorrect
- Other schools on the estate are also small and have surplus places
- New houses being built on estate
- What if more children are born in future?
- Teenage mums are put off having more children

Staff and Standards

- A family school
- Concerns about loss of teaching and non-teaching staff
- Small schools may be harder to run, but we do it well
- Good with special needs pupils
- Teachers from other schools place their children here
- Good results
- Concerns about impact of age and experience on redeployment prospects since young teachers are cheaper to employ
- Mixed age teaching can be good
- Excellent school with good teaching
- Small schools have more time for children
- Top 2% of primary schools in the country
- Outstanding Ofsted report
- Offer diverse events
- Staff are personal, consistent and cater for children's needs

Pupils

- Children go on to do really well in secondary school
- Would take children out of area if school closed
- I bring my child here from out of area
- My child loves coming to school here
- No bullying or racism here
- Pupils feel secure and safe
- Concerns about disruption to education
- I moved schools when I was young, do not want that for my child

- Children with asthma makes it difficult to walk to another school
- Disruption to education for children in Year 6

The Options

- Children from the two schools would not mix well
- Why are there no options involving St Michael and All Angels?
- Parents would have to buy new uniforms
- How would a new school building be funded?
- Support for a new school building
- I don't want my child to go to Fender as children are from different background
- Concerns about future use of land

The Process

- Letters to parents sent out too late
- Decision already been made
- Taking away parents choice
- If amalgamation means competition, does this make it less likely to go forward?
- Does competition mean anyone could run the new school?

Building and site

- Money spent refurbishing the school would be wasted
- School has only just moved from two buildings to one
- Cheaper to build here
- Closing the Infant building has already saved money and reduced surplus places

Traffic and transport

- Concerns about drop off and parking at Fender Primary
- Long walk to Overchurch

Financial

- Does every child get same amount of money in budget?

Other comments

- Concerns about impact on the community
- Generations have been to this school
- New houses built on Arrowe Hill site would cause traffic congestion for residents

People allied to Fender Primary School

Falling rolls

- School population is growing
- Fender has more pupils on roll than Arrowe Hill
- Admissions for September 2008 are healthy
- More people are coming to live in the UK
- There are no spare classrooms
- Birth rate is rising
- New housing will generate more children

Staff and Standards

- Inclusive school
- Positive staff attitude sorts out any bullying or bad behaviour
- School works closely with parents
- Helpful, approachable, caring, supportive staff
- Excellent school
- Reading recovery classes and reading buddies programme
- Safe and well organised school
- Special Needs Bases at Fender have excellent reputation
- Staff have time for pupils and parents
- Calm and relaxed atmosphere
- Lots of outside school activities and trips
- Can trust staff with our children
- School has worked hard to come out of Special Measures
- Supportive governing body
- Headteacher is proactive
- Concerns about increased class sizes
- It has been proved that small is best
- Concerns about staff losing jobs
- Behaviour is good – no fighting, bullying, swearing or stealing
- Staff are hard working, committed and kind
- School has quality marks
- Year 6 makes visits to Woodchurch High school

Building and site

- If school closes, less people will use Ganneys Meadow
- Links with Ganneys Meadow EYC

- Disabled access is good
- Proximity to local amenities such as library, community centre and leisure centre
- Near to Woodchurch High
- Open land behind the school to expand into if needed
- Concerns about parking and access at Arrowe Hill
- Two EIB classes
- Good grounds and facilities, including ballpark and gazebos for shade in hot weather
- Centrally located
- Good ICT facilities
- Sound facilities in classrooms for hearing impaired
- Good sized bright classrooms with lovely atmosphere
- Fabric of the building has been improved
- Infant EIB has its own playground and toilets
- Close to Holy Cross Church

Pupils

- Pleased with my child's progress here
- Children love coming to school
- Children gain confidence here
- Options will compromise children's education and affect their progress
- Concerns about additional disruption for children with ASD and special needs
- Children should not have to go back to schools they were bullied at
- Pupils go on to do well in secondary school
- Children would miss their friends
- SEN pupils are well integrated into mainstream classes
- Children cope better in a smaller setting
- I am being rehoused outside the area, but will keep my children at Fender
- My children have gone on to get good jobs
- Plenty of friends
- My child is happy and settled here
- Children need stability and to feel safe and comfortable

The Options

- Arrowe Hill is already half-closed
- More children can come to Fender
- Closing Arrowe Hill would disrupt less children
- Can use Arrowe Hill site for new housing
- If both Fender and Arrowe Hill closed without a new school, more parents would want Woodchurch CE than St Michaels
- Better to amalgamate on one site than close one and keep the other
- Fender site better for amalgamation
- Keeping Fender site would be less disruptive for SEN pupils
- If Fender closes, fewer people will use Ganneys Meadow
- Would there be enough places for all the children of both schools if amalgamated?
- Would mean less schools
- Could there be an amalgamation with St Michael and All Angels?
- Why not build a primary school on the Woodchurch High site?

Traffic and transport

- Easier for parents with younger children at Ganneys to bring older children to Fender than to get to Arrowe Hill
- Safe roads around school with speed bumps
- Fender is on the main bus route
- Near to Woodchurch High makes it easier to drop off younger and older children
- Concerns about traffic and congestion around Arrowe Hill site
- More parking at Fender
- Concerns about distance to alternative schools
- Minibuses bring children in from outside the area

Financial

- This is all about money
- Other schools are not suffering by keeping Arrowe Hill and Fender open
- Investment in the building and site would be wasted if closed
- Would there be funding for a new school building or extensions if needed?

The Process

- You've already made a decision

- Important to make a speedy decision to remove uncertainty

Other comments

- Centre of its community
- First school built on Woodchurch
- Generations have gone to this school
- Open for over 50 years

People allied to Ganneys Meadow EYC

Staff and standards

- Concerns that review discussion may affect KS2 test results
- Mixed age teaching can be beneficial
- Concerns about larger class sizes
- All schools need more emphasis on respect for the community, for adults and for all cultures/faiths

Financial

- Why do small schools cost more than larger schools?
- Good idea to run one school with the savings reinvested

Other comments from the Woodchurch area

Staff and standards

- Training courses run from the Fender site
- Arrowe Hill is a really good school
- Concerns about large class sizes
- Concerns about insufficient staff numbers

Building and site

- Fender is centrally located
- Fender is close to library and Ganneys Meadow
- Arrowe Hill has just had a lot of money spent on the facilities which would be wasted if it closed

The Options

- Shame either school must close, but would be financially more beneficial to run just one school
- Makes more sense to keep Fender because of proximity to Ganneys Meadow for people with younger and older children
- Should amalgamate at Arrowe Hill and use Fender as a community facility

Arrowe Hill Primary School Public Meeting- 29.1.08

Introduction by HT Brief review of the school
Top 2% of schools in added value.

Introduction by Councillor Davies

Introduction by CB/DA/SG

Marie Stacey – presentation 7.20 pm

Question and Answer 7.50pm

- *Any response to a speaker is in italics*

Parent Have all the evidence – what can we say to save it?
Can we change your mind? Child wants to come to school.

Phil Davies I have an open mind – genuine consultation.

Parent Our area will suffer if the school closes.

Parent Figures wrong for St Michael's – why are only two schools
under review?

*CB Decision made at Cabinet – CofE is large and full. RC
school is smaller and does have surplus. We have to
ensure faith provision. Only RC school on the estate. RC
school owned and run by the Diocese, without RC
cooperation very difficult to close a Catholic school.*

Parent Already closed the infants, hasn't that saved money?

*CB Yes it has led to a saving and we have invested to take
space out. Problem has not gone away.*

Parent No issues with mixed aged classes.

*CB Falling rolls issue does not go away – talked re challenges
of falling rolls when schools are good.*

Parent Question re investment in premises.

DA Answered

Former pupil Question re 25% surplus

DA Answered

Former parent Wanted to highlight positives of the school – quoted
strengths – no bullying, children keen to learn. Praise for
teaching staff – good pupil relationships. Children are
secure and safe. I moved schools twice due to closures in
Birkenhead, my education was “knackered” by this. Primary
is key – school produces the goods.
Land is worth £1million to the council.
Who will pay for new uniforms at £80 a go? – I have 3

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| | children. |
| Parent | Nobody has asked the teachers if they want to move to another school. Pupils seem safe and secure and the staff would want to stay as they are. |
| CB | <i>Responded setting out general points re treatment of staff in amalgamations and closures. Outlined process to date for all staff – teachers and non teachers.</i> |
| Parent | Need to think of the children – moving them will have an effect on them. don't want to be merged with Fender (audience agreed). Stated there had been issues with Fender – bullying. |
| Phil Davies | <i>Not helpful to criticise other schools.</i> |
| Parent | Woodchurch is a thriving area. What will happen in the future? "Baby boom" in the area. |
| CB | <i>Gave background to how we predict numbers. 73% of pupils go to other schools now so only 3 in 10 of any future pupils are likely to come to Arrowe Hill on current pattern.</i> |
| Parent & Gov | Child in school. Chose Arrowe Hill out of 4 schools. Chose it as the best school. Child doing well – will impact badly on my child and will take my choice away. I will have to make further choices. V positive about teachers. Query re amalgamation – could the school be run by someone else. Is that more likely to make the council stick with a straightforward closure. |
| CB | <i>Answered – gave background re opening new schools/competitions/school types. Councillors will be invited to make the best decision in the interests of the children. Explained differences between closure and amalgamation – in effect opening a new school.</i> |
| Parent | My daughter will sit her SATs in 2009, she will be badly affected and it would not be fair. |
| Parent | Child moved from St Michael's. I moved five times and got worse and worse each time – I don't want that to happen to my child. |
| Teacher | Thanks for the parents' comments. Would the work on our site make it cheaper to be based at Arrowe Hill. |
| DA | <i>We haven't done the sums ahead of consultation</i> |
| Same teacher | Younger teachers are cheaper, that will impact upon our re-deployment prospects. |
| CB | <i>Responded re: new governing body of an amalgamated</i> |

school. Seek support from governing body of any new school – who will also want to make the new school work and have the best staff.

- Same teacher Schools have a certain budget – some schools will take a cheaper teacher over a more experienced teacher.
- CB *Responded re continued need for same numbers of staff if not opportunity to have more staff and further background to the situation in respect of staffing.*
- Parent Chose Arrowe Hill over Fender and Overchurch, moved from Overchurch to Arrowe Hill. Issues re the length of walk to Overchurch, particularly for children with asthma. Not right to consider closure.
- Child SAT results are higher here than at Fender. Lower ability children from Fender will pull down standards on Arrowe Hill pupils.
- Parent 3 generations of my family came to this school. I walk past Fender to come here – issues re bullying. My choice “I chose to bring my children out of the estate”.
- Parent People have kids at 16 and the pain puts them off having any more. Don't want to mix with Fender kids.

2nd Time Questions

- Parent Traffic issue if you put all the children at Fender.
- Parent Arrow Hill is a family school – many families with several generations have attended the schools. Need to consider the effects on children.
- Parent Why not build a primary school at Woodchurch?
- DA *Answered*
- Parent Teachers want to place their children here.
- Parent No, Arrowe Hill, 115 children not in school.
- Parent Does each school get the same amount of money per pupil.
- CB *Explained that budget is formula driven largely due to pupil numbers.*
- Parent School has dealt well with a pupil with special needs.
- Headteacher Thanks to parents for support. Harder to run a smaller school but tonight shows we do it double well.
- Question re capital building funding.
- DA *Answered re Primary Capital Strategy*
- Chair of Govs Thanks to everyone. We love our school and want it to stay open.

You have presented us with stark facts.

We are a community school. The children grow into productive adults.

Please consider us wisely.

Could plan for a new school alongside the new high school.

We would support a new school.

This is our lovely community school

Closing comments.

Councillor
Davies

Post meeting – Parking round Arrowe Hill is residents only?

Ganney's Meadow Children's Centre Public Meeting- 5.2.08

Approx 20 people present including Head, staff and governors

Introductions :

Councillor Davies - no proposals for Ganney's, just wish to share the issues re surplus places in Woodchurch

Marie Stacey - presentation altered to suit setting.
Re-stated no proposals in respect of Ganney's

Questions/comments

- *Any response to a speaker is in italics*

Parent Arrowe Hill and Ganney's – have school closures influenced SAT results?

MS Answered

DA Answered re school size/budgets

ML Answered re class sizes/mixed age teaching/standards

Parent Want Woodchurch CofE. What are the Ofsted's on Fender and Arrowe Hill.

MS Answered

Parent Thinks it's a good idea to reduce costs on empty places. One school can meet the need. Savings can be invested. Could we emphasise greater respect in pupils and respect equal opportunities. Guidance on the faith side needed – Christian faith. Greater emphasis on the basics – respect/love/share.

MS Responded : including reference to Neighbourhood Management Board.

DA Answered re new Woodchurch and possibility of new primary near Woodchurch.

Councillor Thanks for coming/closing remarks.
Davies

Fender Primary School Public Meeting- 31.1.08

Introductions by Councillor Davies

Marie Stacey – presentation 7.10 – 7.45 pm

Introductions – Marie Lawrence, David Armstrong, Sally Gibbs

Question and Answers

- *Any response to a speaker is in italics*

Parent Praise to the school staff (applause). National boom in childbirth. will need the spaces we are taking away. We are here for the needs of our children.

DA Answered

Parent Brought my children here from another school, having looked at all the schools. If you amalgamate you bring in more teachers and more children. Issues re class sizes. Children will not learn in larger classes.

MS Responded

Parent Issue re keeping the bases.

Parent Moved to school from Arrowe Hill – critical of school – good progress since moving.

Parent Asked for details re new housing.

DA Answered

Parent Private housing will generate new pupils.

Classroom Ass Spoke very positively re the school and the work and progress of the pupils. – Wouldn't be fair to change things.

Parent Why not amalgamate with St Michaels?

DA Answered

Parent Child in special unit. Very positive about the school. Lives in Prenton. No bullying here. Outlined great progress in unit by a child with additional needs. Child would find transition to new school very difficult.

MS Answered re location of special units.

Same Parent Not satisfied with answers re special units.

Parent Pupil in base. School is warm and the inclusion bases are fantastic. Makes sense to keep the site with the Children's Centre next door.

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| Grandma & dinner lady | Upsetting for children if they have to move. All that's being talked about here is money (applause). |
| <i>Phil Davies</i> | <i>Responded</i> |
| Parent | Traffic conditions at Arrowe Hill. Nightmare to drop children off. Fender is on a clear main road. All the schools on the estate come to the Fender site to use the library. Fender can access the library etc. without leaving the site. Closer to Woodchurch High School leisure centre. |
| Former pupil | School is near bus route, shops. Arrowe Hill was built as an overspill to Fender. Fender is the best site. |
| Parent | Child moved from Woodchurch CofE. I got the first positive comments on my child at Fender. Kept my child at this school even when parent moved some distance away. |
| Past Parent | School has a strong bond between parents and teachers. School has full support of parents. |
| Parent | Moved child from another school, having realized the work of the school. It is the Head and teachers who make the school – not the site. |
| Parent | Money is not an issue in this school. Child has special needs and school funds the additional support. I would not send by child to Arrowe Hill! |
| Parent | All the school is used, all is in good condition. I would not take my children up to Arrowe Hill. There are traffic issues at Arrowe Hill. We want to see the school stay here. The school works hard with the pupils. We will fight to keep the school open. |
| Non teacher | Traffic conditions at Arrowe Hill. I live near Arrowe Hill and worry about the roads. Fender is a friendly school. |
| Staff member | Numbers have gone up. School is becoming more popular. Children are a pleasure. Would like to thank parents for the comments made about the teachers. |
| Parent | Special needs child. Fender supported my child even when she was in Ganneys Meadow. Child has made great progress. I don't want my child to go to Arrowe Hill. |
| Parent | Special needs -autistic spectrum. Good progress made. Change would be very difficult for staff and location. |
| Parent | Child should have gone to Arrowe Hill. Chose Fender. My children have reading Recovery. Should close Arrowe Hill. |
| Parent | Issues re change applies to all children, not only children in inclusion bases. Normally only move children by choice, not |

forced upon us.

MS Gave background on previous moves.

Parent What will happen if a child who has been bullied at Arrowe Hill has to go back there?

MS Answered

Parent Arrowe Hill would have expressed some concerns to us. Fender pushes pupils and got decent results for my child and he now does better at Woodchurch High than he would have done. Should wait a few years to see what happens with numbers.

Parent Very positive comments re school – after school clubs praised.

2nd Comments

Parent I couldn't get a child to Ganneys in the morning and then a child to Arrowe Hill nor could I collect in the afternoon from two sites.

Chair of Govs Thanked Marie Stacey
Proud of comments made by parents.

Parent Why not build a primary school at Woodchurch High?

DA Answered

Parent Teachers want to place their children here.

Parent No, Fender, 115 children not in school!

Parent Does each school get the same amount of money per pupil.

CB Explained that budget is formula driven largely due to pupil numbers.

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