

PR 5580

Draft

12 September 2006

Primary schools consultation in Hemel Hempstead

A public consultation on the future provision of primary school places in Hemel Hempstead begins today - September 12.

A review of primary school places in the town of Hemel Hempstead has been triggered by the high number of surplus school places across the town. This high surplus reflects a nationally falling birth rate, resulting in fewer children needing a primary school place.

David Lloyd, Executive Member for Education, said: "This is part of a wider consultation process and we have already talked to school and community representatives. Now we want to hear the views of parents and local communities about the future of primary schooling in the area before any decisions are taken."

As part of this process, the Director of Children, Schools and Families considered a number of possible options against the following four criteria:

- to reduce surplus places and provide places where they are needed to meet demand
- to enhance capacity to raise educational standards; to reduce risk of under-performance or serious weakness, and to offer extended schools
- to have acceptable implications for building design, environmental impact and cost
- to have acceptable transitional arrangements for affected pupils.

Having assessed this information, and following discussions with key elected Members of the County Council, the Director of Children, Schools and Families decided to bring forward the following proposals for public consultation:

North East - Proposed reduction of 1FE

Option 1 (the County Council's preferred option)

Amalgamate Barncroft School and Eastbrook School as a 1FE primary school on the Eastbrook School site

Option 2

Close Barncroft School

Option 3

Close Eastbrook School and re-locate Barncroft School on the Eastbrook School site as a 1FE primary school.

East - Proposed reduction of 1FE

Option 1 (the County Council's preferred option)

Amalgamate Bellgate School and Jupiter Drive School as a 2FE primary school on the Bellgate School site.

Option 2

Close Jupiter Drive School

Option 3

Close Bellgate School and relocate Jupiter Drive School on the Bellgate School site, as a 2 FE primary school.

South East - Proposed reduction of 0.3FE

There is only one proposal for the South East:

To reduce the Published Admission Number for Leverstock Green VC CofE Primary School from 38 to 30. This has been discussed with the Diocese and the School who agree in principle to this proposal.

West - Proposed reduction of 0.9FE

Option 1 (the County Council's preferred option)

Amalgamate Pixies Hill School and Chaulden Infant and Junior Schools as a 2FE primary school on the Chaulden site.

Option 2

Close Pixies Hill School and amalgamate Chaulden Infant and Junior Schools as a 2FE primary school

Option 3

Close Chaulden Infant and Junior Schools and relocate Pixies Hill School to form a 2FE primary school on the Chaulden site.

North West - Proposed reduction of 0.9FE

Option 1 (the County Council's preferred option)

Amalgamate Martindale School and Rossgate School as a 1.5FE primary school on the Rossgate School site (this is an increase of 0.1FE, which would increase Rossgate School's admission number from 42 to 45).

Option 2

Close Martindale School and expand Rossgate School to 1.5FE

Option 3

Close Rossgate School and relocate Martindale School to the Rossgate School site as a 1.5FE primary school.

NOTE: Martindale School has been designated as a Lead Agency, and is currently working towards becoming a Children's Centre. Should Martindale close as a result of this consultation, the Children's Centre would continue to be provided in the area. The relevant teams within the County Council would work with the school to ensure a smooth transition.

As part of any option above, a 1 FE primary school would include a 30 place part-time nursery class and a 2FE primary school would include a 60 place part-time nursery class. All proposals would come into effect for September 2008.

Respondents have until 4 December 2006 to send their views, either by returning the response form at the back of the consultation booklet, completing the online form at www.hertsdirect.org/consultations, emailing education.planning@hertscc.gov.uk, or writing to:

Hemel Hempstead Consultation
CSF School Access
Freepost HJ71
Hertfordshire County Council
County Hall
Hertford SG13 8YD

Public meetings to discuss the proposals will be held between 7pm and 9pm on the following dates:

Monday September 25, Eastbrook School
Wednesday September 27, Barncroft School
Tuesday October 3, Jupiter Driver School
Wednesday October 4, Bellagte School
Thursday October 5, Pixies Hill School
Wednesday October 11, Chaulden Junior School
Tuesday October 17, Rossgate School
Thursday October 19, Martindale School

These meetings will be of a size that will allow everyone the opportunity to express their views. Anyone wishing to attend needs to register by calling 01438 737350 from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday, and Saturday 9am to 4pm.

Ends

Notes for Editors

1. The consultation document can be viewed online at www.hertsdirect.org/consultations or call 01992 555811 for a copy.

2. The consultation ends on 4 December 2006. A report will be made to the Education Panel which meets in January 2007. The panel's recommendation will be made to the County Council's Cabinet which meets in February 2007. If Cabinet decides to go ahead, the county council will publish a statutory notice of intention in February 2007 and there will be a further six weeks for people to comment. If there are any objections to the statutory notice the decision would then be taken by the independent School Organisation Committee for Hertfordshire.

3. 1 FE (Form of Entry) = 30 places per year group. 1.5 FE = 45 places per year group. 2 FE = 60 places per year group.

Issued by: Pam Dajda on 01992 588535 www.hertsdirect.org/news

For political comment please contact:

David Lloyd (Conservative), Executive member, Education on 01582 841343

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Rob Prowse (Liberal Democrat), Spokesman on Education on 01727 827258