

This is a public consultation on the need to reduce the number of primary school places in Hoddesdon and Wormley. The consultation period runs from 5 May to the 27 July 2006.

During this period of consultation there will be public meetings to discuss the proposals as follows:

Date	Venue	Time
Monday 12 June	St Catherine's CofE Primary School	7-9pm
Tuesday 13 June	Ryelands Primary School	7-9pm
Monday 19 June	Sheredes Primary School	7-9pm
Wednesday 21 June	Westfield Primary School	7-9pm
Monday 26 June	Ley Park Primary School	7-9pm
Tuesday 27 June	Wormley CofE Primary School	7-9pm
Thursday 29 June	Forres Primary School	7-9pm

These meetings will be of a size that will allow everyone the opportunity to express their views. **If you wish to attend one of these meetings you will need to register a place by calling 01438 737350.** This line will be open Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm, and on Saturday, 9am to 4pm, from Friday, 5 May until Friday, 9 June. (Please note that this is a booking line only and staff will be unable to discuss any matters relating to the review). Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Should there be the demand, we will arrange additional meetings.

Limited crèche facilities will be available for children aged between 2-11 years. Places should be booked on the same telephone number.

You can let us know your views by:

- Completing and returning the response form at the back of this booklet
- Completing the on-line form on our website at www.hertsdirect.org/csfc consultations
- Writing to us (freepost) if you do not want to use the form, to:

Hoddesdon and Wormley consultation

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

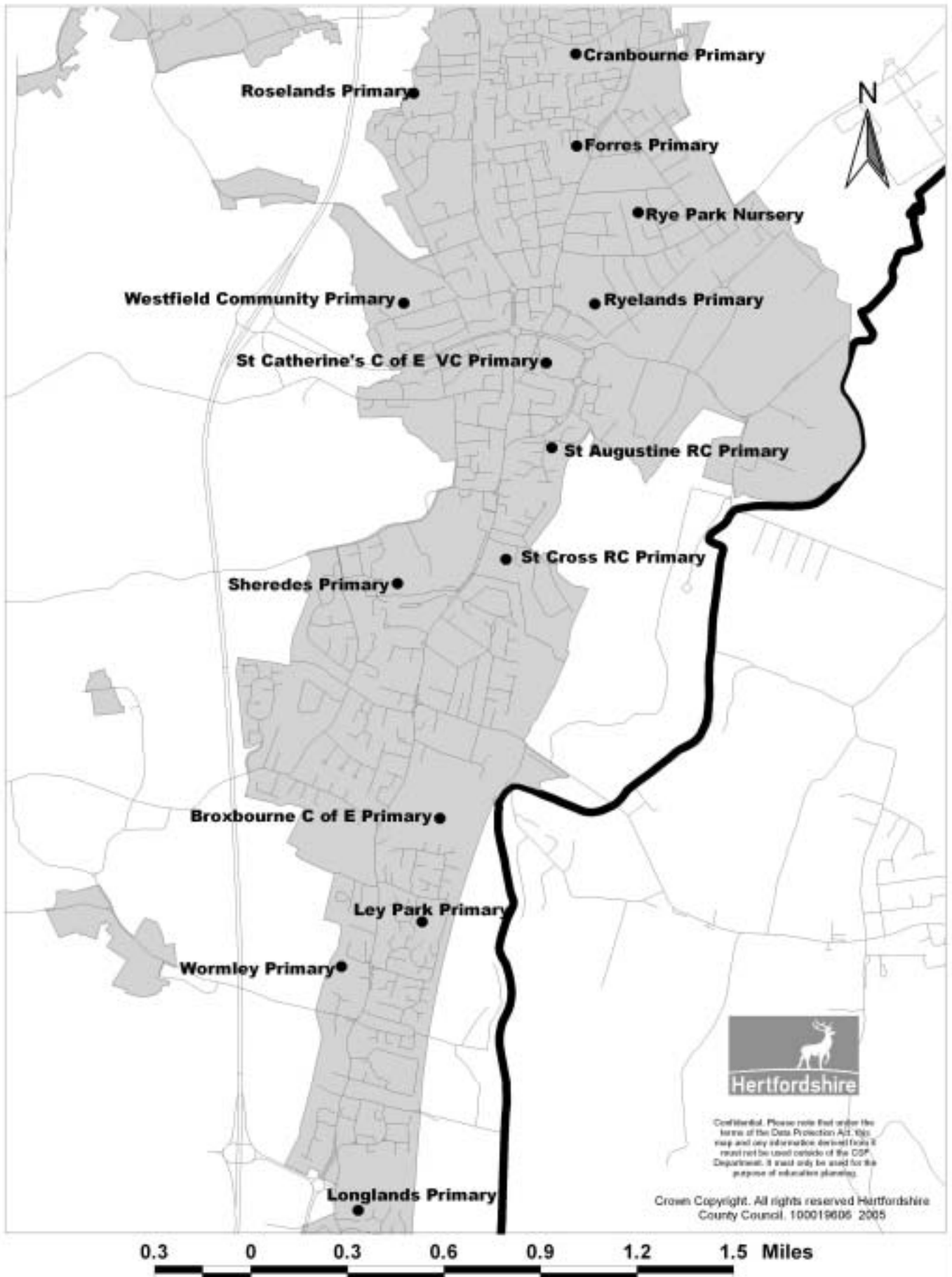
- Emailing us at education.planning@hertsc.gov.uk

However you choose to respond, please let us know if you have other suggestions or options.

Please ensure that your response is received by the 27 July 2006.

This document is being widely distributed within the Hoddesdon and Wormley area. If you would like more copies, please ring us on **01992 555845** or you can view it on line at www.hertsdirect.org/csfc consultations

Hoddesdon and Wormley Primary School Review



Why do we need to look at the number of primary school places in Hoddesdon and Wormley?

The birth rate has declined, which means that fewer school places are needed. There are already surplus school places in the Hoddesdon and Wormley area. Even taking account of known new housing, if no action is taken the surplus of primary school places across the area is expected to increase to about 21% in reception classes by the year 2012.

Falling pupil numbers can affect a school's ability to deliver effective education to its children. Schools are mainly funded by an amount of money for each child attending the school. If a school has falling numbers, the income decreases but many of the running costs, such as premises costs, do not reduce. Therefore, the management of the school can become very difficult, particularly maintaining high quality provision on a reducing budget, retaining and recruiting staff and having to re-organise classes on a regular basis as numbers fall. This can cause instability and affect pupils' achievement.

Providing a better match between the number of pupils and the number of places will reduce the risk of schools being adversely affected by falling pupil numbers. When undertaking a review in an urban area with reducing pupil numbers, ideally any changes proposed should produce schools not less than 2 Forms of Entry (FE), which is the same as 60 places per year group. This is because, in the long term, the County Council sees 2 FE schools as being more sustainable in a falling numbers situation. As such, we would look to expand 1.5 FE primary schools to 2FE wherever possible.

However, alternatives may need to be considered according to the local situation. For instance, there may be circumstances where reducing larger schools would provide an appropriate number and geographical spread of school places.

Given the current and expected pupil numbers at reception, we need to reduce the number of school places by 90 per year group which is the same as 3 forms of entry (FE) across the Hoddesdon and Wormley area. To provide a suitable geographical spread of places, 45 places per year group (1.5 FE) needs to be removed from the north part of the area. The same number, 45 places per year group, will need to be removed from the south of the area.

What has happened so far?

We have worked with schools and other community representatives to establish a clear understanding of issues relating to the area as a whole and those specific to individual schools. This local input helped to produce a long list of possible options. Each of these options was examined against the following 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.

(Details of all the options which were considered and discounted can be found in the Appendix).

The Director of Children, Schools and Families considered all this information and, following discussions with key elected members of the County Council, decided which options to bring forward for public consultation.

What are the County Council's proposals?

As the next step in this process, the County Council is now consulting you on the following three proposals in the north of the area and one proposal in the south.

Note: 1 FE = 30 places per year group
1.5 FE = 45 places per year group
2 FE = 60 places per year group

Proposals for the north part of Hoddesdon and Wormley:

Option 1 (the County Council's preferred option)

- Close Ryelands, a 1 FE primary school, on 31 August 2008.
- Close Westfield, a 1 FE primary school, on 31 August 2008.
- Increase Sheredes Primary and St Catherine's CofE Primary Schools from 1.5 FE to 2 FE from 1 September 2007.
- Reduce Forres Primary School from 1.5 FE to 1 FE from 1 September 2008.

Option 2

- Close Ryelands, a 1 FE primary school, on 31 August 2008.
- Reduce Forres Primary School from 1.5 FE to 1 FE from 1 September 2008.

Option 3

- Close Ryelands, a 1 FE primary school, on 31 August 2008.
- Close Westfield, a 1 FE primary school, on 31 August 2008.
- Increase St Catherine's CofE Primary School from 1.5 FE to 2 FE from 1 September 2007.

We are aware of the excellent service provided by the Primary Support Base at Ryelands Primary School which benefits the whole area. As part of any proposal this provision would be relocated to another primary school in the local area.

Proposal for the south part of Hoddesdon and Wormley:

Proposal

- Close Ley Park, a 2 FE primary school, on 31 August 2008.
- Expand Wormley from 1.6 FE to 2 FE from 1 September 2008.

Important note: as part of this proposal the County Council would retain the Ley Park site as part of Wormley CofE Primary School until any building work there was complete. If town planning constraints make expansion on the Wormley site impossible, Wormley CofE Primary School would transfer to the Ley Park site, and be expanded to 2 FE.

These are only proposals and no decisions have yet been taken. The feedback from this consultation will be carefully considered before any decisions are made.

(Please note that the following schools in the area are not directly affected by any of these proposals: Broxbourne CofE Primary, Cranbourne Primary, Longlands Primary, Roselands Primary, St Augustine RC Primary and St Cross RC Primary.)

Reasons for the choice of proposals for consultation

Following evaluation of all the options against the four criteria (see page 3) and discussion with key Members of the County Council, the Director of Children, Schools and Families decided to consult on the following 3 options in the north and 1 proposal in the south part of the area.

The north part of Hoddesdon and Wormley

Option 1 - This has been brought forward as the County Council's preferred option for the following reasons:

- It removes the required number of school places.
- It provides the most appropriate mid to long-term structure for schools in the area by creating two 2 FE primary schools, in place of two 1.5 FE primary schools.
- It enhances the capacity of these two schools by making improvements to the school buildings.
- It reduces the risk of under achievement by removing Ryelands, a 1 FE primary school, which would be at particular risk of under performance given current and forecast low pupil numbers.
- It provides an appropriate spread of school places.
- **However**, this option would involve the relocation of a larger number of pupils in the short-term than option 2.

Option 2 - Reasons for this proposal:

- It removes the required number of school places.
- It provides an appropriate spread of school places.
- It reduces the risk of under achievement by removing Ryelands, a 1 FE primary school, which would be at particular risk of under performance given current and forecast low pupil numbers.
- It retains Westfield, which is an improving 1 FE primary school with an increased level of parental preference for reception places in September 2006.
- **However**, this option would not enhance the capacity of any school and,
- it retains a spread of 1 FE and 1.5 FE schools in the north of the area.

Option 3 - Reasons for this proposal:

- It removes the required number of school places.
- It improves the mid to long-term structure for schools in the area by increasing one 1.5 FE primary school to 2 FE.
- It enhances the capacity of one school by making improvements to the school building.
- It reduces the risk of under achievement by removing Ryelands, a 1 FE primary school, which would be at particular risk of under performance given current and forecast low pupil numbers.
- It provides an appropriate spread of school places.
- **However**, this option would involve the relocation of a larger number of pupils in the short-term than option 2 and,
- only enhances the capacity of one school in the area.

The south part of Hoddesdon and Wormley

Proposal

Reasons for this proposal:

- It would expand the school with the highest level of parental preference in the south part of the area.
- It would mean transferring a smaller number of pupils than in other options considered (see Appendix).

What would this mean for pupils at the schools affected?

Transition arrangements

The north part of Hoddesdon and Wormley:

Option 1:

- Both Westfield and Ryelands Primary Schools would remain open until 31 August 2008, but would not admit reception pupils in September 2007.
- Pupils already at Westfield and Ryelands Primary Schools would continue to be taught there until the end of the summer term 2008.
- Mobile accommodation would be provided at St Catherine's CofE Primary School from September 2007. This would provide space for the extra 15 places at reception, and it would help the school to manage arrangements for existing pupils during the building work there.
- If Ryelands and Westfield Primary Schools close on 31 August 2008, all pupils attending both schools would be offered a place at St Catherine's CofE Primary School or parents could apply to any other school with a place available at that time.
- From September 2008, Forres Primary School would provide 30 places at reception instead of 45. This would not affect any pupils already attending the school.

Option 2:

- Ryelands Primary School would remain open until 31 August 2008, but would not admit reception pupils in September 2007.
- Pupils already at Ryelands Primary School would continue to be taught at the school until the end of the summer term 2008.
- If Ryelands closes on 31 Aug 2008, all pupils attending that school would be offered a place at Forres Primary School or parents could apply to any other school with a place available at that time. Depending on the number of pupils requiring a place at Forres Primary School, mobile accommodation may be needed to help with the temporary transitional arrangements.
- From September 2008, Forres Primary School would provide 30 places at reception instead of 45. This would not affect any pupils already attending the school.

Option 3:

- Both Westfield and Ryelands Primary Schools would remain open until 31 August 2008, but would not admit reception pupils in September 2007.
- Pupils already at Westfield and Ryelands Primary Schools would continue to be taught at their own school.
- Mobile accommodation would be provided at St Catherine's CofE Primary School from September 2007. This would provide space for the extra 15 places at reception, and it would help the school to manage arrangements for existing pupils during the building work there.
- If Ryelands and Westfield Primary Schools close on 31 August 2008, all pupils attending both schools would be offered a place at St Catherine's CofE Primary School or parents could apply to any other school with a place available at that time.

The south part of Hoddesdon and Wormley:

Proposal

- Ley Park Primary School would remain open until 31 August 2008, but would not admit reception pupils in September 2007.
- Pupils already at Ley Park Primary School would continue to be taught at the school until the end of the summer term 2008.
- Mobile accommodation would be provided at Wormley CofE Primary School from September 2007. This would provide space for the extra 12 places at reception, and it would help the school to manage arrangements for existing pupils during the building work there.
- If Ley Park Primary School closes on 31 August 2008, all pupils attending that school would be offered a place at Wormley CofE Primary School or parents could apply to any other school with a place available at that time.

What about school uniforms?

Any parent who accepts the alternative school place offered as a result of a school closure, would receive a financial contribution towards the cost of a new uniform. More information will be available should the decision to close a school be taken.

What about transport?

If accepting the alternative school place offered as a result of any school closure results in a pupil having to travel more than two miles in each direction (up to age 8 years) or more than three miles in each direction (age 8 years and over), the County Council would provide free transport. More information will be available should the decision to close a school be taken.

What would happen to the staff?

If, as a result of this consultation, the decision is taken to close a school or schools, then all staff at the school(s) concerned will be at risk. The County Council would work closely with staff at risk to redeploy them into other schools.

If Ryelands Primary School closes, the Primary Support Base would be transferred to another primary school in the local area. Primary Support Base staff would be given the opportunity to transfer with the provision.

How would all this be paid for?

Any capital cost associated with these proposals would be met from the sale of County Council owned sites, supplemented if necessary from the County Council's own financial resources.

How will this consultation work?

There will be a series of meetings at the schools concerned which will be run by an independent facilitator. The meetings will be of an appropriate size so that all views are heard and considered, both at the meetings and subsequently by the decision-makers. For the dates and times of these meetings, please see page 1 of this booklet.

In addition, there is a response form for your views at the end of this booklet and on our website. All responses will be reported and made available to the decision-makers.

How will the decision be taken and when?

The consultation ends on 27 July 2006. In September, Cabinet will decide how to proceed following feedback from the consultation.

If Cabinet decides to proceed with any of the proposals in this consultation, the County Council will publish a statutory notice(s) of its intention in October 2006. Anybody is entitled to comment or object during the 6 week notice period.

If there are any objections to a notice, the decision as to whether or not the proposal(s) can proceed would be taken by the independent School Organisation Committee for Hertfordshire.

Process	Date(s)
Public Consultation	5 May to 27 July 2006
Education Panel*	12 September
Cabinet*	16 October
Statutory Notices	October - December
Decision by School Organisation Committee*	December

* These meetings will be open to the public.