

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 23 JANUARY 2002 at 10.30AM

Agenda Item No.

6(iii)

PROPOSED CLOSURE OF MUSLEY INFANT SCHOOL, WARE

Report of the Director of Children, Schools and Families

Author: Stuart Freel, Area Planning Manager (East) Tel 01992 555863

Executive Members: Robert Gordon and David Lloyd

Local Member: David Beatty and Nigel Copping

1. Purpose of report

To invite the Scrutiny Committee to decide whether or not to scrutinise the proposal to close Musley Infant School, Ware on 31 August, 2003.

2. Summary

2.1 This item has been requested, as a late item, by Tanis Kent, Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee.

2.2 Consultation on a proposal to close Musley Infant School, Ware closes on 31 January, 2002 and the Cabinet will be considering the issue on 11 February, 2002.

3. Conclusion

The Committee is asked to determine whether or not they wish to scrutinise the proposed item and by what method.

1. Background

- 1.1 Consultation on a proposal to close Musley Infant School commenced on 6 November, 2001.
- 1.2 A consultation document (a copy of which is circulated with the agenda for the meeting) was issued to formal consultees; parents, governors and staff and has been available to the wider community. The document sets out the background to the proposal, which principally relates to current and anticipated future demand for primary school places in Ware, their impact on recruitment at Musley School and the anomalous place of the school in the local pattern of nursery, infant and junior phases of primary education.
- 1.3 A well attended consultation meeting was held on 3 December, 2001. Discussions with school staff and governors have also been held.
- 1.4 The former School Places, Admissions and Commissioning Panel has considered the proposal, at their meeting on 11 December, 2001. The minute is as follows:

Stuart Freel presented the report and responded to a number of points of clarification.

Members and officers who had attended the previous week's consultation meeting reported on the turnout, mood and range of issues explored with the public. It was understood that an action group was being formed and arrangements were being made for them to submit a petition to the CSF Scrutiny Committee which was meeting on Wednesday 23rd January, 2002.

Having considered the report, further information available and following discussion of the issues involved, the Panel agreed to recommend the proposal in the report to the Cabinet.

- 1.5 At the conclusion of the consultation exercise the responses will be made available in the Members' Room, alongside the correspondence received and a summary of the issues raised at the December consultation meeting. The consultation meeting was recorded and the tapes are available from Sarah Nicholls in CSF Planning on 01992 556722.
- 1.6 Arrangements have been made for the Friends of Musley Infants School to have available a video presentation in the Ballroom area prior to the meeting to which Members have received a separate invitation. A petition on this matter will also be presented at the beginning of the Committee.

2. Conclusion

The Committee is asked to determine whether or not they wish to scrutinise the proposed item and by what method.

Background papers

Report and minutes of School Places, Admissions and Commission Panel
(11.12.01)

Consultation document 'The Future for Musley Infant School, Ware', HCC
Issued November, 2001