

## Appendix 4

### Consultation responses received between 22 September and 2 November 2016

#### Email 1

Good afternoon. I am a parent of a Hope School pupil. He is now in year 2 down at Worthen. At first I was concerned by the move to amalgamate as it's a big change for everyone, pupils, parents and the wider community. Since he has attended the site at Worthen, he has been happy to go to school, he very much enjoys having a wider group of peers to play with and I do feel as a parent that the smaller age range classes are having a much better effect education wise on the children. He does seem to be enjoying the after school clubs he attends which before he wouldn't have been able so yes there are more opportunities for the children attending and this can only be a good thing. I still feel that to lose a school in a small community like Hope is a real shame and it does have an effect, for example the local show was poorly attended, a very quick response from the school children not being really in it. This said that is not important to the children's education so for that reason is not important but does show what effect not having the school in the area will impact on in the future. Also, I know that although the local shop has been for sale for some time they have already said that even with the preschool being in place they have noticed a huge difference in lack of support which of course is inevitable with less passing trade. I also hope that in thinking about the preschool this is something that is included very quickly down with the main school. The smaller children will be missing the interaction they are used to with the older ones and they will need to join in where possible with the school, particularly the ones that will be attending the school next academic year. I am sure this is important for the staff involved as well. Also, the transport seems to be working very well, I think the children are taking a bit of getting used to a larger group on the bus but on the whole it is working well. Anyway, all above said, my son has been very happy during the first part of this term, things seem a little more structured after the difficulties of the decision making last summer term. I feel that going down to be educated on one site has had a positive effect on my son which is why I am in support. We will always be gutted we've lost our school but it is obviously time for change. Thanks for reading, hope the comments help.

#### Email 2

I am a governor in this federation of schools and I am writing to say that I am fully supportive of this proposal. It will benefit the children enormously in so many ways. Having one school will mean that the children will have the benefit of much improved teaching and learning opportunities with more age appropriate classes. They will have better sporting opportunities as there will now be enough children to make teams. They will be able to make more friends and have more social opportunities.

I visited Hope and Worthen schools last term and the atmosphere was one of apprehension. However, having now visited the school at Worthen this term I have to say the transformation in the children is amazing. They are motivated and so happy to be altogether. There is such a buzz and positive atmosphere when you walk round that it creates an ideal learning environment. I, like the children, staff and the rest of the governors, am so excited about the future that this amalgamation could bring that I really urge Cabinet in December to enable this amalgamation to go ahead. Let us show you how we can achieve an outstanding school. The children of Hope, Worthen and Westbury deserve no less.

#### Email 3

It was the unanimous decision of the Hope, Westbury and Worthen Federation governing body to ask the Local Authority to consult on the amalgamation of our three schools on the Worthen site. Governors believe that this move is in the best interests of our children now and in the future. We believe a larger sustainable school on an improved site that provides a first class learning environment will help secure the best possible academic outcomes for our children. In addition we believe there will be enormous social benefits and far greater opportunities in terms of sport, music and arts

#### Email 4

We as parents at Worthen school have no objections for the amalgamation of the three schools, Westbury, Worthen and Hope. A very necessary step to keep rural schools open.

#### Email 5

- Hereford Diocese owns the three school buildings. Shropshire Council owns the land used as a playing field at Hope CE Primary School, but Shropshire Council does not own the land used as the playing field by St Mary's CE Primary School. St Mary's School only leases the land at Westbury field from the Trustees of Westbury Playing Field.
- This land should therefore not be considered available for sale, to fund the construction of new classroom buildings at Worthen School, because Westbury Playing Field belongs to the residents of the village of Westbury – not to Worthen or to Shropshire Council, because it was covenanted in the 1950s by the Benefactor, Mrs Powell, who donated this land to the residents of the village of Westbury – not Worthen.
- Shropshire Council now wants to build extra classrooms at Worthen School to accommodate the pre-school children which they would like to move to Worthen from Hope and Westbury. However, they state there is nothing in the Council's budget to fund the construction of these extra classrooms, but only have the buildings of Westbury School and Hope School which could be sold, plus the playing field land at Hope and Westbury which they hope to sell to fund these new buildings.
- If Hereford Diocese - which owns the buildings of all three schools – wishes to sell the buildings of Hope School and Westbury School, the capital raised could fund the extensions required to accommodate pre-school children if moved to Worthen School.
- Westbury Pre-School children used to meet at Westbury Village Hall, before moving to St Mary's CE School a year or two ago. I am advised by Tina Smith, Post Mistress at Westbury, who was also Treasurer of Westbury Pre-School, that they had to move the Pre-School children to St Mary's School because there were not enough pre-school children attending to make the hire of Westbury Village Hall financially viable.
- The Pre-School children at Westbury and Hope do not qualify for free school transport so, if moved to Worthen, the parents have been told that they themselves will have to share car transport amongst themselves.
- Mothers of the Pre-School children may not be able to provide a car to share the journeys to and from Worthen – and the start and finishing times of the Pre-School lessons and the Primary School lessons may not coincide.
- If the pre-school children remain at their present venues (or move back to their

respective village halls) (1) transport to Worthen would not be required and (2) the building of extra classrooms at Worthen School would not be required.

- As Shropshire Council owns the land of Hope Playing Field, they should sell that field to pay for extending the classrooms at Worthen School. If not, and as free transport is not to be provided for pre-school children, they should not be moved to Worthen, but return to Hope Village Hall and Westbury Village Hall respectively and Shropshire Council should pay for the hire of those two village halls.
- All Westbury residents pay Council Tax to Shropshire Council, a not insignificant amount of which is used for the education of the Primary School children. As the buildings of all three schools are not owned by Shropshire Council but by the Hereford Diocese Shropshire Council should pay for the construction of any extra rooms required at Worthen School.
- In summary, therefore, Shropshire Council and the Hereford Diocese should not expect Westbury Playing Field to be sold to fund the building of extra classrooms at Worthe CE School, because Westbury Playing Field – which is only leased to Westbury CE School – belongs to the residents of the village of Westbury – not to Worthen or to Shropshire Council.

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Karen B.  
n/a.

PHILIP DUNNE MP  
(LUDLOW)



HOUSE OF COMMONS

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21 October 2016  
Our ref: JG / KF /

Dear Clive

**Hope CE Primary School, Worthen CE Primary School and St Mary's CE  
Primary School Westbury – Consultation on Amalgamation in Academic  
Year 2017/18**

I write following Phil Wilson's email of 22<sup>nd</sup> September regarding the above consultation process on the amalgamation of three primary schools in the west of Shropshire. Two of these are situated within the Ludlow Constituency.

In principle I would welcome the amalgamation of these schools to sustain a viable school at the Worthen site, with enhanced accommodation to cope with the increase numbers, and the resulting closure of Westbury and Hope school sites.

Yours sincerely

Philip Dunne  
MP for Ludlow