

22 October 2008

Dear Parents and Carers

You will have received information about the proposed relocation of Tarporley CE Primary School, and may have attended the consultation event at the High School on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

We are asking you to write and support the proposals, which give a once-only opportunity not only to provide brand new 21<sup>st</sup> Century Facilities for our Primary School age children, but also to provide a new bus park and increase the area of playing fields for the High School and community use. There is still time to respond to the consultation, which runs until **November 7<sup>th</sup>**.

A feedback form is attached. You can also download it, together with this letter, from [www.tarporleyhigh.co.uk](http://www.tarporleyhigh.co.uk). Alternatively, you can write a letter to Emma Longman, Children's Services, County Hall, Chester, CH1 1SQ, or send her an email to [emma.longman@cheshire.gov.uk](mailto:emma.longman@cheshire.gov.uk). This letter is also available to download.

You may wish to make some of the following points in favour of the proposals:

- Of the options considered to provide suitable and sufficient accommodation for Tarporley CE Primary School, the relocation of the Primary School to the larger High School site clearly offers the greatest advantage to both school communities, to the children and young people of Tarporley and the surrounding area and to their parents. The two problems the village currently encounters, the unsuitable Primary School accommodation and the issue of the High School buses, would be solved.
- Brand new C21st buildings and facilities would be provided for the Primary School children, with fit for purpose classrooms, which provide a better, brighter and a more flexible learning environment.
- The proposed bus park for the High School Buses would reduce traffic congestion and increase the safety of students who walk to the High School and those who travel by bus.
- The new buildings would be less costly to maintain, heat and light, enabling more of the Primary School budget to be spent on quality resources for learning.
- The total area of the usable sports pitches and athletics track would be increased, to include part of the Brook Farm site. The drainage and quality would be improved, for both the High School and community users, who would benefit from an additional outdoor changing facility.
- Changing facility to be provided on the High School playing fields, improving facilities for young people and community users, including part of Brook Farm Site.

The consultation has already highlighted some important points to consider:

- The council's proposals result from a long process of looking at the alternatives. The existing Tarporley CE Primary School Facilities and site are not suitable for 21<sup>st</sup> Century schooling – these are the professional conclusions of the previous CCC feasibility studies, confirmed by an independent consultant's study.

- The new Primary School buildings would be sympathetic to the existing nature of the village. There would be opportunities for parents, staff, governors and pupils to be involved in the thinking about the design. The distinctive character of the two physically separate schools would be sustained.
- It is recognised by the Local Authority that more thought needs to be given to the access routes for the Primary School children. Much could be achieved through modifying the access points and maintaining the different start and finish times for the two schools. Both Headteachers and Governing Bodies are fully committed to developing access arrangements that meet the needs of each school and its parents, children, young people and staff.
- High Schools and Primary Schools are now required by the Local Authority to pool together funding and jointly provide specialist support for children, and extended services to parents through Education Improvement Partnerships. The two schools would be able to make these arrangements work best for children through the shared infrastructures and support staff services that our adjacent sites would allow.
- The Tarporley Schools have served their community well for many years. We are now asking the local community to support us and the children and young people of the area so that we can provide good facilities and safe access.
- Because we are not in a social priority area are, we do not qualify to be a priority under Local Authority capital programmes. Therefore these developments must be mainly self-financing. The only way in which these sums can add up is to finance the scheme from the sale of the current Primary School site and part of Brook Farm. Brook Farm alone will not finance a new Primary School
- With proper management, it will be possible to achieve sympathetic and appropriate housing developments that are consistent with the Parish Plan. They will include affordable housing for the local community.
- If these proposals are not supported, there will be no other offers on the table. Moreover, all the signs are that Brook Farm site will be sold and the capital receipts used to support projects elsewhere in Cheshire.
- If the Primary School relocation project does not go ahead, the bus park and improvements to playing fields cannot be financed either.

Yours sincerely

**Richard Coates and Sarah Lee**  
**Headteachers Primary and**  
**High School**

**Ian Bailey and Tom Crotty**  
**Chairs of Governors**