

Local schools for local children

Brighton & Hove Council has a major problem: there are not enough places in popular secondary schools for all the young people who want to go to them. Schools are unevenly distributed around the area, a situation made worse by the closing of Stanley Deason/ Marina/ Comart.

The Council's proposed solution – to 'redress the balance' in favour of Queens Park, Hanover and Central Hove – is to relocate the catchment area for Dorothy Stringer to the Level and half of Blatchington Mill to the County Cricket Club.

The implications of this include:

Shrinking catchment areas for other schools in the area

There would be fewer local school places for local children so, for example, children in the Withdean and Preston Park area who are no longer eligible for Dorothy Stringer may also find themselves outside the catchment areas of Varndean and Blatchington Mill, whilst children in parts of Hove and Hangleton may find there are no places for them at Blatchington Mill or Hove Park.

No improvement in fairness or sustainability

With no increase in school places at 'desirable' schools, the burden of discontent is only shifted from one area of the city to another.

Longer travel distances and increased cross-town motor traffic

The journeys to school of children from the Level and County Cricket Ground would be much longer than the children they displace. This would inevitably result in more car journeys to Dorothy Stringer and Blatchington Mill and also out of the area as local children are ferried across town.

Broken link between school and community

Local children may find themselves scattered far and wide, not necessarily to the same schools as their neighbourhood friends. Fewer parents and children walking to school will have an impact on the environment, local businesses, even the community spirit of the area.

The period of consultation has now passed but it is not too late to do something.

The Council's Admissions Working Group meets on 20 December to look again at the proposals. They will make recommendations to the Children, Families and Schools Committee on 23 January 2006 when they will aim to make a decision in principle. Failing that, a decision will be made on 13 March.

You can still make your views known by writing to your local councillor.

BHSAG will be attending the next full council meeting is on Thursday 19 January at Brighton Town Hall at 4.30pm and we would welcome any parents who can come along to help make our point.

More information, including documents to download, useful links and council contact details, can be found at our website:

www.schools4communities.co.uk

13/12/05

Local schools for local children

Brighton & Hove Council has a major problem: there are not enough places in popular secondary schools for all the young people who want to go to them. Schools are unevenly distributed around the area, a situation made worse by the closing of Stanley Deason/ Marina/ Comart.

The Council's proposed solution – to 'redress the balance' in favour of Queens Park, Hanover and Central Hove – is to relocate the catchment area for Dorothy Stringer to the Level and half of Blatchington Mill to the County Cricket Club.

The implications of this include:

Shrinking catchment areas for other schools in the area

There would be fewer local school places for local children so, for example, children in the Withdean and Preston Park area who are no longer eligible for Dorothy Stringer may also find themselves outside the catchment areas of Varndean and Blatchington Mill, whilst children in parts of Hove and Hangleton may find there are no places for them at Blatchington Mill or Hove Park.

No improvement in fairness or sustainability

With no increase in school places at 'desirable' schools, the burden of discontent is only shifted from one area of the city to another.

Longer travel distances and increased cross-town motor traffic

The journeys to school of children from the Level and County Cricket Ground would be much longer than the children they displace. This would inevitably result in more car journeys to Dorothy Stringer and Blatchington Mill and also out of the area as local children are ferried across town.

Broken link between school and community

Local children may find themselves scattered far and wide, not necessarily to the same schools as their neighbourhood friends. Fewer parents and children walking to school will have an impact on the environment, local businesses, even the community spirit of the area.

The period of consultation has now passed but it is not too late to do something.

The Council's Admissions Working Group meets on 20 December to look again at the proposals. They will make recommendations to the Children, Families and Schools Committee on 23 January 2006 when they will aim to make a decision in principle. Failing that, a decision will be made on 13 March.

You can still make your views known by writing to your local councillor.

BHSAG will be attending the next full council meeting is on Thursday 19 January at Brighton Town Hall at 4.30pm and we would welcome any parents who can come along to help make our point.

More information, including documents to download, useful links and council contact details, can be found at our website:

www.schools4communities.co.uk

13/12/05