

Central
Bedfordshire
Council
Priory House
Monks Walk
Chicksands,
Shefford SG17 5TQ



15 May 2014

EXECUTIVE - Tuesday 27 May 2014

Further to the Agenda and papers for the above meeting, previously circulated, please find attached the following:-

- 9. Consideration of the outcome of statutory consultations of proposals to close Brewers Hill Community Middle School, Streetfield Community Middle School and Ashton Church of England (C of E) Voluntary Aided (VA) Middle School in August 2016.**

Background Papers for the above item.

Whilst each of the responses to the Ashton Middle School Consultation were included in the total number reported to the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 7 May 2014, due to an administrative error when the results file was created, a small number of supplementary comments were not available to view with the report. These have now been included within this supplement from page 53 onwards.

Please accept our apologies for the oversight.

Should you have any queries regarding the above please contact Sandra Hobbs, Committee Services Officer on Tel: 0300 300 5257.

Yours sincerely

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Responses to consultation for Brewers Hill Middle School

Q4 - Reasons why you agree or disagree with the proposal to close Brewers Hill Middle School

Agree *its an old building, falling apart *there are not enough children in it to keep it going *not many children signing up for year 5 in September this year *there has been a failing on the part of the leadership/management team which meant Barnfield pulled out *with no money from Barnfield or educational support the school cannot sustain itself *unsupportive staff (with the odd exception) *no consistency with the leadership of the school, staff keep moving on

3 tier system fails children Dunstable should have done this years ago

As a local resident, Brewers Hill's intake has fallen year after year. Many years ago parents used to come from villages to ensure pupils attended Brewershill however, now with less pupils, Huge amounts of land that could be used by the football club or other local enterpenures to ensure that anymore of the site is not sold for housing. The site is important but should not be sold for housing.

Because the numbers of places is surplus to requirements and parents will keep their children in lower schools converting to primary

Brewers hill middle school is a poor example for an educational institution. The school is dated. The group of staff that currently reside at BHMS, are inexperienced and are currently being lead by an equally inexperienced head teacher. The school has a very low registrar of children as many are leaving due to the poor quality of education and leadership at the school. BHMS stands on a large plot of land that could be developed to expand the new development of affordable housing for Dunstable. BHMS failure to become an academy has left the school in the wake of the progressive academy's and under the current management it will not reach a suitable status in a reasonable timeframe. The alternatives for children of middle school age is amply supported providing Ashton middle stays open.

Don't agree with middle schools generally. We need a new secondary school.

I agree the school should be closed, because having a mix of children means that they treat even the older kids like babies.

I agree with the closure, the school looks horrible and run down. There are fewer and fewer families wanting to send their kids there.

I agree with the school shutting, due to complaints by parents about Barnfield and about the teachers.

I don't know whats the point of a middle school , you lose friends when you move middle school

I looked around this school for my son, and it was dreadful. It is old and dirty. The staff are good though. The site should be used for building houses and a community centre. Children could go to Ashton Middle to keep it open, because that IS a good school.

It is too small

I dont think this is a school for a lot of people in this school, so there for I think that the school shall close.

I think it should becaues I dont really like this school

I want it to close becaues I don't bother going to school

I would like the school to close. My life is plagued by the children every day. I would prefer to see houses there.

Low numbers for year five

If this school cannot progress past year 8 then closure is the only option. I was disappointed to hear that Barnfield had withdrawn, because this was the reason I chose the school.

Management of the school has let it down in recent years. Barnfield pulling out of the academy conversion was the last straw. The head mistress doesn't listen to parents and my child has been bullied. It is my view that the school should shut.

Not enough money or students to make the school viable. The children there will not get the best education due to low numbers which equals less money.

numbers have been falling for years, children leaving to start at other middle schools, and could sell land easier than other middle schools, merge with another

Poor achieving school; not many children going there.

The building is falling apart and there are not many children attending. A current parent told me that the school is useless and the teachers unprofessional and he is planning to move his son out.

The council should stick to what they have decided. There is a small number of people who are completely trying to bully the rest of us into agreeing to what they want. I want a two tier system and am happy that my grandchildren will be in that system. I want you as a council to take the decision and stick to it. Dithering is not going to help and it seems that you are doing this. These people are causing so much trouble and costing money that could be used in our children's education. They are running down schools such as Lancot which is a really good school and it is completely unjustified and they should not be allowed to do so. It is these people who are driving other sane parents to send their children out of Dunstable for their education. They are spewing out statistics that are meaningless and ruining meetings by their rudeness. I for one do not want my grandchildren to have to school with these people's children as one can only imagine what they must be like, if the parents are anything to go by. I watched the Ashton meeting on Youtube and it was appalling how they could talk such utter rubbish and not be put right by the council. You really need to stick up for your plans and remember that these insurgents are a few against the majority of us who want a two tier system but are frightened of actually voicing this for fear of being abused by these foul mouthed haridans.

The newly published achievements of Brewers on the Ofsted Dashboard clearly show that Brewers is not performing very well. I resent paying into a tax system for a school which is not particularly good.

The school does not have many pupils. The largest class size is 18.

The school system in Bedfordshire needs to be in line with key stages and the same as everywhere else in the country.

When my child joined the school it was a good one but it has gone downhill and my child is now miserable with few friends. The head teacher has not helped.

Use of valuable resources financially on keeping running a school with falling numbers.

We need affordable housing in the town – this land would be perfect for houses.

Yes, i agree because the school has been mismanaged by the previous and current leadership team/headteacher(s). Noone wants to send their children there and the building is falling down. Quite frankly the school is a joke and an embarrassment.

Yes, i agree with the proposal. I live near the school & i have seen the number of children get less & less over the years. I am not sure that such a large building can be kept going with only a handful of children. The building is old and seems to be falling down. Could there be asbestos in it, if there is then it is dangerous for the children.

Because I don't like the school, it doesn't do what it's meant to

I fully support Ashton Middle School's fight to stay open therefore I 100% agree with the council's suggestion that Brewers Hill school is closed. My child did not like when we went around for the intake taster day. I found it very worrying that not many children had signed up to the school. I believe that although the council have handled the change very badly; three middle schools cannot be sustained.

Neither agree nor disagree	<p>We get no help for the travel of our children, and they sometimes miss school because of my back problem. So it doesn't bother us whether the school closes or not.</p> <p>I'm not bothered because I am in middle school in year 7 so it would affect me</p> <p>I am neither for or against the proposal - although I would prefer it was kept open as I see no reason otherwise.</p>
Disagree	<p>A good school with excellent facilities and Ofsted report</p> <p>Because BHMS is a very good school and we get a good education here. Also we enjoy it here.</p> <p>Because everyone is really nice. The teachers help you if you are stuck.</p> <p>Because I think its dreadful how our lovely middle schools have been discarded in Central Bedfordshire back door approach to these changes. Brewers Hill has been bought back from a low achieving school to a good school where the pupils and staff enjoy their days.</p> <p>Because it is an amazing school which send pupils to secondary school with an outstanding education</p> <p>Because the school does not tolerate bullying and stuff. We like that as many of the other schools I have been to do not do anything about it.</p> <p>Because this is a very good school. We all enjoy coming to school. We also get a good education.</p> <p>Because this school is a special school because I have made lots of friends quicker than my other two schools I've been too plus by 2 uncles, my mum and aunty went to this school and they also love it.</p> <p>BHMS is a brilliant school and I love it here but loads of people are leaving so it is making the school getting closer to closing</p> <p>BHMS is a caring environment. I have been at BHMS for a 3 years and have liked every minute of it.</p> <p>BHMS is a fantastic school. It is a safe learning environment and all the teachers are fantastic. It really would be a shame for it to close.</p> <p>BHMS is a good school and you get a good education</p> <p>BHMS is a good school and there are good teachers here</p> <p>BHMS is a good school that deserves to stay open as we have a good attendance rate, brilliant behaviour and fantastic learning standards, which makes every child welcome</p> <p>BHMS is a good school. Even with the Ofsted report I'm currently struggling with the idea of closing a good school and finding a satisfactory or failing school for my child. My child enjoys her studies in BHNS and her progress is obvious and steady. She happy in her current school and I dont believe this should chsnge due to a political agenda. Lets put the children first. After all, thats the most important thing, isnt it?</p> <p>BHMS is a very good school. I have very good teachers. If the school shuts down there wont be a local good school for children to go to.</p> <p>BHMS is an Ofsted graded good school. Teachers and other staff are friendly, caring, very supportive and experienced in what they do. The pupils are their number one priority, always. Children should not be forced to stay at primary schools that are not ready nor sent to secondary schools that are under achieving. They deserve a good education.</p> <p>BHMS is one of the best schools in the area and BHMS has helped me a lot with my maths, spelling and other subjects. If you close middle schools down kids would go from lower to upper school which is a huge change. In BHMS the teachers know who you are. If pupils from middle schools go to upper school the number of pupils in upper schools will increase and teachers will find it harder to get to know the pupils</p>

BHMS is rated one of the best schools in the Dunstable area and I really like the teachers and the education here. I don't want to move to All Saints or Queensbury in year 7, I'm completely against the 2 tier system. I want to stay at BHMS and also in primary schools you're not being treated to prepare for Stats and other important tests. In academies the year 7 pupils could be influenced badly by the 18 year olds in 6th form. Young pupils could also be bullied. Inability to cope and to do work independently. Sudden change of discipline. Children may not enjoy the 2 tier system. Worst facilities.

BHMS is the best school ever and I'm glad I went here and I'm not glad that they are trying to scare all pupils away and it's not working

BHMS is the best school I have ever gone to. I am not speaking what the teachers want me to, I am speaking the truth. I am speaking what I want to speak about and that is why I love this middle school, it's one of a kind.

BHMS is the best school in the area and even if I go to upper school my brother would have the best education. It's the worst decision to make it 2 tier, it's a big jump from lower to upper school and you go from a baby/not independent to a adult/independent so it could result in bullying and children's inability to cope with learning independently.

BHMS is the best school in the area. My little brother likes it here and wants to stay for the four years. I also have 3 siblings that could come here for a middle school.

BHMS is the only good school in the area. Great location in the community. Lower schools don't give you any responsibility, so you would go from no responsibility to a lot. You would go from being the oldest, then you're the youngest at a school where the kids are 16 years old. Inability to cope with learning independently.

BHMS is wonderful. There are clubs every lunchtime to stop bullying. I really care about this school and at the end of the day the education counts and it is so fantastic here.

BHMS should not be closed. It provides excellent education to all its pupils and the children love to be a part of the school. The children always look smart in their uniforms. My own children have all grown up now but attended BHMS. The education they received there helped to get into the successful jobs that they are in now. Without BHMS they would not be where they are today and it would be a shame to get rid of that opportunity of other children who might want to attend BHMS in the future.

BREWER'S HILL SCHOOL IS IMPROVING ALL THE TIME - AS THEIR GOOD OFSTED RATING PROVES. THEY ARE THE ONLY MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH THE GOOD OFSTED RATING IN DUNSTABLE. IF THE COUNCIL ARE AIMING TO DRIVE UP EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS THEN WHY CLOSE THIS BEST RATED SCHOOL? IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. THE COUNCIL ARE PUTTING MONEY BEFORE THE EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN. THE LOWER SCHOOLS THAT ARE GOING PRIMARY SIMPLY DO NOT HAVE THE FACILITIES, SPACE AND SPECIALIST TEACHING EXPERTISE THAT OUR CHILDREN CURRENTLY GET AT BREWERS HILL.

Brewers Hill has a "good" Ofsted report and has always given a very high standard of Education. The school and its teachers all engage with each child as an individual and this allows the child to feel safe and work well with an outstanding support network. The numbers quoted on the children who will attend the school are not accurate and the uncertainty of the schools in Dunstable have all had an affect on Brewers Hill. This school has amazing facilities and is why I have chosen to take my son out of a new Primary school that has no facilities for PE or science and will not allow my child to move into his next stage of development. I hope it is taken into account that although my son's school has been allowed to become a primary the number of parents who have chosen to stay is less than 15....my son will be able to naturally grow in character at Brewers Hill with the exceptional staff and amazing teaching abilities. There are male staff which is lacking in the lower/Primary school and my son needs this as he is very nervous and the male teachers will help him to feel safe and enjoy learning new things. I my Daughter and now my son have all attended Brewers Hill as this is a huge part of Dunstable and can only grow in its teaching and offer so much more if allowed to remain OPEN. I feel that my right to choice has been taken away and that if Brewers Hill is allowed to close then the children will suffer in both the Education supplied in the new Primary's, also that you are holding them back when they are clearly growing up and need to be pushed harder to learn new things. Brewers Hill is the only option for me as my son has been saying for a number of months that he is bored and repeating things they have already done. He is a very sporty child and there is so much more for him at Brewers Hill that is not offered and never will be offered by the Primary schools (as the Primary Head confirmed to us back in November) Brewers Hill must be allowed to remain open so that my child and many others can be allowed to see just what an amazing school this is.

Brewers Hill has an Ofsted graded GOOD. A large school is needed at that end of town.

Brewers Hill is a good school but they have their moments.

Brewers Hill is a very good school. Since attending the my son has excelled. The small classes and dedicated teaching staff are vital to ensure the best education for our children. If the council are committed to improving education for our children then they must keep Brewers Hill open. Why force children to remain in the new primary schools which are not experienced or in fact equipped to deal with yr 5 & 6 curriculum.

Brewers Hill is a wonderful school. Ofsted has graded it good. Why should you close down a school which has teachers who care about a child and want them to learn. I think the closure of middle schools is a ridiculous idea and it should be stopped.

Brewers Hill is now the best middle school in our catchment area and we would like our children to go there when they are old enough to.

Brewers Hill is one of only two Ofsted rated 'good' secondary schools in Dunstable. By closing Brewers Hill, you will be depriving the children in this area of a good education. Parental choice is being eroded. Why should parents have to send their children to secondary schools under notice to improve? I certainly wouldn't want to. My children attended Brewers Hill some 12 years ago and left here having made excellent progress and both went on to achieve degrees and now work in professional environments. Priory, having converted to a secondary provision have severe limits for expansion, being sited in the middle of residential property. As the only other good secondary provision, how will they deal with the inevitable growing demand for places? Brewers Hill was built as a secondary school and still retains its excellent facilities, which are second to none. Children attending Brewers Hill receive specialist teaching from Y5 upwards, something which will not be available at a primary school nor indeed at one of the local secondary schools, which states that it will offer year 7 pupils a primary education rather than specialist teaching. Surely this isn't beneficial to the children as they will be going backwards, not forwards. The staff at Brewers Hill are passionate about the provision of a good education for all and 'achievement for all' and the provision is not restricted to school hours as there are numerous after school clubs and lunch time clubs which are well attended and enjoyed by the children. Brewers Hill has such a lot to offer children but sadly this is not recognised by the Council. It is all about money and not the children.

Brewers Hill is one of the few schools in Dunstable which is rated as 'Good' by Ofsted. It has small class sizes and excellent teaching. Is the aim to fill each school to capacity? This does not make any sense! It will mean the children find it harder to be heard. If the aim of the authority is to provide a holistic experience in a school with good teaching, then Brewers Hill should remain open, in line with their recently published consultation document.

Brewers Hill is the best. If you want to close the school you are not right. If we go back to lower school we won't learn as much and not much fun.

Brewers Hill Middle School has an Ofsted graded 'Good'. I know Ofsted reports are not being taken into consideration, but they should be, otherwise what is the point of Ofsted. Parents are having their rights taken away and being told to send their children to a school that is failing or requires improvement. Why should parents/pupils settle for that option. Dunstable needs a large school at that end of town. The traffic in Dunstable is horrendous, as you may well know, if you don't Google it. The LAST thing Dunstable needs is more traffic being forced onto the main road in rush hours, because someone made the wrong decision.

Brewers Hill Middle School is a good school. This has been recognised by Cllr Versallion quoted in the local paper this week... 'the council ensures all children and young people have access to high quality schools'. And yet the council what to close a good schools and are urging us to send out children to one of the failing upper schools in the town. This is mad. This is not how to offer pupils high quality education - surely that is obvious. High quality education is not going to be achieved in Dunstable by closing good schools and expanding failing schools.

Brewers Hill Middle school provides a GOOD education for my child, it has a HOLISTIC approach and is suitable for all. It provides specialised teaching in properly equipped classrooms. The school provides for the North Dunstable community and is in walking distance for many children including my own. This has a positive affect on the traffic congestion through Dunstable at key travel times. Should the school close, not only would my family add to the traffic chaos through town to reach an alternative school, but my child's new found INDEPENDANCE would be LOST. I believe the reduction in applications has resulted in the age range changes in other schools, that have lead to a complacency in parents, believing it is easier to 'leave their child where it is'. Had Brewers Hill NOT been in PUBLIC threat of closure more parents would have looked at the school as an alternative option for their child, however they have NOT been encouraged to take advantage of the avai lable choices, in fact they have been encouraged (by CBC) to move their children out of Brewers Hill.

Brewers Hill provides a good education for 9 to 13 .In previous years it has also been identified as one of the top 100 improved schools in the country. Other Middle schools and Upper Schools in the area have been graded by OFSTED as needing improvement. Parental choice of sending their child to a good school would be removed. The Lower Schools cannot offer the range of specialist staff or resources. Provision for sports at Brewers is very good. Small class sizes enables staff to provide for individual children's needs. All staff know every child in the school. Many parents do not wish their children to mix with the older children at 11 but also feel that they have outgrown the Lower school at 9. Children who go through Middle school become very self confident and make above average progress.

brewers hill school has always been a great school and closeing another school would just be un acceptable a totally crazy idea

Children get education and you learn different things every day. The school should stay open so kids can come here and get educated and when you finished all the years and your upper school years as well and go to college you can get an job that you enjoy.

Closing BHMS isn't in the bset interest of the pupils or their families. The time I spent at BHMS was excellent, the quality of teaching was and still is the best I have had. The school is continuing to grow and go from strength to strength and closing a school that is good is just silly.

Don't close a good school down. We certainly do not want a housing estate to be built behind us, it will spoil the environment

Educationally, Brewers Hill has come on by a long shot. My eldest son attended Streetfield. Brewers Hill knocks spots off Streetfield. I feel this school should stay, because otherwise, there would be no other school in that side of town that could cater for the children. Surely, having an Ofsted rating of 'Good' is a massive reason to keep this school open.

everyone loves BHMS. If it closes, people would move out of town to find another school.

Good school, good education, great environment

Good school, serves a wide community. Good grading by Ofsted

Good school. great potential to change format and keep open

Great school!

Having had both my own children attend Brewers Hill in the past, I have seen the school go from strength to strength, through the hard work and dedication of the staff, pupils and parents. In fact, my children both say that the happiest days of their school lives were at Brewers Hill! It seems ludicrous to close a school, which has massive potential for development in terms of expansion to incorporate further classrooms and other facilities in an area of Dunstable which has been earmarked for further housing development. I cannot see how all these children can be accommodated in other schools, should Brewers Hill close.

I am upset by the proposal. The school is excellent; it has gone from strength to strength. The school builds confidence. I was head girl and spoke in front of the school. The school wants its pupils to have an active role in running the school. The lessons are interactive and fun. I regularly revisit Brewers for open evenings and it's lovely to see how the school has improved over the years. This is a 'good' Ofsted rated school. I have wonderful memories of my time here. It has really prepared me well for further academic achievement. The teachers and staff are very good. Closing the school is not in the best interests of the children, as the school is continually growing.

I came from another school because of behaviour and this school has turned me around.

I disagree because Brewers Hill is a clean school

I disagree because it has been rated by OFSTED as a good school when others in the area who are being kept open have failed or need to improve It has very good facilities in science where as other schools are sorely lacking

I disagree because its lots of fun at BHMS.

I disagree with this proposal because I have great memories of attending the school, and came away with a wonderful education.

I disagree with this proposal because the teaching is good. The progress of the children in maths and English is good in ALL years. SEN pupils make good progress at this school. Children feel safe, behave well and enjoy school. The teachers work hard to help children reach their full potential. There are a lot of extra-curricular clubs, and this prevents bullying.

I disagree with this proposal because this is a 'good' Ofsted rated school. My child has improved a lot since being at this school. My son would not benefit from the school being closed, even temporarily.

I disagree. Even though I'm moving schools I dont want this school to close whether they have the facilities or not. This school is a wonderful school, they have worked really hard to teach us. Why are you now working hard to close this school, its ridiculous. Please don't close us down. I couldn't bare playing out and seeing a sign saying Closed. It would braak my heart. What about the teachers, what if you were them and you lost your job.

I don't really want to chose because I like the school but its a bit hard on year 6 and 5 because we get detentions really easily.

I don't want it to shut down because it is a good school. And I also agree because it is quite a small school compared to the others.

I had a great time at BHMS and it made me not to change schools

I have had an excellent education and standards for our level are above average because we can achieve more. I have younger brothers that I'd convince to come to BHMS this is because I think that BHMS provides a unique education.

I have only been attending the school a short time and I believe that I have learnt so much in that short time. I do not see why it needs to close.

I like this school. If it closed down I would have to go to All Saints and Im not ready for that yet so please dont close BHMS

I live very close to the school. My children are happy to walk to school. The school has taught my children well, both academically and morally. I am happy with the services given to parents.

I love this school. I don't want this school to close because we get a great education and fun learning. If it wasn't fun I wouldn't learn. Our teachers plan great lessons for us. It is a bright and cheerful school. Please don't shut it down, whoever is trying, because you basically make all the parents pay extra money for petrol just so their children can go to school. I don't think anyone would want to travel all that way. This school is awesome as well as the other schools.

I strongly disagree with the closure of this school, my children are happy there. I am pleased with their progress.

I strongly disagree with the proposal to close Brewers Hill Middle School because this is a school which for a number of years has been providing a great breadth of education, pastoral care and extra curricular activities on a small budget and has successfully done this because it has a extremely dedicated, caring and professional team who are committed to providing a excellent education and fantastic care to all pupils. Its OFSTED grade of 'GOOD' shows it is providing a better key stage 3 education than all the upper/secondary's in town who are graded 'NEED TO IMPROVE'! Brewers Hill has had approximately six months less time to prepare a proposal to become a academy as it was involved in the Barnfield fiasco and is thus at a disadvantage compared to the other middle schools who are applying to change their age ranges. The parents of school age children in Dunstable were given the opportunity to vote for whether they wanted a two tier school system in 2007/8. Overwhelmingly parents voted 'NO' they did not want it and for the council to then ignore that vote by saying that decision was taken when the council was called South Beds District Council and now that they are called Central Beds they can ignore that decision is outrageous! Brewers Hill provides small class sizes which means that children get more attention and any issues are noticed and dealt with quickly. It has a village atmosphere where all members of staff, teaching and non teaching, know each child which benefits them greatly. It has a open house policy where anyone can visit at any time without appointment because it has nothing to hide. It is a genuinely great school with well behaved students and helpful welcoming staff and anybody at any time can see this for themselves! Most other schools do not like visits without appointment as they like time to get their house in order before you visit! I have no desire for my child to prematurely leave Brewers Hill to go to one of the secondary's in town as they are all quickly going to become very large schools with the atmosphere of cities where there are so many students each child becomes anonymous to staff, issues are ignored or missed because staff don't have the time to deal with them and your child becomes just another pound sign on a spreadsheet!! THIS IS NOT WHAT I WANT FOR MY CHILDREN OR COMMUNITY! I want a school that educates cares and encourages my child as a whole, as a individual and is not just interested in exam results. This is what I have for my child at Brewers Hill, why on earth would I want this oasis of a school to close and deny my child a learning experience that usually only those at private school are privileged to experience?!

I thin that BHMS is a good school and gives plenty of good learning opportunities.

I think it is very important to give my daughter and the other pupils at Brewers Hill the chance to continue the excellent experience they are having there. My daughter is doing very well and improving constantly. The teaching staff at Brewers Hill are all very enthusiastic in keeping and raising standards at the school. The pupils I have been in contact with are always very smart and seem well mannered and polite. The area surrounding Brewers Hill is set for development and i think future residents should be given the choice of a good local school for their children.

I THINK THAT THE SCHOOL SHOULD REMAIN OPEN AS IT HAS GOT A VERY HIGH STANDARD OF EDUCATION.I HAVE GOT GRANDCHILDREN AT THIS SCHOOL AND THEY HAVE ALL RECEIVED A VERY GOOD LEVEL OF EDUCATION AND THE SCHOOL HAS A LOT TO OFFER TO THE PUPILS. THE COUNCIL ALSO NEED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ALL THE EMPLOYEES THAT WORK THERE THE PRESSURE THEY ARE GOING TO PUT ON THEM PEOPLE ON FINDING OTHER EMPLOYMENT AND ALSO THE PRESSURE THEY ARE GOING TO BE PUTTING ON PARENTS FINDING OTHER SCHOOLS TO PUT THERE CHILDREN INTO.I HAVE LIVED IN THE SAME STREET AS THE SCHOOL IS IN FOR THE LAST 32YRS AND MY OWN CHILDREN WENT TO THIS SCHOOL AND GOT A VERY GOOD EDUCATION BACK THEN.IT IS SO NICE TO LOOK OUT THE DOOR AND SEE SO MANY HAPPY CHILDREN GOING TO THE SCHOOL EVERYDAY.

I thought that Central Bedfordshire Council wanted to improve education. This school has a 'good' Ofsted rating. Why would you close this school and cause our children to have to attend a less than 'good' school?

i totally disagree. i disagree with this as brewers hill has a very good level of education. the school is part of the dunstable community and as been there for at least 60years my dad went to the school me and my 9 siblings went to the school now my children go to the school also my nephews attend brewers hill too. there has been a lot of money spent on the school for the children to have a great education. if you close the school not only will you be upsetting the childrens education there will be a lot of adults out of employment. my daughter is due to go to brewers hill in september 2014 and if you close the school she would have to go to secondary school with young adults which i totally disagree with having my young children mixing with young adults. i think you should consider what the children want. as a single working full time parent you would be putting more pressure on myself being able to get my children to school and back with having to also think about getti ng to and from work on time. i think this is a very very stupid proposal and it should of never even come to mind.

I want BHMS to stay open, I went to this school when I was little and want my children to go there. It is a good school and my son loves it. I dont want my son to change schools, it will muck him around as he has just settle in. With all of the palava with the uniforms when he started in year 5 it would mean buying a third uniform. BHMS is also close to my younger childrens school Lancot so I can easily get them all on school for time.

I want Brewers Hill to stay open because I like the school. It has an enjoyable environment, it is fun and the teachers are always willing to help. My favourite subjects are Science, English, Maths and Drama. I like the school because the food is delicious and I like the after school club with Mrs. Fitzjon and drama club with Mr. Swain! Please keep my school open!

I was hoping for my children to go to that school. After their time at Beecroft.

I went to Brewers Hill and enjoyed it thoroughly, the education I received there was the best I could have asked for. I am now training to be an aircraft engineer currently working at Heathrow.

i went to the school and loved it there so i would my son to go there.

I've heard that in a lot of schools there is bullying, well this school does have bullying but not a lot.

In BHMS they do things step by step. They help us to get raedy for our SATs/GCSE. We dont get detention for beimg late, they ask us why we are late. I also like that we have different teachers for subjects.

It is a good school and has been open for 30 years but teachers treat year 8 like year 5 when they shouldnt.

It is a good school and its hard to find really good school

It is a good school and the teachers are kind.

It is a hardworking school. Why close a good school? It doesn't deserve to shut.

It is a high achieving school. Pupils do well in GCSEs and other tests. It has good support staff for the children with special needs.

It is one of the best schools in the area and if your in year 6 they prepare you for SATs alot.

It is one of the best schools in the community and it gives year 4 pupils a comfortable transition before they reach year 9. BHMS is a kind, nurturing place for children to be themselves in a respectable way. The teachers encourage education so well. I dont think it is fair to close it down. Also if young children are mixed in with older children it could result to bullying which isn't good for anyone. Also why is the government closing such a brilliant school when there are so many other bad schools that should be closed. Take that into mind.

It is such a wonderful there are clubs every lunch-time to stop bullying. I really care about this school and at the end of the day the education counts and it is soo fantastic.

It might lead to more bullying and if you stay on at school they get dependant on the teacher and can not do anything for themselves. My school helps me cope with my ADHD.

Its hard because its a good middle school. You might be able to close other schools but to let you know how good its is - its a good school.

Lots of pupils go to the school. Also because it will be a shame for the parents, pupils and teachers loosing this wonderful school.

My child has been attending Brewers Hill for 2 years, and she loves it! The class sizes are good and the after school clubs are second to none. Schooling should not be about numbers, and schools should be more than just little blips on the council's radar. It should be about improving Dunstable. If you close the school now, we are likely to have a shortage of spaces in a few years time, due to new housing developments.

My child is currently attending and is happy there. She is progressing well under the current teaching staff

My children did well at this school

My daughter has been the victim of bullying for a very long period of time. The bully wants to attend Brewers Hill my daughter will attend an alternative. If Brewers Shuts the bully wants to be where my daughter will be. So please keep it open so my daughter can have her life back!!!!

My daughters have only been at the school since September 2013 and their academic ability has increased dramatically. This school provides the right level of teaching, and the teachers are committed to supporting the pupils. I want my children to continue their education at Brewers.

My son is currently in year 5 and has thrived here especially in Maths, English and Science. He loves his PE lessons. He has become very independent, he loves the fact he can walk to and from school. The classes here are a good size. The teachers are young and enthusiastic. He loves Brewers Hill and being the only school this end of town I can't see how it can close!!!!

my younger daughter has children waiting to go Brewers Hill and all her friends are going there. Please don't close such a good school

pls it very good school. don't close it down :(pls.

This school is the best in Dunstable and the teachers are the best teachers in the world. The education is great.

The children need a stable, reliable environment. They need good teachers and a good education. We can provide that and more.

The location is ideal. The children are better educated. The staff are polite.

The school has a good reputation. This is a 'good' Ofsted rated school. My child has improved a lot since being at this school. The school provides extra lessons, which really help. This school should be allowed to continue to improve. I would recommend this school.

The school has been around a long time, my children went there and all done well. I live backing on to the field and can watch the children do their sports. I don't want it knocked down and houses built.

The school is an Ofsted good school, which many schools round here cannot say, with hard working, kind and enthusiastic staff and children. The closure seems short sighted. If all the middle schools close there will be fewer places and choice for parents. As the town grows more schools will need to be built and this seems like a waste of tax payers money. The proof of the quality of BHMS is that very few pupils in year 6 are leaving for upper school. Its because parents and children know that BHMS is a good school.

The school is Ofsted rated good. The school that my child currently attends doesn't have the room or the facilities to properly educate the children into years 5 and 6. The staff and pupil relationships are excellent. The school has the pupils best interests at heart.

The school is the best I have ever been to and I will not leave the area to go to school.

There are no good quality alternative schools.

There has been a school there for many years, I was a pupil there many years ago as were my children and now my grandchildren. Why change something that isn't broken the children I have spoken to are upset at the thought of having to move school its a big upheaval for them at such an important time in their lives and what for. More houses to be built

There is no bullying at Brewers like in other schools

This is a 'good' Ofsted rated school. There are not many schools in Dunstable which could offer my child a good standard of education. Dunstable cannot afford to lose a school with all the essential elements of a good education in place.

This is a good school so it would be unfair if the school does close down because no one in the future would get a schooling opportunity at BHMS.

This is a great school and I'm comfortable here

This is an excellent school. I like that this is a middle school. Lower class numbers are proven to give better results. My children went here and achieved great results. Why close a school which has excellent staff and a 'good' Ofsted rating? A three tier system has always worked well. A two tier system would be overcrowded. We want the option of a three tier system in Dunstable, and we are upset about the move to two tier.

This is being done too quickly and will disturb the education of current pupils particularly those who currently should have another year in the school. This school has done wonders for my grandchild in its first year there.

This school has a 'good' Ofsted rating, so it seems a pity to close it. If the school closes, the children will have to go to bigger classes, meaning less help for the children that need it. Also, why close it when you will only have to build new schools? These children chose the school they wished to go to, and now they will have to go elsewhere. I hope that this does not happen.

This school has a 'good' Ofsted rating. The alternatives are not good enough. The other schools lack the facilities that will give my child a good education. There are more houses being built which will lead to more pupils. Sending children to other schools will increase the traffic on the roads. I don't understand how a school which has more first choice applicants can be said to have a decrease in numbers. Priory is oversubscribed and cannot be offered as a realistic alternative. Barnfield Vale is not a good alternative because it is part of the Barnfield federation, which is being investigated for fraud by the police. Both alternative schools are a car journey away. I don't believe that 250 new homes will only produce 8 children per year. This is an odd way of deciding what type of people are going to buy these houses. In my street, we have 3 children in year 5, 4 children in year 4, 2 children in year 7 and at least 4 or 5 younger children, plus expectant mothers. This is in a street of only 32 homes. Parental choice is being taken away. Central Bedfordshire Council should have controlled this better. They should not have allowed the age range changes to go through. The other schools lack the facilities that will give my child a good education.

This school is a special school because I have made lots of friends quicker than my other 2 schools. My 2 uncles, my mum and aunty went to this school and they also loved it.

This school is excellent. I have never experienced either before or since my post here a school which genuinely cares both about the academic and pastoral side of the child's well being more genuinely. This is a school who takes children who are below the national average and gets them above the national average - very few schools in this country in this time can say that with an OFSTED report which backs it up. Every child is cared about in terms of both their emotional and social welfare and this school does everything it can to make sure that as well as making the educational progress, there is a happy child who is well prepared to move onwards in their lives.

This school provides a nurturing environment for all children to thrive in and develop their individual skills. A school with the facilities and more importantly staff to instill good learning, manners and the development of child to young adult for all pupils, why close a school that has functional science labs, DT rooms which provides the learning opportunities for all KS2 pupils (obviously KS3). The newly extended schools lack space and Health & safety assured classrooms, fit for purpose for pupils to cook, conduct experiments, etc. Our school already has this and the good staff to teach the curriculum.

This school should stay open. If Ofsted are happy with the way the school is performing, keep it open

VHMS is Ofsted graded good. It is the only middle school in Dunstable graded good. It is the only school, other than Priory Academy, which is offering a good standard of education to pupils in year 7 and 8. Closing BHMS forces parents of pupils in 7 and 8 to have to send their children to one of three that requires improvement upper / secondary school two years earlier than at present. The three secondary/upper schools require improvement. Expansion, developing years and curriculums which they do not have experience of is only going to hinder any moves towards improvement they may be making.

We are one of the only schools in Dunstable graded good by OFSTED. Why close a good school? Dunstable is a growing community that will need school places. Our resources are brilliant including a fully functioning cooking room, textile room with sewing machines, music room, stage used for many amazing productions, a brilliant ICT suite with access to 3 sets of class laptops and iPads! The staff at Brewers Hill are kind, compassionate and passionate. I personally have never worked with a group of colleagues that are so committed to providing education for the whole child, who care about their day to day well being as well as the grades. I truly believe Brewers Hill is a place that cannot be lost, it would be a huge detriment to the local community.

We have been graded good by Ofsted and this school is full of education and lots of fun

With most local schools failing to meet Ofsted's requirements, BHMS stands out with its recent good Ofsted inspection and should be leading the way forward, not to be closed, further reducing education levels in the local area

You learn a lot in your lessons and it's a safe cool environment

All of the teachers care for our learning and some support you after something upsetting has happened. (Like my Uncle has cancer, Mr Swain supported me throughout that issue). Our learning is important and the teachers take that as a second, our number one is to be happy! That way we can get on with our education!

All of the teachers care for our learning and some support you after something upsetting has happened. Our learning is important and the teachers take that as a second. Our number one is to be happy. That way we can get on with our education.

All the teachers are nice, no one bullies anyone, everyone is nice.

All the teachers are nice. No one bullies anyone. Everyone is nice

At BHMS the teachers help with any problem from bullies helping people work. Children with problems and with ADHD get helped so well which is just one of the many reasons that BHMS is one of the best

Because I like the school but in travel wise I am more closer to the 2 tier system - I am closer to All Saints. I think you should do something for the teachers, lots of people will lose their jobs.

Because I love the teachers and they teach really good.

Because the teachers are nice. Teachers help you, you have more than are teacher.

Because we have very good teachers and we only have 20 people and the teacher spends more time with you.

Dunstable needs a good school with small classes. This school has excellent staff. This school provides a caring environment. This school celebrates children of all abilities and would do well to become a vocational school. It is the only school I am willing to send my child to, and to think of closing it is a disgrace

Everyone is really nice. The teachers help you if you are stuck.

Friendly teachers and good education and when you're in trouble they're always there for you and really nice friends. I really like the lessons and they're really fun.

From what I have seen so far, Brewers Hill is a very good school who cares about its children. This is why I chose to send my son here. Having used the three tier system myself when going through school, I know what a wonderful system it is and feel that it would be a disaster to change it. If you close down 3 schools, how will you have room in others for all these hundreds of children? Classes will be larger and their education will suffer as a result! I DO NOT support this new system on any level and I will leave the area and take my child to school elsewhere if this decision is forced upon us. Nobody wants this, it is plain to see from the meetings that I attended.

I am happy here, and I like the teachers. I don't want to go to All Saints early, keep it open!

I do not want my child to make a departure from this school. My children attend from the travelling community, where even learning to read and write is difficult, and they have achieved that and so much more. I would recommend this school to everyone. The teachers are attentive and understand the travelling community well.

I have worked in many schools in the area and in other counties and thought Brewers Hill School was one of the best. The staff provide a disciplined and structured but happy environment for the children to learn and develop. I worked closely with the learning support team who were dedicated and passionate about their learners. I think it would be a great loss to the area if the school were to close.

I like BHMS - the lessons are brilliant. They really educate us. The teachers are kind and helpful. There are different teacher for each lesson.

I like Brewers Hill Middle School because the lessons are brilliant, they're not just 1 think then the next lesson. They really educate us. The teachers aren't mean, they are kind and helpful. There are different teachers for each lesson.

I love the teachers, they teach really well.

It's a really good school, the staff are fantastic! Myself and all my family have attended this School and have all enjoyed our time here my daughter has looked around Schools in Dunstable and is really looking forward to joining in September! My concern is also if you shut this School down there will not be enough places left in the other Schools or there will be over crowding in the classrooms and children will not receive the Education they deserve.

Its a good school, the teachers are nice, and theres good education

My children have progressed well at this school. The teachers and staff are very good.

My children have progressed well at this school. The teachers and staff are very good. It is part of the community. I would be saddened by a closure. How will it effect the children's friendships?

My wife (Mrs Watson)works at Brewers Hill. She loves her job, she enjoys going to her place of work to teach the wonderful pupils who attend this school. She is dedicated to providing the education that is needed to each and every pupil at their level and to their personal needs. She works so hard to provide this to them. I am so proud of her. She is just one of a number of teachers who provide the same. Teachers of this calibre should be enabled to provide the education that is needed by these pupils.

Really fun, nice teachers , good school uniform comfortable.

Really nice teachers and a comfortable school uniform

The reason not to is becaues the school has quality staff that teach kind pupils and they got everything that a child needs for their education.

The teachers are friendly and good education. When your in trouble they are always there for you. Really nice friends. I really like the lessons and they are really fun.

The teachers are nice and they help you.

The teachers, not many fights.

The teachers. not many fight.

This school has fun lessons and the teachers are so kind.

We have very good teachers. We only have 20 people and the teacher spends more time with you.

This school has fun lessons and the teachers are so kind.

2 tier is too old. What will you do with the land if it is knocked down? What will you do with the building, if it is not knocked down? Lovely place to be.

As a parent of a children at Brewers Hill and Lancot School I would like to voice my grave concerns about their educational futures. You say that the move to a 2 tier system is what the parents of Dunstable want but if that really was the case then why are so many of them attending the public meetings and voicing their objections to your plans to close these schools! Apparently these proposals are going to drive up educational standards within Dunstable, but how can that be when what you are doing is forcing parents to keep their children at lower schools which are changing to primary schools where there is not enough space, specialist teaching areas and specialist teachers? I put this question to the panel at the public meeting but no reply was forthcoming (Surprise surprise!) This move just smacks of CBC's total disregard of our children's education as they are more interested in money than the children. The cynic in me thinks that CBC just want th e land for building to increase their coffers. The new housing that is being built in French's Avenue will no doubt increase pupil numbers for the local schools, in fact I believe that CBC wanted All Saints to extend their buildings to accommodate an increase in pupil numbers resulting from new housing in the local area. If that is the case then obviously there will be a need for YR 7 & 8 places so why not keep those places at Brewers Hill? My eldest child has excelled whilst being at Brewers Hill and part of that is due to the small classes that they have (20 children). Unfortunately my youngest has 31 in the lower school so surely any parent would favour the smaller classes and the option to send them to Brewers from Year 5! Let's also not forget that Brewers has a 'good' Ofsted rating whilst the other schools under the threat of closure don't. I believe the experience that middle schools give are a good grounding for the eventual move to upper/secondary schools. The experience of having specialist teaching areas is more akin to upper schools whereas the lowers that are going primary do not have these facilities and the move from that type of environment to a secondary school environment would be a big culture shock for our children. In fact I have friends with children educated in the 2 tier system in a neighbouring county. They are in the same school year as my eldest child yet they haven't experienced or learnt half the things that they have which calls into question again how is the closure of middle schools going to drive up educational standards?

In the 2 tier the lower school are treated like babies but then you go to the upper, you can't do anything on your own, so your useless. The education is always perfect for my liking. I love teachers, they are strict but always supportive of my opinion. There is bullying but we work it out. No experiments in primary schools then when SATs come you haven't experienced the experiment.

It is important to have a steppingstone between lower and upper school. Some children need extra nurturing in a calm environment before moving on. Parents are more involved at the middle school level.

It was agreed in 2006 to stay 3 tier. Leave our Dunstable schools alone.

It would be a shame to close the school. We want the option of a three tier system in Dunstable, and we are upset about the move to two tier. Why change something that is working? Parental choice is being taken away. This is a 'good' Ofsted rated school. I don't want to send my children to a school that is not as good.

Middle Schools were made to separate the ages . If this school is closed, pupuls will fight back.

My grndchild has to go from a junior to what I call a senior school - with no cushion in between. That is we we need a middle school

Prepares for upper school and separates the childish kids from the teenagers, who are bullies.

There is a lot of uncertainty as to when the school will close. If it does, I don't want my young child to be mixing with teenagers. He is not emotionally ready, and it would be best if he could stay until 14.

They are ready to move on at 8 years old but not to the really older children school

As a parent of a children at Brewers Hill and Lancot School I would like to voice my grave concerns about their educational futures. You say that the move to a 2 tier system is what the parents of Dunstable want but if that really was the case then why are so many of them attending the public meetings and voicing their objections to your plans to close these schools! Apparently these proposals are going to drive up educational standards within Dunstable, but how can that be when what you are doing is forcing parents to keep their children at lower schools which are changing to primary schools where there is not enough space, specialist teaching areas and specialist teachers? I put this question to the panel at the public meeting but no reply was forthcoming (Surprise surprise!) This move just smacks of CBC's total disregard of our children's education as they are more interested in money than the children. The cynic in me thinks that CBC just want th e land for building to increase their coffers. The new housing that is being built in French's Avenue will no doubt increase pupil numbers for the local schools, in fact I believe that CBC wanted All Saints to extend their buildings to accommodate an increase in pupil numbers resulting from new housing in the local area. If that is the case then obviously there will be a need for YR 7 & 8 places so why not keep those places at Brewers Hill? My eldest child has excelled whilst being at Brewers Hill and part of that is due to the small classes that they have (20 children). Unfortunately my youngest has 31 in the lower school so surely any parent would favour the smaller classes and the option to send them to Brewers from Year 5! Let's also not forget that Brewers has a 'good' Ofsted rating whilst the other schools under the threat of closure don't. I believe the experience that middle schools give are a good grounding for the eventual move to upper/secondary schools. The experience of having specialist teaching areas is more akin to upper schools whereas the lowers that are going primary do not have these facilities and the move from that type of environment to a secondary school environment would be a big culture shock for our children. In fact I have friends with children educated in the 2 tier system in a neighbouring county. They are in the same school year as my eldest child yet they haven't experienced or learnt half the things that they have which calls into question again how is the closure of middle schools going to drive up educational standards?

We need middle to cushion the children coming out of primary before going to upper.

We want the option of a three tier system in Dunstable, and we are upset about the move to two tier.

Where will pupils go if parents dont agree with secondary schools? And how would pupils get to a middle school in another town?

You are not really ready because it could lead to bullying. Then because like lower school no responsibility, middle school responsibility, then upper school really strict. Because you have funny teachers like Mrs Watson and we do experiments in science.

BHMS curenly offers a wealth of facilities and specialised teachers to its pupils. Lower schools expanding into primaries do not have these facilities. They also do not have the space in which to develop these facilities. At a recent lower school meeting regarding the curriculum offered to potential year 5 pupils (staying at the lower school for the first time) they spoke of covering the curriculum. Education is not about covering the curriculum. It is about igniting passion in pupils for learning through sophisticated learning experiences supported by high quailty facilities, all of which BHMS has.

I disagree with this proposal because the school has good facilities. Children this age do need science labs, art workshops and cooking rooms.

The school has all these amenities that it would be a shame to loose. Besides, it is safer if children can go to their local school, rather than having to travel to other schools, potentially along major roads.

Very good sports facilities. All the teachers teach very good lesson during school. There are always actions that take place if an argument has happened, even if it is the smallest arguemntr it gets sorted out.

Why shut a good school down with so much space for everyone to enjoy the amenityts, young and old

Because I feel the lower schools are not equipped to provide the children with the same quality of education they can receive at a middle school. Eg. They will have no science labs, gym, art room.

I am due to start Brewers Hill this year in year 5 and I am worried that the school will close and I will have to go to another school. I can't stay at beecroft academy as we are not a primary school yet so what will happen to me? I want to stay with all my friend :(

I am excited about coming here in September. My sister comes here and I want to do fun things like she does. I'm bored at my school. I am going to walk to school and my mum says I couldn't do that if it was further away. Brewers Hill is the best school in the world. I don't think they should close it. I love all the teachers and don't mind which class I go into.

I am not confident that the other schools will be able to cope/have the facilities for the extra pupils.

I disagree because if children are in higher schools when in year 7 or 8 they could get beaten up easily. And I agree because if the school gets closed down it could be demolished so something new will get built. I also disagree because my sister might be moving to this school in a few years.

I disagree to the closure of Brewers Hill, as this means I would have to leave my child at a school that I feel is not ready for years 5 and 6. Brewers Hill is the only Ofsted rated middle school in Dunstable. If you close this school I feel you would be failing my child's education. The closure of this school would be a big mistake in my opinion.

I personally believe that there is a need for middle schools, my child needs to 'move' on. The lower school he attends though a very good school can no longer engage him. He requires, for one, Male teachers something his school does not have, and a new constructive method of teaching, something I feel lower school or at least the one he attends does not give.

I would have to leave my child at a school that I feel is not ready for years 5 and 6. BHMS is the only Ofsted rated middle school in Dunstable. If you close this school I feel you would be failing my child's education. The closure of this school would be a big mistake.

It is not right to close the school. We can't go back to lower school! We won't learn anything.

Lancot Lower School is not ready to become a primary and Brewers Hill was the best middle school out of Ashton and Streetfield and Brewers. The staff were the only staff who had any energy about and enthusiasm. I am not prepared to let my child be a trial child.

The school my child currently attends I feel isn't ready to properly educate my child into years 5 and 6. I also disagree as the 2 tier system does not need to be introduced in a town where the 3 tier system has worked for many years. Why change something that works?

There are lower schools which currently feed into Brewers Hill who have not changed age range and their children need a school to transfer to year 5. Some of the other lower schools who are changing to Primary are not equipped well enough or led well enough to provide a good education to children in years 5 and 6 and the choice is being taken away from parents who do not want their children to stay at these new primaries. Brewers Hill is a great school for the local community and is the only middle school that has been rated good by Ofsted. This school should stay open and provide the local community with the choice it deserves.

This is a decision being made by those on high, with no interest in the future of Dunstable. I wish you could come here and see what a negative impact your meddling has had. You propose to close an excellent school, and to offer portacabins instead of classrooms in tiny lower schools to my youngest children. You are saying that my children will have to have science lessons from the internet, as science labs will not be built. My only option is to leave the area completely, because you as a council cannot offer any kind of education at all. I have children aged 2, 7 and 10.

Education for this age group should be local, so that children are not put at risk crossing major roads or having to bus out of the area. I feel that the council is putting money above children's welfare. The public work hard to pay taxes for education, so we should be the ones to decide where cuts are made. The money spent on the busway was a waste of money that could have been directed at education services instead.

I disagree because I want Brewers Hill to stay open. I can get a better education and not having to move schools further away from me. Please keep my school open so I can have a bright future.

I disagree with this proposal because this is a good school. It would be unfair to make the children travel further away for their schooling. If the school closes, then I hope that the travel will be paid for.

The middle school provides a good education and facilities. It is the furthest north in the town and is surrounded by housing developments. If the school were to close this would mean that pupils would have to be transported to other schools that are not within easy reach. Many parents would be forced to drive through the already busy town causing further congestion.

Because children are then going to have to fit in to other schools

There will be a number of children without places at schools near to their home. It has been stated there are places in other schools, however this is probably going to push class sizes to their maximum capacity and thus making the class less beneficial to the children. This will also have an impact on us the taxpayers with the plan to close the school now (redundancy payments) then in a few years the added expense to build new schools to meet the needs of the new housing developments.

This is a knee jerk reaction. Closing 3 middle schools in the area will create extra capacity which the other schools will not be able to support.

A closure of any school is sad, especially when it is a good location for the community around it. When we come to look at schools in our area Brewers Hill was certainly going to be one of them, after hearing how it has improved.

As a local resident in the north of Dunstable I feel that it would be a great loss in the local community. There is no other local school where it provides so many amenities to not only the children but to so many other clubs.

Because it is part of my environment and all my family members have come to this school.

Brewers Hill is a well established school which has served the local community well for many years and is at the heart of the community. We need to keep schools local so that local children are educated together and form friendships with other local children. If the school is closed it will mean children further afield and splitting communities.

Brewers Hill middle school has been an integral part of the Hillcroft estate for as long as I can remember I was also a student there in my youth. To close this school would be depriving a community of another quality state school the same as when Northfields became an academy. Again depriving the community of a quality upper school!

Good quality teaching will be lost. Jobs will be lost. Negative impact on the local community.

I am a local resident who cannot understand why closing this school will not be a loss in all ways to this community

I attended, and now my child attends. It will be sad to see the school close. It is part of the community.

I disagree with the proposal as the school has served the community very well for many years, and it would be ludicrous for pupils to travel to other schools which could be out of the local area.

I do not think that closing Brewers Hill would benefit anyone in the local community, except for those at the top, potentially. Generation after generation have passed through the school, and I dare say that the next generation will follow. This school has served local residents for many years, and forcing these families to make a contingency plan with regards to their child's schooling is beyond belief as it would require them traveling too far to the next local school. With the additional traveling, it would force parents/guardians to drive more. This would go against current situations that as a nation and even a local council we are all, supposedly, trying to cut down on; excessive pollution/traffic and unhealthiness in children.

It is part of the community. Children are currently benefitting from the excellent staff at the school. I myself attended Brewers Hill, and without the school, I would not currently be studying for an MA degree at the University of Kent, ranked 26th in the country, I believe.

Serves the local Community, a good school with excellent teachers that manages to get the best out of every pupil that attends the school.

The school has a place in the local community and has done throughout its existence. It has been consistently improving over the past 10-15 years resulting in a solid good being awarded by OFSTED in their most recent inspection (going against the trend of many other local middle schools). The staff are committed to the children's welfare and learning and do all they can to ensure they thrive. This school has always had a special place in people's memories, those who went there as students and those who worked there. I also do not understand why you would want to close this school then send the children to failing Upper/Primary schools, it just does not add up. Also with all the new-builds being planned in the area where are the prospective pupils going to go for their education?

The school has long been part of that community and is loved by many. Closing the school will mean that some children will have their choice of education limited and incur longer travelling times.

The school is an important part of the local area. It is safer for children to walk to because it is their local school. It is rated 'Good' by Ofsted.

We have lived here for many years and to hear a good school could close with all the amenities stopping, for children and residents - it is a waste.

I cannot see the point of shutting a good school down when in the future you may have to build new ones. It does not make sense.

If the school closes, what will become of the land? Will it become a housing estate with access roads pouring into Aldbanks?

If this school closes, what will happen to the land? Does it become a housing estate in which case where will the access road start from? Our road?

It seems short sighted not to weather fewer pupils in the light of future, projected house building in that area and increased population. The building is equipped with laboratories already etc and since CBC is constantly trying to save money (despite huge wages paid) surely it's prudent to use existing buildings and land rather than build new. A new building does not automatically attract good pupils or teachers so why get rid of a school that had a 'Good' Ofsted report, no mean feat, in favour of diverting pupils to schools with lower ratings?? Another CBC blunder in the making? It was just about to be taken over by Barnfield so why were they prepared to update the school and our own council not? It's shameful.

Shutting this school will probably lead to houses being built on the ground with access roads. We do not want this

With houses being built nearer to the north of town I think it silly to close a school with good facilities and good teachers. This school is a good school so Ofsted have said. It is a community school that has a committed staff

A lot of disadvantaged children attend and if the school is closed they will potentially find it difficult to travel or settle anywhere else

I disagree with this proposal because it is not aimed at providing the best education for my child, it is about numbers. The school has an ethos of attainment for all and really helps children to achieve. The school has a good record in bringing SEN children up to national average.

A lack of communication. Too little too late. The headmistress of the time should have called the parents into a meeting as soon as she had gone to the meeting at All Saints. We didn't find out until nearly 6 months later, via the education department. Then Barnfield pulled out, and the uniform had to change again, then the head resigned!

Because it's good to have other pupils in the school

What are the kids going to do if you close this school. Don't close it

The proposal has been put forward based on falling pupil numbers at the school and predicted falling numbers. HOWEVER this prediction has been based on FIRST CHOICE preferences for MIDDLE SCHOOLS and has not taken into account any child that has applied to Priory as a first choice but will not get a space. This will therefore affect the intake figures for 2014/15. Parents of pupils in Yr 7 were sent letters by the council telling them that they needed to transfer their child early in order to get a space at secondary school - therefore parents have applied for school places even if they had not intended to move their child. This has resulted in a predicted low retention figure. The consultation should not carry on without considering the full facts and figures - when asked how many pupils will not get into Priory no answer has been given. THIS INFORMATION IS VITAL when the reason for the consultation is low pupil numbers.

The school would have potential as an academy. A lot of harm has been done with the school becoming an academy one minute, and the next not. I think a lot of people would consider sending their children to academy which is already formed, causing intake to drop considerably.

The schools should work together to remain open

very lovely school went there when i was a child my kids really enjoyed there time at the school and feel it will be a very big shame to shut the school down

Responses to consultation for Streetfield Middle School

Q4 - Reasons why you agree or disagree with the proposal to close Streetfield Middle School

Agree

Financial reasons

As my child attends Ashton Middle School I fully support keeping it open. I think Streetfield middle School should close as not many parents want to send their children there. On Streetfield's consultation documents they state that only 22 children are joining at Year 5 - how can a school keep going with that few children.

As there is already another primary school on site with foundation provision from age 3, I do not feel that Streetfield's proposal to become a primary with nursery provision is viable. My child is in year 6 at Streetfield currently and moving to Manshead in September. My younger child will continue at St. Marys and move to Manshead. There is no need for Streetfield.

Having just looked at the Ofsted Dashboard for Streetfield, I can understand why the school should be closed... even if the pupil numbers were projected to be good, which they aren't. As a taxpayer, I resent paying into a school which is performing at well below the national average.

I agree because it would be better to keep Ashton open as it is an old historical building that needs to be saved (not turned into flats or a hotel!). By sending streetfield and brewers hill children to Ashton it could keep open and parents that want Middle schools will be happy. Streetfield and brewers hill land could be sold by the council and the money shared by all the other local and successful schools. You only have to look at the new Ofsted Dashboard figures to see that streetfield and brewers hill are failing, unfortunately Ashton's results are not good but if the council just concentrates on the one school then its results will improve. I have followed the campaign's by the parents of the three schools. Ashton's campaign has been dignified and considered and intelligent. I can't say the same for brewers hill and streetfield - their supporters have not behaved well and have put off a lot of people. I have seen them shout and rant at councillors at the meetings and really embarrass themselves. They also seemed to have turned their venom onto the successful lower/primary schools in the area which I can only assume is to try to make parents move their children to the two middle schools.

I agree the school should close because: The location, the low numbers, lack of support from the council, ridiculous choice of new name, the obnoxious parents

I am in favour of the 2 tiered system

I am not happy with the direction of the school management and I am glad my child is moving on.

I believe that instead of giving choice the on-going existence of middle schools as the system changes is in fact confusing for parents. It is clear by the numbers of applications for year 5 places in middle schools that parents are almost unanimously opting to stay at their lower schools as they change to primary. The proposal to become a primary school makes no sense based on the fact that there are many primary schools already offering this option and slightly hypocritical as Streetfield were so adamant they did not agree with primary schools and fought so vehemently to stay a middle.

I don't like this school

If numbers are not viable, it should be closed to ensure value for money.

It is surplus to requirement - It has a worse Ofsted than Brewers Hill and out of the two schools I think this one needs to go. It is not doing as well as other schools in the area and it does not have a purpose with the other schools changing their age range.

It is upsetting to see all the middle schools fighting amongst themselves and it's a pity they can't all be successful like Priory. According to what I've read on the school's website there are only 22 children starting into year five - how can any school keep going with these small numbers. Perhaps it is time for the management of the school to open their eyes and be realistic and give up and close the school. Am I right in thinking that the school is changing its name to Streetfield Lyceum? Surely, this is a joke! If the Head Teacher has come up with this name I would begin to question the Head Teacher's ability to make any decision about the future of the school and the children. Speaking of which, the children are not being treated fairly - what sort of education will they get if they are rattling around a school on their own?

It makes sense to change the school if it follows on to Manshead.

It would seem that the managers of the school have failed over the years to make it/keep it successful and the local school of choice. As there are so few children actually registered at the school it seems sensible to move those children to a school that is the top of parental choice - Priory is full so it makes sense to me for the Streetfield students to go to Ashton Middle School. Streetfield to outside eyes seems like a failing school that needs to be shut down.

Low numbers. Met one of the current parents who was so rude to me and about my choice of primary school that I would never send any child of mine to Streetfield. It should close and take its rude campaigners with it.

My child in year 6 is going to All Saints. My younger child will go to Ashton until year 6 and then go to All Saints. My plan remains the same despite discussions of school closures.

One reason is because I thought Streetfield was a good school when my grandson first started but he is not having a very good time and he is not happy. His mother has not been impressed by the people leading and managing the school. Also, I have been following the campaign to keep the school open in the media. At first I thought the supporters were doing a good job but then some of them seemed to begin targeting people through Facebook and I was shocked that some of them have been rubbishing Lower schools to try and make their school look good! But the final nail in the coffin for this school was the odd decision to rename the school Streetfield Lyceum.

Only one successful ex-middle school is needed in the town. Streetfield is out of the way – It should be Ashton that stays open, keeping the history of the town going.

Streetfield is on a large site which could be taken over by Manshead Upper School as it moves forward with its proposal. Streetfield's suggestion that it becomes a primary school is ridiculous - what does a middle school know about education three year olds?! Although the leadership and management of the school are overtly enthusiastic and vocal in their support of the school I would question their sanity as they have come up with the suggestion of naming the school 'Lyceum'! It is interesting that the Headteacher left before such a daft suggestion was put forward - sensible person.

The now established move towards a two tier, Primary/Secondary model means that there is no need for the middle tier. The number of families who have opted for primary or secondary provision has led to very small student numbers remaining at Streetfield School. It is unlikely that there are enough students to make the school viable in economic and education terms. In the best interests of the pupils it would be sensible to close the school.

The schools in the area are changing to 2 tier

The town is becoming 2-tier so the quicker the change is implemented the better. Closing Streetfield will speed up this change.

Time to move on. Two tier is the norm in Dunstable. Proposals to become a Primary are not realistic as there's no demand.

Too many schools and not enough children. Numbers are too low to keep school open. Parents.

Too many schools in Dunstable. Streetfield openly competing with St Mary's which is on the same site! 22 pupils in Year 5 is not sustainable. Would question assumption that all year groups will be full when school changes to Primary - where are all these children coming from!

Unrealistic to stay as middle school when all others are primary/secondary even if you prefer 3 tier system.

We have always preferred a three tier school system. However, we must move with the times and where change is required.

We have to have an efficient education system and we mustn't perpetuate inefficiency by keeping Streetfield open. It may be unpopular, but you are doing the right thing to abandon the 3 tier system. Please have the strength of your convictions and follow this proposal through to its conclusion.

Whilst it's sad that the school will close, it is clear that despite the "consultation" that the council is running, there is nothing that the school can do. They have been driven into a corner with no way out. However I believe that the education system in Dunstable will eventually benefit from these changes.

Why keep a school open if there are no children?

**Neither
agree nor
disagree**

It should merge with Manshead

I agree with closing it as a middle, but hope that the school can be saved in the future. This school has excellent staff. The proposal the school has put forward is great. The proposal would mean that Streetfield would be of great benefit to Dunstable.

Please keep ashton middle school open. Brewers Hill is a worn out building that has seen better days. I wouldn't even mind if the school was knocked down and houses built as long Ashton is saved. From what I can gather from neighbours- the staff are demoralised and the management of the school has lost its way. When Barnfield pulled out it was obvious that the school would close- why did they pull out?

No comments

I agree as all the other schools are going two tier. I disagree because I like the three tier system, but that is what I am used to.

I agree that if we have to many places schools should close BUT i would like to see Ashton stay....a church school...old grammer school...heritage building....

I don't agree or disagree. Its down to their own cause.

I understand that due to the complete disarray of the schooling system that has developed within the Dunstable area over the last 2 years middle schools will no longer be viable. However, I do feel that this purpose built facility in such a prime location would be an ideal setting to be developed into a leading Local Authority provision for primary aged children.

A decision needs to be made sooner rather than later. The children are the main ones affected in all of this.

Disagree

Facilities and access are very good Minimise the affects of a forced change on my child Proximity to Manshead - less disruptive to families with siblings in different age groups and less traumatic to children moving from primary to secondary Staff and governors committed to improving school

Great facilities and staff

I feel that the proposed closure of the school has not taken into account the effects the closure will have on the education of local children. I am concerned that the facilities and experience that are available at Streetfield are two valuable a resource to be lost. I believe that the decisions of other schools to change the age ranges of their schools has not been taken with sufficient attention paid to the ability of these schools to mange these changes and to ensure the best education for the children in their care. Central Bedfordshire Council cannot simple abdicate responsibility for these changes by stating that they no longer have a say in how schools choose to run themselves. One schools decision effects more than just that school and there needs to be some co-ordination if education in this area is not to become some sort of free for all.

It has excellent facilities and is on a great campus, it has served as a great middle school for a long time and can continue to do so, In all these changes it is the only school which only concern has been its pupils and other schools are about saving their own personal future.

It has great facilities and teachers

Lower schools cannot provide the same facilities as middle schools, such as sports, science and art facilities. There are not even enough children in each class to make a football team. We want out year 5 child to experience more, and that is why I want him to go to Streetfield. If Streetfield were to become a primary we would move our children immediately. This school has excellent facilities.

Our grandson is into his third year (he is 11 years old) at Streetfield and we have been impressed with the progress he has made. The facilities which the school offers to this age group are excellent and we like the school's insistence that each child is treated as an individual. He has been very happy at the school and the school makes every effort to work in partnership with parents and other carers. To lose the positive atmosphere created at Streetfield by the dedicated staff and governors would be a tragedy. There is the potential for many more children to need education when the large amount of family housing is completed on Streetfield's doorstep.

Streetfield is a GOOD well equipped school and the closure of it would be a criminal waste of tax payers money especially when the council has "An ambitious £100m plan to provide thousands of new school places with projects to build new schools or expand existing ones across Central Bedfordshire"

The community need and deserve a well equipped local school. The facilities at Streetfield are amazing - a fully equipped gym, large playing fields (2 football, 1 rugby, 1 hockey pitch) plus 2 netball courts and a large multipurpose grassed area suitable for tennis, cricket, hockey, football, rounders, etc, a purpose-built cookery/ textiles room, a large art room, a modern foreign languages block, a design studio, 2 I.C.T. suites, a large multipurpose hall, interactive whiteboards in every classroom, a specialist purpose build autism unit. The teachers at Streetfield have experience across the whole age range, primary and secondary and the pupils are taught by subject specific teachers which can only be a valuable learning experience for them and prepare them fully for transferring to an upper school.

The decision to allow lower schools to change their age range was not in consultation with the middle schools and the process has not been professionally managed by Central Bedfordshire Council. The schools within the Dunstable area had a very good working relationship with each other especially those who are feeder schools and now this good work has disintegrated and made all the schools play off against each other and the children are now not put first, but council politics is. The former lower schools cannot offer the range of expertise and facilities that Streetfield offer at present.

The school has good facilities that would be useful if the school were left open to be a primary school. The school has a very good support system for children who are struggling.

The school should become a primary. The location is ideal. Being able to go from Streetfield to Manshead would be good. This school has excellent facilities. It has a good school and would mean I could get both of my children, primary and secondary, to school on time. This school has excellent staff, and I hope we can retain it as a primary to serve the local community.

This is a good school that can offer a good education to lots of children. They have the facilities to offer primary education in good setting

This is a good school with good facilities and staff

This is the best school in this area with brilliant facilities, fantastic teaching staff. My daughter has absolutely thrived at this school and to deny other children the opportunities that only a school with all of their available amenities would be disastrous to an area that is slowly becoming over populated and uncared for. The council have made a complete hash of this whole affair. Very disappointing.

Well equipped. Well run .

A fine school on a ready made campus, very good facilities and staff. In good keep and having money spent on it at the moment! Many things wrong with Dunstable and this is yet another ridiculous decision to let it's residents let alone children down.

All my children have been through Streetfield, I just hope a decision is made soon.

Although student numbers indicate a problem with economic use of Streetfield I think it provides a very valuable teaching resource. It has a high percent of students who are disaffected in a wide range of ways. The school has many strategies for understanding and helping these students and enabling them to learn in a calm and supported environment. Time is taken to understand their physical and emotional needs and address them so that they become confident learners. It is worrying to see that as they move on this care is not always followed up and they become disengaged with education. At least at Streetfield the care is there until they are 13. On the other side of the situation my own children were educated at Streetfield and all have not got good degrees and fulfilling careers so the care is not provided at the expense of academic study. It would be a real shame to see this school closed.

As a member of staff at Streetfield I am deeply saddened by the threat of closure. Streetfield is a very special school with a hard-working and dedicated staff who always put the needs of the pupils first, not results or money. I chose Streetfield (which was not my catchment school) for my two very academic children because of its unique ethos which set it apart from other schools in the town. I wanted my children to receive a rounded education from a school that held similar, caring values to my own. The Council must take responsibility for causing the fall in pupil numbers which has led to them conducting this consultation. The Council :- Sent middle school transfer packs to pupils at lower schools only. Wrote to all current Year 6 parents advising them that there would be no transfer point at Year 9 thus pressuring them into transferring their children to secondary schools at the end of this academic year, two years earlier than they were expecting. Wrote to parents of current Year 4 children who had made an application to the three middle schools advising them of the Council's consultation to close the middle schools and what would happen to their child if they came to middle school in September 2014. Wrote/mailed to lower/primary schools asking them to make their parents aware of the consultation to close middle schools and invited their response. The Council did not:- Send transfer packs or write to parents of Year 4 pupils in lower schools which are converting to primary status in September 2014. These parents were not advised of all their options and, whilst this could be understandable from the next academic year when they become primary schools, it is not acceptable for this year. Email/write individually to middle schools advising them to inform their parents of other schools' consultations and inviting them to respond. Whilst I appreciate and understand that the Council has a responsibility to inform parents of their choices and options, it can be seen from the above that the middle schools were not afforded the same courtesy as the lower schools who are converting to primaries and double standards were employed. It could be interpreted that these actions were done in order to reduce pupil numbers further at middle schools by encouraging parents to move their children at the end of Year 6 and to persuade those parents who had elected to send their children to middle school to change their minds, thus enforcing the closure of middle schools.

From what I've heard it is a really good school - why close it? Make it in to a primary.

I attended Streetfield between 2003 and 2007. Streetfield was an excellent school then and I am sure it is now. It would be a massive loss to the local community if the school was closed.

I believe that Streetfield goes the extra mile for its children and their families. It doesn't play games with results to make the school look good - it gets the best out of the children. It's what a school should be about - children. It fills in the gaps left by their lower schools. My children deserve a school where the teachers are interested in them - not the results and prestige they can bring to school. I notice the other open evenings are all about the school and its past history the results they achieve - children barely get a mention. Went to Streetfield and it was all about children - and then they delivered. Why close it.

I believe the new proposal for Streetfield is one that is needed for the future of Dunstable. Wrap around care is a necessity in today's world. With the availability of 6 months to 18 years education on the same campus will be invaluable.

I disagree that Streetfield should be closed. I accept that Streetfield Middle School will cease as a Middle school, but very strongly support the new proposal to change. Streetfield offers a wonderful learning environment and I am fortunate to have worked there for almost 20 years. Over the years visitors to Streetfield have made positive comments about the ethos of the school, of the special care that is given and the happiness of the children to name but a few. I strongly believe that every child matters and that they should be treated and nurtured as individuals. In this way they are able to develop and become confident teenagers not only academically, but socially and emotionally. It is the whole person that matters and that is what we continue to strive for. The staff at Streetfield work very closely as a team and I believe the results are exceptional. On a personal note, my two sons attended Streetfield and went on to Loughborough University gaining BSc and PhD.

I disagree with this proposal because my child really enjoys this school. My other children are looking forward to attending

I disagree with this proposal because it is a lovely school. It has been open for a long time. The school is currently having work done. This school has excellent staff. My three children have learnt so much at Streetfield.

I disagree with this proposal because it is a nice school. It is having lots of work done on it. It has been open for a long time. It is very popular, provides a high standard of education and This school has excellent staff.

I disagree with this proposal because it is a well established school with a good reputatation. It would be a shame to close the school when there are plans and other options in place. It is a big school with a big reputation. Take the opportunity to build on Streetfields name.

I disagree with this proposal because My child has progressed well at this school. I am concerned that my childs education and welfare will be affected if she has to move schools.

I disagree with this proposal because my child has progressed well at this school. My child's confidence has increased since attending the school. The school cares for its pupils and provides a supportive environment.

I disagree with this proposal because this is an excellent school. It is having a lot of work done at the moment. The school has been open for many years, and people come from everywhere to attend it. The work is outstanding. This school has excellent staff. My child has progressed well at this school.

I disagree with this proposal because this is an excellent school. My child has progressed well at this school. This school has excellent staff.

I disagree with this proposal because this is an excellent school. The school has excellent staff. Do not close the school. The school should become a primary.

I disagree with this proposal because this is an excellent school. The school provides a caring environment.

It seems a shame to shut a school with good values and morals that serves a local community. It has other schools on the grounds and it does make you wonder what will happen to the building.

it's a good school

My child has progressed well at this school. It has prepared her well for Manshead, I wish my younger child could have the same standard of education.

My child really enjoys this school. The school cares for its pupils and provides a supportive environment. It would be sad to lose the influence the school has in the community and on the school system.

STREETFIELD IS A FANTASTIC SCHOOL

streetfield is an asset to dunstable its a wonderful school.

Streetfield offers specialist teaching and facilities in a wide range of subjects. With the equipment and experience available, Streetfield can become an excellent school with the very best interests of all children in the town at its core.

The school is a well grounded school that looks after a huge range of children from various backgrounds. They integrate children well and it is a very happy school. They treat all children as equal regardless of ability. I find it hard to believe that the council is keeping open totally financially unviable lower schools with less than 50 children in, when children from villages such as Kensworth, Studham and Whipsnade could all go to Streetfield with its hugely competent staff.

The school is ideally placed to support pupils and parents both in location and as a less traumatic transition to secondary school

The school system has been changed with no support or consultation - this is a wonderful school that is being treated disgracefully

This is a very good school and it would be a great shame if it closed.

this is an excellent school. It is a shame that you want to close it. My child really enjoys this school. We want the option of a three tier system in Dunstable, and we are upset about the move to two tier

This is an excellent school. The school is well run. This school has excellent staff. The school has excellent facilities. It is the best school in the Dunstable area, and should not close down.

This is an excellent school. They were able to help our son with difficulties that other schools had not spotted. They have been very supportive and I don't want him to leave.

this is an excellent school. We moved especially so that our children could go here. My children have achieved well here, and grown more confident. The school cares for its pupils. I think the three tier system is best for social and mental development. The local lower schools are not equipped to deal with older children. The council has let the schools have free run. The council should have controlled this better. The schools are competing against each other and neglecting the children's education. It will be a huge mistake to close such a fantastic school! The council should listen to us.

This is an ideally situated, community-serving, non-faith school, which is very popular with parents and which has very good, purpose-built facilities. It also a fantastic autism unit, the closure of which would be extremely unsettling and disruptive to those children.

This school has a lot to offer. My child's confidence has increased since attending the school. The school was good at focussing on subjects my child was struggling with.

This school should remain open because Streetfield is a good school. The pupils and teachers get along well with each other. If the schools close, then the pupils will lose touch. A lot of people live far away and travel to Streetfield because it is a good school. My children are stressed about this situation and talk about it a lot.

Why close a perfectly good school that has been used by so many pupils of the downside estate.

Because it is an excellent, my son has thrived in this environment. It would have been different if the teachers and staff had not been able to provide such excellent support. It is not broken and doesn't need fixing!

Because Streetfield is a good school

Because Streetfield is a good school. My grandson likes this school.

Because Streetfield is an asset because of the inclusive policy and the buildings and facilities. I feel strongly that children in the Dunstable area would be best served by an all through 2-18 approach, I understand that this would be difficult because of their being CofE, catholic and community schools, but to best serve the children, their families and the local community, an all through approach would be ideal. Streetfield would make an excellent junior school.

Because the school is one of the best in the area. All my children attended the school and they have done exceptionally well. The school has specialist teaching staff enabling pupils to receive tuition in subjects as early as nine years old. The school has many specialist facilities too: Science labs, gym, music dept, art dept, cookery room, etc etc etc. There are many many parents who are so upset by the potential closure and feel they have been very much misled by the council.

I disagree with this proposal because this is an excellent school. It provides a high standard of education. This school has excellent staff. My children have never done so well or been so happy, their grades are top. Thank you Streetfield.

I have a daughter in year 8 and a son in year 5. The education my daughter has received has been excellent, and I want my son to have the same.

I not only disagreed with change the school system but the way it was dealt with by the LEA. Streetfield is a fantastic school and has helped my children get the most from their education and greatly improve their academic ability. My children have been very happy here.

I want my children to go to Streetfield I have heard good reports on both the childrens progress and the care they get at the school.

Is the best middle school in the area

My child is in year 5. He has made excellent academic and social progress and his behaviour has improved. He enjoys school, and the school provides a caring environment. Any issues are dealt with in a speedy and caring way. The learning centre also offers children with behavioural difficulties a wonderful environment. I am very keen for my young daughter to also attend Streetfield.

My child moved here after being bullied at another school. She is happy now. My child's confidence has increased since attending the school. I want my son to have the same experience.

Streetfield has the right amount of classes and children per class. The school cares for its pupils and provides a supportive environment.

The school has made a valuable contribution to the community. The school cares for its pupils and provides a supportive environment. It is very inclusive. The school provides a high standard of education. The school has excellent facilities.

this is a good school that can offer children a good education

We have been thrilled with Streetfield from the moment we stepped through the door on our very first visit and haven't looked back since. Our eldest son has thrived there both on a personal level as well as an academic one. He has been given opportunities to progress and achieve to levels that we do not believe his lower school (as it was then) would have ever been able to get him to and he embraces everything on offer with such pride and enthusiasm it overwhelms us. Their ethos is not just "talk", it shines through in everything they do, EVERY child matters and if this school is closed and is not given the opportunity to change it's age range and continue the amazing work it does it would be a tragedy in our eyes. It is a fantastically well equipped school, with tremendous grounds, full of wonderful teachers and staff who truly care about every child in their school. We have selected Streetfield for our younger son to transfer to in September because we truly believe that is the better place for him. We do not believe him staying in his lower/new primary school is the best place for his education or his overall personal development. His lower school have already confirmed they will not provide the sporting opportunities that Streetfield already participate in, for example cross country, swimming competitions, county athletics competitions to name but a few. Both our children love sport and love being given the opportunity to compete and learn new sporting skills and Streetfield provides this by the bucket load! As well as being a keen athlete, our eldest son is extremely good at Maths, English and Science and actually scored 100% in one of his maths SATS test as well as getting well above average in all 3 of his overall grades for Maths, Science and English with Streetfield. We do not believe he would have achieved this at his lower school as he was never encouraged to reach his full potential in these subjects when he was there, despite us knowing how bright he is. Streetfield do not house their more able children into achieving good results, they simply give EVERY pupil the opportunity to be the best they can be. Streetfield do a wonderful job of preparing the children to move onto the next phase of their education and I believe this would continue to be the case should they be successful in becoming a Primary School. With new houses being built and the numbers of primary aged children increasing over the next few years, it doesn't make sense to be closing schools, especially in this case when you have a wonderful facility that can educate primary aged children perfectly. There are schools within the community struggling to expand and accommodate the extra year groups they are taking on, when Streetfield has the facilities already, why on earth would you willingly close such a wonderful school.

Whilst I accept change, I do not agree with the closure of any school or the loss of jobs for teachers. I think Streetfield should stay open as it is on a big enough site to make the transition to Manshead easier as a feeder school. Streetfield has a great ethos, The school cares for its pupils and provides a supportive environment.

Do not close the school. The school has excellent staff. My child has progressed well at this school. The school cares for its pupils.

Fantastic school and teachers which have helped my child through difficult times...

I disagree with the proposal to close Streetfield Middle as it is a good school. The staff are helping the children with not only education but also to develop emotionally and socially to become confident, rounded members of the community. The school encourages all children with this no matter what background they come from and whatever level they are at educationally. I feel that the personal touch middle schools have will be lost with primary and secondary schooling.

It is a good school. Me and my relatives all attended. This school has excellent staff. The location is ideal. My child wants to come to this school.

It is a travesty to consider closing a school of this standard. The school has good links to the community. The council should have controlled this better. It seems as though the council has withdrawn all support and guidance from the education system and let the schools fight it out between themselves. This leaves parents, children and staff completely confused and bewildered. My child has progressed well at this school. The school has excellent staff. The school has excellent facilities. The school has great sports facilities and a number of excellent after school programmes. The school has had well publicised success stories. The school has excellent adventure breaks and trips abroad which my child has benefited from. My child's confidence has increased as a result of this schools facilities. It is unforgivable to take this all away from them. After living in a beautiful community for over 17 years, we may have to move home as a result of these decision s. The complete mismanagement of any due process in taking these dramatic decisions is quite unbelievable. If this strategy had been implemented in a private business, then the company would have suffered with a lack of sales, poor reputation and the demise of the senior management team. If only we could do the same with the local council!

this is an excellent school. This school has excellent staff and facilities. My child really enjoys this school. There is no bullying. It is the best school in the Dunstable area and should not close down.

This is an excellent school. This school has excellent staff. My child has progressed well at this school. It would be a shame if the school closed. The school gets 10/10 in my opinion and should remain open so that other children can experience what my boy has.

This is an excellent school. This school has excellent staff. This school is good at preparing the children to enter secondary school. Staff work hard to provide a high standard of education. The school cares for its pupils and provides a supportive environment. This whole thing has been handled appallingly. Parental choice has been taken away. Parental views have not been taken into account. Schools have been allowed to do their own thing without consulting Streetfield. Caddington became what they are because of falling numbers. Several years ago three schools combined into one. Were these schools year 6 pupils targeted in the same way that Streetfields pupils were? Or were they expected to go to Barnfield academy (which has serious problems)? This is an excellent school. The school has excellent facilities. It is being left with no choice but to become a primary and should be allowed to do so. It is sad that year 7 and 8 pupils will not receive the same amount of nurturing that the school provides. Many past pupils look back at Streetfield with fond memories.

This is an excellent school. This school has excellent staff. I feel that it would be a significant loss to the town. Streetfield delivers on a number of levels, and pastorally they are outstanding. It is not only academic achievement that makes a child but their overall experience. Streetfield prove this and absolutely should not close.

It would be a shame to close a school where the children do well and are happy. This school has excellent staff. All my children have attended Streetfield and done very well.

It's a great school with brilliant teachers. It has provision to support children with special needs such as Autism, which is rare in the area outside specialist schools. The facilities are wonderful and the support system for pupils is second to none. My child has excelled within this school and he is expected to gain A and B grades within all his subjects. The teaching staff don't just teach, they inspire our children - making lessons interesting and enjoyable for the students. My Son looks forward to going back to Streetfield during half term etc, he enjoys being there and even the subject he likes least - French - He feels that he is progressing a lot faster now that he has two lessons a week rather than one. My son changed schools to Streetfield in February (From Priory - bullying)and he is a changed boy...thanks to this school.

My children have all attended Streetfield and excelled. The head teacher is amazing. This school has excellent staff all round. Closing this school will make my child suffer, and all the other children suffer. It is an incredible school.

Streetfield Middle School is a good School with good staff.

The school cares for its pupils and provides a supportive environment. It supports them well through puberty. This school has excellent staff. I don't want my young child to be mixing with teenagers. This will lead to peer pressure and bullying. Do not close this excellent school!

This school has excellent staff and is well run. The school has excellent facilities. This school is good at preparing the children to enter secondary school. The location is ideal. I support the governing body and SMT. They are acting in the best interests of the pupils.

A few years ago, the council tried to make Dunstable schools change to a 2 tier system. It was rejected. This time around, the council has gone via the back door and panicked the schools into making rash decisions. Schools which did not give in to your bullying tactics, such as Streetfield, now face closure. In all of the information the council has sent out, it has been stated that the changes are agreed with by the parents. This is not true! My child in year 6 is not ready to go to secondary school. My other children attended the three tier system and did very well. Streetfield is a great school for pupils of all abilities and backgrounds, and they never put other subjects aside just to concentrate on SATS. Reports suggest that in a few years, more schools will have to be built. Why close it when you will only have to build new schools? Streetfield is big enough and has more than enough land to fulfil its proposal. It will not have to apply for planning permission or get portable cabins on site like the other Dunstable schools. At least 2 schools on Dunstable get to stay as lower schools, but any Middle school that wants to stay a middle school faces closure; It is one rule for then and another rule for the others. The secondary school scare mongered the parents of children in year 6, saying that there will not be places if I choose to move my child in year 8. This is ridiculous because there will be places in one of the secondary's or one of the hybrid schools. This is another council faux pas; it is just like the traffic lights which caused chaos in Dunstable and the mayhem which has happened around Asda. It is all as a result of not asking people in the area what they really want. The council will not learn.

Facilities offered to potential primary school children cannot be beaten!!! An incredible opportunity for Dunstable children to experience Primary Education with a school with "high school" facilities. Shame to lose that and spend tax payers money to expand lower schools with moderate facilities. It's about getting the best education for our local children which comes with better facilities and the opportunity to be independent learners.

I can see the benefits of settling a child into secondary school in year 7 rather than year 9, however, my son has had no problems at Streetfield and I have been left upset that I may not have the option of moving my current year 4 child to Streetfield, even if it is just for years 5 and 6.

I disagree with the proposal as a parent of children that have gone through the middle school experience and think they benefited enormously, they are very rounded adults because of this way of teaching. Middle schools in Dunstable have been a very valid part of the education system, children that have difficulties, be it home life or learning difficulties, will be missed with the new system. Teachers in middle schools are specialised in their fields, something that primary schools will not be able to offer. Senior schools are now prepared for children as young as 11. I would be concerned for my child to be mixing with older children, children grow up too fast, they need to keep their childhood. Middle schools are able to offer this benefit. Children who attend middle schools learn a whole range of subjects, have the facilities geared around them, able to participate in after school activities - are the primary schools/senior schools able to offer such facilities? I don't think so. With the introduction of Academies into the education system, there does not appear to be an education system as such, these are businesses and schools are now run as businesses. Children need a place to learn, middle schools give them this opportunity. They grow and mature whilst going through the system, this will not happen in the new proposed system. Approximately forty years ago, the system was changed in Dunstable, I was one of the first pupils to go through the new system, I think the system helped me to become the person I am today. We need to keep the middle school system in Dunstable, not remove it. Why close something that parents want to keep (I know the council say it is parent power but it is school/council power not parents), what is going to happen when all the proposed housing starts getting families that need good schools, the primary schools are not going to be able to offer places or the good education that children so deserve. As I said on the selection, I work at Streetfield Middle School, yes I would like to keep my job but my priority is to keep the school in the local community, giving those families the chance for their children to get the education they deserve. Streetfield can offer this. The council have already cut back on so many facilities for schools, there are less people to support schools, let's not take away a much needed and valued educational establishment.

I do not think that the lower schools can provide the facilities or level of teaching that can be provided by a middle school. The middle school also gives children from village schools more chance to gain experience at a larger school before going to Upper school. Going from a school of less than 60 pupils to 30+ per class is a big jump and can be daunting for them. Children once they reach middle school age do need more than can be provided by a lower school and they need to move on.

In order for Central Beds to continue to provide three tier education, which parents have time after time demonstrated that's what they want, there needs to be a range of schools offering choice.

Moving from a lower school to a middle school prepares children for when they move onto upper school. I do not think that the lower schools can provide the same environment, they have no science lab or large PE facilities and will not be given the funds to access these. It will take years to build the lower schools up enough to fully support our children and in that time it is our children now that will suffer. Schooling is hard enough let alone having these changes implemented without any real planning into how the lower schools will prepare or cope with the added length the child will be at the school.

Naturally, I disagree with the proposal. It is well documented in public meetings and on paper why I believe that the three tier system was a better system for child development and academic learning generally. I won't bore you with those arguments again - I'm not convinced anyone can 'listen to' or 'hear' them anymore. I am more concerned about the impact that these proposals will have on the town generally and with those parents who 'know' that Streetfield is the right place for their child. Streetfield remains a very popular school. The only reason it appears to be suddenly undersubscribed is because: - the change in age range allowed and encouraged by the LA has left a mixed economy of schools that has left too many parents bewildered regarding their entitlement - of the way the admissions process has been implemented it has actually restricted parental choice not increased it - so many parents were frightened and confused by the process - this allowed scaremongering in local lower schools and upper schools to permeate - and panic applications ensued. However, this is now done and dusted and there is no going back - I accept that. What follows is not personal nor an attack on anyone - it is an explanation of my genuine concerns, followed by a proposal in section 5. I know that it is not going to be a popular thing to have to say this publicly, especially by a leader of a school, but at some point it has to be acknowledged and now is the time to spell out key points for consideration in this important issue because someone has to tell it the way it really is. It needs to be on public record. It might as well be me

continued - Streetfield has retained its integrity and remained a community maintained school that seeks to meet the needs of all pupils regardless of prior ability and promotes social and academic inclusion. It supports all families from all backgrounds as well as some of the most needy pupils and families from across the town. The statistics will bear this out. The consequence has been that with a good reputation and popularity for SEN and ASD the school has always found it challenging to meet local and national standards at KS2. This is just a fact. Assessment and Inclusion, Social Care, CAMH and all agencies will confirm not only our commitment to but the practical application and efficacy of inclusion in the broadest sense of our ethos. Again, check the statistics. Many lower schools have benefitted from this - it could be argued that they have not been held properly accountable for progress made in lower Key Stage 2 and that this has allowed a rather 'too cosy' a relationship to develop with moderation procedures for Key Stage 1 and year 4 data. This in turn, has tended to lead to a long term inaccuracy regarding the and efficacy of lower schools' standards Key Stage 1 when compared to national standards. This has compromised Key Stage 2 results in Middle Schools over the last 10 years. It seems to have suited everyone's purposes to have the Middle Schools identified and blamed as the weakness in the three tier system because Key Stage 2 is where the weakness was formally identified at National Level. Time will show that this has been a terrible error of judgement.

continued - Middle Schools were further compromised when upper schools started to imply that their results were poor because of these Key Stage 2 results. In fact had the Upper Schools used the externally marked and verified prior data from Key Stage 3 Year 8 assessments instead of relying upon the relatively poor Key Stage 2 results then they would have raised their expectations and their results at Key Stage 4 would have been higher more on a par with the rest of Central Bedfordshire. (This is likely to have been a 'political' decision because each school had to prove it was making progress and it was in Upper Schools' interests to do so from Key Stage 2 not year 8 where pupils not only 'closed the gap between key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3' they made greater than expected progress - this was a middle school achievement that has gone unacknowledged - as I say for 'political' reasons.) The poor communication, the suspicion, the tendency to blame each other caused too many school leaders to become defensive inward looking and non- collaborative

continued - This proposal is unfortunately is not going to change this situation - if anything it will be exacerbated. For example; We currently have 3 Upper Schools in Dunstable which cannot be filled - yet three Middles (Ashton, brwers and Priory) each plan to become secondary - at least 'up to 16'. (This does not include Houghton Regis schools). These 6 schools are not going to be able to effectively co-operate - they are going to have to compete - it will be messy. We also have lower schools planning to become primary without the facilities to achieve their aims - these too will compete for pupil numbers - it too will be messy. Furthermore, under the supposed aegis of parental choice some school leaders have seized the opportunity to further ambitions regardless of what is right for the children in the school or Dunstable. Consequently, nearly every school is going to lose out financially and far too many schools are having to undertake expensive building projects for facilities that already exist in the the middle schools. The children will lose out educationally - if the experience of other authorities is anything to learn from then we will see a significant long term dip in standards lasting for between 4 and 7 years. Because of the way this has happened - hitherto 'outstanding and good schools' will likely find themselves downgraded. Why? Because the SEN children that Streetfield accepted and included for them allowed those schools to meet and exceed national standards. These children will now be a part of their statistics.

continued - If you think that this is just so much talk - enquire of the statistics showing how many children with special needs have been 'encouraged' to move into the Streetfield just after the recent census time and how many children with SEN have also been 'encouraged' to apply for a year 5 place next September - thus allowing all these schools to get a 'head start' before all these changes come into play. I'm afraid the game goes on! My fear is that this proposal will most likely further expose these deep divisions between schools, reduce the the number of good and outstanding schools and confirm Dunstable as the educational ghetto of Central Bedfordshire which, as a resident, a parent and a school leader I find deeply offensive and disappointing. However, as the acting headteacher of Streetfield I am pragmatic and realistic. I realise that I have lost this argument. Streetfield has an ethos and a commitment to learning that should not be lost through this melee. Over simplification of the issues and solutions is too easy and a lazy way to make decisions. If Dunstable is to become a two tier system of schooling - it needs joined up thinking. Streetfield has a part to play in this and we have a suggestion. See section 5

Streetfield is relaxed and happy. The school cares for its pupils and provides a supportive environment. My child really enjoys this school. It is a big mistake to change the three tier system. Children face too much exposure and pressure at a young age already.

Taking the provision of middle school away from the area, takes the opportunity for children to mature in the correct safe environment.

The proposed middle school closures are as a result of miss management of the schools in Dunstable by the authority allowing schools to change age ranges without any thought of the chaos caused to the education of the children.

We want the option of a three tier system in Dunstable, and we are upset about the move to two tier. It does not have 'parental support'. The noisy minority have created this change. I am concerned that my child's education and welfare WILL be affected if he has to move schools. A school with the resources Streetfield has should not be closed.

We want the option of a three tier system in Dunstable, and we are upset about the move to two tier. It has worked very well for my children. If my child had moved schools at 11 he would have gotten lost, like a small fish in a big sea!!

We want the option of a three tier system in Dunstable, and we are upset about the move to two tier. My youngest will have to be in middle school for two years and then change again. She is not ready for big school. After seeing the turnover of staff at the upper school, I am concerned about my child's wellbeing.

We want the option of a three tier system in Dunstable, and we are upset about the move to two tier. The system has worked well so far, so I don't see why we need to make all these changes to our children's education.

We want the option of a three tier system in Dunstable, and we are upset about the move to two tier. There are lots of opportunities at Streetfield My child's confidence has increased since attending the school. I would love it to remain open.

1) There is a need for a community school in the area 2)The school provides excellent links for Autistic children to main stream. 3) The school keeps many children who have been excluded or are near exclusion in school- they never give up on a child. 4) Pupils make higher than expected progress when moving onto upper school

I would like to know if the Council has taken into consideration the higher than average number of children at Streetfield with learning difficulties, in particular Autism. Children on the Autistic Spectrum find school life very challenging, but with the large Resource Room and Courtyard that the school provide for break/lunchtimes, it is the difference between enjoying and loathing school for many children. This facility means the children do not have to go out into a crowded playground or eat in a noisy canteen. We chose Streetfield as no other school in the area provided the support we so desperately craved for our son who has Aspergers, the Senco at other schools were not as passionate and knowledgeable as Mrs Rose. Many other local schools just allocate an empty classroom for 'vulnerable children' to go to for time-out! The Resource Centre at Streetfield has Computers, Books, board games and a private courtyard, all the children are very similar - they struggle to make friends, fit-in or appear aloof at times. The room is supervised and is large and not cramped. Streetfield prides itself on supporting children with Learning difficulties and many parents from further a field send their children to Streetfield, for the amazing support they provide to these children. I would like to know :- have these children been considered? - if so, how? - will the resources that are provided for Special needs children be adapted at Secondary schools (to reflect the standards at Streetfield)? - if there is a higher than average number of children registered disabled at this school - has this figure been documented in the proposal? - does closure of the school need compliance/guidance from DDA? -

My child is in the ASD provision. I disagree with the proposal to close this school. It provides fantastic support for my son who is unable to attend a mainstream school. This school provides a caring environment, and a great place for children to learn.

My son is in year 1. Although my son's school have a partnership with Priory Middle so he can transfer there automatically, you are proposing to take away our choice for him. My son is undergoing assessment for ASD and has an IEP. If my choice of Streetfield as a middle school for him, because of their excellent handling of learning difficulties and social difficulties, is taken away he will end up as a 9 year old in a very busy school full of children up to 16. I am exceptionally concerned about the potential closure of the middle schools. One of our reasons for choosing Dunstable as a place to live was the 3 tier system. I feel the middle school part of education is a great transition for some, not all children. I feel my son would be much better served in a middle instead of a middle/upper.

Streetfield provides an excellent education for its pupils. Their ethos and support, particularly for pupils with special needs, are unique to the school and, having visited a number of the middle and upper schools I know this couldn't be replicated in other schools. We can pretend that all schools shows equal devotion to the needs of their special children but, in reality, anyone with experience of the education system understands that results are the focus for most schools and the inclusion of SEN and challenging pupils, and I believe Streetfield has a significant percentage of these pupils, is not a priority. If I had a pupil in Streetfield's excellent ASD unit, or if I had specifically sent my Autistic child to Streetfield because of their expertise, then I would be deeply concerned about their welfare and education. Clearly, from the consultation I attended, this is the case for many parents. Also, I object to being constantly told by council officials how I, as a parent with children at Watling, have more choice now that the schools have been re-organised. In fact, with the closure of the middle schools, I now have no choice! My children's 'learning journey' has been set and I am concerned that, if its not the right schools for them, that we have nowhere else to turn to. Indeed ironically, since we moved from Luton to Dunstable 3 years ago in order for our children to be educated in the 3-tier system, I am considering sending them back to Luton for their high school education.

The building offers a lot of space, and the facilities are very good. It would be utterly disgraceful if Central Bedfordshire were to close the ASD unit. There are too few as it is.

We are the only local school with Autism provision, with a follow on to Manshead's unit for upper school. Pupils do well over the 4 years being within a specified age range, it allows them to grow and progress without any older peer pressure. We take pupils that other schools reject, without a thought for our statistics on attendance etc. I believe most primary schools in the area do not have the facilities and specialist teaching areas, ie, dedicated labs for science and food/textiles rooms. These are vital tools for the childrens learning and progression.

I disagree with this proposal because the lower schools changing into primaries do not have enough facilities for the children. I don't want my young child to be mixing with teenagers. This move will ruin my child's self confidence.

I don't want my young child to be mixing with teenagers who swear and smoke and drink. No child should be subjected to that. Streetfield has excellent facilities and excellent staff.

Not all parents are happy at having to change schools now to guarantee a place. I don't want my young child to be mixing with teenagers.

This is a great school. It provides good preparation for high school. I don't want my child to be going to secondary school in year 7. In other areas, this would be okay, but in this case Streetfield provides a good in between stage, because the lower schools are so small they are like little families. When the lower schools are bigger this will not be such a problem, I just wish it wasn't happening now.

I disagree with this proposal because Parental choice is being taken away. We want the option of a three tier system in Dunstable, and we are upset about the move to two tier. There needs to be time for the schools to settle down before making major decisions. Ultimately though, it is where the parents send their children that will be the deciding factor.

It would be a terrible waste of an excellent resource for the town, a reduction of choice for parents. It has provided an excellent education delivered by a talented, dedicated and caring staff. I understand there is a baby boom at the moment so it would be very short sighted to lose school places.

Parental choice is being taken away. The school provides a caring environment. This school has excellent staff. It has excellent facilities. Streetfield has proved itself to be a good school and my children have progressed well here. It has improved their social skills and confidence because it is a small enough school for them to not feel overwhelmed or un-noticed. It is for these reasons that we want the option of a three tier system in Dunstable. My child attended Streetfield and left a well rounded child, confident enough to cope with upper school life. Parents voted to keep the school open and put forward their views, none of which have been taken into account by the local authority. Streetfield provides a uniquely caring school, doing its best for EVERY child. Whatever there needs are, it would be a disaster for children who find school difficult to not have the choice of Streetfield. Their needs would not be met elsewhere and they would miss out on their right to an outstanding education.

Parents should have choice where their children go to school. Streetfield parents have shown they want Streetfield to remain open. Streetfield haven't been given a fair chance - they've been pushed out by other schools who haven't played fair. Numbers for the school over the coming years are projected, not proven.

The reason for consultation is unviability due to decreased number of pupils but this is the direct result of Central Bedfordshire failing to inform all parents of Year 4 children of the choices within the town! Letters were sent out to all Year 6 children regarding available transfer but not Year 4. How is this fair? The choice was taken away and this resulted in the number of pupils taking up Year 5 places! Therefore the council influenced the unviability of the middle schools and are now using the numbers to it's advantage to threaten closure.

I think that the progress of the town towards the two-tier system is overdue and I am really pleased we seem to be achieving it. I think that the provision Streetfield offers will no longer be needed by parents and children.

My child is settled at the school. However, I agree with expanding the age range. Fewer school changes for children would be beneficial. I think a two tier system would be best with Streetfield as a primary and Manshead as a secondary.

On the grounds of efficiency. Middle Schools no longer have a place in the education system in Dunstable. The proposal to become a Primary is a smokescreen to avoid closure. There is no demand for additional Primary places in the area. Both St. Augustine's and St. Mary's have spare capacity.

Having seen the future PAN numbers there will be a need For more school places and some of the local Primary Schools will not have the capacity to expand and support this expansion.

I feel there is already a shortage of places in schools. I am from Luton and already have to go right across Dunstable for a school place.

I think due to the future increase in PAN we will again need a school. Streetfield is in a prime location to support the local chn without the need to transport them around the county.

Short sighted on council ,places will be needed in a few years time.

With new houses being build all the time some proposed near to streetfield. So it would be not good to close any schools within Dunstable

Central Bedfordshire did not inform parents of year 4 children of their middle school choices which has made the middle schools unviable. If they had been aware of ALL choices available to them then the figures for pupils enrolling into middle school would have been completely different, making them viable! In my opinion the middle school ethos and benefits have been totally disregarded for local political gain and I feel that the people of Dunstable and the surrounding areas have been unfairly treated.

Children want to go with friends. Parents won't want to miss chance of a place in next school by waiting till year 9 when others have moved at year 7

good school

I feel that the amalgamation of Streetfield and Manshead would be the best option for all concerned. One large school would be good, and would result in a large sports area, which would be fantastic. This would mean less disruption and enough space to accommodate all children. If it were to close, it would be a waste of fantastic teachers and good grounds and buildings.

Is Streetfield becoming a dance academy? Is that why its being named after a ballroom?

It is harmful to move the children!

It will be a waste of resources. It will disrupt children. It will mean losing jobs

It would be a brilliant primary school with ready made facilities for an alternative KS2 outstanding experience. Also the purpose built ASD provision makes for a smoother more reassuring transition to secondary school with the Manshead ASD being on the site.

Just confused by the whole thing!

Low numbers

Middle schools should be allowed to stay open and not be pushed to close.

My child is in a year where she can't move and I am worried her last year at Streetfield will be affected.

My child is settled at the school.

Save Streetfield!!!

See FAQs re 17% surplus places in year 12.

The council should adopt a holistic approach and review all the schools. Asking each school to create a proposal is utterly stupid. A waste of education resources. This affair has filled us with a great disappointment in respect of the council. Asking the parents to decide is just crazy. This should be a centrally planned effort.

The council should have controlled this better. They should have either left the schools as they were or linked years 7 and 8 to the high schools to increase the education levels. Or they should have considered the space and provisions available in the schools. As it stands the lower schools don't have this and the children going there will be limited in what they can do.

This is a summary of a consultation response received via the postal system. The full response is available at: school.organisation@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk I disagree with this proposal because it is about the closure of the school, and the council should be proposing change, not closure. The reduction in numbers for Streetfield and the other middle schools in town is intrinsically linked to the 3 tier/2 tier changes, and that the council has been negligent in managing these changes: On the one hand, its non-involvement created uncertainty for all involved. On the other hand, the council approved changes to age ranges across schools, including the withdrawal of the year 9 transfer point. This withdrawal of the transfer point was an act of hostility towards the middle schools, which directly challenged the 3 tier system. It was acknowledged by all that Dunstable had a 3 tier system prior to 2013. What you allowed Manshead to do when you agreed its changes was to effectively change Dunstable from a 3 tier system to a 2 tier system without undertaking the proper consultation. It is not enough to suggest that the individual consultations carried out by the schools replaced the council's obligation to consult Dunstable-wide on such a change. Parents were only given details of their own schools changes, and not the ways in which it would effect the other schools. Nor were they given the opportunity to comment on other schools changes and the implications those changes would have on their parental preference. The council's consultation document refers to the school being surplus to requirements "as a result of area-wide reorganisation". I would argue that this implies a centrally led organisation, certainly an organisation which is defined from the outset as such. An area wide reorganisation of the education system would reasonably be expected to have involved proper consultation with all parties affected. This has resulted in the change to a 2-tier system by the back door.

When approving Manshead, the council failed to identify the implications of such a change, and therefore failed to undertake its responsibilities in properly managing events. If the council had carried out a consultation, there might have been an outcome whereby the middle schools could have changed to a 2 tier system by agreement, and therefore caused less disruption and anxiety to staff, children and parents, and with less likelihood of staff losing their jobs. I am angry that the council has enabled lower and upper schools to benefit through a divide and conquer approach that has sacrificed the middle schools. Why should the school close? It was viable before the council agreed changes in 2013. The overwhelming reason that parents are moving children from Streetfield into secondary schools in year 7 is that they fear they will not get places at their preferred schools in year 9. There is a great deal of support and sympathy in Dunstable for Streetfield. To lose the school, with its particular ethos will be detrimental to parental choice. It was shocking to see how the lower and upper schools bypassed the middle schools when deciding how children would go to school. Ardley Hill stated its children would most likely go to Queensbury, Icknield, Watling and others arranged a partnership agreement giving their children priority at Priory. Never mind that Ardley Hill children, who had traditionally gone on to Priory will now have less chance of getting a place there. The council has allowed this empire building and self service plotting to go unchecked, at the expense of the pupils. The council has played a major role in determining Streetfield's viability. A public authority has a legal duty to act fairly in the exercise of its functions, which I do not consider you have done. You incorrectly failed to treat the age range changes at some schools as significant in their impact upon the system. You failed to apply a proper process before accepting the changes, and in this respect, you are in breach of your statutory obligations.

We feel that Streetfield has been left in an impossible situation due to Central Bedfordshire Council's incompetence.

Why are numbers so low??

Responses to consultation for Ashton CofE VA Middle School

Q4 - Reasons why you agree or disagree with the proposal to close Ashton CofE VA Middle School

Agree

My son is currently in year 6 and I have already received confirmation of his place at a Dunstable secondary school in September 2014. I am glad he is moving this year as he will be well settled into secondary school life long before he starts his GCSE's

Other schools in area with better facilities and access

The Middle School system is finished in Dunstable. There is no demand for another secondary school as there are places available at all the Secondary/Upper schools apart from possibly Manshead.

The school has been having a lower and lower in take of children, and Brewers Hill and Priory have the space to take on the children if the school were to close. It would be better to have 2 full schools on opposite ends of Dunstable, than 3 partially filled schools. This would also save the local authority money by not having such a high wage bill to cover.

Time has come to close the school as it serves no purpose with so many schools following the 2-tier system.

With many schools going Primary or Secondary there is no real need for Middle schools, especially when a shortage of children - and therefore budget - means the middles schools will no longer be able to deliver a full curriculum that is well staffed and resourced. This would have a negative impact on the children, with standards falling rather than improving. The children would also only have one transition point from Y6 to Y7 (primary to secondary) rather than two, further raising standards and thus outcomes for the children. Also children will have more time to prepare for their GCSE's if starting secondary school in Y7. Y6 SATS results would also improve as children won't have recently moved schools, and they will be able to complete full key stages of learning in each school phase, bringing about more accountability and ownership of the children's levels and attainment, which in turn should raise standards.

It is clear that the move to a two-tier system in Dunstable has the backing of the vast majority of parents and it is important that the LA now follow through this change with decisive action to secure efficiency gains and also to give a clear message to parents that there is no longer a role for Middle Schools in Dunstable's education system.

Ashton is a failing school and has been for sometime. It is not showing any signs of improvement or desire to improve. It causes congestion in town at key points of the day. It is failing it's pupils with the standard of education being provided.

I have a child who leaves this year and a child currently in year 5. It upsets me that this consultation has arrived but I do have my concerns re ashton middle school. 1. The recent ofsted report does not instil much confidence in the school educating my year 5 child to an acceptable standard. 2. Has Ashton really got a chance when the budget is cut that drastically and now most children are choosing to stay at their respective primary schools. Why would you move your child to a middle when the majority of schools in dunstable are now going two tier, detrimental to the child surely? 3. And probably my main concern, if the decision to close is made all I am concerned about is the opportunity and education to the existing children is second to none as our children deserve the best education possible. I understand your rational but please think about how the education of our children can only be made better.

Low attainment, low Ofsted grade, massive drop in parental preference,

the falling numbers attending the school, poor record of the school in the local community and recent Ofsted report all combine to make me feel that the school is no longer viable. With so many Lower Schools converging to Primary and the aforementioned feelings about the school, where are the pupil numbers going to come from? Added to that is the complete lack of management and governance at the school evidenced by its latest proposal for the school's future being the third different approach they have put forward in recent years. It will be a shame to see an icon of Dunstable's Academic history go but I am afraid that time is now long overdue.

the school's reputation in the town is poor, its results are falling, it appears poorly managed (how many different consultations have they come out with in recent times for example?!), bullying is rife and numbers have been consistently dropping. With the increased number of Primary schools in Dunstable, a lot of whom appear to be keeping their children, where do the Middle School think their pupils will come from?

Will be better for there to only be one exchange of school from primary to secondary, however some people may still want to go to Ashton but then will not get into their chosen secondary school just because they wasn't there from year 7!!

Because the school system in Dunstable doesn't match the rest of the country. We need to be in line with everyone else.

**Neither
agree nor
disagree**

I neither agree or disagree with the closure as the school is not financially viable to continue as a middle school but it shouldn't be closed down with a detailed review of what the school and the site can offer in future for the education of Dunstable's children.

Ashton should not be closed as the site would be difficult to be used for any other use. But there should be a change in how the school is run and managed, so that it gives the education that is required. If these changes cannot be made the school should close.

Disagree

Ashton Middle School is one of the oldest schools in the area, with great standing in the community. Are Ashton being bullied by the local authority? New houses being built in the area mean new pupils, which the council is ignoring. You've changed the budget formula this year to ensure the school fails!

Ashton Middle School has a strong history and heritage. Having attended the school the methods of teaching, size and structure of the school mean it is worth saving. I understand that there may be an option for it to become a secondary school which could be a viable option. I feel a strong need to express disappointment with the way that the schools in Dunstable have been handled by the council who have stood back and watched them panic. There has been no leadership or coordination and although they say the changes have been due to parental choice I personally believe the decisions have been forced rather than chosen.

Ashton middle school is a listed building. It is one of the oldest schools in the area, with great standing in the community. I strongly believe that the school should continue to provide for the educational needs of the pupils.

Ashton Middle School is central to Dunstable. It would make sense to keep it open on that basis alone. Ashton Middle School is one of the oldest schools in the area, with great standing in the community. It would be scandalous to shut it! Closing the school would affect local businesses. Think about the future, not about the budgets.

Ashton middle school is not only a fantastic school but part of Dunstable's history! It has provided thousands of people with fantastic education and I know for me personally it shaped the person I have become today.

Ashton Middle School is one of the oldest schools in the area, with a tradition of great pastoral care and excellent teaching. The location is ideal because it is central, and easy to get to. It has the capability to accommodate children aged 11 to 16. This school has excellent staff with specialist qualifications. The children are well behaved and content. The children are set goals and achieve well. The school has a dedicated staff and supportive governing body.

Ashton Middle School is one of the oldest schools in the area, with great standing in the community. This school has excellent staff who work well in supporting both pupils and parents. Parental choice will be affected by this change. We want the option of a three tier system in Dunstable, and we are upset about the move to two tier. It has worked well as a system so why change it? I don't want my young child to be mixing with teenagers. Not having such a large age range is better for the children.

Ashton Middle School is one of the oldest schools in the area, with great standing in the community. Two of my children did well here and I would like the third to do the same.

Ashton Middle School is one of the oldest schools in the area. It has great historical importance for Dunstable not only because of its impressive architecture but also because of what its walls contain. The hall is magnificent and on the library walls are the names of local boys and men who died in both World War 1 and 2. In Ashton's memorial garden, which was created with help from the whole community, lies a pink chair in memory of one of our pupils. This garden has given solace to not only the parents of this pupil but to the school and wider community as a whole. If this school were to close I am afraid that this heritage will be lost and once it is gone it can never be gotten back. Ashton Middle School is proud to be a Church of England School. To close this school would mean that some parents would not be able to send their pupils to a school which has these religious values at its core. I feel this is especially the case given the new housing developments that are taking place and the fact that there is only a 5% surplus of places in the secondary age bracket. Ashton Middle School is very active within the community. The school holds annual Winter and Summer Fairs. Due to its proximity to the town centre these attract not only the school community but the wider community. For many years Ashton put on a Christmas Meal for Dunstable's older residents. In this way giving older residents an invaluable opportunity to get out and socialize with others. Ashton Middle School has a great musical tradition. This culminates in putting on a Christmas Service in Mary's Church every year which is highly attended by the general public. In this service not only do our current pupils perform but past pupils do as well. Ashton also brings music to the general public in the form of carol singing in the town centre and by taking part in the candle lit procession that takes place in Dunstable. Our wind band also goes on tour to different countries every year thus playing to the international community. To sum up I strongly feel that Ashton Middle School should not be closed because of its historical importance, the vital role it plays in the community and because of its unique role as a faith provision.

I disagree with this proposal because Ashton Middle School is one of the oldest schools in the area, with great standing in the community. As an employee of the school, I have found the school warming and professional throughout. It is a welcoming and pleasant environment.

I disagree with this proposal because I strongly disagree with the projected figures, the location is ideal because it is central, and easy to get to. Ashton Middle School is one of the oldest schools in the area, with great standing in the community. Ashton has applied to become a secondary, which is proving popular. There is an increasing number of EAL pupils seeking places at the school due to the excellent EAL provision.

I strongly disagree it is an iconic part of Dunstable and part of a dwindling number of buildings that need to be preserved no matter what, it also needs to stay as an education building, why close schools and build 5000+ new houses bring more people to the area to have to then rebuild schools to accommodate the children?

It has a long standing in Dunstable also a very good school surely we need all schools to maintain smaller classes better education

It has history. It's vital to have schools with growing number of children. I feel Ashton closing would damage the area too.

It is a school that has been around for ages and has a good reputation..

It's a really historic school and we need to keep it as there will be too many children for the schools

It's been there for generations and it is a good school. It's nice to see some original schools from years back!

It's a good school and the building and school are part of Dunstable's history

Prime cause of falling pupil numbers is the council's badly-worded and misleading letter to parents, causing panic choices away from middle schools. Centrally placed school, important heritage, listed historical building. Skilled, specialist staff.

The school has been a great asset to Dunstable and the surrounding areas, providing superb education for the children of the area and giving them a good grounding for their future life. The closure of the school will disrupt my child's education and unsettle him as he will have to change school and possibly break the social bonds he has just forged with new friends. Ashton Middle is currently consulting to change to a secondary school and we fully agree and support the change.

The school has too much history to close. The 3 tier system works in our town- why change it? The lower schools don't have the resources, but the middles do. It is just too sad.

This school is part of our heritage. This has always been a good school and many ways. Many children would like to go to this school.

The school has a lot going for it, such as: Ashton Middle School is one of the oldest schools in the area, with great standing in the community. The location is ideal because it is central, and easy to get to. This school has excellent staff. It is the only CofE School in the area. Although I cannot see it remaining as a middle school, it would make an ideal senior school.

Ashton Middle School is a fantastic school offering its students something that other schools do not. You only have to walk into the school to experience the unparalleled ethos that has been an established part of the school for many many years. The school is lead by a truly inspirational Headteacher, Lesley Phillips, who appreciates and values her staff and has infinite amounts of passion and vision for the improvement and sustainability of the school. Education isn't just about academic success; its about personal and social development, showing children that their confidence and self-esteem matters just as much as their examination results. It is this that Ashton excels in.

Ashton is an excellent school the staff are really caring and this shows with the way the children behave. The academic teaching is very good and geared to the needs of the child. The whole ethos of Mrs Phillips and her staff is brilliant and we NEED schools like this.

Because Ashton is and has always been one of the best performing school in the county. I am an ex student of Ashton Middle School and I am now studying a degree I love at university, and truly believe I wouldn't be here if I hadn't of studied at Ashton in my youth.

Ashton Middle School is an excellent school, which I have been a part of. The location is ideal because it is central, and easy to get to. The transport to the school is great. We want the option of a three tier system in Dunstable, and this is what Ashton provides. Closing the school would not help , and would defeat local children. Do not close the school.

Ashton Middle School is the best school in the area. My three children did very well here. I believe going into a secondary school is too big, as they will come into contact with teenagers who deal drugs, get pregnant and bully younger children Ashton Middle School gave my children a fabulous education, bringing their skills up to much higher levels. This school has excellent staff.

Because its a fantastic school an some where I wish my child to go to,

Excellent school. Low roll is due to local government plans for restructure NOT effectiveness of school

I am happy with this school. My child really enjoys this school. I disagree with this proposal.

I disagree with this proposal because this is an excellent school. We teach both able pupils and pupils with more complex needs and we do very well at both. Ashton Middle School has been put in this position by failing upper schools which became academies and were ALLOWED to change their age range. The 'panic' letter that went out by your admissions department put parents under terrible pressure with facts that were not true. This has still not been addressed by them. Parental choice will be affected by this change – shame on you!

I disagree with this proposal because I was a pupil at this school and it was my best educational experience. I want my children to go here. I have applied for my child to attend in September, and he was really looking forward to attending. Ashton Middle School is one of the oldest schools in the area, with great standing in the community. It is the only CofE school in the area. The location is ideal because it is central, and easy to get to. New houses being built in the area mean new pupils, which the council is ignoring.

I have been very impressed with the school since my children have been there. The children have been very happy and all the staff, teachers and head teacher have been very approachable, nurturing and fantastic with my children. I feel that the school works well as a school. The school is placed centrally in Dunstable which is good. The school is smaller than some of the other secondary schools which I feel would be more suited to my own children's needs and would give parents more choice. Personally, I would prefer to keep my children at Ashton than move them to another secondary school.

I love this school. My child really enjoys this school and I fully intend to send my other children here. I don't want this school to close because my child has progressed well at this school, both educationally and emotionally.

I TOTALLY DISAGREE WITH THIS BECAUSE ITS A FANTASTIC SCHOOL THE TEACHERS ARE FANTASTIC, WHILE I WAS AT THIS SCHOOL (20YRS AGO) I HAD THE TIME OF MY LIFE AND I THINK ALL CHILDREN SHOULD BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY I HAD BY GOING TO SUCH AN ICONIC SCHOOL, YOU LEARN SO MUCH NOT ONLY THE EDUCATIONAL SIDE BUT THIS MUST BE ONE OF THE ONLY SCHOOLS IN THE AREA THAT ACTUALLY HAS OLD FASHIONED VALUES ETC ANOTHER GREAT THING ABOUT THIS SCHOOL IS THAT THE HEAD TEACHER THERE NOW HAS BEEN THERE FOR OVER 20 ODD YEARS AND KNOWS HOW TO TURN A SCHOOL AROUND AND BRING IT UP TO THE HIGH STANDARD THIS GREAT SCHOOL WAS, IF YOU CLOSE THIS SCHOOL HOW CAN TEACHERS IMPROVE AND HOW CAN THE HEAD TEACHER DO HER JOB PROPERLY? YOU HAVE ONE OF THE BEST HEAD TEACHERS I HAVE EVER COME ACROSS, MRS PHILIPS IS AN ASSET TO THE AREA AND IS DEDICATED HOW MANY HEADS/TEACHERS DO YOU HAVE LIKE HER?

I am a former pupil of Ashton I am now 22 and employed at Weatherfield Academy. As a teaching assistant and have friends who are new mums it is going to be very hard to get them into a school it's hard enough now with them all open let alone if they now close. Ashton has been there for many years and is a big part of Dunstable.

If a child goes to Ashton Middle School, they can be guaranteed to get the best grades and they are in a very caring environment.

My daughter has made fantastic progress and excels in most subjects. All the teachers are wonderful and give her so much encouragement and praise. It was the best decision I made sending her and my son who is now in year 10 to Ashton. The specialist teaching they have received has had such a positive impact on their education. My daughter loves science and French both subjects she had little interest in in lower school, and I know this is due to the specialist teaching she has received at middle school. She is on the gifted and talented register for several subjects including English and drama and has received national commendation for her poetry. This success has to be in part credited to the learning and teaching she has received from such a hard working and passionate team of staff at Ashton. Ashton has to be allowed to stay open so that future generations of children can enjoy and experience such a positive and welcoming school.

Please don't close Ashton Middle. It was the best school. So inspiration- that old grammar school building. The strict ethos. It was such a magical place to learn and grow. I am 34 now. A mother. Still carrying the lessons I learnt at Ashton. About to record my comedy radio series for BBC Radio 4. It all began at Ashton.

Rubbish! Give the school a chance! It's not fair, you should close Priory instead, because it has bullying issues. This school has helped me a lot. It is a really bad idea to close Ashton. This is not right, and the children are all sad.

This is a well regarded school that I hope my sons will attend. I attended Ashton, and I believe that the school's particular ethos allowed me access to an academically rigorous education that, as a working-class child, probably would not otherwise have been accessible to me. The school is centrally situated and able to serve a broad geographical area. The school's buildings and facilities lend it a character which, in my experience, are inspirational to its pupils.

This is an excellent school. My child really enjoys this school and has excelled here. We specifically moved to Dunstable because of the three tier system.

This is an excellent school. This school has excellent staff. My child really enjoys this school. Keeping this school open would give both me and my child peace of mind. My child has progressed well at this school. The location is ideal because it is central, and easy to get to. The school has sentimental value to the town. Ashton Middle School is one of the oldest schools in the area, with great standing in the community.

This school is a successful school. This school provides a caring atmosphere for children. It is the only CofE school in the area, and I want to be able to choose a Christian school for my child. Ashton Middle School is one of the oldest schools in the area. The school is a part of Dunstable's heritage, and it would be criminal to close it down.

This school set me up for the life that I now live. It taught me right from wrong, how to respect others, how to work hard and was simply brilliant. The traditions and ethos of the school shaped my attitude to life and that of my siblings. I know life changes and situations change but this school has a history that should not be lost. Too many schools fail to give children the right values for their future these days and Ashton absolutely does this and always has.

To be sure, I am a old student I learnt so much when I was here I'm currently in year 11 at a secondary school in dunstable called all saints academy I am so glad they came in from year 7 to sixth form high school and st marys primary in dunstable foundation to year 6 these are the 3 best schools in dunstable, my sister is currently at streetfield middle school going down hill, brewers hill and street field middle should be closed down the teachers pick on people with social workers and they have their favourites at streetfield really bad school in dunstable, the teachers don't have no manners to parents either the school should be shut down, Ashton middle school should be kept open to become a secondary school.

Warm, friendly caring school, fantastic head teacher who is so proud of the school, who has a real passion for bringing out the best in the children that go there. My daughter went there and really blossomed growing into the confident young lady she is now.

Why close a school that is giving children an excellent standard of education.

After spending 4 amazing years at Ashton and never wanting to leave, I would run back there now if it turned to secondary! The opportunities/facilities available and the outstanding teaching made my four years the best four years. The teachers care for you like we are their own children and they would do anything for us. They work extra hard to ensure we have those extra chances at achieving our best. Why close a thriving school which we all love?

Ashton Middle School is more than a school. It is the only CofE school in the area. It truly provides for each and every child. We respect the value of all subjects on the curriculum. We have had a lot of pupils go on to study at top universities and start their own businesses. This is because we gave them the confidence to succeed in life.

Ashton Middle School is the best school in the area. My child wants to come to this school. It is the only CofE school in the area. It has specialist teachers.

Ashton Middle School is the only CofE School in the area. The location is ideal because it is central, and easy to get to. Ashton Middle School is one of the oldest schools in the area, with great standing in the community. It is an iconic building. Pupils are returning to Ashton from other schools. Rob Parsons said that they would probably build new schools to cater for increased numbers! Why close it when you will only have to build new schools? It doesn't make sense.

Ashton school has always been a good school where pupils thrive. I have had 3 other children attending Ashton before and this school has greatly contributed to their education. As a Christian, there are very limited options of church schools and it would be a great shame if it were to close. Middle schools are a gentle bridging from lower to upper school, offering the advantage of specialist teaching staff and equipment in a more "sheltered" environment.

I strongly disagree with this proposal because it is the only CofE school in the area. That is the reason I chose this school. My daughter is quiet and timid but thrives in a small school like Ashton. This school provides a caring environment. Changing my child's school will have a negative impact on my child. I am extremely against this proposal and against the academy system because it lets schools opt out of the curriculum and manage their own funds

I strongly disagree with this proposal because my child has progressed well at this school and is receiving excellent spiritual guidance. It is the only CofE school in the area.

I strongly disagree with this proposal because out of the three remaining middle schools, we offer so much more. The location is ideal because it is central, and easy to get to, it is the only CofE school in the area, This school has excellent staff with specialised qualifications, We are within easy access for children who want to walk to school, Ashton Middle School is one of the oldest schools in the area, with great standing in the community. Which it would be a shame to lose. The school works well with the local community. It MUST stay. All previous students have nothing but praise for the school. The school provides an excellent CHOICE for parents and should not be written off.

I want my children to go here. It is the only CofE school in the area. Ashton Middle School is one of the oldest schools in the area, with great standing in the community. It has too much history to just be forgotten. We don't need another derelict building, or another supermarket. We want the option of a three tier system in Dunstable, and we are upset about the move to two tier. I don't believe the primary schools are equipped to deal with a sudden influx of year 5 and 6 children. The other schools do not have specialist teachers or facilities. I don't want my young child to be mixing with teenagers. This move will ruin my child's self confidence.

It is obvious that the forecast numbers on roll will drop for Ashton in the short-term, as the nearby lower schools become primary schools and whilst Ashton Middle is transitioning via its consultation to an upper school. However once it has become an upper school, then the numbers will return. Where will the CofE students from Ashton Lower go? They will want to go to Ashton Middle(Upper) and continue their pastoral CofE education. There will obviously be a transitional few years where the numbers go up and down, whilst they are waiting for the Year 7 pupils to finish at the lower school. Other than Manshead, where else will CofE students. Manshead is a long way from North Dunstable and southern Houghton Regis.

It is the school of choice for my current attending children and also 2 that wish to go there in 2 years. It is a fantastic school with a lot to offer. It has a dedicated Christian ethos which Manshead can't match. Face with send my children elsewhere, they will be leaving the county for st Albans.

It should become the church secondary school.

Many parents value the Christian ethos of the school. Ashton offers a smaller, family type environment which many parents and children feel happier with. Many children do not cope well with a massive impersonal environment.

The school offer a good christian based education ,the school is based on a very historic site, since manshead have reduced their intake by 60 if Ashton go senior they can add to the senior christian education for students in Dunstable,allow the school to become senior and serve the centre of town. Do not close the school.

This is a FAITH based school - important to offer this option to parents. This building is HISTORIC, CULTURAL and ICONIC. An asset to Dunstable. Children have returned to the middle school system after trying the upper school. Some don't have the maturity for this set up at 11. Ashton is valuable in the COMMUNITY due to links with music, sport, DT, World War 1 project. New HOUSING is being built in the area. In the long term, there will be a SHORTAGE of places. Current Upper schools are not very high performing. Parental choice for a higher quality education in a smaller environment.

This is a good school, my son has this as his first choice for September 2014 and I applied for him to attend for at least 4 year. The reduced numbers are as a result of parents lacking confidence in which schools will be available, and this is the only faith based school available. If this is a decision perhaps this needs to be communicated prior to admissions deadline so that parents could make an informed choice for their children.

This is the only faith based school in Dunstable. The proposal to close timeline was unfair and based on skewed figures of anticipated new cohorts based on assumptions that parents would opt children out of this school once there was a decision to close hence the argument is based on a decision not yet taken. Anticipated new build in MK/ SM growth area which will require a new school, instead save money and use an existing school rather than close it.

What's the problem with a Church of England school ?

I disagree with the proposed closure of the school as my son is a student there and he had been diagnosed with both ADHD and autistic spectrum disorder. The school and the staff have been so helpful in giving my son the help he needs and he is doing so well at the moment, if the school were to close he would have to start again at a new school, get to know the staff and pupils and I feel this would have a massive effect on his schooling and from previous experience, he would be at a huge risk of being excluded. As a parent to a child with special educational needs, the upheaval this would cause him is not a necessary action, if all of the middle schools were to close, the schools remaining open would become over crowded and cause more tension in the classroom which would affect all students.

I feel children will be too young at that age to be integrated with high school children - at that age middle school was daunting enough as it is. Ashton is the perfect bridging school and I strongly oppose to its closing.

The facilities at this school are very impressive and a long history of education in the town. The school was built originally as a secondary school and offers a multitude of technology/science/music facilities. It has a growing reputation and will give other upper secondary schools a run for their money!! There has been an incredibly lucky group of primary age children enjoying these facilities for the many years and it is the obvious decision to expand into a secondary school if the council are so set on getting rid of middle schools. There will be a need for secondary places as many schools are reducing their intake/year group numbers so there will be a need for a quality secondary education in our town.

Ashton has given my child great opportunities to make new friends and take part in numerous sporting activities. The facilities are excellent and the Christian ethos that envelopes the school has given both emotional and spiritual support to my child. If Ashton closes it will decrease the choices for parents and force year 4 students to stay at their newly established Primary schools. I do not feel that these new Primary schools are a comparison to the wealth of experience at Ashton Middle School.

Ashton Middle School is caring and this school nurtures pupils. It is the only CofE school in the area. My children have progressed well at this school, and they both had very different needs. This school has excellent staff who are committed and professional. They care about the children in their care. It is unfortunate that the Council has apparently CAUSED a situation whereby parents have been forced to choose any school other than a middle school. Lots of parents would have put this school as first choice if it hadn't have been for the letter that went out. This is because they were worried the school would close. I hope they are proved wrong and parents come back to Ashton.

INACCURATE FIGURES used by yourselves in making the decision to close the school. The figures used by the council to portray that the school is not a viable one is NOT a true representation and is SKEWED as it only takes into consideration the applications where Ashton Middle School is the 1st choice. It is known that many people put Priory school as their first choice (hoping to gain a place) and having Ashton Middle as their 2nd choice. Many places at Ashton Middle are filled by children being offered their 2nd choice, as such the number of 2nd choice applicants should have been taken into consideration when compiling your "on roll" figures. SCARE MONGERING You, the council, have issued letters to the parents of the current Year 6 students strongly "advising" that they seek places in other Secondary schools for Year 7 as the chances of gaining a place at the end of Year 8 will be "difficult" as places will be taken by other children moving to Secondary school. The direct impact of your letter has been to SCARE and FORCE parents to thinking of seeking a place in another school. The letter presented the situation as: "The decision has ALREADY been made to close Ashton Middle School, so move your child now or risk not get a place in a school in two year's time!" Of course, as a result of your letter, parents will seek places elsewhere and reduce the projected numbers at Ashton Middle School, achieving YOUR objective! REDUCING THE NUMBER OF FAITH SCHOOLS IN DUNSTABLE The closure of Ashton Middle School will mean there is NO Church of England Middle school in town. Yes, Manshead is a CofE school but it is at the end of town and difficult to access especially when one has a child at Ashton St Peters and they both need to be at school for the same start time. Your closing Ashton Middle would have removed any choices for families seeking a Faith school following Christian ethos. All Saints is no longer a Faith school and as such is not an option for us. BURDEN TO THE US, THE TAXPAYER In order to close the school there would be a high expense in redundancy payments etc of which we the taxpayers will have to cover which will inevitably increase our council tax. In light of the new housing developments in the area, it is surely more cost effective to leave the school open thus ensuring there are places available in the future rather than closing Ashton Middle School and then seeking to build new schools, furnish the new schools, incur recruitment costs to hire new teachers and staff, AGAIN at our, the taxpayers, expense!!

Do not close the school. Parental choice is being taken away. Parents WERE NOT given the choice of whether they wanted the school to close or not: This has been bulldozed through Central Beds Council. Stating that the school is not viable because of falling pupil numbers – this has been caused by the Council scaremongering parents into not choosing Ashton, and by the council not considering the second choices of parents. If this had not been done, then the pupil figures would be a lot higher and the school would be viable. Ashton is a listed, iconic building and is one of the oldest schools in the area. Regarding the proposed housing estate in Houghton Regis (7000 houses) : I understand that schools are to be included in the estate. Why close it when you will only have to build new schools? It is ridiculous that these 3 schools should be shut and possibly demolished when the Council is wasting tax payers money (our money) on building new schools. If the council decision is made in August 2014, what kind of education will our children receive whilst we wait to move our children to new schools? Will we be guaranteed that our child will get into the school of our choice? 125 years of history is to be disregarded and thrown away. It would be a shameful decision to close it. You should all hang your heads in shame!

Do not close the school. Parental choice is being taken away. This has been rushed through too quickly. Parents are confused about options. Consultation has been very poor. Communications from the authority have been worded to scare parents into making a rushed decision. No thought has been given to the children – shame on you! It is the only CofE school in the area, which affects choice. We chose this as 2nd choice, but will change it to 1st.

I disagree as the school has already begun the process of looking into alternatives to deal with the imposed age changes that have occurred by the back door in Dunstable. The council has relinquished on its promise to allow parents the choice, this situation has arisen because the council has failed to manage the transition from a 3 tier to 2 tier system. It is NOT the schools fault, the council should not be considering this whilst there is an alternative option on the table.

I disagree with this proposal because the location is ideal because it is central, and easy to get to. Ashton Middle School is not a failing school. Parental choice is being taken away. We are being forced to make a decision to move our children.

I think it is always a shame when a school is to close down as it means less opportunity and variety of choice for our children's education.

It's about choice and the decision to allow schools to change their age range in Dunstable has been underhand. The alternatives depending on catchment are not great for some parents. There will still be some Lower schools in existence and those parents should still have a right to choose an alternative to Priory if that is their wish.

Need enough schools and closing this one will limit places for children in the area. There are more children now and less schools mean fewer places.

Parental choice is being taken away. Ashton Middle School is in a better position than any other school in the area. Why close it when you will only have to build new schools? My child really enjoys this school. My child has progressed well at this school. She is doing year 6 work in year 5, which is excellent.

Parents should be allowed the choice of which schools to send their child. Children should be allowed to attend a school that offers them the best choice and allows them to feel accepted and comfortable in their learning environment. Closing schools puts pressure on other schools they become overcrowded and unable to cope with the needs of every pupil. Some children are going to naturally fall between the cracks because they will go unnoticed. Children should be allowed to flourish and as we all know school days are the best days of your life - please allow every child and parent a choice

The closure of Ashton C of E VA Middle school will remove parental choice for those parents who wish their child to progress from lower school to middle school. As parents we are advised that our children will automatically progress from Dunstable Icknield to Priory Academy. At present I am happy with this option as Priory is achieving high standards. However what is my choice if I do not feel Priory will meet the needs of my child/children if all other middle schools shut? I have a gap of two years, do I transfer them to a primary school for two years and then again in another two years to a senior school in the town? I also fail to understand how Priory has the capacity to accept all children from Icknield, Watling and Studham Lower school based on the published pupil numbers once Priory has to reduce its pupil numbers per year group in order to accommodate the increased age range. What will happen to children from the feeder schools if/when too many parents choose to apply for Priory? There will be no other middle school option if Ashton, Brewers Hill and Streetfield all shut. I do not attend church however I feel that it is important that Christian families within the town have the opportunity to send their children to a faith school. I live in South West Dunstable however I feel that families in north Dunstable are being treated unfairly with the proposed closure of both Ashton Middle and Brewers Hill. The council should be encouraging families to walk to school and the greater the distance parents have to travel, the less likely they are to walk therefore impacting on the environment and the health of their children through the reduction of the exercise of walking. The increasing growth of housing in north Dunstable would also indicate that there will ultimately be a requirement for school places in the north of the town. Do the town propose to close two schools and then have to build a new school in a few years?!

This has been a rushed decision. All Saints going from middle to upper opened the flood gates. Ashton lower was my choice because I wanted my child to go to Ashton Middle. Ashton should become the upper school of choice to continue her education.

When the new school proposals came in last year all the council could talk about was choice and how the parents would have more choice, I don't see any choice now, you are basically closing these middle schools so you get your two tier system, if I could I would send my child to a middle school.

This will make Dunstable a less attractive area for people to move to. Property prices will go down and it will deter families from living in this area.

Ashton is a well liked school. It is a school where the teachers interact well with both the children and parents. We in Houghton Regis are having masses of new houses forced upon us and every school place will be needed. It is obvious that houses will be built and occupied well before any new schools are built. Why are the council trying to close a school that has been there for so many years and has a proven track record in place of one that has yet to be built. The good of the children should be put first. This is not the way to do it.

Building of new housing developments is ongoing in dunstable. With an increasing young population additional school places will be required. It does not make sense, as was suggested at the public meeting, to build a new school to provide additional places when there is a perfectly acceptable school established for many years in the town. This proposal is very unsettling for not only the children of Ashton and their families but also all school age children and their families. Any choice has been taken away from people regarding schools. I think this is a shocking proposal and would be sad for dunstable as a town if a school such as Ashton with its rich history should close.

I believe the closure proposal is very short sighted, there will be a need for additional places as the proposed housing developments around the town & surrounding areas are built. Also, in a few years time, compulsory education is being extended from 16 to 18 years of age. This will require secondary schools to increase the size of their 'Sixth Forms' which will mean other students having to be accommodated elsewhere. Ashton is consulting it's proposal to become a 11-16 secondary school which would address this problem.

It is absolutely ridiculous to close an achieving school on a whim. Then open more schools when the new estate opens. How about you use my council tax for something sensible than closing a school to reopen a school when you realise you have made a mistake as the bean counter has made an error when predicting random figures. Remember we may not have a vote whether the school is closed but we do have a vote in the upcoming elections!!

My child has settled very well here, even with Aspergers. I see no reason why the school should close. New houses being built in the area mean new pupils, why close it when you will only have to build new schools? This is a very successful school, and has been for many years.

You have deliberately convinced people that the school is closing therefore skewing the in take figures. Following the consultation on Monday evening you have now stated you are withdrawing £630k funding therefore making it unviable for the school to intake anything more than the dwindling numbers you published. You the council are systematically imposing a change on this town. Councillors attended Brewers middle, but allegedly were not allowed to attend Ashton as it would bias there opinion, so how was this fair? The three individuals that represented the local authority were supplying information at times that was condtratictory. I believe you have already made the desicion to close this school, regardless of any solicited opinion from this consultation. We were informed we have no vote only a right to be consulted. There were persuading arguments supporting the reasons to keep the school open, which as the councillors were not present will not have felt t he wrath and passion of the very people that elected them to office. I suggest that the council look at a way of keeping this school open as well as the other two middle schools. Failure to do this will result in a lesser education for my children as well as many others in Dunstable.

My child's education will be affected. My child will not receive the same level of support at another school. The staff are excellent, and have specialised qualifications. This school provides a caring atmosphere for children

My year 6 child currently attends Ashton middle School. He has flourished at the school. The staff are amazing. My son has medical issues and we were so worried about him before he started at Middle School (one of his medical issues has been stated in national press and with a personal meeting with Jeremy Hunt (Secretary of State for Health). We have been so pleased with the learning, support and progress he has made at Ashton Middle School. My younger child is in year 4 at lower school and we want to send him to this amazing school as well. The staff, teaching and parent-school communication is amazing. He has been so well looked after by all the staff there and would love to keep him there.

The school is fantastic I recently moved my year 5 child out of Priory as she was not thriving there the school had massive pupil numbers and the environment did not suit her. This was not a decision I made lightly as my child has a diagnosed anxiety disorder and change is something she struggles with hence our application to priory she would only have moved school once but she did not thrive there and as such I moved her to a school that far more suited her needs which is Ashton. Take out the fact my daughter is settled thriving and finally happy and the emotional side of this proposed closure. I believe all parents should have been consulted with before subtly schools where allowed to change to primary / secondary not retrospectively now leaving parents in the middle schools no choice. The basis for closing the school on first preference is ridiculous. Allocation takes place by Easter and these should be the numbers you work too as not everyone gets there first check. Last year children in icknield lower were told they would get placed at priory but in fact it was split quite evenly between Ashton with those second preferences being allocated. The school is currently 76% full with numbers rising there are in sufficient secondary provisions to take these children and insufficient primary. My youngest daughter is in icknield lower where is she expected to go for two years ? Change to a primary for two years and then a secondary as not every school takes from year 5. I strongly oppose the decision to close this school. Are you planning on closing the lower schools too. There will be insufficient school places.

We need to maintain a level of diversity within our community. Ashton represents the history and substance that makes our schools what they are. Please do not follow the trend and close this school because it does not fit your own personal view of having all children following the same path of 2 schools and no middle school! Middle schools are imperative to our educational system. Children will be affected and after all isn't that the priority!

Closure of this school will increase numbers in other schools making classes too big and disadvantaging students. Ashton is a fabulous school and future generations deserve the opportunity to attend. Also a piece of history for Dunstable

Education standards and diversity of provision at AMS are high. Despite a recent Ofsted blip, as well as the two children I currently have at AMS, my eldest is excelling at a local upper school sixth form as a result of the excellent standard of education supplied by AMS. Demand vs Supply (for any business) is a key assessment that must be made. The problem is that the LA has lost control of this by being dictated to by those schools that have become "larger" academies - hence appearing that there is a surplus. Not all places promised are available yet - they are promised, but it seems a high risk strategy to assume absolute numbers will be reached. It is unclear how remaining 3 tier school can operate in parallel with two tier - this mis-match could end up increasing child transfers. AMS school size allows the excellent teacher/child relationships to build up. Whilst this is also something possible in larger schools, it reduces the chances of all children being given their best chance to learn. Not all schools are able to "expand" so lower and middle schools appear to be being penalized on this point. AMS has a huge history within Dunstable and the Community. How many other schools have the honours board back over 100 years!. It is the only school on the Dunstable map in many ways. This should not be allowed to be lost based on some figures that may suggest oversupply in the area. It is "understood" that if people do not attend a school, funding reduces as it follows the children, - the concern is, that this type of Consultation has clearly caused some to consider the worst case, and propose sending children elsewhere. AMS has not helped itself (in a timely fashion) when they started to see an increase in "academy status" and the associated "links" to lower schools in the area. However it is not clear how a L.A. can advise and have any control in an area with what is two very different systems. There is a real danger that each time an academy changes its "population" an LA controlled school may suffer further.

I do not agree with this proposal for several reasons. The quality of provision at the new secondary schools will not be up to scratch for several years including the physical provision in terms of buildings and equipment. I believe that Ashton is a much better alternative for a small secondary than Priory. No training is being given to staff at the secondary schools to deal with a full key stage 3 curriculum. If the closure does go ahead, it is obvious that a large number of parents will vote with their feet both politically and choosing to boycott Dunstable secondary schools. The north end of the town will only have one secondary school. As a taxpayer I would not be happy to see the recent investment in Ashton and its facilities go to waste. There is limited recognition within Manshead - by its own admittance that it is a practising C of E school other than by name.

Firstly I disagree with the two tier system. Secondly my daughter is having problems with another student in her class, to the point where she is waking up with nightmares due to worrying how the other child is going to be with her the next day. She had her heart set on Ashton Middle for a new start, with new teachers and new friendships. She confirmed her thoughts after the opening day/evening, she said the teachers were passionate and she couldn't wait to come and start learning at Ashton Middle. The teachers are an asset to the school. Thirdly we sent our daughter to Ashton Lower because it's a faith school therefore natural progression is to Ashton Middle, again a faith school.

I believe that the whole process so far is grossly unfair to the school and parents. There has been no consultation with the local community concerning a change from three to two tier education. The changes in the way academies are funded has led to schools being able to set the changes in admission themselves, which has forced this situation. My feelings and those of all the concerned parents I am in contact with are the same, we have had no choice or the chance to discuss this fundamental change which has in turn led to the school being put in the position it is. The council and the Dunstable schools have let us down badly. The council has exacerbated this situation by not taking control and foreseeing the potential outcomes. Why has this only happened in Dunstable and not the rest of central Bedfordshire?

I disagree as the town has worked well with a 3 tier system. Closing Ashton would be a travesty

Parents of Dunstable are happy with the three tier system and do not want any of the middle schools to close.

I believe the places for secondary school numbers have as little as 5% surplus. This will surely mean larger class sizes. I was against losing middle schools for my children before, as the proposals were to be implemented too quickly. I saw and know of evidence of this rush as Caddington lost a lower school and combined with another Caddington school between July and September of the same year. Also I have read about the number of schools in the Northampton area that lost middle schools, and now many of these 2 tier secondary schools are failing Ofsted inspections. Ashton are working hard to make the conversion to a secondary school happen.

I disagree with this proposal because it creates confusion for both parents and the poor children who have no say. It is difficult to cope in a new environment, and the children that will have to change schools as a result of this will have falling grades and emotional problems. There are not enough schools around for our children to transfer to, and changing schools will create transport issues. Buying new school uniforms is scary in this economic climate. My child really enjoys this school.

I don't want this school to close because my child is not currently enjoying her classmates at Lower School which is making her unsettled and giving her nightmares. Therefore I need her to have a change of school to develop new friendships.

My son is currently in year 3 of lower school & priory academy is his feeder school, but is also the feeder school for studham & wattling lower I believe there will not be enough spaces for all of the children moving from the 3 lower schools therefore we will need another school to take children from year 5

Ashton Middle School has been put into this position because of poorer performing schools becoming academies. This is due to a lack of management and planning by Central Bedfordshire Council. Schools have not worked together. Ashton has applied to become a secondary.

Disagree with the proposed closure of Ashton, Brewers Hill and Streetfield. Surely if they were all kept open and adjusted to the two tier system, we could dramatically reduce class sizes thus providing a better education for our children.

Estimates of figures are based on the rushed reactions of parents who received the harshly worded letter last year about transitions for schools. Several parents rushed to enrol their children in secondary's who may now regret this decision. More information will change their mind.

I think the information relied upon with respect to school numbers isn't accurate enough to make an informed decision. We have applied to different schools for some of our 5 children as we are unsure what will happen in September. Even we don't know where we will send our children yet which makes it difficult for me to understand how you can be so sure of numbers.

I think this is a awful idea, as I know many pupils and parents who are part of the school currently. It'll unsettle kids, and would affect many families in the area.

IN MY OPINION THE SCHOOL / TEACHER SHOULD CARRY ON AND DISTURB THE EDUCATION OF THE PUPILS

It is a stupid idea to close 3 middle schools

It is wrong and not in the interests or wishes of the local community

What the council is proposing is a disgrace and wrong. I want my child to stay in Ashton.

Responses to consultation for Ashton CofE VA Middle School

Q4 - Reasons why you agree or disagree with the proposal to close Ashton CofE VA Middle School

Agree the school has falling numbers and cant make its mind up what it wants to be one minute a primary school the next an upper school the site in the town is not suited to modern education old building that require large amounts of money to keep in good order and high running costs a drain on the finances of their budget

Financial

The pupil numbers are rapidly decreasing and the level of the education children are receiving is suffering due to the changes to local schools and the desire to change to a two tier system. Ashton is stuck in the past and it's reluctance to move with the other schools in the area have affected it and meant it has been left behind.

Disagree I've recently become aware of the possible closure of Ashton School. As A middle school, I hope I understand correctly that it will go back to being a secondary school, much as Dunstable Grammar school was. Please don't close yet another of Dunstable's old buildings as our town is becoming soulless.

I strongly disagree because Ofsted quotes this school as "Middle deemed secondary". Ashton Middle school is well known for having a caring, safe and supportive environment. This school was built as a Grammar School in 1887 and although there have been many changes it has a huge amount of history and tradition which would be a great shame to lose. The intended specialist areas of Science and DT alongside Creative and Performing Arts is excellent because Ashton Middle School already has a fantastic music and drama departments who regularly produce outstanding concerts and performances. We also already have suitable and safe science labs with innovative teachers. I also question as to whether this is a done-deal and the council has already decided to close all middle schools regardless of our views. I have two children (now in there 20s) who went to Ashton Middle School, enjoyed it immensely and have gone on to university. I have no problems with mid dle schools. In addition, the letter you sent to the Yr6 parents WAS scaremongering and has heavily impacted on the numbers of pupils applying for a place at Ashton Middle School. The parents were given very little time to make their decisions and it was NOT made clear to parents that they could still transfer schools during the year.

The location is ideal because it is central, and easy to get to. The transport to the school is great. Ashton Middle School is one of the oldest schools in the area, with great standing in the community. What would happen to the building? It is the most popular school in Dunstable. It has a history of being oversubscribed. Why close it when you will only have to build new schools? There are new houses being built in the area, so where will all of those children go? Shutting a good school is not a good way to attract new people to Dunstable. Keep it open for the sake of the children and the town.

I think the council has already decided to close the three middle schools but i feel the council should re-consider shutting Ashton as it is an historic building. It cannot be knocked down. I don't really know what the leadership is like at Ashton but i am more concerned about the building.

I Disagree due to the following points:- 1. Removal of parental/child choice. 2. Ashton Middle is our Faith school which links with our local cumunity. 3. It is a central school to the community for all of Dunstable. 4. There has been an unfair/misleading/biased consultation process. 5. There is a political agenda 6. Local constituents do not want Ashton Middle school to close due to its links to local community and extensive historical links to the town. 7. The School buildings a listed and there are restrictions as to the use of this site for educational use. 8. Central Bedfordshire Council have manipulated the local Schools, Parents and Communities. CBC are clearly delivering their own plan, irrespective of our views as parents (and constituents) and they are clearly not running a fair and active consultation. 9. Cllr Mark Versallion, by his own admission, was unable to change the three tier system when he was first in his post(2011) due to t he fact that the community did not want the changes. He has said that, as he was legally unable to force Schools to change, he started to look into 'local solutions' to emerge, which saw Schools make applications to change from three tier to two tier. This plan was helped along with the change of, the then failing Northfields Upper School, becoming All Saints Academy. A domino effect then occurred, where the schools were played off one another. Schools became unsettled and were concerned for their own viability, within Cllr Versallions plans.
(continued)

(continued) They were under no illusion that they were fighting to survive. Communication among the schools broke down as, one by one they began to seek out Academy status. Some schools huddled together, fearful for their school and became linked in partnerships. Others took on the views of the parents and students and decided to fight to remain. Confident of their place in the community, their support and viability. This is possibly the point at which the local community became aware of the unrest gripping our children's Education in Dunstable. As Cllr Versallion's plans continued, it was the schools that chose to work with their communities, Ashton Middle School and Streetfield, who found themselves remaining as the only two schools who were not supporting CBC's plans. They were then joined by Brewers Hill. Who, after securing Academy Status with Barnfield, were shockingly dumped by bad business decisions out of their control. Having worked through, what must have been a disruptive time for all, they also now found themselves against CBC's plans for change. 10. All this change seems to have followed CBC's plans for expansion of Houghton Regis (North). HR schools gained Academy Status. Plans for the new M1 link road and the building plans for the new homes were announced earlier than June 2012.

(continued) On 10 December 2013 the Council's Executive agreed to invite Houghton Regis Academy to prepare and submit a business case for a proposed expansion of the school from its current capacity of 480 to 900 places, for children aged 11 to 16 years of age, plus a 6th form, for a phased implementation from September 2016. They have said that the commencement of the process will depend upon the build rate of new housing within the new development north of Houghton Regis. However, there are plans to create nearly 600 new places for the start of the academic year in 2015. When the development of HR (North) progresses, CBC have said that they plan to build brand new school(s) within the development. This is to support their 'New School places programme', where a £100 million investment, to meet the demand of "... a growing local population and with Central Bedfordshire an ever popular place and families choosing to put down roots here – we need more school places..." E2...as the council ensures that all children and young people have access to high quality schools." (Quote taken from an interview with Cllr Mark Versallion). He also stated, in the Bedford Today on 10th Dec 2013, "With a growing local population it's estimated that our school population will increase by over 6,000 over the next five years.

(continued) A key role for the council is to ensure that all our children have a place at a local school. "Our New School Places programme is a hugely important piece for work for us and we estimate that we'll spend over £100m in the next five years on implementing it. "At the heart of all our work around education is a commitment to do everything we can to help our children and young people reach their potential, both academically and in terms of their personal development." Why are they planning to close good local schools if this is true? Will it help with a need to build a new school in the new development to meet a demand they are creating? The proposal to close the school states that there is an over supply of school places and yet the council has approved the expansion of Houghton Regis Academy from 480 to 900 students, this was approved about 2 months prior to the proposal to close Ashton Middle School. Central Bedfordshire Council states that there is a 63% over supply of middle school places and yet my child did not get in to my first choice middle school? Ashton was my second choice the nearest other schools that my child could have gone to are also both under consultation to be closed! So what choice do we have?, I have been very impressed with how Ashton are educating my child whilst under the immense pressure that is being placed on them by this situation that has been manufactured by the admissions process that the council has adopted/instigated.

(continued) 11. The three Middle Schools do not complete the change process, as CBC and Cllr Versallion would like. Therefore, many people believe, misleading tactics were implemented via the admissions process for Middle schools in 2013/14, to make these schools financially unviable. 12. The new intakes from year 6 (from Primary to secondary) were due to start in Sept 2014. However, a letter, sent out to parents in the position of moving their children at that time, told parents that if they did not move their children to places in the new Secondary System from Sept 2014, their child would not have a guaranteed place. Also, parents of children who are currently in year 4, at the newly extended Primary schools, received no notification what so ever that they could move their children up to a Middle school at the end of year 4, as has happened every year previously. The admissions department stated that this is because; as these children are now currently in a primary setting (Schools have all changed in the last year), there is no structured move in place at the end of year 4, even though the Middle schools are still accepting children at this stage. Parents were not made aware of this. They were led to believe that the two tier change was complete and there was no other option.

(continued) 13. And just as people began to question this, CBC announced their plans to close the three middle schools. Therefore, creating panic yet again among the parents as to the safety and stability of their child's Education. Concerned parents, wanting to make their child's Educational pathway as stress free as possible, whilst trying to give them the best chance with their education, did what the Council told them to do. 14. And just to make sure there would be as few as possible applying for a place at the schools, CBC took their confirmed intake numbers date cut off on the 15th Jan 2014. This was before all places had been given and did not take into account children with 2nd place choices. Since cut-off date, the numbers at these schools have increased. This is important as many people may have applied for Priory Academy. This school is vastly over subscribed and therefore many children will require their 2nd choice place. 15. Suddenly, CBC announced that too few children have chosen to join the Schools in Sept, supporting their decision to close the schools. Their reason being, that the funding follows the pupil. However, CBC have said that the funding isn't received by the school until the following year. WHY? We are told by Councillor Mark Versallion, that the money follows the student, well then it should be provided to the school that the student actually goes to when they go there not one year later, the council knows how many children there are and know how large a budget they require so there should be no issue with directing it to the actual school that the student attends.

(continued) (continued) No wonder they have schools that become financially unviable. They are deliberately sabotaging them! 16. Then began the consultation meetings, at which many of the questions, directed at the mental well being of the children at the centre of all this change, were met with none committal answers or "Things will be put in place to support the changes". 17. No consideration has been given, at this time, as to how these changes are emotionally effecting the children at these schools. 18. Staff, who, have been put under a great deal of stress and uncertainty with regards their careers, have remained professional and continued to educate and support the children and families, whilst in some cases being forced to apply for other jobs and relocate to other schools out of the area. This has put a great deal of stress on all those involved from all schools, esp. the three middle schools. Change is an important part of life, but how change is managed is also an important consideration when having an impact on the mental development of our children. 18a. I was very disappointed to learn of the apparent lack of consideration and support these changes are going to have on children with special educational needs in the area. 19. At the consultation evening, when the issue of how the council would deal with one of the larger schools, should it start failing, the response was that they would do all that they could to help, yet seem unwilling

My reasons why Ashton Middle School should not be closed by the council are :- Ashton Middle school is a school that cares to provide an all round education for the child rather than just concentrating on sats. My child is educated by specialist teachers in each subject from year 5 rather than having one general teacher for all subjects to the end of year 6 as per the lower school setup that the council wants to subject us to. Councillor Versallion states that the sats results in Dunstable are on the way up especially ks2 middle school years and yet these schools are or have been manipulated to change their age range .The school is in the centre of Dunstable and easy to access from all parts of the town. The proposal to close the school states that there is an over supply of school places and yet the council has approved the expansion of Houghton Regis Academy from 480 to 900 students, this was approved about 2 months prior to the proposal to close Ashton Middle School. Central Bedfordshire Council states that there is a 63% over supply of middle school places and yet my child did not get in to my first choice middle school? Ashton was my second choice the nearest other schools that my child could have gone to are also both under consultation to be closed! So what choice do we have?, I have been very impressed with how Ashton they are educating my child whilst under the immense pressure that is being placed on them by this situation that has been manufactured by the admissions process that the council has adopted/instigated.

(continued) Parents have been manipulated, misled and scared into sending their children to alternative schools by the Council admissions team and then the criteria for this consultation has been manipulated to suit the councils hidden agenda. It obviously suits the council to finance only 1st choice places for that year, no other organisation would work like that, we are told by Councillor Mark Versi Ilion , that the money follows the student, well then it should be provided to the school that the student actually goes to when they go there not one year later, the council knows how many children there are and know how large a budget they require so there should be no issue with directing it to the actual school that the student attends. At the consultation evening when the issue of how the council would deal with one of the larger schools that the council seems to want starts failing, the response was that they would do all that they could to help, yet seem unwilling to do anything to help Ashton Middle School which is not a failing school. It seem that unless you are a large school it's your problem as per the adage (if you owe the bank £1000 it's your problem, if you owe the bank £1000000 it's their problem)

(continued) There has been approval of about 6000 new homes in Houghton Regis, part of this proposal is for new schools to be built to accommodate the increase in students, will these schools be built before the new homes or will our school classes be over capacity in the foreseeable future. Why close a school that gives an excellent education to all children who attend only to open a new one one or two years down the line that is not tried and tested. When certain schools are over subscribed and there ends up with only about 5% over capacity in the school places how can the council say that parents have a choice? Priory Academy proposed numbers on roll according to their consultation documents show their numbers in year 6 September 2013 as 123 but when it becomes year 7 in September 2014 drops to 84 where are the 39 missing children going? Should the anticipated reduction in numbers not happen will pupils be forced out of this school? This situation is repeated as every year 6 moves on to year 7 for years 2015 and 2016. Again where is the choice?

It is my firm belief that the Year 5 intake figures have been conveniently managed by the Council allowing the newly formed Academy schools scaremongering parents into choosing the Year 5 places based on false information ie if the pupil remained at a middle school there would be no Year 9 place for the child in the future, a point that was negated at the public consultation held at the school. No consideration has been made in the figures for parent's 2nd choices in evaluating the financial viability of Ashton. Parents have not been allowed to make the decision as to where to send their children in Year 5 with all the necessary relevant information. The recent consultation re moving the town to a 2 tier education system was voted against by the parents in Dunstable, the Council is allowing a move to a 2 tier system through the "back door" as it is in their financial interests. Middle schools have recently improved significantly the Key Stage 2 results in English and Maths, disrupting my child's education by closing this school at the end of year 6 will put this improvement in the town's education in jeopardy. Ashton Middle school has a strong reputation in the town and local environs. On recently visiting Cedars Upper in Leighton Buzzard for my daughter's proposed move into Yr 9 the headmaster stated that he had a number of pupils from Dunstable and that those from Ashton Middle stood out from the rest (in a very positive way). Being the only faith school in Dunstable was a very important factor in choosing this for my son to attend from Year 5, no other Year 5 intake provides this locally.

Both my son who is in year 8 and my daughter who is in year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed their time at Ashton. They have received a balanced and quality education, and have been encouraged by the staff to excel. My daughter, who has potentially three more years in the school has made many friends and will be heartbroken to leave them. I recently went and attended a performance of the musical 'we'll meet again' at Ashton that was extraordinary in its scope and the teaching that brought out the talent in the kids. How can you close a school with such a flourishing artistic community? As I am sure you are aware, the reason for the lack of numbers in the school is due to incompetence of Ofsted in saying that the school was failing a few years ago and then apologising as they got the decision wrong. The local council then scared many people away, putting their year 4s into other schools just in case Ashton Middle School closes. Talking to other parents, the numbers will recover as soon as the threat of closure is lifted. The school is a faith school, which is important to us, and the traditions embodied by the school make it the ideal place for my daughter going forwards. Another point is that Dunstable has been going through hard times recently and the closure of this historic school would be severely detrimental to the overall wellbeing of the town. The incredible energy of Ms Phillips and Ms Hollis, the senior management team at the school will ensure the survival of the school give the chance.

We need a school in central Dunstable with the provision for those seeking a faith education.

Ashton Middle School is an excellent school that functions extremely well and has always been well-attended. My two children have had an excellent education at Ashton and had great care taken of them there. How can it make sense to close a good school, when if the school's performance was lacking the education system would legally oblige the LA to help it out and try and keep it running, no matter how few children were attending. A school of this calibre should not be taken out of existence simply because outside factors change the shape of the education structure. Dunstable needs good educators as much as any other town and Ashton offers this service in buckets, unlike some of the other schools in the area, especially the ones which started off the shift in tier-system in the first place. Schools that were in trouble took the option of academy status, therefore pushing a two-tier element in to a previously three-tier system. Knowing how much the LA tried, UNSUCCESSFULLY due to strong parent reaction, to make Dunstable two-tier 10 years ago, I find it unsurprising that this move was approved by the authorities.

(continued) I think many of us had realised over the last couple of years that this backdoor school by school method of change was going to eventually result in alterations to school systems which we could not avert. However the decision to close Ashton is short-sighted. Places are going to be woefully tight in the older sector of Dunstable schools - Ashton's decision to go to secondary status should be welcomed with open arms. The LA's actions have also been criminally opportunistic and rushed through. Ashton has been given no time to regroup and no help whatsoever - they have been hit when they are vulnerable and it has been the LA and its "allowance" for the other schools to change age groups which has caused that vulnerability. On that note, Ashton simply cannot be blamed for the lower intake this year - the LA admissions department have been lamentably unhelpful and on many occasions definitely detrimental in the information they have given to prospective parents.

It is part of the towns history that is seen as a well respected establishment in the town.

We will loose too many faith school places in the town especially as it was agreed that All Saints Academy is not a faith school as previously believed by the local authority. I believe there will be a shortage of school places in the future and a reduced choice of school for local parents as years 9 10 and 11 are almost to capacity. Excluding the 7000 homes in Houghton Regis there are smaller developments which with an average population of 1.8 children per household will instantly fill the local authority contingency of 10%.

It is my understanding that it is CBC's responsibility to ensure that there is enough school places for kids in Dunstable, that the schools are driving the highest possible educational standards, that there is a choice of quality schools for parents in Dunstable and to ensure that the schools on their books are both educationally and financially viable. I believe that by closing Ashton Middle School, CBC will be limiting choice for parents (especially if you want to send your child to a faith school as Manshead is already oversubscribed). I also that CBC would be failing in its obligation to improve higher standards if they closed Ashton Middle School as I don't believe that the secondary schools in Dunstable would be able to support the additional pupils. The CBC have already admitted that there is only a 5% surplus of places in years 10 and 11 , which is cutting it fine & with new houses being planned across Dunstable I believe this puts too much risk i nto the 2x most critical years in any childs education. As for the current secondary schools themselves, Manshead is oversubscribed and is already having to support teaching in ill equipped portacabins. All Saints is close to being full and in spite of fantastic new facilities, it is struggling to deliver academically. Finally there is Queensbury which must be struggling financially after its pupil numbers slumped after it went into special measures.

(continued) Even though it is now being led by a new leadership team and no doubt has capacity, it will take time to reestablish itself academically and financially. As well as a choice of faith schools, aspiring to deliver high educational standards, I also would welcome the choice of sending my child to a smaller, more individually focussed school (of circa 500 pupils) as opposed to a "super school" of circa 1000 pupils. There are no other secondary school options for my child in the area. CBC have presented admission figures for Sept 2014 that show Ashton to be financially unviable. I challenge these figures as the communication sent at the time by CBC was misleading and meant that parents were not aware of all the choices and options available to them. (As a result parents were panicked into choosing other schools, as they were desperate to secure a place) For me, if CBC is basing its recommendation to close Ashton based on these numbers, then this fundamentally undermines the validity of the whole consultation process.

The school should not be closed solely because of financial viability. The location is ideal because it is central, and easy to get to. Whilst it would appear on paper that the school would be undersubscribed in the future, I believe that the current trend for massive housing developments will counteract this. It is the only CofE school in the area and should be kept open for religious reasons.

It was agreed in 2006 to stay 3 tier. Leave our Dunstable schools alone.