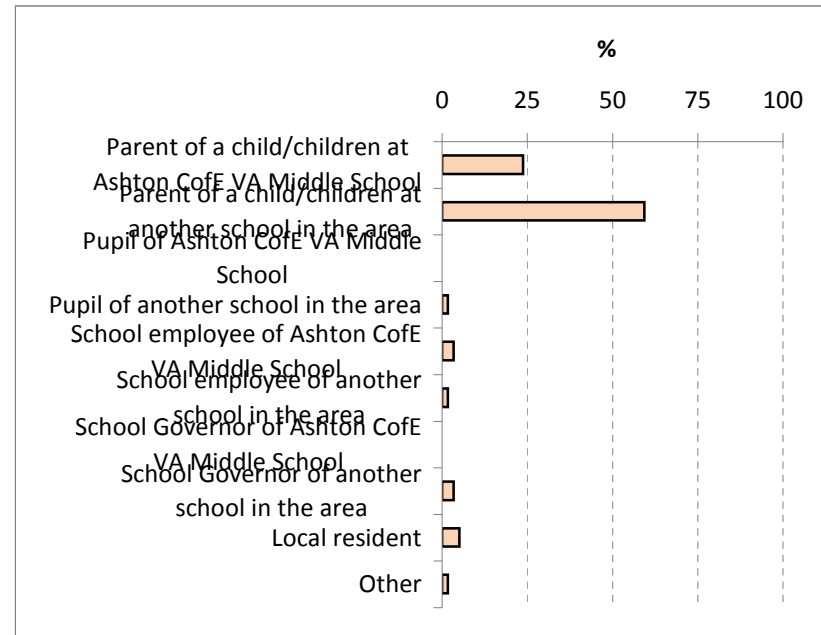


Appendix I

Ashton CofE VA final results Based on 59 responses

Q1 - Are You:

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Parent of a child/children at Ashton CofE VA Middle School	14	23.7
	Parent of a child/children at another school in the area	35	59.3
	Pupil of Ashton CofE VA Middle School	0	0.0
	Pupil of another school in the area	1	1.7
	School employee of Ashton CofE VA Middle School	2	3.4
	School employee of another school in the area	1	1.7
	School Governor of Ashton CofE VA Middle School	0	0.0
	School Governor of another school in the area	2	3.4
	Local resident	3	5.1
	Other	1	1.7
	Total	59	100.0

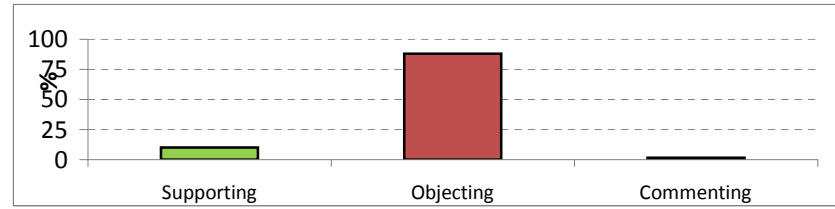


Q1.a - If other, please specify:

		Frequency
Valid	Member of the Priory Church of St Peter, Dunstable	1

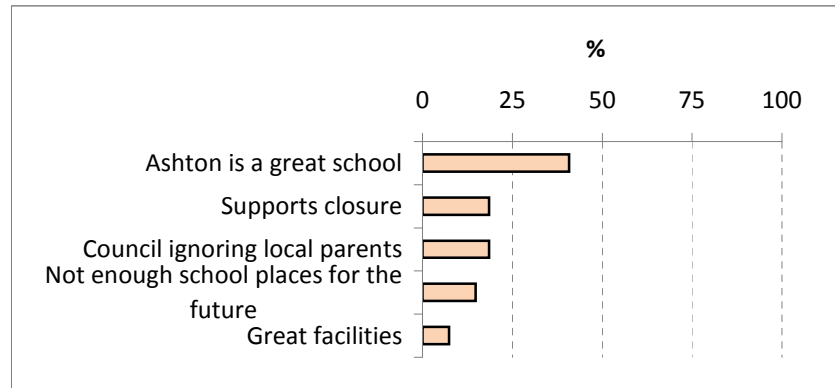
Q2 - Are you:

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Supporting	6	10.2
	Objecting	52	88.1
	Commenting	1	1.7
	Total	59	100.0



Q3 - Please provide your comments below:

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Ashton is a great school	11	40.7
	Supports closure	5	18.5
	Council ignoring local parents	5	18.5
	Not enough school places for the future	4	14.8
	Great facilities	2	7.4
	Total	27	100.0



Question three detailed responses:-

As a parent of a child at unstable Icknield Lower school, I am concerned that I now lack any choice as a parent where I can send my son when he reaches year 5. At present I have the choice of a number of middle schools. However Central Bedfordshire council have taken any choice away from me and my son will now feed automatically into Priory...in theory. I don't quite get the maths of all children from Dunstable Icknield, Watling, Studham and Slip End Lower all having the option to feed into Priory, there seem to be more children attending these schools than Priory has the capacity to take. What do Central Bedfordshire plan to do? Presumably force parents to send their children to another local primary school for two years then swap again at year 7 to a senior school? What a great system! Central Bedfordshire have blatantly ignored the views of local parents and should be ashamed, remember these children who are part of your experiment to change schools are future adults who will be tax payers and education is the fundamental to children achieving success as adults. You are failing our children and removing the element of parental choice.

Ashton is a fabulous school, caring, cherishing the children in its care, where the children bloom and progress. It would be a terrible shame to lose a school of this calibre with no reason.

Ashton is a fantastic school with great teachers and offers pupils a wide range of subjects taught by specialist subject teachers. The sport and music facilities are excellent. Primary schools do not offer the same.

Ashton is, and always has been a good school. I have had 3 children progressing from the school with very happy memories and very good results. The school has dedicated staff and brilliant facilities. Staff, nor parents nor pupils want it to close. I would like my 4th child to be able to attend too.

Ashton middle has set a very high standard for a middle school and should be kept open so that all other children have the benefit of what they can offer

Ashton middle is a good faith school in the town centre. Having been a pupil there myself in the past and my children being educated there I can say from experience that it would be a great loss to the town of Dunstable if it was closed. I would have happily stayed on there to complete my education if it was an option at the time but instead I went to upper school and hated it! Please consider keeping it open. I have new neighbours just moved into the area with three children and to date only one of them has been offered a place at a school for September. The council appear to be finding it difficult to find places for these children while at the same time trying to close a perfectly good school! With all the houses due to be built in the area more schools will be needed. Why build new schools when there are schools already there?

Ashton Middle is a very good school. My three daughters went there and did very well. I think it is disgusting the way this school is being forced to close. We fought twice before to keep the middle schools and we have been betrayed by the council and DFE. Closing this school will be ruining the education of children in the area.

Ashton Middle school must remain open in some form. It would be a crime to close it and lose a very long tradition of education on the site and in the beautiful buildings. It is clearly not suited to use as a primary school. There is still a demand for middle schools in the area. I have three children currently in lower school that is staying as a lower school so will need a placement at a middle school. This will not be possible and I understand I will have to make an in year application for them to transfer to a primary school if they don't get a place at the follow on middle school. The change from three tier to two tier was widely objected to by parents and abandoned but now has been forced on parents anyway. If the last middle schools are to close then it will be a massive blow for belief in democracy as our opinions will be proved to be of no value to decision makers. Middle schools offer children much earlier access to science labs and other in depth learning that just isn't available in a primary school environment and must surely place two tier educated children at a disadvantage.

Closure of a middle school such as this in its central location will cause utter chaos to the families who have moved to the area to attend this school. House prices could be seen to drop, and what will come of the site will it be put to some good use not a place for squatters or a mosque.

Dunstable needs a good Church of England Middle school, if you close Ashton Middle School there will be no Church of England choice for children in years 5 and 6, they will have to wait until year 7 and then go to Manshead. My child currently goes to Studham Village school and I want her to carry on attending a CofE school. I am very unhappy that my choice has been taken away from me. Ashton is a fantastic school with teachers who love working there and are passionate about the school. Dunstable will lose something very important if you close this wonderful school. Please keep it open!

From my understanding of the councils own figures there will be a lack of school places in four years closing a school for a short term dip is not the right solution. The school should be allowed to change it age range and continue to serve the community

How can the council close schools whilst developers continue to build housing estates. What does this means for the remaining schools. Can you guarentee these won't become oversubribed and affect our children's education. Far too much pressure is put on children as it is without making it harder for them to learn!

I am a resident of Dunstable 30 years A worker through a number of schools over the years as an Education Welfare Officer and latterly employed direct by several select schools in the area both Lower/Primary/Middle and Upper. There is still a need for Ashton School:- Ashton Middle School offers a different experience for children - the philosophy of the school is 'the whole child comes first' and then the partnership with the parents and then all the everyday expectations of a busy well respected and Good school according to the last Ofsted inspector visit. As you can see I have probably visited 50 schools in my previous employment and I can assure you, I see 'on the ground' Ashton Middle provides a different experience. My view would be schools are businesses and so they should be servants to the community - however there is a unique quality from Ashton - it is all based on a happy all round experience for children first - I do not hear what pupils they want, I hear in the corridors how they can support children and how they can find funding to enrich childrens' lives. The community deserves to keep a school that is happy to be a different experience. Parents of pupils here chose the Ashton experience and do not want second best - what parent would? I want Ashton to develop into a unique smaller secondary school - so many children I have worked with over the years cannot face the large faceless Upper school buildings with a 1000 students plus. Children at Ashton's new secondary phase school would be nurtured and they could be enriched and encouraged to gain confidence. Ashton could have specialisms in particular areas for gifted and talented children but also there will be a need (and I am certain of this) for children in this area who need to be given extra attention education-wise and nurturing wise to be able to succeed into economic wellbeing in the longer term. We all know how well specialist schools are received in every area because parents realise their children have extra attention -well Ashton offer this opportunity to mainstream children. There are children that do not have learning difficulties but who do not want to lose that extra caring 'family approach' touch. Close Ashton and you let down 450-500 children in this area- you let down the community and you close the door on diversity. Jan Mead

I am so unhappy to hear that Ashton might close. My daughter loves the school and is thriving there. She is on the gifted and talented register for 7 subjects including English and Science. The staff there are outstanding and so passionate in their teaching. I couldn't have wished for a better school for her. My son, who is currently in year 10, also attended the school and he has noticing but happy memories about his time there. The education he received there was also second to none. Please rethink the proposal to close the school.

I believe that Central Bedfordshire Council orchestrated the move to a two tier system in Dunstable by driving the lower schools to add year 5/6 and the upper schools to add year 7/8. These lower and upper schools are now struggling themselves trying to keep or gain in sufficient numbers what were middle school pupils. CBC itself has created, at least in the short term, under subscription in middle schools because of this. What appears to be significant numbers of North West Dunstable and Village pupils are now travelling by school bus from their homes to the 3 tier system in Leighton Buzzard! So you have to ask why people do this? It's primarily because of the uncertainty caused by CBC in Dunstable and of course because the 3 tier system is a good system! I feel what is happening is frankly a ridiculous strategic short term approach led by CBC and most likely Leighton Buzzard will be next once CBC instigate phase 2 of their 2 to 3 tier plan. It's been clear for a number of years they CBC have wanted this to happen and they seem to have found a way to try and do it in what could be said to be a very underhand way, ultimately at the expense of our children, be they in lower, middle or upper schools.

Quite shameful.

I don't understand why this can't be the church secondary school to follow on from Ashton St Peter's Primary. I know Manshead is supposed to be a church school but in reality it has very little to do with the church and being a church attendee is not even high on it's admissions policy. Ashton Middle has strong links with the church and Dunstable needs a secondary school like this. I also don't understand how you have the ability to close a church (VA) school. Surely the Synod should have the final say in this matter!

I fully support the proposal to close Ashton Middle School. The changing nature of education in the town means that there is no need for middle school provision. The much reduced student numbers will mean that the school cannot provide a coherent curriculum that meets the needs of its pupils. The school should close as it is not educationally or financially viable.

I have a son and daughter at the school who are both doing well at the school. I love the fact that the teachers are so passionate and know my children. They encourage them to do well and are setting them up to do well in the future. There isn't an alternative school that I feel will give them the same benefits.

Most of the school in dunstable are already above average class sizes why would close schools to put more pressure on these schools.

Not sure if there is any point in objecting because no matter how many people objected already, whatever their opinions, views or reasons as to why we want the school, you and the powers that be were going to close it anyway, i think it is outrageous, why spend all the time asking people, having meetings and wasting time when you know all along that this school along with the other middle schools were going to close no matter what we, the people of the town, the tax payers, the parents want, we'll who the hell are We

Objecting to the closure of a good well run and well established faith school. However keen for the same reasons for the school to be allowed to run as a secondary school. I have a daughter in year five who is not only thriving here but excelling here! Had it not been for the potential upheaval my daughter in year 4 would have been joining her sister at Ashton. So using projected statistics I feel is biased and somewhat manipulative in terms of reasoning for closure. If the proposal to open as a secondary succeeds, I will not hesitate to send my other daughters to Ashton in year 7. I am pretty certain that other parents at their lower school feel the same. It is too good a school to lose over politics and property prices.

On behalf of the Full Governing Body we support the closure of Ashton Middle School. We do not yet see that Ashton Middle have demonstrated how such a small secondary school will have the specialist teachers and facilities to offer a comprehensive curriculum across the full ability range.

Please allow the fantastic teaching in this school to continue

The quality of Ashton's teaching, and what they have to offer our children is not up to scratch. The two-tier system is of much greater effect and I fully support the proposed closure of all three of these schools.

The school should now accept the help of the LA and allow for a managed closure which will mean that the pupils currently there will have the best chance possible to have a good education, rather than the staff wasting precious time and resources chasing after something that won't realistically happen. It is much better educationally for children to be in primary / secondary settings, particularly when you look at the very short timescale that a Y9 pupil has to settle into a new school and then pick their GCSE options, all within a few months.

The school with the current management structure is not capable of providing the required level of education. The proposed school will be too small to deliver the broad range of education required by a secondary school

Too many schools doing their own thing in an uncoordinated way and Ashton is continually changing the goalposts just to keep a school in place rather than anything else.

Where are the kids going to go to school this leaves only a couple of middle school

whilst i understand it is not viable as a middle school, i would hope that the council would work with the school to allow it to change its age range and stay open in some capacity

With the volume of spare school places in the town and the movement of many Lower Schools to Primary status, I feel that the position of Ashton Middle is no longer tenable. Equally, the poor reputation of the school combined with it's weak management in recent years (how many different models for the school have they now consulted on?!) make me feel that it is no longerviable under any circumstances.