

SHEVINGTON



PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

Mrs K Pilkington, BSc, PGCE
13 Christleton
Shevington
Wigan
WN6 8DQ
clerk.shevingtonpc@yahoo.co.uk
Tel/Fax: 01257 473022

www.shevingtonpc.gov.uk

Mr J Winterbottom
Director of Children's Services
Civic Centre
Millgate
Wigan
WN1 1AZ

7 July 2016

Dear Mr Winterbottom,

Last week Shevington Parish Council met with a contingent of parents and residents, angry and concerned about the Council's pre-consultation document proposing the closure of one of our three Shevington Primary Schools.

The Parish Council is strongly opposed to the closure of any of our schools on a number of grounds; the PC also agrees with parents and residents that the document itself is dubious.

1. Calculations of local births and projections of class numbers are inconsistent. Given the increased house-build in both Shevington and Standish, it is difficult to understand the formula used by the Department to project numbers of children needing school places in this area.
2. The decision to distribute the document before the publication of Shevington County Primary School's OUTSTANDING OFSTED report was unjustified and presents a seriously unbalanced view of the school's ability to attract children in the future, within and outside the Parish.
3. Already two different versions of the document are circulating re the 5th option. This does not inspire confidence in the validity of the document.
4. The document gives no thought to the fact that creating just two schools will result in overcrowded classes in every year group and thus will jeopardize the quality of education for our children.
5. No thought has been given to yet another possibility. I.e. the more equitable distribution of existing numbers of pupils across the three schools.
6. The Wigan Dept of Education is recognized as working towards the best possible provision for all our children. We feel that this proposal does not reflect that commitment.

Finally..... The document has created a sense that this is a decision already 'fait accompli' and that no amount of consultation or pre - consultation will have an effect on the final outcome. This is disempowering for residents and undemocratic.

Yours sincerely,

Ira E Whiteley.
Chair - Shevington Parish Council