

PRIMARY SCHOOL ORGANISATION CONSULTATION

NOTES OF A MEETING HELD AT OAKLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL HELD ON 19 MARCH 2008

COMMUNITY/PARENTS' MEETING HELD AT 6.30pm

Present

Carol Tiddy	Acting Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services, Shropshire County Council
Cllr Ann Hartley	Portfolio Holder for Children's Services and Deputy Leader of Shropshire County Council
Ian Budd	Assistant Director – Strategy & Business Support, Children and Young People's Services, Shropshire County Council
Norrie Porter	Head of Premises & Planning, Children and Young People's Services, Shropshire County Council
John Hargreaves	Head of Communications, Shropshire County Council (observer)
Penny McLagan	notetaker

93 people registered their attendance, as follows:

Mrs M Swinstead	Villager
Mr D Watts	Parent
Mrs N Jones	Parent
Mr N Jones	Parent
Ted Clarke	County Councillor
Nigel Hartin	County Councillor
James Moraghen	Resident
Richard Pettener	Parent
C. Clode	Teacher
J. Parkhurst	Parent & Teacher
S Brooks	Teacher
S. Thomas	Teacher
Felix Morris	Parent
Mike Reece	Parent
Jan Clarke	Parent Governor
Emma Lock	Parent
Chris Lock	Parent Governor
Barry Worth	Parent
Davina Evans	Parent
Beth Puutis	Hillside House Nursery
Kate Darby	Hillside House Nursery
Janet Phillips	Hillside House Nursery
Alfie Phillips	Hillside House Nursery
Mark Rogers	Parent
Karen Rogers	Parent
Ali McCormack	Parent
Debbie Buckley	Longmeadow School Parent

Louise Hinds	Longmeadow School Parent
Wendy Williams	Longmeadow School Parent
Lee Corfield	Parent
Sarah Corfield	Parent
Siobhan Davies	Ex pupil
Amy Gode	Ex pupil
Ayla Baharrell	Parent & Staff
Matt Beharrell	Parent & Staff
Louise Churchill	Ex parent & Staff
Steve Churchill	Ex parent
Sue Elliott	Parent
Ewan Elliott	Ex pupil
Elaine Fletcher	Parent
Andrew Fletcher	Parent
Cameron Taylor	Parent
Shirley Cousins	Parent
Louise Smith	Parent
Michael Pearce	Parent
Sarah Pearce	Parent
June Kirkham	Parent & then Grandparent
Nikki Howells	Parent
Catherine Coulthurst	Parent
Jacqueline Faugere	Parent
Rhea Parsons	Shropshire Star
Iris Williams	Staff
Anna Jones	Parent
Nicky Richards	Oaklands After School
Michelle Seeney	Parent
Clair Christian	Parent
Tom Fulton	Parent
Ann Fulton	Parent
Keeley Caudwell	Parent
Joyce Malins	Grandparent
Sharon Malins	Parent
Kym Crippin	Parent
Simon Crippin	Parent
Andrea Broadhurst	Parent
Wayne Broadhurst	Parent
Katharina Tozer	Parent
Kate Berney	Parent
Nick Berney	Parent
Jim Fletcher	Parent
Julie Fletcher	Parent
Marg Homan	Villager
Jean Edwards	Villager
Gina Fitch	Villager
Helen Torrington	Parent
Beth Lane	Parent Governor
Darron Watkins	Parent
Lisa Oliver	Parent

Nicola Hughes	Parent Governor
Lis Wharton	Parent
Suzanne Robinson	Parent
Rob Reid	Parent
Gavin Twyford	Parent
Nicola Twyford	Parent
Linsey Renouf	Parent
Fiona Jones	Parent
Andy Jones	Parent
Jo Hughes	Parent
John Hitchings	Governor, Longmeadow School
Carol Tunmore	Parent
Jean Fletcher	
Andy Moffatt	
Tara Thomas	Governor and After School Club

Introduction

Carol Tiddy opened the meeting and introduced those present. Ian Budd then explained:

- the reasons for the review;
- the review process; and
- possible next steps

Carol Tiddy then invited questions, which were as follows.

1. Cameron Taylor, Chair of Governors. Is it correct that officers of Children and Young People's Services classify Oakland as urban? Yes or No.

Ian Budd responded that it was not as straightforward as that and that Oakland was subject to the same process of decision making regarding classification as all primary schools in Shropshire. He stated that this information had been shared with schools on a number of occasions.

2. Cameron Taylor, Chair of Governors, provided information on research he had done on the ONS document of rural and urban classifications, which he stated clearly identified that "Town and Fringe – Less Sparse" fell within the rural domain. He asked Cllr Ann Hartley whether, as proposer of the policy, Children and Young People's Services would now admit that Bayston Hill is rural and accepting that, admit that Oakland Community Primary School meets the criterion of filter 4 of the Organisation Policy and remove it from the list of schools that are still being targeted? Yes or No.

Cllr Ann Hartley responded that she was there to listen, not to pre-determine. She would gather facts and thoughts and take these back to the Council.

3. Jean Edwards, Grandparent. I have lived in the village for over 40 years it's always been rural. I have a petition signed by villagers to say it is rural.
4. Andrea Broadhurst, Parent. I have had answers from Children and Young People's Services saying that it used the DCSF document "Closing a Mainstream School" in putting together the policy to close rural schools.

Ian Budd responded that this was correct.

5. Fiona Jones, Parent. Why are the proposers of this amalgamation also the decision makers? It seems unfair.

Carol Tiddy responded that Council Members made policy decisions, they approved the policy and would therefore make decisions as a result of it.

6. Fiona Jones, Parent. Is it right that there is no right of appeal?
Carol Tiddy responded that there was very little right to appeal except in certain circumstances where church schools are concerned, when appeal could be made to the schools adjudicator.

7. Jean Fletcher. I would like to know why Shropshire County Council are not fighting for any additional funding for rural schools.

Cllr Ann Hartley responded that she would wish to assure everyone that the Council had for many years been fighting the case for Shropshire and that they would continue to do so through various bodies. The Council were very proactive in raising this nationally and belonged to the F40 group (the 40 worst funded authorities) and SPARSE (an organisation for the sparsely populated parts of the country). The Council was also working with officials in Westminster.

Ian Budd added that there was currently a review of national funding for schools but there would not be any significant changes until 2011 because the funding for the next three years had already been set by government.

8. Jean Fletcher. But haven't they said that they wanted to keep rural schools because they are important?

Ian Budd responded that the presumption that there will be rural schools was built into the policy.

Carol Tiddy added that yes government did and you will also have heard of our cross party representation to fight for extra funding for our schools because we are a rural county with different needs.

9. Katharina Tozer, Parent. My question is to Norrie Porter. In the Children and Young People's Services consultation document it states the proposal is to create a 14 class school with a capacity of 420 pupils. This is one of the reasons why Long Meadow is the preferred option. Does it mean a capacity of 420 before the consultation starts or is the plan to expand school buildings as and when necessary in the future?

Norrie Porter responded that the County Council would work with the governing body, if this proposal goes forward, to decide how they want to develop new buildings eg should they have a building slightly larger than the number of children to allow for expansion. We will ensure there are sufficient spaces for all the children that are in the two existing schools, should they end on a single site as part of the amalgamation. But we would wish to work with the governing body as to what the new school looked like.

Carol Tiddy added that Cabinet's decision could not, however, be pre-judged.

10. Elaine Fletcher, Parent. What would the proposal mean for the staff of the schools? Will my son in class 3 stay with all his classmates and move with them to the new site?

Ian Budd responded that a meeting had been held earlier with staff and trade union representatives and that there were agreed protocols for a smooth transition for children and staff. The authority wished to ensure that people felt secure in their place of work in any school following any amalgamation. This would help them to work together on the ethos of the school.

11. Parent. What happens if there is a staff drain?

Carol Tiddy responded that whilst this could not be guaranteed there was no reason that the amalgamation would cause it to happen.

12. Parent. Except there are currently two headteachers

13. Andrea Broadhurst, Parent. Mrs Gibson teaches so if we lose her there will be less.

14. Elaine Fletcher, Parent. We moved into Bayston Hill three years ago purposely for this school. We came to look around the school and our son is very quiet and wouldn't cope in a big school. He has done so well since he has been here. He has sent a note saying he does not want to go to a big school. We will not be sending our child to a big school.

14. Carol Tunmore, Parent. Ian Budd said the next generation of children will benefit from the new school. They won't be able to benefit from the small school experience which is what we have at the moment whereas at Long Meadow where our children previously went, they suffered from

the set up.

15. Susan Elliott, Parent. This is the first meeting I've been able to come to. Can the reason for the drop in numbers be simplified? How can you not project that the population won't go up? You could build a number of new schools and then Oakland has been sacrificed to build a new school and then numbers go up. People have sent their children here and obviously wanted two schools here but now we are being sacrificed because of a purely budgetary factor. There were once a lot more children in Bayston Hill before now and could be again.

Norrie Porter responded that as time had gone on the number of children per family had dropped whereas the number of houses had stayed broadly the same. There were now fewer children here and across Shropshire. The population was ageing; children were moving on to secondary education and then out of the school system. Although the decline in pupil numbers in Bayston Hill was nearly at an end now, it was predicted they would stabilise at a final level much lower than when the two schools in Bayston Hill were built. We were therefore already in a position where the numbers of school places have dropped and we are suggesting it is time to look at another potential drop and create another school with more resources.

16. Shirley Cousans, Parent. I hear what you are saying but how can you justify closing a school in the top 10 in Shropshire that is not failing?

Carol Tiddy responded that you are right, this is not a failing school. In Shropshire there are very few schools that are recorded as failing. In other authorities you could look at doing school organisation like that but we have always had very few failing schools, only one at the moment. Therefore using that as the criteria would not achieve a sustainable outcome or deal with the issues of falling rolls or lack of money. Therefore it is not a criteria we have used because it would not work in Shropshire.

17. Steve Church, Parent. I have two arguments. He is talking rubbish about falling numbers. The council is building business parks and attracting business, trying to attract people. The council is also regularly trying to build extra housing in the village. So you are trying to increase the numbers in the village. So both parts are rubbish.

Carol Tiddy responded that this could be taken up after the meeting but agreed that the County Council was always trying to attract people and that she expected that would continue.

18. Nicola Jones, Parent. Two things. I am a midwife and I think midwives are more qualified to comment on the birthrate. In the last six years it has gone up in Shropshire.

Secondly, Shropshire has successful schools. Why is so much money being set aside for the Shrewsbury sixth form college and technical college to have such an expensive super-school built.

Carol Tiddy responded that the money had been given by a different body for an entirely different purpose. If the proposal for the sixth form colleges did not go ahead then the money could not be reassigned into primary school education, it would be lost.

19. Nicola Jones, parent. Where does the money come from?

Carol Tiddy replied that it came from a separate national funding mechanism outside the County Council and that the money could not be received if the proposal did not go ahead.

20. Parent. How will you accommodate the rising birthrate?

Carol Tiddy responded that the County Council would like to have that problem.

21. Mark Tunmore, Parent. I have two children at the school. Ian Budd said that the Council has got to put plans together to ask the government for more money. So you must be down the road as to making plans about buildings. You said you need to go back by June with your plan so you will get the funding. So if you have certain plans in place to apply for the funding, what is going to happen to this school site in the short medium and long term?

Ian Budd responded that the County Council was currently consulting with communities and the outcomes of the consultations would be considered by Cabinet in May and they would make a decision as to whether to proceed to the next stage of the process. Regarding the site, there were no plans and decisions in place for any school site in Shropshire.

Carol Tiddy reiterated that there were no plans in place for this site.

22. Felix Morris, Vice Chair of Governors and Parent. I want to qualify the policy proposal being put forward is financially driven by lack of funding.

Ian Budd confirmed that any decision would need to be in the educational best interests of the area. He noted, nevertheless, that overall Countywide reduction in pupil numbers causes pressure on funding for schools.

23. Felix Morris. Therefore if the policy is not finalised by June you cannot access the funds?

The Primary Capital Programme submission needs to be submitted in June. We would continue to fight for as much capital and revenue

funding as possible for Shropshire

24. Felix Morris. My question is, do we need to have a policy in place to access that?

Carol Tiddy responded that, following consultation, the policy had been agreed by Council in December and was in place. The current consultations were taking place with that background. It was hoped to be able to persuade the government that enough was being done in respect of having a policy in place and applying it to be able to access the funding.

25. Felix Morris. So if closure does not go ahead can you get the money?

Carol Tiddy responded that was not known.

26. Felix Morris. What alternatives are there other than the two discussed? What alternatives were considered before proposing closure?

Ian Budd responded that the local framework was considered and from the list of criteria it was considered this was the best way forward. He reminded the group that this was just the early consultation and that there was no definitive proposal here yet on which a statutory consultation would take place. A range of proposals could be suggested by the local community, such as federations.

27. Felix Morris. The majority of people are not employed with the education system and therefore it is very difficult for us to understand the complications of various alternatives. We don't know what alternatives are out there and how we can create federations etc. So you are saying "our proposal is to close the school and you have to come up with another option"? It is ridiculous to expect us to come up with an alternative.

28. Jackie Faugere, Parent. The Shropshire Primary Schools for the Future document had a full list of primary schools, including 22 schools listed for closure (named). They do not appear in this January document.

Ian Budd responded that they were in the January document, in Appendix E of the Cabinet paper.

29. Jackie Faugere, Parent. The Local Government Spending Watchdog's recommendation is that schools should only have no more than 10% surplus places. The proposal would create over 20% surplus places. Would you like to comment on how the proposal can go against the recommendation?

Norrie Porter responded the number of 420 places was to enable the school to cope with variation in pupil numbers and the additional

classroom space could be used for other purposes as necessary, so that it would not be counted as “surplus”. Should the school numbers increase, they could be brought back into play.

31. Andrea Broadhurst, Parent. First of all I would like to know where the proposed savings of £89,000 are going to come from. Not long ago Norrie Porter said our numbers are sustained. Why are you now telling us that we need to do something? If they are, leave us alone. Long Meadow has four cabins not being used. That would remove your surplus places. We have an extended school and the Hillside Nursery and excellent teaching staff. Why destroy it?
32. Gina Fitch, Villager. We live in a multi-cultural village. Not everyone will want to send their child to a CofE school. Where is the nearest Muslim school for instance?
33. Jane Parkhurst, Parent and Teacher. Two points. You are talking about making a school of 420. You have previously said birth rates are dropping but you are planning a massive school. Second, I have taught in a massive school so I know what it is like and I didn't like it. You know the birth rate could go up and that there are new building plans for Bayston Hill. If we are looking at school places we should look at the bigger picture, at education as a whole, secondary and primary together, then you might save your funding.
34. Shirley Cousans, Parent. My question is to Ann Hartley. In the 'Rural and Urban Area Classification 2004' document, which is being used by Children and Young People's Services to determine urban and rural schools, Shawbury is classified as 'town and fringe – less sparse'. It has a population of 3044 and has two primary schools. As these two schools are classified as Urban according to the interpretation of the Children and Young People's Services reading of this reference document, will Cllr Hartley as the proposer of this policy, please explain why these two schools have been removed from the hit list at filter 4 and why they are not being proposed for an urban amalgamation like us?

Cllr Ann Hartley replied that she did not know the answer but that she had written down exactly what Mrs Cousans had said and it would also be recorded in the notes, which would be shared with Cabinet. She had taken the point and would look into it.

Carol Tiddy asked whether a written reply would be provided. Cllr Hartley confirmed that it would and asked Mrs Cousans to leave her address with her following the meeting.

35. Parent. If we were bigger than Long Meadow would you be meeting with them? They are not being uprooted, their children are not moving.

Carol Tiddy responded that consultation meetings were being held with all schools including Longmeadow and that nothing was decided yet.

36. Parent. If we want questions answered can't you have people there who can answer?

Carol Tiddy responded that some questions had already been answered and that some would be taken away and would be answered.

37. Parent. Bigger schools with bigger classes are failing Shropshire children. My son has been failed by them, this is the only one that has taken the time to get to know him and his needs as a person not as a number.

38. Andrew Jones, Parent. The Filter 4 question has not been answered yet. You filtered out rural primary schools with a roll of 92 or more. This is a rural school and has a roll of 92 or more so why was it not filtered out? You have to answer that now.

Carol Tiddy asked that questioners not address officers in an aggressive manner. She replied that the County Council tried very hard to ensure that every piece of correspondence was acknowledged and answered and that if a response had not been received please speak to an officer following the meeting.

Ian Budd added that this particular question had been answered on many occasions and that there were a number of different definitions that people seemed to be using. We have shared our definition of urban and rural many times. Councillors would make their decision as to whether or not to move to statutory consultation and he could assure everyone that whatever decision was made would be in the best interests of children. We can go on providing definitions of urban/rural but the important point is that your view can be put forward as part of this consultation.

39. Cameron Taylor, Parent. The "Rural and Urban Classification 2004" document is our reference document and this clearly states that we are a rural school and therefore should have been filtered out at filter 4 with the other rural schools.
40. Andy Moffatt. With regard to the proposed saving of £89,000 from the amalgamation. You stated that funds are pupil driven by pupil numbers. Can you explain why, if you amalgamate schools, children get less funding and how the basic sum is calculated?

Ian Budd responded that funding coming into Shropshire was worked out as a notional value times number of pupils in the January count prior to the start of the financial year. Funding for schools is allocated to schools using a formula which is decided by the Schools Forum – Schools Forum is made up of headteachers, governors, trade union and professional association representatives, diocesan representatives and an early years and childcare partnership representative. It includes a lump sum and some pupil led values such as amount per pupil and pupils with SEN.

The lump sum is made up of decisions over various years and includes funding related to the delegation of services to the authority from the schools.

41. Andy Moffatt, Parent. So this formula could change year on year?

Ian Budd responded that it could but Schools Forum was aware that that unless there was a lot of extra money available there would be winners and losers. There are also practical restrictions on changes that can be implemented within a multi-year budget period. The current period is 2008-11.

42. Andy Moffatt, Parent. So there would be savings if the formula was changed?

Ian Budd responded that there would not be any significant change between 2008-11 because a new three-year funding period had started.

43. Julie Fletcher, Parent. Have you actually gone and asked people in Bayston Hill if it is rural or urban? I have knocked on the doors of 500 houses and they have signed this petition saying that they are rural. I would say based on that Bayston Hill is a rural village.

44. Keeley Caudwell, Parent. My daughter started at Oakland after visiting both schools. When we went to visit with the head at Longmeadow I was given to believe that Oakland was closing and moving to Longmeadow. At the Scrutiny meeting there was a governor from Longmeadow who stated that they knew about this in the middle of last year. How long have they known when we only found out about it in January?

Carol Tiddy invited John Hitchings, Chair of Governors, Longmeadow School to respond.

Mr Hitchings replied that he had no knowledge of what was being said, it was simply not the case. It had never been an assumption that Oakland was going to close and move to Longmeadow. He added that he did not believe Mrs Caudwell was told last summer by the headteacher of Longmeadow that this school was going to close; the headteacher could not have had any knowledge of the County Council's plans as there had not been any discussions with anyone. The funding issue came to light in September, the policy was approved in December and was applied by the Council in January.

45. Keeley Caudwell, Parent. But I know what I was told.

John Hitchings further responded that from a Longmeadow perspective the proposal was not seen as a takeover of one school by another. However, Oakland had a capacity of 210 places and therefore Longmeadow could take almost all the children from the other school.

46. Parent. You say “Every Child Matters”, how does every child matter when you are moving them from Oakland to Longmeadow. It is like me moving into your house, it would be uncomfortable because Longmeadow is established. The reason we live here is because we wanted a small school of 110 children, where the headteacher knows all the children and greets them at the start of the day. The children cannot wait to get through the door into school.

Carol Tiddy responded that the comment had been recorded and sincerely understood. However, the first part pre-judged the reason for tonight's discussion, it is not decided.

47. Parent. If you think I am going to throw my son's education away so you can make a profit by selling the buildings, I am not.
48. Felix Morris. In the proposal, and Malcolm Pate clarified this on television, you state that you are listening to parents and stakeholders. In the autumn consultation 97% of respondents were against the policy and clearly this evening we are against the policy. There is not a voice in favour. What do we have to do to make our views heard for this amalgamation to stop. It is action I am looking for.

Carol Tiddy responded that any action would be at the end of the consultation period.

49. Nicola Twyford, Parent. If the schools do become one, will both heads fairly get the chance to be interviewed and the best one get the role? We feel ours is best. Or will it be the Longmeadow head because it is their site?

Ian Budd answered that a staffing protocol had been drawn up and, should amalgamation go ahead, there would be a fair process so that both school communities were treated equitably.

50. Nicola Twyford, parent. Rumour is going around that the Longmeadow head is keeping the job and we are losing our head.

Ian Budd responded that it was important, for any amalgamation anywhere in the county, that there was very fair treatment of all staff. This was why the staffing protocols for suitable continuing employment and pay for all staff had been discussed and agreed with the trade unions. If one head in any pair of schools was “displaced” the authority would work with that person to make sure they would get a headship elsewhere if they wanted one.

51. Nicola Twyford, Parent. But we are pleased with our head and if Mr Roberts gets it it won't be fair.

Ian Budd replied that circumstances could well change between now and

what would be at least September 2009, even if amalgamation went ahead. The authority would work very hard to ensure no one school was treated less favourably than any other.

52. Tara Thomas, Governor and After-School Club. I know that we are both good schools according to Ofsted but we have already discussed that bigger schools are not always best. What can you offer parents that this proposal will be best for their children?

Carol Tiddy responded that the current consultation was intended to hear the views of parents and the community, one of the key messages this evening was that parents chose this school because of its size.

53. Nicola Jones, Parent. (1) Hardly any of these questions have been answered. When are these questions going to be answered and have we got time to respond back to you at the end of the consultation period? And (2) who is going to be responsible for making the decision and who will be the head of an amalgamated school?

Carol Tiddy responded to part (1) that where questions could not be answered this evening replies would be sent and that the consultation period did not end until 2 May and to part (2) that the new governing body of any new school would make decisions regarding the headteacher.

54. Nicola Jones, Parent. Made up of whom?

Carol Tiddy replied it would be best if the governing body was made up of representatives from both schools.

55. Nicola Jones, Parent. We want decisions now. Will there be an open and fair contest about how the new head will be employed? Will it be one of the two existing heads?

Carol Tiddy replied yes, if they both wanted it.

- 56 Nicola Jones, Parent. So it's not decided.

Carol Tiddy confirmed it was not.

57. Jo Hughes, Resident, parent and ex-pupil. My question is to Ann Hartley. When these go back to Cabinet I know there will be lots of different sets of schools being considered and some are quite willing because they are on the same site. So is every school being considered individually, rather than all together?

Cllr Ann Hartley responded that was absolutely the case, the 16 schools would not be taken as a whole, because all the communities were different. Each individual school would be looked at with its proposed partner. Some schools were incredibly keen even though they

were miles from each other, but all the feedback of different ideas from parents would be carefully considered. Cllr Hartley also advised that the 9 Members on Cabinet were planning to spend a day going around in a coach and visiting each school during working time so that they could meet with heads, teachers and children in a working environment. Cabinet would not just sit around a table and make such an important decision.

58. Cameron Taylor, Chair of Governors and Parent. When? Before 2nd of May?

Cllr Hartley replied that yes, the visits would be within the consultation period so before 2 May.

59. Shirley Cousans, Parent. I'm not being disrespectful to Longmeadow but I, like many parents, chose this school because it is a small community school. I gather you have got the impression that a lot of people will not be sending their children to Longmeadow. So what are you going to offer us if the smaller schools cannot accommodate us? What will you do for us then, as parents?

Carol Tiddy responded that the views of the community were still being sought and the authority would hope for a solution that didn't necessitate parents having to drive their children around to a small school of their choice.

60. Nicky Howells, Parent. About the situation regarding the headteacher. It states in the proposal that if one school was used as the basis of the new school, the current head of that school would remain as the head of the new school.

Carol Tiddy responded that if this school closed, it would be up to the governing body to decide.

Ian Budd added it was identified within the consultation document that there could be one of three local routes for amalgamation. If a new school was created, it would be a potential selection process. However, there could be many moves and intentions stated by staff between now and the implementation of any possible amalgamations. Both school communities would be treated with respect, fairness and equity throughout the process.

61. Chris Lock, Parent Governor. If you stick to the true meaning of the word "amalgamation", Longmeadow would have to close as well and for both heads to have a fair crack of the whip. Will you be telling them they have to close?

Ian Budd confirmed that his message was consistent to each school. He noted that one of the things hoped for during this consultation period was that people could make their views known as to the most acceptable way forward.

62. Chris Lock, Parent Governor. If the amalgamation goes ahead it appears the school would go to Longmeadow. There is a strong mood here. Will you be fielding questions from Longmeadow tomorrow?
63. Lucy Hinds, Longmeadow Parent, responded that they were not happy about it either and yes it will affect our children too and we will be there tomorrow and will be angry as well.
64. Parent. My child is in a class of 36, I don't want my child to be in a class of 60.

Carol Tiddy responded that there was nowhere in the proposal any suggestion of a class size of 60.

65. Cameron Taylor, Chair of Governors. Wished to make some closing remarks. Firstly, he thanked Shropshire County Council for giving the school the opportunity to have its say. He then went on to say that Carol Tiddy had said earlier in the evening that due to reduced funding in Shropshire this school would lose a teacher if nothing was done. Our numbers are increasing and by 2009 will have increased by 20%, therefore we won't be losing a teacher. Secondly, the proposal to amalgamate was contentious at the time the policy was drafted. It is dividing the whole community. At the end the County Council will walk away. I am asking Shropshire County Council from the parents, staff, governors and residents, please do not proceed with this amalgamation.

Carol Tiddy thanked everyone for putting so much energy into their questions and assured everyone that they had been carefully listened to this evening. She explained that people could put their views forward until 2 May either via the on-line consultation, or in writing, or by email and assured them that these would be made available for Councillors to see. The meeting closed at 8pm.