

The **RUGBY AREA COMMITTEE** met at **BISHOP WULSTAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL, OAK STREET, RUGBY** on the **6 MARCH 2006**.

Present:-

Councillor John Vereker (Chair)

“ Tom Cavanagh

“ Richard Dodd

“ Katherine King

“ Brian Levy

“ Philip Morris-Jones

“ Ian Smith

“ Heather Timms

“ John Wells

Officers:-

Nick Darwen, Area Manager

Peter Endall, Senior Solicitor

Mark Gore, Assistant County Education Officer

Neil Gulliver, Principal Committee Administrator

Peter Thompson, Senior Area Education Officer

Before the commencement of the meeting, the Chair thanked the school for their hospitality both for this meeting and previously in making the school available for Members to visit and see the school at work. He was sure that all Members found it to be beneficial and rewarding. He also thanked the parents and supporters of the school for all their letters, e-mails etc in response to the consultation process.

1. **General**

1. **Apologies**

were received from Councillors Gordon Collett and Jerry Roodhouse.

2. **Members' Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

Councillors Tom Cavanagh, Richard Dodd and Heather Timms declared personal interests as members of Rugby Borough Council.

Councillor Katherine King declared a personal interest as a Governor of Avon Valley School.

Councillor Tom Cavanagh declared a personal interest as a Governor of Bilton High and Cawston Primary Schools.

Councillor John Vereker declared a personal interest as a Governor of Bilton Junior School.

Councillor John Wells declared a personal interest as a Governor of Riverside School.

2. Proposed Closure of Bishop Wulstan Catholic School, Rugby

The report of the Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families was considered.

Mark Gore introduced the report and paid tribute to the work of the school and in particular to the leadership of the Head and the Chair of Governors. He then went onto to highlight the key issues in the report.

The Chair then invited Eddie Keeley, Chair of Governors, Brendan Higgins, Head and Father Marcus Stock, Director of Schools, Archdiocese of Birmingham to speak on behalf of the school.

The Chair then stated that the Area Committee wished it to be noted :-

- That Bishop Wulstan Catholic School enjoys unanimous support from the parent body, Catholic and wider Rugby community, as demonstrated by the responses to the LEA's consultation;
- The hard work and commitment of the Head, Brendan Higgins, the staff, parents, students and governors, particularly during this difficult period;
- The School's recently acquired Business and Enterprise Specialist Status and the new state-of-the-art sports facilities which, the School anticipates, will contribute to an increase in pupil numbers and also yield improvements in student achievement;
- The new opportunities to market the school effectively within its own partnership of schools and including the recent option of an intake of students from the Daventry area.

The Chair, seconded by Councillor King, moved:-

THAT-

(1) that the Area Committee noted :-

- that Bishop Wulstan Catholic School enjoys unanimous support from the parent body, Catholic and wider Rugby community, as demonstrated by the responses to the LEA's consultation;
- the hard work and commitment of the Head, Brendan Higgins, the staff, parents, students and governors, particularly during this difficult period;
- the School's recently acquired Business and Enterprise Specialist Status and the new state-of-

the-art sports facilities which, the School anticipates, will contribute to an increase in pupil numbers and also yield improvements in student achievement;

- the new opportunities to market the school effectively within its own partnership of schools and including the recent option of an intake of students from the Daventry area.

(2) the Rugby Area Committee recommends to Cabinet:-

i. that the proposal to close Bishop Wulstan Catholic School be withdrawn;

(ii) that the alternative proposals from the four Catholic schools of Rugby and the Archdiocese of Birmingham as detailed in Section 5 of the Director's report be pursued with a serious and rapid evaluation of the 3-16 options and that the LEA give active support to the evaluation of these options.

After all Members of the Committee had spoken in favour of the motion, it was put to a vote and carried unanimously.

3. Any Other Items

None.

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Chair of Committee

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm