

**Minutes of a meeting of the School Admissions Forum held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2011 at Building 3, Saltisford Office Park, Warwick**

**Present:**

Members of the Forum:

Warwickshire County Councillor Elected members	Peter Balaam Heather Timms
Church of England Diocese	Chris Mulley
Roman Catholic Diocese	Kate Edwards Thérèse Gordon
Schools Group Community	Jonathan Baker
Warwickshire Governor's Association	Chris Smart
Parent Governor Representative	Allison Livesey Alison Foster
Mark Gore	Education Officer – Learning & Achievement
Nick Williams	Education Officer-School Organisation
Collette Naven-Jones	Secondary Team Leader, Admissions
Jackie Stefani	Minutes

**1. General**

(1) Election of Chair

Cllr Balaam nominated Jonathan Baker to the Chair.

Jonathan agreed to take the Chair for this meeting and the next two meetings, by which time it is anticipated a permanent Chair will be elected. Jonathan welcomed everyone to the meeting, including new attendees Allison Foster, Allison Livesey and Jackie Stefani (Minutes).

(2) Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Andrew Clay, Fay Ford, Peter French and Robert Morrissey

(3) Members' Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Chris Mulley as a parent and as a Governor of Wolston St Margaret's C of E Primary School and as the parent of a year 8 pupil at Rugby High School.

Chris Smart – Southam College

Allison Livesey – Avon Valley School and Governor of Newbold Riverside School.

- (4) Minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011 and matters arising.

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and duly signed by the Chair.

### **Matters Arising**

Following this meeting, it was confirmed by Paul Williams, Scrutiny Officer, that a letter had been sent to Tony Wilmot on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011, thanking him for his service to the Forum.

The suggestion at the last meeting that a task and finish group be set up to look into the question of FSM pupils and selective schools has not been progressed. Chris Smart questioned whether this Forum can ask for this to be arranged. Mark Gore suggested that Cllr Heather Timms could make a request to have this raised in early April at the next CYP&F O&S Committee.

Work Programme – the last Minutes recorded that a work programme be developed for the Forum. This had still not been done owing to the absence of Joanne Carter on sick leave.

A discussion ensued concerning the level of secondary education in the east of the County compared to the south. The Forum agreed there were differences, mainly due to historical factors.

## **2. Update regarding Secondary Offers 2011 Entry**

Collette Naven-Jones informed the meeting that letters have been sent to parents offering secondary school places, which should be accepted within two weeks, she confirmed that there are some vacancies. Collette confirmed that she has contacted Gloucester County Council, regarding the possibility of places at Chipping Camden. There are some schools with large numbers of vacancies, Bilton in the east, in the central area 49 at Champion School, 34 at Aylesford School. North Leamington currently has 18 children on its waiting list and they will be able to offer 9 children places following withdrawals. In the south Shipston has 2 places, Kineton has had some refusals. There are some vacancies at Grammar Schools, King Edward VI has five places to offer as does Stratford Girls Grammar. It was stated that a large number of children who have refused places have gone to the Independent sector.

Jonathan Baker thanked Collette for her report.

**3. Discussion regarding the responses to the 2012-13 admission arrangements.**

Nick Williams stated that currently the two Grammar Schools in Stratford do not offer more than 22 places on the waiting list, this is historical following the decision of the Schools Adjudicator in 2004. Mark Gore explained the process that takes place as to how places can be secured.

Discussion took place concerning children's eligibility for grammar schools. It was suggested that a recommendation should go to **Cabinet "To retain the Status Quo or recommend that we change it"**.

4 – For the Recommendation

1 – Against

1 – Abstention

The recommendation can go to the next Cabinet Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2011.

St Lawrence Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School. The school are concerned that children in Napton do not have automatic access to grammar school places in Rugby and requested that consideration be given to the village being added to the priority area. While Members were sympathetic to the school's concerns they did not support the request.

**4. Consultation in relation to increases in PAN for the 2012 intake year group at the following schools :**

**St Paul's CE Primary School – Leamington**

**Long Lawford Primary School**

**St Michael's CE Primary School**

**Newdigate Primary School**

**Camphill Primary School**

**The Willows CE Primary School**

Nick Williams confirmed there are small increases in admission numbers to the above schools. Several Members of the Forum stated that they had not received papers relating to the Consultation and were unaware of the details involved. Mark Gore apologised if Members of the Forum had not seen the consultation document.

**5. Consultation to amalgamate the priority areas of the following schools:**

**Bawnmore Infant School**  
**Bilton Infant School**  
**Bilton CE Junior School**  
**Henry Hinde Infant School**  
**Henry Hind Junior School**  
**Cawston Grange Primary School**

Nick Williams explained that there are a lot of children who live on Cawston Estate who cannot get into Cawston Primary School, and we have always accommodated these children in other schools in the Bilton area. It is proposed that schools in Bilton share a 'super' priority area. Anyone living in Cawston and Bilton can get a place at one of these schools. This will protect families in Cawston and will mean children can get a place at a local school. The procedure would follow public consultation.

The Consultation was duly noted.

Recommendation to Cabinet ***“Propose that the Admission Forum supports the Proposal for the implementation of the super priority Areas for Cawston School. Unanimously agreed.***

Cllr Balaam asked if Cawston School was likely to be enlarged, Cllr Heather Timms said this was a decision for the future.

#### **6. Results of the 11+ Selective Survey.**

Colette Naven-Jones gave a brief outline to the Forum saying that Joanne Carter has written to 5,300 parents asking various questions who live in either the South or East Priority Areas, 973 replied saying they preferred children to attend local school.

Chris Smart asked if there were plans to publish the results of the 11+ Survey –

It was agreed to give a full report to the next.

Jonathan Baker thanked Collette for her report.

#### **7. Verbal update on schools moving to Academy status.**

Nick Williams gave the Forum a verbal update on schools moving to Academy Status.

#### **8. The Admissions Forum Timetable of Work.**

This item has been deferred owing to Joanne Carter's illness.

## 9. Dates and Provisional Items for Future Meetings

Wednesday 15 June 2011  
Wednesday 22 September 2011  
Wednesday 18 January 2012  
Monday 13 February 2012

For next meeting

- Admissions Forum Timetable of Work
- Results of 11+ Selective Survey
- Admissions Proposed for Primary Schools
- What Position is in Terms of Code Feedback from Cabinet on the Items Put Forward

## 10. Any Other Items

Chris Smart mentioned that it may not be a statutory requirement for every Local Authority to have an Admissions Forum. The Forum discussed this issue, and concluded that it depends on the issue of the new Admissions Code and other matters such as how many schools change to Academy Status. Chris stated that the Forum was set up to protect parents and expressed his concern at the lack of importance the Authority appeared to have given the Forum to date.

Mark Gore confirmed that a Work Plan will be drawn up.

Allison Foster felt that she hadn't been properly prepared for the meeting, having not received papers in advance.

Cllr Peter Balaam asked who will draw up the Work Programme, and that problems may arise with Academies admissions.

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Chair

The Admissions Forum rose at 6.00 p.m.