

The Deanes School Consultation Task & Finish Group

10:00	Wednesday, 17 July 2013	Deanes School, Thundersley,
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Membership:

Councillor G Butland
Councillor J Chandler
Councillor T Higgins
Councillor N Hume
Councillor A Wood
Mr R Carson

Chairman

For information about the meeting please ask for:

Matthew Waldie, Committee Officer

Telephone: 01245 430565

Email: matthew.waldie@essex.gov.uk



Essex County Council

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Part 1

(During consideration of these items the meeting is likely to be open to the press and public)

Pages

- | | | |
|----------|--|---------------|
| 1 | Apologies for Absence | |
| 2 | Declarations of Interest
To note any declarations of interest to be made by Members | |
| 3 | Evidence from The Deanes School to the Task and Finish Group
To receive and scrutinise evidence from Mrs Jan Atkinson, Headteacher, The Deanes School, together with senior colleagues and Governors. (Paper to follow.) | |
| 4 | Evidence from interested local community and parent representative groups
To receive and scrutinise evidence from parties who have expressed an interest in the consultation on the future of the school. A response to the Consultation, from the Save The Deanes Group, is attached. | 5 - 24 |
| 5 | Urgent Business
To consider any matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered in public by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency. | |
| 6 | To confirm the dates and venues of future meetings | |

Exempt Items

(During consideration of these items the meeting is not likely to be open to the press and public)

To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of an agenda item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 or it being confidential for the purposes of Section 100A(2) of that Act.

In each case, Members are asked to decide whether, in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption (and discussing the matter in private) outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

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Urgent Exempt Business

To consider in private any other matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.



Save The Deanes Group Response to the Essex County Council Consultation. The Future of The Deanes June 2013



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INTRODUCTION

PUTTING ASIDE FOR ONE MOMENT THE WAY IN WHICH THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION, PARENTS AND THE PUPILS OF THE SCHOOL HAVE BEEN MISTREATED BY ECC AND THE CATALOGUE OF NEGLIGENT ACTIONS IN THEIR APPROACH TO THE CONSULTATION - COMPLETELY BIASED. WE NEED TO LOOK AT THE BIGGER PICTURE AND THE TRUE IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY.

The National Picture

The main priorities this year for the ministerial department of Education with responsibility for education and children's services in England are to:

- increase the number of high quality schools
- introduce fair funding
- reduce bureaucracy and improve accountability

However, the Education Authority here in Essex are in the process of constructively closing an Ofsted assessed "Good" school with "Outstanding" features. They are flying in the face of government policy.

Is the consultation process or the proposal Lawful?

Looking at the proposal itself we have reason to believe that ECC might be acting unlawfully and that the proposal, "the Future of the Deanes" which is out to consultation is flawed. The proposal is 'NARROW' and only focuses on their proposed closure of the Deanes School. However, this is a much wider issue for the whole of the community.

The following is an extract from 'A guide for Local Authorities and Governing Bodies – Closing a Maintained Mainstream School'

Where proposals are interdependent (linked) they **should** be identified as "related", either by being published in a single notice or the link to the other proposals made clear in each notice. Where proposals by the LA are "related" to proposals by governing bodies or other proposers (e.g. where a school is to be closed and another enlarged, or a school is to be replaced by a new school) the LA and governors or proposers may publish a single notice but this **must** make it clear who is making which proposals, under their respective powers, and there **should** be separate signatures for each relevant section. Where proposals are not "related", they **should not** be published on the same notice unless the notice makes it very clear that the proposals are not "related". This does not include proposals that fall under other regulations e.g. removal of a Trust, opening of an Academy or federation proposals.

The above extract makes sense. However, ECC have chosen just one element of a raft of interdependent issues. There are 4 schools involved and any decisions will effect

children now and for future generations. So we need to make sure that any decisions made by ECC about our schools are sustainable. We also need to make sure that ECC are fulfilling its DUTY to ensure that every child has access to a “good” education. Similarly, the future of the highly valued sports community facility that is owned and run by the Deanes school for the benefit of local people has not been properly taken under consideration.

In addition to the above we have reviewed the governments Statutory Guidance ‘A guide for Local Authorities and Governing Bodies – Closing a Maintained Mainstream School’ and identified a number of further areas that we consider ECC to be flaunting the guidance. These are set out at Appendix I.

The Bigger Local Picture

The proposal should have acknowledged and provided information about interdependent issues and consulted all stakeholders on the following.

1. The King John School is an Academy with a current net capacity of 2000 school places including its 6th form of approximately 300 places. The school has applied for and been granted planning permission for an expansion of its 6th form. The reasons given for the expansion was in response to changes in legislation where from September 2013 the education leaving age will rise to 17 and from 2015 it will rise again, to 18. However, the school has admitted that its 6th form is now undersubscribed and that the extension can be used to absorb our children. ECC plan to change the future catchment areas to incorporate the Deanes area. This will make the school even bigger and there is no further room for expansion. The impact of these expansions is not included in the proposal how can the community make an informed response?
2. The Appleton school is also an Academy with a current net capacity of 1200 school places. It too is considering extending its service provision to include a 6th form. **However, a planning application has not been submitted and there is no guarantee that Castlepoint planning committee will approve any such application.** The Head Teacher of the King John School, at a consultation with its parents, freely admitted that they had not had the demand expected for its 6th form expansion. Castlepoint will therefore be looking for evidence to support that further 6th form places are needed in Castlepoint and may refuse planning permission on these grounds. In addition ECC plan to change the future catchment areas to incorporate the Deanes area. If and only if the extension is granted it will again make the school bigger. The impact of the proposed expansions is not included in the proposal. More importantly, how can the community make an informed choice about a proposal by ECC that they may not be able to deliver? If planning permission for the Appleton school is refused; where will current and future children from the Deanes catchment area go to school?
3. The Glenwood School wants to co-locate with the Deanes School and we all know the benefits of integrating children of all abilities. The Deanes Head

Teacher, Jan Atkinson was asked by ECC to “lead the way” with a ground breaking model of inclusivity, not only for Essex but also nationally. The proposal makes no reference to this and fails to comment on or apologies to Glenwood and the Deanes and all involved about the loss of such an amazing concept and opportunity should the Deanes close.

4. The Deanes school is centre of the Community with the schools pro-active commitment to sport. These sports partnerships, led by 50 sports specialists employed by the Deanes, benefits thousands of young people not just within Castlepoint but for the wider community. It means **the school helps keep young people off the streets and engaged in positive healthy activities**. The sports complex is not separate, it is run by the school and is very much part of the school. The impact of closure of the school in relation to its work in the community is not discussed in the proposal.

These are all interrelated issues. The real questions for consultation with the community are:

1. Do you want to reduce parental choice and only have 1 supersized (King John) school and cross your fingers that Appleton will get planning permission to extend. Meanwhile you lose the Deanes school and its existing community sports facilities? or
2. Do you want 1 supersize possibly 2 schools and 1 smaller school (co-located with Glenwood) and retain the many beneficial community partnerships and sports facilities enjoyed by some 3000 local people and the wider community?

In considering the above, it is important to note that with option 1 all children from Basildon, Canvey and Southend will be pushed back. This is contrary to the governments Every Child Matters agenda. We also do not know at the moment whether option 1 is viable because without the approval by Castlepoint Council of Appleton’s extension this is a non-starter. It should also be noted with option 1 that any child living in the Deanes catchment area will have to travel to their new super-sized schools by bus because they are both over 3 miles away.

THE NEED FOR SCHOOL PLACES

Are the predicted intakes and number on roll for the period 2013/14 – 2023/24 at The Deanes School as shown in the “Proposal” correct?

ECC calculate the need for school places inclusive of “New Housing” in Essex. Extracts from the ECC document “Commissioning School Places in Essex 2012 – 2017 are shown at Appendix II. The document states that the housing targets are from the Adopted East of England Plan – Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), May 2008 apart from those districts that have adopted Core Strategy DPD. Castlepoint was not one of them (refer appendix II (a)). Castlepoint’s Local Plan period is to 2001-21 and it shows that there are a minimum of 2,377 houses still to be built for the plan period at an average of 264 per annum (refer appendix II (b)). The document also lists a number of site names

and we can only assume that these are the only potential new builds (refer appendix II (c)) that ECC have accounted for in their predicted intake calculations for the Deanes School. A recent FOI requests shows that the following additional school places resulting from new builds (FOI ECC-034494-13) are reflected in their calculations based on the information set out in appendix ii (c).

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1	2	3	6	12	20	28	37	43	50	50

Please note that we do not know, although we think it's highly unlikely, whether the calculation takes into account any growth from Basildon, Southend, Rochford or Leigh on Sea where traditionally the Deanes school has a high proportion of cross boundary pupils.

The first issue is that the Adopted East of England Plan – Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), May 2008 has been superseded by the draft revision East of England Plan 2031. This plan shows a total net increase target April 2011 to March 2031 of 4000 dwellings for Castlepoint, 10,700 for Basildon and 6,000 for Southend (refer appendix II (d)).

In addition Castle Point Council have identified the following additional sites for adoption in their new local plan (over the next 5 years) agreed by their Cabinet Committee.

Site Name	Town/Village	Site Progress	Total Units
Kiln Road	Thundersley	NS	150
Scrub Lane	Hadleigh	NS	40
Town Centre	Hadleigh	NS	120
Brickfields	Thundersley	NS	13
398 408 London Road	Benfleet	NS	60
Felstead Road & Catherine Road	Benfleet	NS	200
Homes immediately to the North of the Deanes School Site on land East of Rayleigh Road	Thundersley	NS	450

In addition a Mini Town in Rayleigh (Fitz and Sweyne Secondary Schools are oversubscribed) has been given the go ahead by Rochford Council for 770 new homes (part of 2,785 by 2025) to be built.

We have looked at all the potential new builds planned (included in 5 year local plans and or agreed by LA's including Rochford and Castlepoint) but not yet gained planning permission. We are not experts but we have looked at the wider area within close proximity to the Deanes School. We have taken into consideration where the children

from these new developments will attend primary and secondary schools. Unlike ECC we have looked at the bigger picture. We have used the Schools Service formula in determining the impact of new builds and the resulting estimated number of pupils in future years. The impact of these future development are in addition to ECC's calculations (FOI ECC-034494-13 shown in grey below) as follows:

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1	2	3	6	12	20	28	37	43	50	50
0	41	41	41	41	41	61	61	61	61	61

Whether our assumptions are correct or not with regards to completion dates for these new houses our argument still stands even if there is a delay of 3 years. It is without doubt that at some stage in the not too distant future additional school places from within the catchment area and Rochford will be needed at the Deanes School. In order to give this some magnitude this means that somewhere during 2014 and 2017 a further 354 secondary school places are needed and between 2018 and 2022 this increases to 437 (see appendix II (e)). This is in addition to the predicted 500 school places lost from the closure of the Deanes and takes no account of new builds planned for Canvey, Southend or Basildon.

Does the closure proposal for the Deanes provide a sustainable solution for the need for school places now and for future generations? The answer has to be no.

Equal Opportunities for All Children

Is it fair to push back Basildon, Southend and Canvey Children to their catchment areas and are the extended King John and Appleton Schools going to drop their current entrance by examination to allow every child equal access to a good education?

The proposal states that 35% of pupils on the roll at the Deanes School live in the priority catchment area and the rest are made up of pupils from Southend-on-Sea, Basildon, and Canvey Island, Appleton and King John area and other. Castlepoint are indeed extremely lucky to have 3 very good schools within close proximity: As follows :

1. The King John Academy Ofsted rating "Good" with 75% achieving 5+ grades A*-C including English and Maths
2. Appleton Academy Ofsted rating "Outstanding" with 65% achieving 5+ grades A*-C including English and Maths.
3. The Deanes Foundation Ofsted rating "Good with outstanding features achieving 57% 5+ grades A*-C including English and Maths.

It should be noted however that, unlike the Deanes, King John have a 15% selection test that comes after sibling and catchment. Similarly, Appleton admit up to 24 children in each year group after catchment and sibling. Their results do reflect this as many high achieving pupils from out of catchment enter by selection. These selection tests would normally be taken late September early October 2013 for 2014/15 intakes. Is it

legal therefore, for King John and Appleton to take 121 pupils in 2014/15 from the Deanes without having taken a selection test?

Parents from Basildon, Southend and Canvey send their children to Castlepoint schools because they know they will get a better education. Local good schools soon become over-subscribed and parents then look outside of their catchment to secure a place.

Basildon Situation

Basildon is made up of three areas Basildon, Billericay and Wickford. There are “good” schools in Billericay and Wickford. These schools are oversubscribed. The Basildon area which is by far the largest geographical catchment is served by 4 Secondary schools including Woodlands, Basildon Academy, James Hornsby and De La Salle. Basildon has plans to build 725 new homes on Dry Street – this is within the Woodlands School catchment area. Woodlands is already oversubscribed. These are the choices for parents that are unable to look at the Deanes, should it close, to secure a place:

1. James Hornsby a “Satisfactory” School with 26% gaining 5+ grades A*-C including English and Maths
2. Basildon Academy an “Inadequate” school with 45% gaining 5+ grades A*-C including English and Maths
3. Woodlands a “good” school with 40% gaining 5+ grades A*-C including English and Maths - oversubscribed
4. De La Salle Catholic voluntary aided Comprehensive School “Good” school with 54% gaining 5+ grades A*-C including English and Maths. This school welcomes pupils who wish to share in a catholic education. - oversubscribed

On the basis that 12% of pupils (95) currently on the Deanes roll as at January 2013 are from Basildon. This means that should ECC decide to close the Deanes school an average of **30 pupils per year**, with effect from September 2014, will be faced with a **sub-standard level of education** at any one of the above schools that have spare capacity. This figure may be far greater dependent on high birth rates and planned new builds. This is contrary to the Every Child Matters Agenda and removes parental choice.

Southend Situation

Belfairs in the Leigh on Sea area is a “good” school but it is oversubscribed as are all other schools in Southend. These are the choices for parents that are unable to look at the Deanes, should it close, to secure a place:

1. Cecil Jones College a “Satisfactory” school with 40% gaining 5+ grades A*-C including English and Maths
2. Chase High School a “good” school with 40% gaining 5+ grades A*-C including English and Maths.

3. Futures Community College an “inadequate” school with 29% gaining 5+ grades A*-C including English and Maths.

On the basis that 30% of pupils (234) currently on the Deanes roll as at January 2013 are from Southend-on-Sea. This means that should ECC decide to close the Deanes school an average of **47 pupils per year**, with effect from September 2014, will be faced with a **sub-standard level of education** at any one of the above schools. This figure may be far greater dependent on higher birth rates and planned new builds. This is contrary to the Every Child Matters Agenda and removes parental choice.

Canvey Situation

There are 2 secondary schools serving Canvey Island. Castlepoint Council have indicated that 500 homes are to be built on the island in the next five years. ECC's need for school places calculation does not allow for growth on the island because their numbers exclude known but not yet approved developments. These are the choices for parents that are unable to look at the Deanes, should it close, to secure a place:

1. Castle View is a “Satisfactory” school with 58% gaining 5+ grades A*-C including English and Maths
2. The Cornelius Vermuyden School is a “good” school with 58% gaining 5+ grades A*-C including English and Maths. Likely to become oversubscribed in the future.

With the advent of 500 new homes being built in the next 5 years on Canvey an assessment of whether or not there is sufficient capacity at the above schools needs to be undertaken.

THE EFFECT ON THE COMMUNITY

The Statutory guidance states that “where the rationale for the closure is based on the removal of surplus places, **standards at the school in question SHOULD** be taken into account, as well as geographical and social factors, such as population scarcity in rural areas, **and the effect on any community use.**”

The proposal on the future of the Deanes states – “the intention will be over the next three years to find a way to continue to manage the very well-used sporting facilities currently managed by the school and for them to be provided to the local community during the day, outside school time and in school holidays.

Are the sports facilities part of the school?

These are well used sports facilities because The Deanes School have made it so. The sports centre only exists because of the school. It is completely owned by the school and belongs to the school with the exception possibly of the Tennis Centre. This was financed to the tune of £1 million by the LTA in 2003 with a 25 year lease put in place.

The Deanes staff manage, maintain and run the Centre and for this gain considerable court time for both students of the Deanes, local schools and our affiliated Deanes Lawn Tennis Club. The LTA also have court time in return for building it. The Deanes School manages this dual use very effectively **in partnership**.

The Deanes school employ, in sport alone over 50 people. They provide training to staff and develop their skills to enable them to specialize in sport in gainful employment. It is not a separate entity it is an integral part of the school and its work with the community. It is a school facility first which subsequently became a dual use community sports Centre almost 20 years ago. This happened **because of the Deanes school commitment to community sport** providing community access through club lettings, coaching programmes and holiday activities during the hours out of school. It is a school facility and the community aspect has grown because of the school and the positive local relationships they have.

The school governing body oversees the running and all finance is through the school. It is not independent in any form. It is not subsidized, the school operates it as a business and the income generated makes it self-sustainable, it makes a profit of around £30,000 per year which is often reinvested back into the school. The school certainly benefits from it enormously, its success is because it is run by a school and it is a true affordable community facility, not a Virgin Active!

The school provides holiday camps for local children and some come from much further, on average 120 children per day every holiday. Their uniqueness is we provide high quality sports coaching not babysitting. There is a balance of lettings to clubs, we have 23 clubs based at Deanes, they hire our facilities and also coaching classes we put on, about 40 every week from mini tennis to trampolining to street dance. We also have a fitness suite which is well used.

Basically the key is this all happens because of the Deanes school, an empty sports building left on the site would not suffice! To replace it with a commercial undertaking would have a direct impact on the community as it would no longer be an affordable community hub. The Deanes School is a focal point for family and community activity, providing extended services for a range of users, and its closure will have wider social ramifications. The proposal around ECC's intentions regarding the sports facility is perhaps purposefully vague.

The Ofsted 2012 inspection judged it to be a good school with outstanding features. The report also stated that "The school's specialism in sport is having a highly positive impact on raising attainment, as well as improving the health of students and bringing the community together;" It goes on to say that "This is a good school. Students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is a particular strength

Not many schools can boast about this level of achievement within the community. It is the hub of the community and the impact of closure of the school on the community is not mentioned in the proposal.

How does the Deanes School work in partnership with the Community?

The 2012 Ofsted report stated “This is a good school. Students’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is a particular strength. The school has a highly inclusive ethos and has outstanding and **mutually beneficial partnerships**”

In 2010, despite the spending cuts, the Deanes School made a commitment to the area to maintain a strong infrastructure for School Sport. The Schools Sports Partnership (SSP) leads the School Games and Change4Life initiatives and provides a vital service to all Primary Schools for competitive sport, health projects, sport coaching and improving the standards of PE teaching. Other areas let the work of SSPs slip in 2010 but The Deanes believed it to be so important and part of the Olympic legacy that it continued to provide high quality support. Now, March 2013, the Sport Premium announcement has meant a huge government drive to improve primary PE. The Deanes are best placed to support all 48 partner schools in driving up standards and helping them achieve the criteria set by Ofsted. All 48 are committed to working with us, all 48 have signed up to subscribe. This is to the Deanes School as a hub site of the SSP - The SSP is a result of the Deanes School. The partnership working extends to all secondary schools in the area, with opportunities to access funded projects, CPD and competitions – through the SSP/ It is widely recognized as one of the most influential and strongest organizations of its’ kind **in the Country** and the school has been awarded the highest status possible in School Sport by receiving the Youth Sport Trust ‘Gold Award in recognition of this outstanding work for our local community. Closure of the school will impact on most other schools in the local community.

What does it do? The school has **and employs** a specialist team of School Sport coordinators, who work in conjunction with its partners enjoying activities, festivals, competitions and coaching in sports ranging from Tag Rugby to Gymnastics, Badminton and Mini Olympic events. To support the implementation of these programmes, Castle Point & Rochford SSP has built a strong team of staff and Partners, which include: School Sport coordinators, Primary Link Teachers, FESCO, Specialist Sports Coaches, Competition Manager, Castle Point Council, Rochford District Council, Sport Essex, Health partners and Local clubs

Is it successful? Yes this School Sport Partnership RUN BY THE DEANES achieved outstanding results in 2009, with 96% of the 62 schools involved in achieving the Government target of 2 hours of High Quality PE and School Sport provision. **The School and its dedicated professional team of teachers makes this happen by working with the community - NOT THE BUILDING**

The Castle Point & Rochford SSP has now entered a new phase of collaborative working, through the national incentives encompassed through the Physical Education School Sport for Young People (PESSYP) strategy. This agenda has the ultimate aim of

creating a '5 hour offer' of physical activity for 5 -16 year olds and '3 hour offer' for 16 - 19 year olds.

In addition, as a direct result of the success in recent years of partnerships, The Deanes School is now the lead school in Essex for the development of Leadership, Volunteering and Coaching opportunities for young people and has recently been identified as a national hub-site for the expansion of cycling for young people and Bike ability delivery.

The proposal does not even acknowledge the impact of closure on these community partnership in the event that the school is closed...

What will happen to the Community Facilities?

The legislation, relating to proposals to close a school, states that where a school was providing access to extended services, some provision should be made for the pupils and their families to access similar services through their new schools or other means. Facilities are to be accessible by those concerned, by being located close to those who will use them, and the proposed changes should not adversely impact on disadvantaged groups.

There are 19+ community clubs that use The Deanes School Sports Centre benefitting some 3,900 members of the community many of them young people. The impact of closure on these community groups is not mentioned in the proposal.

As is more than apparent the Deanes is not just a school it is at the heart of the community. A recent survey of clubs has been undertaken and the following is a flavor of their views:

One of the questions asked "would you be able to relocate?" Responses included:

- Don't know, nowhere in Castle Point or Rochford
- We would struggle to find a venue
- Lack of local football pitches, training facilities would affect us badly
- Would be very difficult
- Would affect our business because location of Deanes means we can attract members from anywhere between Basildon & Shoebury
- Unlikely – not many clubs with the same facilities that are cost effective
- Fencing needs a gymnasium with a good floor, not many community buildings can offer this – the private one Virgin would be much too expensive.
- The issue of increased travel costs was a recurring theme and that they would lose customers as a result.
- Increase fees and attendance decline

We also asked “what are the benefits of being attached to the school?” Responses included:

- Continuity – without the Deanes network we would struggle to maintain our membership
- School – club links – ability to attract new members
- Deanes is renowned for its sports coaching
- Ability to attract new members (pupils, parents of pupils, siblings etc.)
- Community Sports Events run by the school
- The Deanes school has always supported sports clubs in the area unlike some schools

A full copy of responses from our survey is shown at appendix iii

The closure of the school would have far wider social and economic ramifications than just shifting year groups across to extended larger schools.

There are no other sports facilities of this kind in the vicinity and without the Deanes school's expertise the facility will no doubt fall into the hands of a commercial enterprise. At that stage it longer exists as an affordable facility and local businesses that operate from the facility will be severely affected...

IS IT A VALUE FOR MONEY INVESTMENT?

Is the Deanes unpopular?

ECC have made it plain, that in their view, surplus places at the Deanes School are due to the school's failing popularity particularly by the cross boundary influx of pupils from Southend Borough. Although the intake, of pupils, from Basildon has increased. We have investigated the Southend issue and discovered that the Deanes school was **the** most popular school of choice over and above King John, Fitzwimarc, Sweyne Park or any other secondary school in Rochford and Castle Point for the years 2007/08 - 2010/11. Where did things go wrong?

1. The last condition survey was completed in **2008/9** which identified £1.3m of condition issues and this figure would be far greater now 5 years later. There has been no investment in the fabric of the school and the premises are in poor condition in many respects.
2. Investment was not seen as an issue because Planning permission for a new build for both Glenwood and the Deanes to co-locate was sought and approved by CastlePoint in **2010** and the sum of £22.85m included in the Essex County Council forward capital spend budget, approved by ECC members. The split of projected costs is £11.5m Glenwood and £11.3m the Deanes.

We strongly believe that the time-line for the drop in pupil numbers is September **2011**, 2012 and 2013 directly correlates with the announcement of the planned new build. We

have a survey of evidence to support this statement. Parents wish to avoid sending their children to a building site.

ECC have confirmed that a major refurbishment is now likely to be close to the cost of a new build therefore is not a value for money solution. We believe that this is also a contributing factor for children within catchment shifting towards other secondary schools. In addition we are picking apart live birthrates and believe that these too have impacted on the need for school places in the previous 2 years and birth rates are predicted to rise again. It is not because the school is unpopular it is a highly valued resource.

Why therefore, has ECC taken so long to get on with the work it agreed to fund back in 2010 and rebuild the school? ECC are guilty of dragging its heels and it has had a major impact on parent's decisions to select the Deanes school for their children?

Local evidence suggests a new build will attract new intake and hence roll would be expected to rise. Mr. Coulson and Cllr Gooding have repeatedly said that this is not always the case, neither have given examples where this didn't happen. Cllr Gooding said himself he thought a new build of 750 would fill and we know from Chase and Belfairs that numbers go up after capital investment. In fact ECC's predictions following the new build are 750 so building a new school makes Deanes viable!

More importantly there is no evidence to suggest that the school would not regain its popularity following the rebuild AND OVER 3100 PEOPLE SAY IT WILL.

Is the proposed closure of the Deanes school and the expansion of both King John and Appleton Schools a sound business decision?

The total cost of the rebuild of the Deanes is £11.3m. ECC have offered £2m each to King John and Appleton. This looks like an immediate saving of £7m a big incentive for ECC.

However, based on the St Peters College (Chelmsford) closure (Aug 2011) where 500 pupils were moved to Chelmer Valley High School or Hylands school with extensions built to the tune of **£6.5m** Has ECC got its sums right or are they misleading the public?

However, whatever the true saving (£7.3 or £4m) our figures indicate that this is a short term gain and that by 2017/18 taxpayers will need to contribute towards the building of a new school to meet the need for school places. To do this there would be land purchase and build costs at say circa £40m – far higher than any savings made now.

Not a very sound business case and certainly not value for money for the tax payer. Meanwhile we would have lost a perfectly "Good" school with outstanding features already in situ.

What are the social and economic costs to the community of withdrawing the benefits of the many sports partnership that the Deanes School participate with, in the community?

We wanted to tell you a little bit about **SPORTED**. It is the foundation established as a direct result of the legacy promises of London 2012 which vowed to use sport to change the lives of young people. It is now the largest organization supporting thousands of community and grassroots organizations across the UK who deliver sport for development. Until now, there has been little evidence of the direct relationship between sport and social benefits. 'SPORTED' sought to address this by commissioning social research specialist. Here is just a snippet from the outcomes of that research which piloted 3,888 projects from 198 agencies.

It proves that where sporting facilities/clubs/groups are withdrawn from an area there is clear signs of increase around anti-social behavior, obesity, self-harm, and low self-esteem. The research proves that by using sport young people have a better chance in life in avoiding potential risk issues.

Involvement in sport has a massive impact on reducing the risk of young people's involvement in relationship to substance misuse 19.2%, crime and anti-social behavior 15.81% improvements in wellbeing 14.34% and educational attainment 12.75%. Overall they found that sport for development projects were likely to generate a total societal cost saving of **£4174.12** per participant, per annum. This therefore represents a reduction in costs of the financial burden to society. It's a very powerful argument to ensure that any current provisions of sports provided by 'The Deanes School' and run by the Deanes school should not be thrown away lightly. In fact this research clearly presents a very strong case for investment.

The Deanes school 2012 Ofsted report stated "The school's specialism in sport is having a **highly positive impact on raising attainment**, as well as improving the health of students and bringing the community together.

OUR ADVICE TO ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

In accordance with PPS3 you have a DUTY to co-ordinate regional housing provision with neighbouring authorities. The conditionality approach set out in Policy IMP1 has regard to the co-ordination of develop with necessary infrastructure provision. In short - do some joined-up thinking with Southend Borough Council, Rochford Council and Castlepoint. Look at the bigger picture, get your figures right and then plan on how you are going move ahead with the rebuild of the Deanes School including the refurbishment of its sports Centre and help the school get back to what it does best – educating our children to the highest standards.

Failure to do so will send a very strong message to other schools and the local electorate that ECC Officers and its local and County Councilors cannot be trusted to keep their word.

It is for all the reasons outlined in this report that the Save the Deanes Group and the local community are declaring a VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE in Tim Coulson or Cllr Gooding.

We believe that ECC are not acting within the spirit of the legislation that governs the closure of schools. Outlined below are extracts for the guidance that LAs must follow:

Issue 1 Relevant Legislation:

Where the rationale for the closure is based on the removal of surplus places, standards at the school in question SHOULD be taken into account, as well as geographical and social factors, such as population scarcity in rural areas, and the effect on any community use.

More specifically

The section NEED FOR SCHOOL PLACES states The Decision Maker should normally approve proposals to close schools in order to remove surplus places where the school proposed for closure has a quarter or more places unfilled, and at least 30 surplus places, and where standards are low compared to standards across the LA.

Have ECC Complied? - No

The Deanes School has surplus places for the reasons outlined in the introduction but it is not below standards compared to standards across the LA. ECC have also not investigated the effect on the extensive community use of the school facilities and or the schools entrenchment in community life through a myriad of sports partnerships.

Issue 2 Relevant Legislation:

When are closure proposals required?

- It is surplus to requirements i.e. an area-wide reorganisation and or there are sufficient places in neighbouring schools to accommodate displaced pupils
- It is to be amalgamated/merged with another school
- It is to be replaced by an Academy
- It is to be replaced by a new school under the National Challenge Trust Programme

Have ECC Complied? – No

There are not sufficient places at neighbouring schools they are already oversubscribed.

Issue 3 Relevant Legislation:

It is for LAs, in partnership with other stakeholders, to plan for the provision of places.

LAs **should** also explore the scope for collaborating with neighbouring authorities when planning the provision of schools. In particular, LAs are encouraged to work together to consider how to meet the needs of parents seeking a particular type of school for their children in cases where there is insufficient demand for such a school within the area of an individual LA.

Have ECC Complied? – No

Evidence from the meeting held on 15th May between King John, Appleton and ECC – suggests that it is OK to push children back to Canvey, Southend and Basildon. None of these areas have a “Good” school specialising in Sport.

Issue 4 Relevant Legislation:

Where proposals are interdependent (linked) they **should** be identified as “related”, either by being published in a single notice or the link to the other proposals made clear in each notice. Where proposals by the LA are “related” to proposals by governing bodies or other proposers (e.g. where a school is to be closed and another enlarged, or a school is to be replaced by a new school) the LA and governors or proposers may publish a single notice but this **must** make it clear who is making which proposals, under their respective powers, and there **should** be separate signatures for each relevant section. Where proposals are not “related”, they **should not** be published on the same notice unless the notice makes it very clear that the proposals are not “related”. This does not include proposals that fall under other regulations e.g. removal of a Trust, opening of an Academy or federation proposals.

Have ECC Complied? – No

Because of the underhanded approach by ECC in not disclosing the full impact of closing the Deanes and expanding King John and Appleton Schools parents do not know whether this proposal can provide a sustainable solution for the future.

The correct procedure in issuing the proposal should have outlined three interdependent (linked) proposals for consideration by the community. Similarly, the implications of the Autistic Spectrum Disorder school to be built on the Deanes site following closure is also a linked related proposal. .

Issue 5 Relevant Statutory Guidance:

LAs are under a **statutory duty** to ensure that there are sufficient school places in their area, promote high educational standards, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child’s educational potential. They **must** also ensure that there are sufficient schools in their area, promote diversity and increase parental choice.

Parents can make representations about the supply of school places and LAs have a **statutory duty** to respond to these representations. Further statutory guidance on this duty is available in “Duty to Respond to Parental Representations about the Provision of Schools”

Have ECC Complied? - No

The proposal to close the Deanes is a removal of diversity and parental choice. Almost every member of our group sent representations to ECC in support of the Deanes remaining open because we chose to send our children there because it was a small school that was showing remarkable improvements in standards and has a remarkable inclusive ethos. The sports facilities and the opportunities for pupils attending the school to get involved in positive activities is one of the key reasons we all chose the Deanes for our children. Having taken the time to write and express our thoughts to ECC the response we received back was that we were being too emotional.

Appendix iii

Club	How Many times per week do you use The Deanes	How Long has your club been in Existence	What is the age range of your Club	How Many Members do you have	Would you be able to relocate	What impact would this have on your members	What do you feel are the main benefits for your club	What are the Benefits of being attached to a school
Eastwood Netball Club	2 x per week 27 week playing period 36 weeks Training period	40 Years	School Year 4 upwards / oldest Player 50 avg age in low 20's	125/140	Don't know, nowhere in Castle Point or Rochford	Loss of members (alternate Westcliff, that would take it out of range for accessibility on current members)	We are a high performance Netball club that play in the second tier of Netball in the country (Regional League) but we have players who are in the National under 19 squad	Central accessibility- We can attract members from west side of Southend, Rayleigh Hockey, Basildon and Brentwood
Deanes Badminton Club	2 x per Week	10 Years	16 - 60 + (One player 80 this year)	20 Full time players (6 occasional)	We would struggle to find venue who would take yearly booking mostly short term only	Increased travel cost Hire fees Attendance decline	Without doubt a means of keeping fit but we incorporate a social side with 4/5 functions most years. It also gives an opportunity to meet people from other walks of life. We have Accountants, Doctors, several like myself from the building industry and even one from H.M. Revenue (we don't talk to him) As one member expressed " It keeps us of the streets ".	Continuity without Deanes help we would struggle to maintain our membership. Some years back we lost a venue and most of our players. Without doubt it would be more expensive and depending where we could find an alternative not suitable for some
Benfleet Villa Football Club	1 x per week Plus match days	35 Years	U6 and all ages through to Senior's	> 200	Maybe, but lack of local football pitches, training facilities would affect us as a club badly	Club would be badly affected The Deanes School have always supported Sports Clubs in the area unlike some schools (I will not mention names in this area)	Providing children in the Borough & Outside with the opportunity to play for a Team & be part of a friendly Club The chance to have regular training and matches, to improve fitness levels. To learn to compete but at all times uphold the highest levels of sportsmanship We are not an elitist Club and we afford children of all abilities boys & girls the chance to play football as part of a team In addition it also affords children the chance to socialise make friends, gain confidence. Learn discipline, commitment, working as a team. Qualities & attributes they will take into all walks of life.	Affordable prices Local facilities Children can play and train probably at the school they attend More likely to have other team members who also attend the school The ability to recruit and attract new members
Powerplay Badminton Club	1 x per weekend Sunday ad hoc weekly	1 Year	15-47 (current)	20 but growing	Would be very difficult	Different day/night for club Further distance for people to travel, more expensive	Developing badminton as a sport at County level Fitness Chance for friends to meet regularly including socially after competitive matches	Locality Accessibility Cost effectiveness major factor Lots of Free parking
Southend Fencing Club	1 x per week	32 Years	16 - No upper limit	16	Would be very difficult	Higher Costs Longer Travelling Time Many would Leave club as a result	KEEPING THE BODY FIT AND HEALTHY AND EXERCISING THE MIND - SUCCESS IN FENCING COMES FROM COMBINING PHYSICAL DEXTERITY WITH MUCH ACTIVITY OF THE MIND - WE NOW HAVE ONE DISABLED MEMBER WHO JOINED PARTLY TO MEET PEOPLE AND IS PROGRESSING WELL WITH THE FENCING TRAINING	Fencing needs a Gymnasium with a good floor, not many community buildings can offer this the Private one (Virgin) would be much too expensive Access to other interested in sports activities is another advantage Facility the Sports centre has if contacting possible new members
Cartwheels Gymnastics Club	6 x per week	25 Years	5 - 21	280	If Deanes was to close we would struggle to find an alternative home as we already had to move from our first home at Castle View on Canvey. When the original School closed and relocated on the Fotherwick Park site we moved to Thundersley at first we lost members that were not willing to travel, but soon realised The Deanes was a great position (close to A127) for the club as we can attract members from between anywhere between Basildon & Shoebury.	Loss of members Higher costs	Affordable Rates Great location School - club links Formed 1988 one class and 10 members Now - 14 classes running each week with 280 members	Affordable Rates Storage Space / shared equipment with PE dept. School-Club links Ability to attract new members (Olympic hopeful Brinn Bevan who is a Deanes student started at our club) Deanes is renowned for its Sport and coaching
Deanes Lawn Tennis Club	3 x per week		All ages	Hard to say its various	Unknown / Not many clubs with the same tennis facilities that are cost effective	Higher costs Ease of travel would lose members	Meeting People Keeping Fit Social affordable prices compared to some tennis clubs / sports centres / more attractive to new members	Affordable Rates ability to attract new members (pupils and parents of pupils, siblings etc.) Community events
Deanswood Youth Football Club	3 x per week		7 to 18	80-100	Unknown / We would have the same issues as Benfleet Villa	Higher costs Ease of travel would lose members	Keeping fit social Use of School pitches	Affordable Rates ability to attract new members (pupils and parents of pupils, siblings etc.) Community events
Corinthians Football Club	1 x per Week x 3 Teams	25 Years	16 - 45	125	It would be very difficult to find another suitable venue in the surrounding area	Massive impact on our club Cost Increase 25% increase in our subscriptions / fees increase travel for our members	Our members join the club to socialize and keep active & fit by playing football	We use the sports centre facilities to hold fund raising events and meetings
Tiger Lilies Netball club								
Westwood Karate Club	5 x per week	22 years	4- no upper age limit	500	possibly although class times would probably change	Increase in travel	social Teaches discipline Whole family can participate Competition	accessible, good parking, staff on hand to help, affordable rates, Deanes well known for sport
Angela Allport Dance School	1 x per weekend (Sunday all day)	30 years	4- 18 years	294	no, Deanes is a perfect location in between our other schools in Grays and Thorpe Bay	Loss of members	Performing Sense of confidence Shows Social	accessible, user friendly, affordable rates, flexible.
Rayleigh Town Archery Club	1 x per weekend Sunday 1 x per weekend Saturday MENCAP	Formed in 1219 by King John	7 yrs. - no upper age limit	60 adults 70 juniors	No	Devastating impact, the club would struggle to survive	Families being able to shoot together Enjoy the social side of being part of a successful established club when we came to Deanes we had 12 adult members and 1 junior	Through Deanes SSP we currently teach 500 kids across Castle Pt. & Rochford. This year 250 pupils done a Archery GCSE module with all pupils making A grade.
Southend Radio Control Car Club	1 x per week	32 years	7 - no upper age limit	65	Not locally	loss of members Travel	Family participation Social Sporting element	central location, logistically great for members, affordable rates, friendly staff, parking
Hadleigh Bowls Club								
Mehdi Karate Club	3 x per week	20 years	4 - no upper age limit	> 50	Find it difficult to find somewhere in local vicinity at the times our classes currently run	Last time we moved due to previous facility closing we lost a number of members who did not want to travel further	Social Keeping fit	affordable rates, changing facilities, good parking, Deanes well known for sport
Erkenwald Tigers Ladies Basketball Club								
Thundersley Gold Netball Club								
Deanes Multi Sport Disability Club	1 x per week	2 years	7 - 14 yrs.	14	Find it hard to find another venue with a vast range of facilities, especially a fitness suite with specialist disability machines	Many members are pupils at Deanes and feel comfortable with the staff and Centre	Inclusion Breaking down barriers Social interaction	ability to attract new members, club is run free of charge through funding sourced by the Deanes.

1,919 / 1,944