

Written Representation from Kate O'Kelly, Member for Midhurst

- Stedham school is a small school but a good school – consistently rated as good by Ofsted over the last decade – 2014 and 2018
- Consultation is undermining confidence in the school this will affect pupil numbers, budget and reputation
- Consultation will add stress and anxiety to children, parents, staff and governors
- Flawed process - original documents full of inaccuracies and subjective comments
- The current consultation will have an impact on current choice of school for parents – 6 parents have said that the fact that the school is under consultation will affect their first choice
- Current school role is 88 – 84% of the total capacity of 105
- Headteacher vacancy – Head gave notice in Jan 2019 – in May 2019 Chair of Governors received instructions from WSCC Director of Education to not appoint a permanent head. The LA is responsible for there not being a permanent head.
- Stedham School are delighted with their appointment as Head of School and excited about the future development of the school – Stedham team regret the statement in the documents as pejorative and biased – *Although the latest inspection in 2018 judged the school to be good the headteacher has now left the school and the school is being managed through interim arrangements.*
- Recruitment of staff – recently appointed a premises manager – inaccuracies in documents claiming difficult to recruit eg cleaning staff
- Depth of teaching – comments regarding future Ofsted regimes – no factual basis for this. Stedham prides itself on depth of curriculum - as part of its school strategy over last 2 years with creative solutions for an exceptionally broad curriculum
- Stedham School at the heart of the community – situated in the heart of the village. Open for 140 years. The school plays a massive part in many community events throughout the year. It would be a devastating loss to the village and have a serious impact on its sustainability. It would affect attracting and keeping young families.
- Speculative references to school numbers and budget in documents.
- Air quality management area just announced for Rumbolds Hill in Midhurst – if Stedham closed there would be increased traffic movements in this area – this should be considered.