
Nigel Jupp
Chairman of the Task and Finish Group
Review of Small Schools

8 October 2019

Dear Nigel,

Recommendations from the Task and Finish Group – Review of Small Schools

I refer to your letter of 20 September 2019 containing recommendations from the Task and Finish Group meeting of 18 September 2019. My responses to each recommendation are set out below.

1. The consultation process due to start on 4 October 2019 includes 'do nothing' as one of its options to enable consultees to promote this if they wish to.

Following consideration of this request I have supported a 'no change' option being included within the consultation. In clarifying this inclusion I must emphasise that any representations or proposals for no change in relation to any school will only be considered in the context that sufficient and compelling evidence is provided that the school is, without change, financially and educationally viable and able to draw its intake from the local community into the future.

2. You reflect upon and consider all representations received from schools and parents and other stakeholders before any decision is taken.

Thank you for providing me with copies of the representations which I took time to carefully consider prior to taking my decision. The comments made in these representations echoed those made in e-mails that I received directly from interested parties over the summer period and responded to accordingly. I appreciate and recognise the concerns of those who have made representations but there is a need for the County Council to review provision across the county as changes to the current provision are required if current and future challenges are to be met and overcome.

The consultation has now opened and I would encourage all interested parties to submit a response; the consultation can be accessed on the County Council website at the following address:-

<https://haveyoursay.westsussex.gov.uk/strategic-planning-and-place/rural-and-small-schools/>

I will be considering all responses to the consultation carefully prior to deciding the potential next steps.

3. That the notes and the record of the TFG's deliberations and further information from officers that arises be published and be made available to you to inform any decision you take.

Thank you for providing me with copies of the notes of your meeting of 18 September 2019; I note that these have also been published on the County Council website. I welcome the TFG's commitment that further information which arises and notes of any future meetings will be published on the website and also provided to me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Burrett".

Richard Burrett
Cabinet Member for Education and Skills