

Mon 11/09/2017 11:35

Castle, Mick

School Organisation in North Yarmouth

TO: Education School Review ; Dunkley, Matt

I am fully supportive of the proposals to close the Alderman Swindell Primary School with effect from 31st August 2018 and to change the age range for the North Denes Primary School to enable pupils from the age of 2 to join that school from 1st September 2018.

As the County Councillor for Yarmouth North & Central I see these new arrangements as crucial to delivering long-

term sustainable good/outstanding education provision for young children in this community.

Although the acquisition of the long-

closed Iron Duke Pub is not strictly necessary to enable the new £7,000,000 new build on the North Denes campus I believe that it would enable the development of the very best access for the expanded school and enable proper setting down/picking up arrangements for parents bringing their children to school by car whilst securing safe pedestrian access for the majority of pupils who will be living very close to the school and arriving on foot.

As a result of the divisive nature of the public consultation process I believe that it will be advantageous to provide early reassurance to residents in the vicinity of the Alderman Swindell School that the County Council is NOT closing the school in order to market the site for housing. Also to be clear about the County Council's sincere intention to RE-

USE the Alderman Swindell buildings specifically to meet the needs of Yarmouth youngsters with Special Education needs (including Autism, Aspergers, ADHD etc) who currently have a dearth of provision locally and often have to travel long distances in order to receive appropriate provision. Some of those opposing the re-

organisation made unfounded and inflammatory statements about 17/18 year old hooligans being unleashed into the community and potentially disturbing the peace of the elderly in the area. Once again it will be helpful if NCC move swiftly to outline the nature of Special Education provision to be provided and how such pupils will be transported to and from the Swindell site.

The Swindell site has modern Community-

use meeting rooms and a pledge to retain such use for the Community after it becomes a Special School would help further reassure the local community of NCC's good faith with regard to the situation post-September 2018.

Mick Castle

Yarmouth North & Central