Appendix 2 – Analysis of Letters from pupils at Winterton Primary School

We received 21 letters from the Seal Class (Year 1 – 3) of Winterton Primary School all of which asked us not to close the school. Many told us that they loved the school and that its proposed closure would make them sad.

Children took the opportunity to state what they loved about the school. Children most often mentioned that teachers, staff and other children were kind, friendly and helpful. Of equal mention was their view that a small school meant that they got more help and support, with a couple referring to the school feeling like a family.

School activities, in particular school trips, were also highly valued as were the exciting lessons, with Computing being highlighted as an example. Some children mentioned the school had taught them never to give up.

Good school facilities were offered by many as another reason why the school should remain open. Several children mentioned the outside space, large playing fields, outside goals and playground with painted games. Inside space was also valued with one child mentioning the lovely classrooms, hall, corridors, pegs and spacious office.

Other perceived strengths included the good head teacher, the fact that children were well behaved and the hot dinners.

The children’s main concern about the proposal was that they had friends at the school and would miss their friends if they had to move to different schools. Some were concerned about making new friends if they moved to a different school.

Another concern raised by several children was that currently they felt safe to walk, cycle or scoot to school and that would not be the case if they had to move.

Other issues raised included concern for the teachers / staff who might lose their jobs were the school to close and that houses might be built on the site.

Concerns raised individually included that closing the school would make the village dull. Another stated that they would miss the school play.

Two children expressed their opinion that it was not fair for decision-makers who had not experienced their own school closing to close someone else’s school.