



# SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL

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## A SPECIAL MEETING OF SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL WAS HELD AT THE BROADWAY CENTRE SANDOWN ON 24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 08 AT 7.0PM.

7. 0pm to 7. 15pm Time allocated for residents of Sandown to speak to the Council on Town Matters.

6 Members of the Public were present.

Questions were raised about the Senior School not being discussed and about the size of the High School. Concerns were expressed at the proposal for the 2 primary schools to be relocated to the Middle School in Perowne Way and also problems it would create for Residents in that area.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:-** Cllr Ward(Mayor), Cllr Stephenson, Cllr Dupre, Cllr Blezzard, Cllr Wright, Cllr Young, Cllr Rogers, Cllr Mereweather, Cllr Cowley. Also in attendance for item 264/08 1. Keith Simmonds from the Isle of Wight Council. Tony Blackshaw and Brian Hayes from the Portsmouth C of E Diocese.

### 262/08 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Beevers, Cllr Teasdale and Cllr Woolley.

### 263/08 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

To invite members to declare any interest they may have in matters on the Agenda

Cllr Blezzard declared a personal interest in the remaining items on the agenda as a member of the Isle of Wight Council Scrutiny Committee. Cllr Wright declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 265/08 as she was a Member of Sandown Rotary.

### 264/08 1. TO MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL AND THE PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE.

The Mayor welcomed Keith Simmonds from the Isle of Wight Council, Tony Blackshaw and Brian Hayes from the C of E Diocese of Portsmouth to the Town Council Meeting.

The Council was informed by Mr Simmonds that the LEA was now in the formal consultation process and if people had views on this consultation they should be sent to the Isle of Wight Council before 5pm on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 08.

Mr Simmonds reported that all Secondary Schools will be from 11 to 19 years of age and all will have 6<sup>th</sup> forms. The Primary Schools will have 1 form entry of 25-30 or 2 form entry of 60. In the High Schools there will be 11-14 Lower School and 15-19 Upper School. With Christ the King opening there would be 6 Secondary Schools and the current High Schools will grow smaller. The number of pupils in a Secondary School will be between 1300 to 1600 maximum to start with and there will be a transitional period when the schools will reduce to 1300.

The proposals will try to build on the strength of key stage 1 which is in the top 10% and by bring the key stages together will improve key stage 2 which at present is in the bottom 10%. The Authority has decided to let the High Schools by competition. Sandown has moved to a Foundation Status that will enable them to bid to run their own school. The new Secondary School may need to use Sandham while building works take place on Sandown High School site. Christ the King will take from the whole Island. Lake and Sandham Middle Schools will close.

After the deadline for comments on the 10<sup>th</sup> October a paper will be taken to the cabinet by the end of October. If current proposals go ahead St Johns C of E Primary School and Sandown C of E Primary School would merge into one with one Headteacher and one Governing Body. It could also be merged into 1 site of the present schools or it could be relocated to Sandham Middle School.

Mr Blackshaw reported that the merged Primary Schools would become a Voluntary Aided School. The Church wanted to hear the views of the community. Having looked at Sandham site he had seen the problems regarding the road being used by heavy traffic. The Church has been in contact with the DFFS. Capital for the Primary sector on the Island is expected to be in the region of £20-£30 Million.

The Council was informed that Schools would be looked at on a school by school basis. Sandown Town Council was urged to send their response to Alex Moffit.

Councillors raised the following concerns and comments during the meeting:-

- Concern was expressed about 11 year olds mixing with 19 year olds.
- Questions were asked about enlarging St Johns especially since Councillors knew land could be made available to do this.
- Problems regarding the two Primary Schools being re-located to Sandham Middle School left no school this side of the railway in Sandown.
- There is no bus service to Perowne Way to take the children to school.
- With more cars on the estate it was asked where are people going to park when dropping off children as driveways are already blocked now and the problems will increase.
- With Perowne Way being the main route for heavy traffic that has to avoid the railway bridge caused concerns to be raised about the increased volume of traffic going through a residential estate as it would make it dangerous for young children as well as the residents.
- The Safety of the children was raised.
- Concern about this proposal leading to an increase in anti-social behaviour making life unpleasant for local residents.
- Councillors supported a two tier system but what they did not like was the amalgamation of the two Primary Schools.
- The loss of 700 pupils through redistribution and change of catchment areas was questioned.
- Questions were asked about the increased numbers in Sandown through the large additional build that had taken place and was the birth rate taken into the equation.
- Councillors asked why they could not continue with the two Primary Schools on their own sites and concerns were expressed about amalgamation.

The Mayor thanked Mr Simmonds, Mr Blackshaw and Mr Hayes for attending the Council Meeting.

## **2. TO DISCUSS AND MAKE COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSAL FOR THE FUTURE OF THE TWO PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN SANDOWN.**

Councillors discussed the matters raised regarding the future of the Sandown Primary Schools.

### **RESOLVED:-**

That the following responses are sent from Sandown Town Council to Alex Moffit on the proposals for St Johns C of E primary School and Sandown C of E Primary School:-

1. Sandown Town Council wishes to object to the proposals as there are two perfectly viable schools in Sandown and wishes to retain both of our Primary Schools, St Johns C of E Primary School and Sandown C of E Primary School and supports the principle of two primary schools for Sandown.
2. St Johns School has a one year entry school and should not be treated less favourably than other schools on the Island as the LEA recognises a one year entry.
3. The Council is concerned that the way year entry numbers have been altered to disguise what is a 3 class entry for an amalgamated Primary School as St Johns already have a 1 class entry and Sandown have a 2 class entry. (The Government have only sanctioned a 2 class entry and this is the way the Isle of Wight Council is getting round it.)
4. The Council feels that it is totally inappropriate for Sandown C of E to become what is in effect a three form entry school as it will be too big.
5. St Johns School would be able to accommodate two extra years on site.
6. It is well known by residents of Sandown as well as the Town Council that more land can be acquired for St Johns. The Council does not understand why the Isle of Wight Council and Portsmouth Diocese are not pursuing this.
7. Sandown C of E School has no IT suite.
8. To expand Sandown C of E School would mean the school would have to be built on the playing fields which would not be beneficial to the pupils of this school.
9. It is felt some parents would move their children out of Sandown.
10. It appears that no consideration had been given to the increased population due to the amount of house building that is taking place in Sandown. There is going to be more residents and more families in the centre of Sandown.
11. Sandown Town Council supports both schools and recognises it will create problems for Sandown C of E School as well.

12. Sandown Town Council objects to the changing status of the schools from Controlled to Voluntary Aided as it will be under the control of Foundation Governors.
13. The Council notes that with the change of school status this would mean 10% of the funding of future building works will have to be locally raised funds from the P.C.C.'s and are concerned that the people in the town do not know this.
14. The suggestion that the two Primary Schools are being considered for re-located to Sandham Middle School would leave no school in Sandown itself and this is not acceptable.
15. There would be more cars on the estate and the Council asks where are people going to park when dropping off children as driveways are already blocked and the problem will only increase.
16. The Council is concerned about the increased volume of traffic going through a residential estate as Perowne Way is the main route for heavy traffic due to it having to avoid the railway bridge. This increases the risk and dangerous for children as well as residents.
17. The Council is concerned about the Safety of the children when they all leave school together.
18. The Council is concerned if the proposal to use Sandham Middle School as a Primary School goes ahead there would be an increase in anti-social behaviour making life unpleasant for local residents.

**265/08**

**THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM SANDOWN ROTARY CLUB.**

The Council considered a request from Sandown Rotary Club to light up the Broadway Centre at Christmas to raise money for various charities as Oscar Stretch had offered them his lights. Cllr Wright left the meeting for this agenda item.

**RESOLVED:-**

THAT the Council agree in principle to Rotary's request and that they would donate the electricity.

**RESOLVED:-**

THAT a letter be sent to Oscar to thank him for all that he had done and his generous offer.

**266/08**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING 8<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 08**

**RESOLVED:-**

**THAT the date of the next meeting is noted.**

**Signed**

**Dated**