

DEPUTATION FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each meeting of the Cabinet Member Meeting for the hearing of deputations from members of the public. Each deputation may be heard for a maximum of five minutes, following which the Cabinet Member may speak in response.

Notification of one Deputation has been received. The spokesperson is entitled to speak for 5 minutes.

Mr P Hendrick (Spokesperson)

The Case Against the Merger of St. Luke's Infants with St. Luke's Junior School

1. 109 Votes against the Merger only 11 votes for...

This is a very clear vote against. If the Council listen to their own consultation this merger should go no further. Add to this the opposition from the Governing Body of the Infant School and over 300 signatures on the petition including Des Turner MP then it is clear there is no appetite for merger.

This is not an academic argument about the merits of infant/junior vs through primary schools. This is a real situation involving real schools and real children who are receiving a really excellent education in the existing schools.

The Governing Body of the Infant School disagrees with the proposal on the basis of increased size, potential change of ethos and the loss of phase specialism.

2. The Council have not proved there is any Significant Educational Benefit from a Merger

The Council have not made any convincing case or supplied any evidence that the merger will improve standards or educational performance. As parents the only evidence we have are the current OFSTED assessments (see Appendix 1 and Appendix 2). In June 2002 Ofsted Awarded St Luke's Infants an OUTSTANDING Grade and the Junior School a GOOD grade. Please take the time to read the OFSTED reports. This tells us if it isn't broken don't try to fix it.

SUMMARY

St Luke's Infants and Juniors are state schools they are great schools. Ofsted think so too. The council must take some credit for this success alongside the staff and pupils for letting them get on with their job without unnecessary change. Let's celebrate and learn from the success of these schools. Why risk all this for some uncertain and unproven gains.

Councillor Mrs Brown, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, will respond.

