

From: Andrew Taylor [mailto:member@atay.fsnet.co.uk]
Sent: 29 November 2009 11:07
To: Holbrook, Simon A. (Councillor); Davies, Phil L. (Councillor); Cooper, Howard
Subject: Reply to Cabinet Request

To Phil Davies, Simon Holbrook and Howard Cooper

Dear Councillors and Director,
My colleagues have asked me to respond to the Cabinet request for the views of the Tranmere Hall Estate Residents Association and Mount Estate Residents Association on building a mixed Academy on the Shaftesbury Club's playing field and Borough Road playing fields and probably sponsored by the University of Chester,.

As you know, having already participated in several discussions, we know how it is intended to fit a school on this site and we also are aware of the various unresolved uncertainties and problems and their potential adverse impact on residents.

I reaffirm our Committees' view that the Shaftesbury Youth Club's Development Plan is a better use of this playing field site than building a school on it, since it would retain and modernise this site as playing fields and would improve the quality of life of local residents, rather than worsen it.

Some time ago, the Shaftesbury Club agreed to our suggestion that, when they are ready, we would arrange a public meeting at which the details of their plan would be presented to residents for their views and comment. Residents could then have the democratic opportunity to decide whether they prefer a school or the Shaftesbury Development Plan. We are in no doubt of the outcome.

If you persuade Shaftesbury to surrender their playing field to you in order to build a school on it, then we reserve the right to mount a mass campaign and petition calling for a Planning Inspectorate Enquiry as an independent assessment of whether Wirral Council should build a school on this playing field site against resident opposition.

We appreciate that such an Enquiry could mean further delay in your reorganization of secondary schools but we are not the ones who have already caused delay by replacing a plan for secondary school reorganisation by another and problematic plan and then reverting back to the original plan. With respect, we suggest that you now go for the simpler and less problematic options in this vexed and difficult question of secondary school reorganisation.

It would be simpler, quicker and more efficient for you to build the academy on the Park High site. Unlike the Borough Road site, you already own it. Unlike the Borough Road site, it is unlikely to meet with resident opposition. Unlike the Borough Road site, it is already a school site and not a playing field site and so unlikely to produce planning difficulties and delays. Indeed, you have already declared it as a fit site for a mixed academy.

In order to avoid further misunderstandings of our position, I am copying this e-mail to all Cabinet members, to our local councillors and to Jeff Green and Sheila Clarke.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Taylor