

APPENDIX 1B

Summary of responses by school

People allied to Kingsway Primary School

Falling rolls

- Interest in attending the school has increased
- If F1 could attend all day numbers on roll would go up
- F1 should have been taken into account in the figures
- Should put a cap on Park and Somerville so they can't take so many kids
- More children in F2 than ever before

Staff and Standards

- Good friendly school
- A family and community school
- Everybody knows everybody's name
- Teachers are great, helpful and make learning fun
- School has improved in the last couple of years
- Some teachers have been there for years, it would be a shame for them to end their careers this way
- Staff are amazing, brilliant and supportive
- Small but happy and warm school
- Small schools suit many children
- Chose Kingsway because of smaller classes
- Larger schools would not have helped my child like Kingsway
- Staff are good with children with special needs and disabilities
- More one on one time with each child
- Small doesn't mean it's not good
- Fair and nice
- Good communication between staff and parents
- Gives children a headstart in life to achieve their full potential
- School has residential and day trips and links with Oldershaw school
- Some children have passed the 11+
- Teachers make us work hard
- Cheers us up when we're upset
- Satisfactory Ofsted in 2008

- Recent Ofsted visit was good
- Three year upward trend in English, science is improving
- Governors show a greater understanding of their responsibility
- Bigger schools have mixed age classes and it works there too
- Teacher scribed for my child's exams when she had a broken wrist
- Every teacher is aware of every child's needs
- One of the few schools that runs a family service at lunchtime

Building and site

- Modern school
- Better equipment than Riverside
- Riverside is an older school
- Small on the outside, big on the inside
- School could be made bigger to take more children
- Wouldn't be the same with a new building
- Suitable disabled access
- School is tidy and has displays
- Our school is huge
- All the classrooms have been renovated
- Laptops, interactive white boards and new books have been provided
- New heating
- All space is put to good use
- Space to build extra classrooms here
- Concerns about the future of the site if the school closed
- Could you build on the Park at the back of the school?
- Even full it would still be a small school

Pupils

- My child has grown in confidence and made great friends
- New children are welcomed
- I don't want go to another primary school
- My children have done well here
- Teachers helped my daughter overcome her shyness
- My child is happy and settled here
- Concerned about knocks to confidence
- Children in deprived areas need individual care and attention

- Children love coming to school here
- Children would be split up from their friends
- Like playing football, learning French and playing the violin
- Children are safe and secure

The Options

- If amalgamated at Riverside the majority of parents would not go, then Riverside might have to close in the future
- Would be upset to move to another school
- I will not send my kids to Riverside
- Riverside has a very bad reputation
- Only closing Kingsway because it's small
- Why should a public school be closed down
- Why wasn't there an option to close Riverside Primary?
- Could you close Brentwood and bring the F1 here rather than building on at Somerville?
- There is already a preschool at Somerville
- Will Somerville Community Scheme be closed?
- If Somerville decreased it's number Kingsway and Riverside wouldn't be under threat
- The amalgamated school would be 1.5 FE so would have mixed age teaching anyway
- Amalgamation would allow children and their friends to stay together
- Amalgamation would take the experience and expertise of both sets of staff
- Kingsway would retain it's ethos and identity in an amalgamation but develop it
- Amalgamation here would serve the whole community
- Closure would mean children would not be guaranteed a place at their chosen school
- Not opposed to amalgamation if it comes with a new build
- Will work with another school in an amalgamation but would find it difficult if Kingsway closed

The Process

- No decisions have been made
- More pupils from Kingsways area attend Kingsway than Riverside's do Riverside

- Booklet says closure in July 2011, needs to be made clear it would be July 2012
- Is it all about costs or does it take into account performance as well?
- Wanted to send out a joint letter with Riverside but they refused

Financial

- Not reasonable to use 180 as a benchmark for financial viability
- Cost per square footage has to be taken into account
- Money is not wasted here
- Small schools cost money but also offer choice
- Be cheaper to build on here than Riverside
- Riverside would have to be knocked down and rebuilt

Traffic and transport

- I live out of catchment area and still bring my children to Kingsway
- Too far to Riverside
- Would have to walk further to school
- Concerns about safety of schools on main roads
- This school is not on a main road

Other Comments

- Generations have gone to this school
- Long history gives the school a more familial edge over other schools
- The building brings back memories of my time there
- Food is delicious

People allied to Riverside Primary School

Falling rolls

- Don't understand why numbers are predicted to keep falling
- F2 class is bigger than last year
- Already 26 children in the F1 class who will move up
- Why is F1 not included in the numbers on roll
- Does this take into account the Peel Holdings plan?

Staff and Standards

- High standards of pastoral care
- Better KS2 results than Kingsway or Somerville
- Children get the help they need

- Caring, happy, safe, welcoming school
- Staff are hardworking, friendly, determined, focused, co-operative and supportive
- Committed to providing the best education for children and developing their full potential
- Very successful inclusion unit for 8 children from all over Wirral
- Trusting relationships with vulnerable families built up over the years
- School tries hard to get the best from children
- Friendship stop helps me when I fall out with somebody
- Afterschool, breakfast club and lunchtime activities
- Staff help children with special needs
- Standards are good even though we have a high proportion of children with special needs
- Concerns about future of staff
- Problems are addressed and sorted
- Teachers are happy to listen
- A very good school
- Excellent team of teachers, some have worked there for years
- Teachers care deeply about children's progress
- Children experience fairness, equality and respect as well as core subjects
- All staff and governors are dedicated and work well together
- Lovely and friendly, headmaster is great
- Family learning courses
- School works closely with parents and children
- Trust between staff and the community
- Provides stability in a socially and economically deprived area
- Very high standards of teaching
- Varied and stimulating curriculum
- Children are nurtured and developed as individuals
- Concerns about staff redundancies
- Have had letters for last two years congratulating school on KS2 results
- Does not get the recognition it deserves
- Caretaker never stops working

- Prepares children for transition to secondary school

Building and site

- Would not be possible to fit all the children into Kingsway
- Riverside has a larger capacity
- Riverside has a larger site with space to build on
- Kingsway is in a local park with the Ash Villas hostels within yards
- Ash Villas is getting made bigger
- Kingsway would need more classrooms at extra expense
- Kingsway site gets pollution from the tunnel which is bad for children with asthma
- Riverside location is lovely
- Children can walk on the prom and have Guinea Gap and the town hall next door
- Continually being brought up to date with modern technology
- Kids love the views
- Classrooms are not typical sizes, does not seem possible to accommodate 100 more children although it has done in the past
- Great for the children when there are events on the river
- The only school in Seacombe
- Kingsway's grounds are not big enough for that number of children

Pupils

- Children are made to feel special
- My child is happy and settled here
- My child has done really well here
- Children love coming to school
- Children love the staff and feel safe here
- Moving school would be an upheaval for children
- Provides stability for children who perhaps don't have that at home
- Disruption to children's education, particularly those with special needs and the Inclusion base
- Looked after children don't deal with change well
- I do not want to go to another school
- Moved from Kingsway because of unhappy staff and bullying, can't go back there
- Concerns about the effect of amalgamation at Riverside on existing children's education

- There would be more lateness if children had to travel further to school

The Options

- I chose Riverside over the other schools
- If amalgamated at Kingsway the majority would not be willing to move there
- I moved my children from Kingsway because I was not happy with the way we were treated
- Head at Kingsway dismissed my child's developmental problems
- Amalgamation would be a backwards step
- If you amalgamated at Riverside you are not guaranteed Kingsway children would come here
- If Kingsway closed, Riverside would receive a certain amount of their pupils
- The graphs clearly show that Kingsway will fit into Riverside
- Closing Kingsway would disrupt fewer children
- Why move 200 children from here when there are less at Kingsway
- Children would settle in at Riverside very quickly
- As a rate payer it is difficult to comprehend you are even considering closing Riverside or moving children to another location
- I would not put my child into a school next to the Ash Villas
- All Kingsway children would be welcome and can be accommodated here
- Closing Kingsway would give parents a choice of local school to attend and Riverside would not have the pressure of 100 more children
- Relocating to Kingsway would mean attendance and punctuality would suffer
- Is amalgamation an option or have the two schools become entrenched?
- Could there be a new build to benefit all the children?

Traffic and transport

- Closing Riverside would leave a big gap – the other two are only 2 minutes away from each other
- Closing Riverside would create a lot of congestion in the surrounding area
- Parents who move out of the area still send their children here
- Kingsway is virtually on a one-way system
- Riverside has a main road but it's really only peak time traffic
- Parking problems at Kingsway

Financial

- Makes economical sense to close Kingsway
- Inappropriate to move children to Kingsway as it would involve expense to the government
- Wouldn't it be cheaper to close Kingsway and let parents choose which school to send their children to?
- Would be more expensive to build at Kingsway
- There are only financial reasons to consider closing or amalgamating Riverside

The Process

- Good quality education should be at the heart of any decision
- Chair of Governors and other governors should have been invited to the meeting
- Councillors did not get enough notice of the meeting
- Will this reorganisation reduce surplus places below 10%?
- Local councillors should keep an open mind

Other comments

- Generations have gone to this school
- Long history
- Heart of its community

People allied to Brentwood Early Years Centre

Falling rolls

- Numbers would improve if school was publicised more through outreach
- Numbers of 0-4 children are increasing in Seacombe
- Birth rate is increasing
- Surplus places do not apply to Brentwood
- Council should be encouraging parents to come here to fill empty places
- When there is a boom in population there will be no quality facilities left
- Brentwood has empty places but they will not be funded from April 2011
- Nobody knows how many children there will be in the future
- Mothers are not having children later in life in Wallasey

Staff and Standards

- Intensive support for children with special needs

- Adult learning classes
- Socially deprived area
- Health visitors and social care send children here
- Our diversity and racism project has been adopted by other Wallasey schools
- Visitors to school from fire service, police, art and cultural groups etc
- Links with Uganda
- Healthy Schools award and healthy cooking lessons for parents
- Parents say staff are approachable
- Inclusive school
- Support for vulnerable families
- Learning through play
- Great little nursery
- Staff are mostly mature and very experienced
- Only facility to offer a fully rounded service with wrap around, day care, dinner sessions
- Open door policy
- Standards are better than nursery classes in primary schools
- Concerns about future of school staff
- Current staff are highly qualified and excellent and this would be lost if Somerville took over
- School is making progress
- Nice atmosphere, fun and nurturing environment
- Staff attend to my child's behavioural needs
- Day nursery helps mums go back to work
- Headteacher knows the children by first name
- Committed, caring, fantastic, professional staff
- Early Years teacher on site
- A training ground for big school
- Like the group sizes
- One on one attention
- Large schools are daunting for children
- A positive influence

Building and site

- Children enjoy gardening in Tots Plots

- Community Orchard
- High quality safe outdoor environment
- Used as outdoor training venue for early years practitioners
- How would Somerville Preschool be housed at Brentwood?
- Cannot supply the same space or outdoor environment at Somerville
- Beautiful setting
- Excellent facilities
- Close knit and homely
- No other preschool has an outdoor grassed area
- Spacious inside and out
- Building at Somerville would be expensive
- Government is stopping new builds because they are expensive
- Located in a deprived area
- Well maintained
- Somerville has little space to extend, would make parking even worse

Pupils

- Transition arrangements with various primary schools
- Children get a great start here
- My children would not be as outgoing and bright without Brentwood
- Open to anyone regardless of which primary school you choose
- My child is/was happy here
- My child has come on leaps and bounds

The Options

- Says 106 places in June Cabinet report – what does this mean?
- Would Somerville PreSchool be closed down?
- Quality would suffer if there was no on-site headteacher
- Only 39%/35% of children go onto Somerville
- Only just over half of schools have a nursery class for continuity
- Vital it remains open
- If part of Somerville, you would only go if your child was going on to Somerville
- Headteacher would not know the children
- Needs to remain independent of any school to give everyone a fair chance to attend

- Parental choice would be reduced
- Feeds several schools in the area
- Shame to change something that's not broken
- There will be no quality facilities left
- Should be investing in the school not closing it
- If Somerville Preschool does not close there would not be enough children to fill Brentwood
- If Kingsway closes, F1 children can be offered places here
- Having a split site would do nothing for continuity

Traffic and Transport

- Serves the whole of Wirral

Financial

- Budget is well managed and gives value for money
- Brentwood is not allowed to advertise F1 unlike the private sector
- There is nothing about financial reasons for closure in the guidance
- Children's education would be damaged by the short sighted penny pinching approach of Wirral Council
- Decision makers guidance does not authorise revenue savings to be redistributed to schools
- What is the AWPU?
- This is all about cutting costs
- Cutting costs now, but this will lose quality in preschool education
- Driven by finance but not taking into account the quality
- Does not make sense to fund empty places
- The maintained sector should offer value for money
- Don't believe there would be any financial saving if Somerville took over the site
- From April 2011 empty places won't be funded, so can't be used as a reason to close
- Still sustainable after the Early Years Single Funding Formula begins – only £18,000 cut in first year
- Two year old funded places have been announced, until the details are known Brentwood should be maintained
- How will savings benefit under 5's?

The Process

- There is a presumption against closure of nursery schools

- Questions about whether responses/petition should go to a Councillor or to the Director
- I have set up a survey website and facebook group
- Primary places review does not apply as Brentwood is not a primary school and should not have been included
- Surplus and empty places are confusing
- Does not satisfy the criteria for closure
- Lack of information in the public domain
- Consultation is flawed
- Options were presented as concrete aspirations with zeal, not as neutral or dispassionate options
- Has survived two recent sets of closure proposals
- Shortsighted behaviour of the council
- Only Brentwood has been included in the review, not the other two nursery schools – this is discrimination
- Can't use size as a reason for closure

Other comments

- Fully flexible 15 hour provision
- Places for 2 year olds
- Centre of its community
- Generations have gone to this school