

**Notes of a Meeting of the Parents of Rosebery Primary School,
Loughborough held at St. Peters Community School, Loughborough on
the 7th February 2006 at 2 pm**

Present

Speakers: Sharon Scott – Assistant Director, Education Services
Meredith Teasdale – Education Officer
Jackie Hibbert – Education Officer
Lisa Fish – Allocations

Audience: 52 people

Clerk: Debbie Clarke (Local Authority)
Maureen Green (Resident)

The meeting began with a presentation from officers of the Local Authority. The floor was then open for questions.

To add greater clarity to the questions and comments made they have been grouped together. Answers to the questions have been provided in the attached document.

The Ofsted Inspection Process

You are misquoting OfSTED?

It is a personal judgement. Look at the OfSTED report and the old report and specifically the amount of time spent at the school. Rosebery has had two inspectors for two days, at the last inspection they had five specialist inspectors for more time.

There is a contradiction – stop talking about OfSTED - it's Tribal, it is a successful business, they are people whose business it is to make money.

Accreditation and experience of the Tribal Inspectors that came to the last two inspections – is it possible to have them?

Attainment of pupils

Why is Rosebery failing when the tables are showing that there are four schools lower than Rosebery?

Don't think we would keep the children there if they weren't getting the support/education – we would pull them out.

The Building

Condition of the buildings? We liked the traditional school with doors – 2 halls which can fit in all the children – they hold fantastic performances.

Out of the four of you, who has looked at the condition of the school?
Thousands of pounds have been spent to have the ceiling lowered, new lighting – has Gareth Williams looked at the school?
Simple yes/no answer - is it suitable?

Is open plan any better?

Not the condition, judgement about suitability!

There are two primary schools built at the same time - Rendell and Cobden – both have recently been refurbished, they are now regarded as effective modern buildings for education to take place. If Rosebery is refurbished in the same way, it will be inadequate of the Local Authority not to improve the school.

Admissions

There is an allocations officer present, when this meeting is to discuss the future of the school, to have discussions now is inappropriate. It is a great shame and appalling that Gareth Williams is not here.

Travel to School

We found a house that we like and a school that we like, you are now saying that we will have to walk along the A6 which has heavy traffic and no pedestrian crossings.

I will have to walk to school and then to University – can that full distance qualify me for free transport?

Issues with Robert Bakewell –there are congestion problems at the beginning and end of the school day – it is highly dangerous!

Support for the School

Support the school. It is a waste of tax payers money when two bodies are fighting.

Repetition of “incapable of improvement” keeps referring back to OfSTED. This statement is only mentioned twice and refers to management.

Give the school a chance

It is not fair saying that the Head Teacher needs experience.

I have two grandchildren and 4 children that have attended this school, it is a shock to know that something is wrong. I thought Rosebery was the best in the area and strongly feel that the school must not close.

Try to improve Rosebery – all we need is the Local Authority, teachers and Parents to do their best.

Extra support, staffing, leadership, training that's all we need. How long will it be before we get it?

The best chance that we can have of maintaining numbers, improving morale and quality of teaching is by removing the threat of closure.

Housing Developments

You have projected the new housing estates as having a potential of 14 pupils – I contest this. The Ashby Road project will be a student free zone, there is the potential of 58 houses which will mean another 30/35 residents, approximately 10 more children.

The number projected is wrong – far too small!

Loughborough University has plans for 2,000 residents on campus. You have painted a black picture of our neighbourhood, which will flourish and need Rosebery Primary School.

Excess of 400 places – it is an expanding town and more housing estates will pop up, which will mean that more schools will be built.

The Number on Roll

231 places – can we have a breakdown to other schools as it is a large catchment area. Parents may choose to go to other schools outside of their catchment areas because the school is nearer

Close Rosebery – other schools have large vacancies. Closing Rosebery will boost others that are failing. Some successful schools are selective – Rosebery have taken children that some schools won't. Will closing one school help the county?

If another 75 children leave – what then?

Falling roll – happening in Loughborough. Stop scare mongering and stop nominating alternative schools. Saying no chance to parents, if they don't remove their children, this is bullying tactics, stop it now!

Surplus places across Loughborough –OfSTED came in, county hall's response this is our opportunity to save money and remove those surplus places. It will save a lot of money but also will gain brownie points.

The Consultation Process

There are two options, closure or closure.

Meredith Teasdale's two options were not reflected as a neutral stance: Amalgamation was handled negatively and closure positively.

Consultation – when does it count?

Educational argument – what do you mean?

What can we say that will change the decision?

Challenge to OfSTED is outside our capacity – we are amateur educationalists.

Clarify what education is? It is not just exam results but what you learn, tolerance and interaction.

It is paramount that we get extra support, visit HMI and OfSTED. Quality of education if it is superior to that reported by OfSTED will there be renouncement.

Let's have a vote. Who thinks Option A or B is acceptable? Who thinks the school should be supported to improve.

Large percentage think there should be a recovery strategy and neither A or B are acceptable. At what stage would people and the Local Authority say we got it wrong, and want the education to continue.

This consultation process sounds tainted. We are not happy with how it has been dealt with. It went to Cabinet who only received paperwork one week before this meeting. It has been bounced through. If no residents had attended the Cabinet meeting, then it would have gone through.

We think you have already made the decision, due to the speed everything has gone through? Did you want Cabinet to rubber stamp it?

Consultation should be full and comprehensive. Arguing strongly about the consultation – there are 7 elements of the Cabinet Report which are wrong. The condition and age of the building are 2 issues.

Equal Opportunities

Is the Local Authority signed up to Human Rights and Equal Opportunities then why not working towards it? Why were the letters to parents only in English, and not in the parents own language?

Finances of the School

The deficit is not unique to Rosebery. The deficit is mainly down to the "getting rid of a member of staff", which was supported by the Local Authority. Every school has to look to the future.

The Catchment Area

Lots of families move here, because Rosebery is perfectly situated.

Catchment areas need to be addressed.

Behaviour in the School

Children misbehave – school do half the work. The school is not solely responsible. Our child suffered with being bullied, an IEP was drawn up and

the situation improved and our child is now happy! If that isn't a capability to improve, what is?

Disruption to pupils

The Cabinet report did not mention the potential disruption to pupils of closure. We already know that the children are suffering give us a third option – keep the school going and support it.

The meeting closed at 3pm