



SEATON VALLEY FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

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New school buildings for Astley Community High School and Whytrig Middle School

Following the consultation exercises last week and a subsequent full governing body meeting on Monday 4 April 2022, the Governors of the Seaton Valley Federation can confirm that we are in favour of the proposed investment in the new school buildings for Astley Community High School and Whytrig Middle School.

We note that there were 6 options that were open for consideration and consultation. It is our view that option 1 and 2 of doing nothing and looking to refurbish the buildings as they are now are not acceptable or practical.

With regard to option 3 the split site with playing fields away from the main site we feel that this option is again not acceptable or practical.

This leaves options 4,5 and 6.

Option 4 is the preferred option for most staff and most governors, although there is a concern with regard to traffic on the Avenue. However, we are aware that the tree line and the ownership of it by the National Trust may delay, if not stop the proposed plan. If those issues could be overcome quickly then this would be our preferred option.

Option 5 we can see having many advantages for many people, but they are not the people who would use the school on a daily basis and that is the staff and the community users especially those people who bring young children to the school for swimming. Staff are adamant that this option is simply not acceptable with regard to issues with carrying work into school and also their safety when walking to and from the car park, especially in the dark. Therefore, this option is as unacceptable as options 1,2 and 3 and would create a number of issues for staff and users.

Option 6 is probably the best option in that it still enables the school to be on the new site, it allows staff car parking and community car parking on site whilst having the park and stride for parents, 6th formers add other users of the car park.

However, there are a number of issues that we need to raise with regard to option 6. The amount of staff parking will need to be increased from the 50 on the proposal to 100. This number accurately reflects the number of staff who will need to park on site. It also takes into consideration those staff who live locally and will walk to work.

Secondly one of the benefits of option 6 is that pupil entrance to the site is spread across several gates which is good, it does raise a safeguarding issue that will need to be carefully planned in if this proposal is the one that is adopted. The issue in particular is the the top gate near Weston Ave and securing that when it is not being used.

Finally, this option will raise issues between the school and the local community so we would like some idea of how these issues will be mitigated, especially around the additional traffic on Prospect Avenue.

As a governing body we are united in the fact new buildings are needed and we are pleased that the investment is finally progressing, but we wanted you to be aware of our concerns and preferences.

The governors would also like to request that the new community sports hall is named in memory of the late Ray Kennedy. Ray was a Seaton Delaval lad who played at Bates before joining Port Vale and then New Hartley Juniors where he was talent scouted by Arsenal. He had a successful career with Arsenal and Liverpool before ill health caused by Parkinsons' Disease forced his professional retirement. He was landlord at the Melton Constable pub in Seaton Sluice before retiring to New Hartley, where he died at the end of the last year. His family are in complete agreement with this proposal and think that it would be a fitting tribute to the man who contributed so much to sport and the local community.

Yours sincerely



Chair of Governors
Susan Dungworth