

ITEM 6

Time Commenced: 5.00 pm

Time Finished: 6.30 pm

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS FORUM 10 MAY 2006

Present: Stephen Whiteley – Landau Forte College (in the Chair)
Councillors Latham, MacDonald and Wynn
Robin Constable – Solicitor
Keerthi Devendra – Parent Governor Representative
Cathy Ford – Local Education Authority
Edward Hayes – Diocese of Nottingham
Jody Kirkpatrick – Temporary Constitutional Services Officer
Simon Longley – Assistant Director of Children and Young People's Services
Kathy Mayer – Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools
Phil Moncur – Church of England Diocese
Carran Stevenson – Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools

15/05 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Khan

16/05 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

17/05 Declarations of Interest

Name	Type of Interest	Reason
Councillor MacDonald	Personal	Governor – Lees Brook Community Sports College Member of National Union of Teachers
Kathy Mayer	Personal	Governor and Head – Cherry Tree Hill Infant School and Governor at Castle Nursery
Carran Stevenson	Personal	Governor – Meadow Farm Community School Associated Governor at West Park Community School Works at Friesland School

Steven Whiteley	Personal	Principal – Landau Forte College
Councillor Wynn	Personal	Chair of Governors – Beckett Primary and Bemrose School and Governor – Nightingale Primary School Wife is a teacher employed by the LEA Son is employed by Woodlands School

18/05 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2005 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

19/05 Determination of Admission Arrangements 2007-2008

Cathy Ford presented a report to the forum on the Determination of Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools 2007-2008 which went to Council Cabinet on 25 April 2006.

Councillor Latham asked whether the new tie break mechanism had been cleared by the DfES.

Simon Longley responded that there no provision for DfES to be involved as admission arrangements were controlled by each authority and it was not part of the DfES role.

Simon Longley stated that the Council had made the decision in relation to the schools for which it was the admission authority and suggested a review involving the admission forum to ensure that the mechanism was delivering its declared intent. After the review period the Council would look at recommending the admission arrangements to other authorities. He said that result of the alteration would be a small change for a small number of people, including some parents who have been unhappy because they could not obtain a place in a local school when they moved into Derby.

It was agreed to support the new tiebreaker and to complete a review in due course on the impact of this.

20/05 Objection to Chellaston Schools Admission Arrangements 2007-2008

Cathy Ford presented a report asking for the forums agreement to support the authority's stance in submitting an objection to the Schools Adjudicator.

Councillor Wynn said that all admission arrangements needed to be fair and this arrangement didn't seem that. If this arrangement went ahead it would become a logistical nightmare having to check on each land registry application.

Keerthi Devendra asked how this problem could be solved.

Simon Longley said that Derby City Council and Derbyshire County Council were seeking to work together with the school to quantify these issues and to decide whether restrictive change was needed.

Councillor Latham asked whether Chellaston School were protecting an historical agreement made after the closure of Breaston Westernmere school in which they were to take children into the school from the surrounding local villages, as there would be concern for children from these areas if they had no school to attend. She suggested that the authorities and the school should get round the table to discuss matters before an objection was sent to the schools' adjudicator.

Councillor Wynn said that there had been discussions between the two authorities and the school to try to come to an agreement. He had been involved in them himself. The DfES was projecting a 12% decrease nationally in pupils aged 14 to 18 in the next 10 years. Merrill College was improving.

Simon Longley said that he would welcome the school and two authorities getting together but felt that this may not resolve any issues as the school had been written to and called on numerous occasions, yet there was no movement from them as yet. He said that the problem needed to be overcome in a sensible and fair way, and explained the deadline by which an objection had to be lodged with the adjudicator.

The forum agreed to support the local authority putting in an objection to the adjudicator if the school did not alter the admission arrangements over the land registry date and changing the tenancy agreement from 12 to six months.

MINUTES END