

PROPOSED NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL ON THE GOAT LEES ESTATE, ASHFORD

Summary of written responses

Summary Brochures distributed: 250

Responses received: 11

	Support for Ashford Baptist Church	Support for Ashford Primary Headteachers' Collaboration	Undecided	Total
Parent/Carer				
Resident of Goat Lees	2	3	1	6
Resident of Goat Lees and parent/carers	1	4		5
Interested party				
Total	3	7	1	11

In support of the proposal by Ashford Baptist Church

- Impressed that ABC brought so many people from the congregation into the proposal in terms of environmental issues, headteacher issues, and how the school can reach and influence children.
- Especially like the fact that the church seemed to take into consideration the whole area, play park included, and thought of the long-term effects of the school on that.
- I feel that ABC could offer more rounded teaching to the children of the area. Although they have no experience in this before I would say that their love for the children (seen in their range of clubs) will make them excellent in running the school.
- I felt that the proposal by ABC would bring the community together in more positive ways than the Primary Headteachers Collaboration. ABC would certainly make the local environment a much more pleasant area for the locals to live in and one to be proud of.
- As well as bringing a new perspective I think it would be beneficial to have a Christian foundation in the school. Particularly like their ideas on the environment and their use of the grounds and play area.

In support of the proposal by Ashford Primary Headteachers' Collaboration

- There can be no one better placed to set up and run a successful primary school than an existing group of headteachers who can bring their collective and current experience together. (4)
- Each of the headteachers has existing strong connections with the local community, pre-schools and secondary schools, and all have great reputations for running successful schools. They have proven records from Ofsted including 4 outstanding. The leadership, expertise and experience of this group cannot be questioned and as such they are by far the best qualified group to set up this school. (3)
- There will be extensive local support from these primary schools. This collaboration includes 8 quite diverse schools in terms of size, location, facilities etc yet they have proved they can both work together and provide a vast spectrum of support. Integration into the "family" of schools in the area would be promoted.

- Overall I favour the Collaboration as I feel they will be more in touch with the local community and be able to deliver their requirements. Also there are benefits from the headteachers already being closely interlinked through the local schools with some experience of starting a school from the beginning. They are more likely to have connections with the right calibre of staff for the school. Overall a younger and more modern approach which I feel will better serve the requirements of the local community.
- As a working mother the idea of a breakfast and after school club is ideal for our family.
- The proposal is based on fact and experience as opposed to theory and ideals.
- The Collaboration is most likely to establish a school that appeals to the whole community and have credibility, connections, experience to do so.

Undecided

- I would be most happy with a partnership between the two proposers if that is possible. If not possible I would be equally happy for either proposer to take the school forward.

Concerns

- Concerns with the Ashford Primary Headteachers Collaboration are that they do not all live in the locality so may not be as committed to it; their prime involvement and energies must be with their own individual schools – what time will they each have for overseeing the new school?
- The proposal by Ashford Baptist Church, although well written, remains a collection of hopes and aspirations. I also feel it is not right that a school should be set up with a religious bias; this may have been the accepted norm in the past but should not be the case nowadays.
- The Ashford Baptist Church has limited experience of starting a new school from “scratch”. Came across as a little outdated and not as in touch with the local community. Appeared to propose older personnel when a young school for young people needs a younger team and outlook.
- Whilst the proposal from the Ashford Baptist Church offered an appealing vision, it is, in my opinion likely to appeal to those who have a shared religious conviction and put off many that do not. I would be concerned that a school established by the church group would become a “Baptist” school for the area, rather than a school for all the local community.