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14<sup>th</sup> July 2008

To the attention of Chris Jones Esq., Area Education Officer  
Kent County Council Mid Kent Education Office  
Kroner House  
Eurogate Business Park  
ASHFORD TN24 8XU

Dear Sirs,

Consultation on the proposed relocation of Grange Park School to Wrotham School

We are replying on behalf of both the staff and governors of Grange Park School to your public consultation document on the above.

We are fully supportive of the proposed move of Grange Park School to Wrotham School.

We would make the following comments on Grange Park School current site:

1. Grange Park School's present location does not meet the needs of pupils with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs). In short, it is a barrier to their development.
2. Grange Park School's present location is unsustainable because of the disruption of the Leybourne Grange Development.
3. When the proposed development is completed, which may take many years, the location will be unsuitable for Grange Park School which requires to be in a community location.
4. Grange Park School's present buildings are educationally substandard, as is the extent of the grounds.

**Grange Park School**

Birling Road, Leybourne, West Malling, Kent, ME19 5QA

**Headteacher** Mark Robson

**Tel** 01732 842144 **Fax** 01732 848004

We would make the following comments on the proposed site for Grange Park School at Wrotham School:

1. The Wrotham School site provides opportunities for joint working between the staff of both schools with the benefits of sharing expertise and best practice.
2. The Wrotham School site provides increased opportunities for Grange Park School pupils inclusion with WS and enables them to access mainstream education where appropriate.
3. By Grange Park School being on the Wrotham School site, Wrotham School pupils will be better able to understand and be sympathetic to those with disabilities.
4. The Wrotham School site provides Grange Park School with a location embedded in the communities of Borough Green and Wrotham, providing greater opportunities for learning life skills and work experience.
5. The Wrotham School site provides space to build a school building specifically designed for the special needs of Grange Park School pupils all of whom have a diagnosis of ASD.
6. Provision of a sustainable state of the art new building for Grange Park School pupils at Wrotham School will underline the education authority's support for special education in an appropriate community setting, as well as its support for the Wrotham School site as a whole.
7. The selection of site 1 for the new Grange Park School would enable accommodation to be provided with the least visual impact on the environment, a significant factor for this location. By setting the school in the natural slope of the site, it is also likely that the building will be cheaper to maintain at an even temperature, thus lowering the long-term running costs.
8. By Wrotham School and Grange Park School sharing the same site there will be opportunities for both schools to share certain support resources and use any savings to benefit the education of the pupils of both schools.
9. The provision of a new building of the highest quality and design at Wrotham School will support Grange Park School in further progressing its position as a provider of high quality education of pupils with ASD and a national showcase for best practice.

We trust that these comments will be taken into account by the authority.

Yours faithfully,



Mark Robson – Headteacher



Matthew Balfour – Chairman of Governors