

**Notes of Furness Primary School Parent/Carer Meeting
5 March 2015 at 1600-1900**

Panel	Mr Kevin Shovelton	Director of Education Planning and Access
	Ian Watts	Area Education Officer (North Kent)
	Julie Ely	Head of SEN Assessment & Placement

Introductions

Kevin Shovelton introduced the panel and explained that this is a Parents consultation meeting about the proposal to discontinue Furness School from 31 August 2015.

Purpose of this meeting

- To explain the proposal to discontinue Furness School
- To give parents an opportunity to ask questions about the proposals on how they will affect pupils and their parents/carers
- To listen to all views and opinions about the proposals
- To emphasise this is a **consultation** and as yet no decision has been taken about the future of Furness School. The more views received the more complete the feedback to County Members.

Format of the meeting

There will be a short presentation followed by the opportunity to ask questions. Could you please indicate if you wish to ask a question as the meeting is recorded and comments need to be heard through the microphone.

The school has significant budget difficulties, including a revenue deficit of £1.6m. As the annual budget for the school is determined largely by the number of pupils on roll and due to changes in special school funding, it is unlikely that the school will be able to reduce this deficit. The school has 60 places but currently has 30 pupils.

The school has low numbers and is not popular with parents. Decline is attributed to a loss of confidence by parents and prospective parents and their decision to chose an alternative provision. Unfortunately Furness School is unlikely to have a significant increase in number of pupils applying for a place at the school.

Question	Answer
Parent If the local authority allowed the school to take pupils without a formal diagnosis, then you would fill the school 10 times over.	Unfortunately special schools can only admit pupils subject to a SEN statement, although an assessment placement can be agreed in exceptional circumstances but only for the duration of the assessment.
Several questions asked at same time.	I understand that this is an emotive subject but if you want your comments taken into account, they have to be recorded, so I ask if

	you could speak one at a time, please.
<p>Parent</p> <p>Your consultation last year clearly stated that there is obviously a demand for ASD places, so why aren't there enough pupils here at Furness and why is there still over 200 pupils being educated outside of the county? Why are they being put in the independent sector at huge cost to KCC and the taxpayer?</p>	<p>We do not dispute that there is a need for ASD provision in this part of Kent, as demonstrated by the oversubscription of Laleham Gap. Unfortunately this consultation is about Furness School and it is not a popular choice for parents as indicated by the low number of pupils on roll. There were 24 pupils that were offered Furness but they chose not to come.</p>
<p>Parent</p> <p>Where are these figures coming from? My son started school in September and I was aware of its reputation and was very wary of sending him here. How can you change the reputation of 20 years in 5 months, you haven't given the school a chance. I know it is all about the money. I have spoken to a number of schools and they say that this school is needed.</p>	<p>We are not seeing the evidence of the pupils coming into the school. I am really sorry if you want this heard, you need to speak into the microphone.</p> <p>I am Head of Special Needs and I understand what you are talking about. When a child is assessed for a statement proposed placements are discussed with each family. At this point the local authority can raise awareness of its schools and invite parents to consider suitability. Responses from parents asked to consider Furness indicated that their preferences continued to be Laleham Gap school or an alternative special school, or mainstream resourced provision. We cannot force parents to take a school they do not want.</p>
<p>Parent</p> <p>Some parents cannot accept that their children have special educational needs and expect them to cope with mainstream school. My son went to an Academy for 6 months and he was bullied, self-harmed and tried to commit suicide all because it was a normal school but here they are one big family and all understand one another.</p>	
<p>Pupil</p> <p>Don't shut the school – this £1.6m deficit - how do you expect school to change ways in 5 months – answer that question now.</p>	
	<p>The parents were asked not to call out as the meeting needed to be recorded. We will try to keep the answers as short as possible, just lots of noise and not an opportunity to hear what you are saying</p>
<p>Parent – Mr Farthing</p> <p>I wrote you a letter to which I have just received a reply. I would just like to thank you for acknowledging Lilac Sky's moratorium on not admitting pupils to the school for 2012/13 may have contributed to the current financial position of the school. You also acknowledge on the internet there's</p>	<p>Thank you for your point but I don't think there is a question in there.</p>

<p>a lot negative views and you state this is frustrating and may have influenced some parents in their choice. I stated that it did not affect my choice, I came and had a look. Despite nothing being done, circa 20 ASD pupils have joined the school this year so if you believe generally parent perception is bad, that is not the case and parents can still make their choice. There are many aspects in the consultation papers that indicate that there will not be enough ASD places in Kent immediately. Please clarify on this position especially as Shropshire has been mentioned and over 247 pupils are being educated outside of Kent.</p> <p>Also in the last paragraph of the Q&A document it states that there are 4 schools with more than 10% vacant places. However, 3 of these are related to planned building works. The DfE states that KCC must meet children's needs, the Q&A papers states alternative provision that is most suitable to their needs. I think discrimination has already been mentioned and I think this is the case.</p>	
<p>Parent What about selling the school, where is the management, why aren't they selling the school to prospective parents? You have got to work at it, promote it. Sell it on the internet, get the 24 people here tonight, we will sell it to them. It's your job to sell the school.</p>	
<p>Why did you bring Lilac Sky in and why are you considering shutting the school now? Why didn't you do it once the Ofsted result was known, when the kids were running riot? Why upset these kids that don't like change?</p>	<p>As parents of children at the school now you are perfectly happy with the school. The way that the special education needs placement works is that parents have a big say of where they want their children to go. Unfortunately a large number of parents do not want their children to come here.</p>
<p>Parent Get a team in here to work on it, get people to stand up and be counted as the children are on their own.</p>	
<p>Parent My son travelled from Canterbury to board here – it wasn't my choice and the journey time is over an hour. We took a risk with the school but cannot praise the staff and carers here enough, they are a family. In fact there are a lot of children in Canterbury who would like to come to a school like this – you have got to sell the school.</p>	<p>We do try and tell parents where the most suitable local school is. We try not to persuade parents but ultimately the law says the parents have a right to express a preference. At the same time as we tried to persuade parents to come here, there were 7 tribunal appeals for Laleham Gap. Of the 24 children who could have come here some chose West Heath, Sevenoaks or Pru</p>

	College in Sussex. Every family is different, some do not want boarding.
<p>Parent</p> <p>Two years ago we were at crisis point, we were having police removals from school and home and this is why it is very difficult to engage in education. This is why my son was permanently excluded from primary school but since being here he is engaged, has excelerated a year, is now part of gifted and talented programme, is off medication and has only had one physical intervention once when we were taking daily. Why. You say the school is not working. Why is the school in deficit. Why go through consultation and cost to re-designate school and why are we sat here now looking at closure. I am not the only parent who feels school has worked wonders for their child and we are now looking down the barrel of a gun and you are going to pull the trigger. Who is going to be accountable get to crisis point take up resource 4 police and get him to safety with 2 paramedics and 2 police restraining are you going to explain to siblings that you are the cause of this crisis. Explain to community that your choices and financial mismanagement has led to where he is now. My friend had 17 year old son who is burying her son due to the mismanagement of other services. I do not want to be the next statistic.</p>	Thank you.
<p>Parent</p> <p>If there was a deficit budget last year, why were we suggested this school as my son only started last September. My son hasn't had stability at school since primary school. We have had to deal with the police and medication over the years and he is now stable, yet now we are looking at an alternative school.</p>	The budget for the school is determined by the government regulations and tied to the number of pupils at the school so when it goes down the money the school gets is low. We were expecting children, we hoping an additional 24 children would take up places at Furness. It is tied to the budget and the numbers and we have explained how we have not been able to persuade parents to send children to the school.
<p>You say the school is for children with a statement yet my eldest son has a statement and my youngest child has more learning difficulties and doesn't have a statement so the council refuse to help him. His attendance is below 50% but the council refuse to help so if you took children without a formal diagnosis you would fill the places.</p>	We would love to have children come to the school. The law says you can only be admitted to a special school if you have a statement or waiting for a statement. 2.8% of Kent population has a statement and has been the same for 5 years.
<p>It is your decision not to take them without a formal diagnosis. Your numbers mean nothing to me. My son needs a statement and you are failing my son because he does</p>	I accept that some children are having assessments and turned down. Designation of ASD not a diagnosis of ASD doesn't mean you need a special school. We are still

<p>not have a formal diagnosis.</p>	<p>statementing at the same levels it doesn't mean your pathway is to a special school.</p>
<p>Parent – Mr Farthing I do not feel the question regarding the deficit was answered properly. When the school was re-designated it failed to mention the deficit and as you were aware when we visited the school we were told by the Principal of the school that finances were good and future bright. Why weren't we told. It was clearly untrue that schools financial position was good and clearly not mentioned when re-designation that took place that school had lost £1.6m.</p>	<p>At the time of re-designation the expectation was that there were children out there to come to Furness. There were 24 pupils expected to come to this school and the budget for the school was determined by number of at Furness so felt positive going forward. Unfortunately the numbers have remained below what anticipated.</p>
<p>In the Q&A document you mention the top up funding which follows the pupil which is £16,000 per pupil. So if numbers rose from 31 to 60, that would raise an extra £464,000. The deficit over the last 2 years was over £800,000 so something other than pupil numbers is the causing deficit. I think there are some costs relating to Lilac Sky and I have requested some information on this. The cost of teaching 20 children in appropriate private schools is about £50,000 each which is £1m. KCC acknowledge there is a cost to putting pupils in boarding schools outside of Kent of up to £150,000 per year, per pupil. Surely, therefore, it makes financial sense to KCC and the DfE to keep this school open. I am an accountant surely the figures make this school work.</p>	<p>Your last comment about making financial sense, you are right. It would depend on the school having more pupils on roll. It is the only way the school can be funded.</p>
<p>Parent You are ignoring the fact that KCC will be spending more money sending children across the county to educate.</p>	<p>We would prefer to spend less money and having pupils nearer to their homes. That is our preference, clearly.</p>
<p>Parent I have been told there is no provision for my son in Kent so there is no option but out of County. If Furness should close, he wants home tuition as an option. Are pupil's needs being taken into consideration with this or is everyone just focussed on the £1.6m. The finances should not come into it, you cannot discriminate against a disabled person, that is the law. It is all about money.</p>	
<p>Parent Why have none of you have helped us look for a new school for our son's or daughter's?</p>	<p>There is a named case worker for every single child. If the closure goes ahead they will help on an individual basis to help your son or daughter. If anyone wanted to move we would help and look for a move but we do not want to force you to make a choice now. If you want us to tell you what the options might be we can help. Give me your name</p>

	before you go I will talk to your Area Manager about it.
Parent I was told by a teacher downstairs that my son's education is suffering now because of this proposal. – what are you going to do?	Clearly this is a very anxious time for everybody and this will have an impact.
Parent My son is due to move, reluctantly as Furness has tried to do everything possible for him. Lovely place and sad to leave but reached a point because his needs are very complex. This decision was reached before the phone call telling us of Furness closing. As a Y10 pupil his move would be a priority. I was assigned a case worker and told to look on google, one particular school mentioned by social worker. I have two schools who have not expressed an interest so do not feel that case worker is all that interested. Kent has failed my son. What is the point of having a case worker telling parents to look on Google.	If case worker is out of their depth I would expect them to bring to the attention of their Line Manager and if not bring to me. If you do not feel that the service is good enough you have a right to make a complaint as I do not want poor quality case work. We are having a development day and your comments will be fed into those discussions.
Pupil I feel that this is discrimination and I feel it is our right and our parent's right to say what school we go to. I believe that parents have chosen to send their children to this school so why are you making them leave.	Valid point and one that is related to the answers given already around the fact, if we were in a better situation, if we could persuade other parents to send their children to this school
Parent You keep saying that people have a choice but when they applied to get them into school they were incompetent and are the same people who are trying to sell this school.	I understand your point.
Parent Google is quite frustrating as all you get is negative views on Furness School. Kieran is my son and he is in Y9 currently given Meadows School as an option but not accepted as this is not an option. I am advised that Roger Gough does not expect parents to make a choice yet because this still a consultation and you do not want to put pressure on the pupils.	I understand that Meadows School has been suggested to a number of parents and has been quite aggressive in insisting parents accept the places – putting undue stress and pressure on parents. You do not need to take a place. We do not condone any school putting pressure on you or any parents to accept places. We can only advise of the options available to you.
Parent We are scared of not accepting a place in case it is too late because if the school closes where will our children go.	Places become available throughout the whole school year because it changes on a daily basis. We can only give an indication of what places are available. If the closure goes ahead we will look at what is actually available.
Parent	

<p>Son was given Portal House but he was restrained by staff and injured as a result so it was not the most suitable place for him. Furness is. Children with autism do not like the unknown it messes with their heads so they need to be supported.</p>	
<p>Pupil It took my mum 10 years to get me into this school and I underwent a lot of bullying. Do we have to fight for another 10 years to get into another school.</p>	<p>If we get into a position of transferring to another school, the transfer would happen very quickly.</p>
<p>Pupil This is the best school as there is no bullying. We are just like a family and everyone is really nice.</p>	
<p>Parent Why are parents being forced to accept a school if this is still a proposal and not closing.</p>	<p>Nobody is being forced to accept another school. We want to give people the opportunity to look and see what is available.</p>
<p>Parent – Mr Fathing I note some Y10 students could be leaving at Easter. If they do go to another school what will happen to them if school remains open. Kieran is in Y9 and will be considering his options so it is important to him too.</p>	<p>Anxiety or uncertainty is something parents don't want to live with and if your son/daughter is in a GCSE year group it would be their choice to move. It is not limited to Y10 but we are just making the point to Y10 parents.</p>
<p>Parent – Mr Farthing General consensus for our children is this school is our first choice. Who was responsible for the under Y10 being told about different choices, who took that decision because you have caused a lot of stress to the pupils and parents. It's quite an important point.</p>	<p>That is what the code says about having discussions with parents. It says in the SEN Code of Practice we have no choice.</p>
<p>Parent It is not just about education the children have learnt a lot about life here and this is really their last chance. Is this connected with the election and Mr Cameron by any chance?</p>	<p>This has nothing to do with Mr Cameron.</p>
<p>Parent We have signatures from the public saying they want to keep the school open. We have set up a Facebook page with over 2,000 people supporting us. We also have a signed petition. So how can you say there is not the interest.</p>	<p>When County Councillors take the decision re closure you need to ensure the link is submitted so they can see the amount of comment. If you have a petition please let us have a copy.</p>
<p>I am annoyed that the children were told the news on the same day as us, not allowing us time to prepare for the news. We couldn't prepare our children for what is happening. Decision to tell the children should have been down to us.</p>	

<p>Parent Had my phone call and officer said Furness will close. I cannot find another school that can do the exams he has chosen so do I put him back a year. Exams can be delayed but it reduces his opportunities. I have visited three schools and they do not match Furness at all. Frone College, had a niece who went there and she still cannot read so absolutely shocked that you are promoting that college. It takes an hour to get my son here and are you really going to fund a taxi and boarding at an independent school because I cannot match what I have here. I have two children with special needs and it is very difficult. Son here because previous HT gave him an opportunity to come here. If you were a parent you would see how stressful this whole situation is. Told initially it was closing and now told that it is just a proposal. It is not fair.</p>	<p>I am not promoting Frone College.</p> <p>We are trying to be clear that this is an open consultation. It is often perceived as a done deal but I can assure you that this is a genuine consultation.</p> <p>There is another public consultation in West Kent tonight. There is a proposal to open a SRPB at Hugh Christie school. No we are not trying to send children to that school.</p>
<p>Funny enough I asked Dave Holland that and he said we were trying to get children into mainstream school and I said over my dead body.</p>	<p>This consultation relates to Furness. The mainstream settings are often linked to special schools. On the proposal it mentions Hugh Christie and Wilmington and that is going forward to meet demand we are seeing for places. The offer is there for 1:1 discussions re alternative places should Furness close.</p>
<p>Pupil Been a student for 10 years but previous to that I did not attend school regularly. Small classes work better for me as I suffer from depression and school has helped me in different aspects. The school are also helping me to come to terms with losing my mum and I cannot exaggerate how brilliant the school has been in helping me.</p>	
<p>Parent Something should be done about the bad management, apologies for information on Google, pressure on parents, the closures a lot of apologies surely bad management should be a priority. The parents and children are not responsible for these mistakes.</p>	<p>We are not going to lay blame and we have tried to stress that we are taking comments on board. You will be listened to. We will present all comments, either verbal or written to go to the decision makers to see where we can go with this. The council will look to act on your comments to help improve the service to you.</p>
<p>Parent Last consultation a question was raised by a resident about the future of the Furness site. I understand KCC has given backing to Aspire school to open a Free School and is currently approaching DfE to set up school and then Furness comes up for consultation.</p>	<p>This is issue focusses on this particular school. The only other settings it may relate to is Hugh Christie and Wilmington Academy. It is not linked to Aspie School.</p> <p>Aspire is a group of parents wishing to set up Free School provision for pupils with ASD in Sittingbourne and have approached DfE for</p>

<p>Last consultation said it would remain as educational setting.</p>	<p>funding. They have approached KCC to see if we would be willing to buy in places at that setting. If parents wish to send their children there and it meets the needs of the child we would consider the approach. It is no way linked with what is happening here.</p>
<p>Parent I am told funding in an independent school would only be for 2 years.</p>	<p>The law changed in Sept 2014, children have support until they are 25. Schools go up until they are 18 or 19, so they would have provision at a college or equivalent setting.</p>
<p>Pupil What are you going to do with the school if it closes down.</p>	<p>The site is still up for discussion. We have pressures on all places for education. It has not been decided as we are dealing with people issues first. It sits within the EYPS and we have made no decision on its future use.</p>
<p>Parent If we do not know outcome until April this year it doesn't give us enough time to look at alternative places.</p>	<p>Unfortunately it is a statutory consultation period which we have to follow. Timeline slide shown. This public consultation continues until 25 March. We have to collate responses and put a report together to Education Cabinet Committee by 15 April. A decision will be made re Council's view and Public Notice published. A formal decision cannot be given until July. The most important date on that slide is 15 April. The closure will be discussed by County Members and Cabinet Member will take a decision on the closure of the school. That is the most certain date we are going to get. There is a further formal consultation period but it is unusual to hear any further representations.</p>
<p>Parent What happens to children if staff start to leave and you have 30 children still in school. Teachers are being offered redundancy and some may decide to take.</p>	<p>Staff have been consulted with separately and they do not want school to close. We are not getting the impression that staff will be leaving to find alternative jobs. Period of notice for a teacher is more than half a term, several months before they can leave.</p>
	<p>I think we need to draw meeting to a close, so if there are no further questions.</p>
<p>Parent – Mr Farthing We had three hours for the meeting last week. Not sure why this is meeting is only billed for two. Deficit £1.6m placing pupils in private schools outside of County must cost more than £1.6m. I stated pupil numbers are not the full reason for deficit. Ofsted says Requires Improvement but a lot of people feel how good the school is. My son is predicted to</p>	

get a Grade C in Maths.	
What is the cost of making all teachers redundant?	I do not know this but I can be pretty sure that it will be expensive.
I don't think our children are going to find schools that are suitable for them and I find it a massive discrimination against pupils with ASD right now.	
Parent If you took Lilac Sky away from school we would have money to run this school. I know it was to help build school up but I think there were different ways to do this.	The Lilac Sky contract pays for Principal and some senior staff. If the contract was removed the cost would still be there as you would still need a Principal.
	Jill Howson – the budget deficit – the Lilac Sky fee was only added July 2014 and is a tiny percentage of £1.6m deficit. The proposal to reduce numbers was started before Lilac Sky came to the school. The strategy to reduce roll of students had already been taken. Lilac Sky was brought in to remove school from Special Measures and it is now Requires Improvement as Ofsted have faith we are improving the school. Finance run in same way, no strategic decisions have been made by Lilac Skys alone they have been working in conjunction with KCC.
Parent Do you feel that Lilac Sky has been set up Mrs Howson?	
Parent Lilac Sky have not done their job then. Take them out and let the school run with KCC. Let a new HT come in. Take Lilac Sky away and then consider closure.	This measure will not have an impact on the £1.6m deficit. It would still cost the same to employ a new management team.
	Thank you for your views.
Parent – Mr Farthing. The meeting started at 20 past 6. We are the main stakeholders so it does not look good if only given 2 hours. I asked whose responsibility it was to fill the school and was given the answer that it was KCC's. I would like a copy of the recording of last week's meeting and tonight's meeting. It is on record that you could provide a copy of the recording.	It is difficult to get a recording but we will endeavour to get one to you. Your views have been made very clear.
	Thank you for your views and we can see you are very passionate about your school. I can assure you that everything said tonight

	will go towards the County Councillors coming to a decision regarding the future of Furness School. Thank you for coming.
Parent What are you going to do to calm the children? They are stressed and anxious what are you going to do to help them through this process?	We appreciate that coming out with a proposal like this creates uncertainty. We will be keeping in close contact with the school to make sure any young person who is particularly affected gets the support they need.
Parent Before this school my son was incredibly violent and because this is stressing them out a lot of parents will experience abuse from their children as a result.	As I have said, the school will pick up on any anxieties and I am sure there will be sufficient support put in place to help with those issues.
Pupil It says here that Wilmington Academy and Hugh Christie Schools will be for pupils who are capable of achieving academic success in mainstream. We cannot cope with mainstream that is why we are here.	We are trying to ensure that there is a range of provision across the county. Some pupils are considered high functioning ASD and might be able to cope with some subjects in mainstream school. The provision at Wilmington & Hugh Christie is not suitable for pupils with learning difficulties.
Everyone is capable of getting the right grades with the right support, because of this school. By closing this school, they will find it difficult to cope with a new school. I want an answer why you are bothering to close a school where everyone is capable of getting grades that may exceed their expectations.	I appreciate your comment. You need staff to run the school and you need money to pay the staff and we do not have that.
Parent Why are we going through this process if you have already made your minds up to close this school. You are saying that you cannot afford to pay the staff because of the deficit.	It is a proposal.
Parent – Mr Farthing In my letter sent to various people, including Kevin and Ian. I quoted a BBC article, Dan Leighton, Policy Officer National Autistic Society. 'Getting the right support can be expensive but can make all the difference between a young person developing & flourishing than their progress plummeting. DfE says, Councils must ensure all children including those with autism are educated in a place that meets their special needs.	
Pupil If money matters so much to education why don't you take a pay cut to pay for our education.	The largest part of the schools budget pays for the staff and unfortunately without change it is not a viable option, coupled with lack of pupils has attributed to this situation.
Are you saying this school is not worth your money. The school needs staff and money, are you not prepared to pay for our education. Why did you let the deficit get so big. Why didn't you stop this situation.	It is not targeting individual pupils, we have seen in SEND strategy the need for special places in mainstream and special schools. There was a very significant change to the way schools funded in April 2013. Schools

	<p>guaranteed funding for the number of places, ie. 60 special school funded for 60 even if 5 attended. Nationally the funding changed due to market forces, Kent lobbied against it as they made over 60% of funding attributable to pupils on roll. If school only half full they are losing 43% of the budget. We have to abide to legislation there is no route to overstep those regulations.</p> <p>This school currently has a strand of residential. The cost per pupil is higher, £46,000. So many places designed as residential and day – where we do not fill places as residential gap is £43,000.</p> <p>There are options needed to take remedial action. It has still been designated same number of places, running costs, that partially higher cost places still available, hence a 43% drop.</p>
<p>Parent Requested son to board because it meant him an hour of travel each way. He is suffering because of not boarding. We have problems at home, I have been attacked by my son, verbally abused and we have requested help and don't get any. Not that parents do not chose to board but you saying no.</p>	<p>Where the assessment is taken that is the decision. We have to accept what is given under the statutory process.</p>
<p>Q&A paper there was question regarding boarding provision. 'The Council does not always have the power to operate in the same way as the independent sector. The Council cannot set a price for boarding based on a figure which includes a margin of profit because it is subject to recoupment regulations which mean it can only recover a share of the actual costs'. It sounds like it is set up to fail.</p>	<p>It is statutory when we charge for place in boarding provision only allowed to take actual expenditure and divided by the pupils that are there. Every Council bound by that legislation.</p>
<p>Surely it is still cheaper for people to board than be sent to independent schools outside the County. This is going to cost the government more money than the deficit over the next two years.</p>	<p>Local maintained provision that does not have a profit margin in it is cheaper than the private sector that has a profit margin in it. We are not in a position to make money.</p>
<p>Pupil You are thinking short term. When pupils get GCSE's they will pay more in taxes. If you let the school run and see if it can get financial position under control and let more children have an easier future.</p>	
<p>Parent Are these dates in concrete as a couple of years ago the school shut down. Is that</p>	<p>That was a special circumstance and it was done as it was unsafe to keep the pupils on site. A decision was taken for a brief period</p>

going to happen again.	of time to close the school and we had to make a decision about taking school forward. In 2012 Lilac Sky was brought in and an IEB established to take action. Had about 90 pupils on roll and numbers dropped to about 50.
Parent What help are the parents likely to get. As my son is suffering with his education because he is so stressed out.	The staff at the school is your first point of call. Should there be specific cases of exceptional need we are desperate to ensure this is not to the detriment to the education of these children.
Parent Staff trained to deal with pupils at this time.	There is always an opportunity for challenging behaviour and staff have expertise to deal with these situations.
Parent Teachers are under a certain amount of stress themselves as well as our children. They still have own worries.	There are two consultations running. The staff are subject to their own consultation and were given an opportunity to liaise with union reps and local authority colleagues and the IEB over any queries they may have.
Parents I spoke to a couple of teachers who were annoyed they were not allowed to attend this meeting so why is the headmistress allowed to contribute to this meeting. Why was she allowed to speak. You are saying that she is right to stay in each meeting to hear what is said. The teachers should be given the same say. Can one of the teachers come here to have their say.	In terms of global establishment of staff in school. Parents were told that pre-consultation meeting for staff so had opportunity to digest information. The staff consultation meeting took place after that and then there was a public meeting a week ago and had 30-40 staff attend who had opportunity to raise questions. Jill Howson works for Lilac Sky and therefore was allowed to have her say. The same explanations are given at each of these meetings. Obviously as parents you have more personal direct issues to address, the public meeting last week was an opportunity for everyone.
	Miss Howson has not had any extra opportunity. When we have consultation meetings about changes to the school we always have the Headteacher present, the fact that a member of staff needs to be here, she is not a KCC employee she is Lilac Sky. What she said tonight answered a question and was the first thing she said.
Pupil It is important for parents and teachers to have a meeting together to express their views together.	I understand what you are saying but there have been 3 strands of meetings. One for staff, one for the public and one for parents and pupils. Everyone was welcome to attend the meeting last week.
Parents Primarily a public meeting for everyone and it was 3 hour meeting but this is for parents and was billed for 2 hours.	It was billed as a Drop-In session originally and we thought some would want individual time with officers but due to large numbers attending, it was decided to do a collective meeting and formalise it. This was billed as formal meeting and we usually run these for 2 hours, which we have now overrun.

I would like to thank you for your comments, if you have anything further you would like to add then please let us have them so we can take them to the Cabinet Member in April.

Good night.