

**PROVING A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL IN
GOAT LEES, ASHFORD, KENT**

**Summary of the public meeting held on 21 April 2008
At Community Centre at Goat Lees, Ashford, Kent**

Issue or Comment	Response
<p>The site will go back to the developer and houses will be built on it. A school is central to a community.</p> <p>How can we achieve a school on site?</p>	<p>Legislation places a duty on Kent County Council to consider parental representations. These can relate to concerns about the quality or availability of provision. It does not seem to be being suggested that local schools are not good enough, so to open a school here we would need more pupils, or to close a school elsewhere as a result.</p> <p>The process of opening a school is not straight forward. A competition has to be run to see if anyone/any organisation wishes to promote the school. This could be a parents group, or a company.</p>
<p>Your problem is you won't commit to building a school, so developers won't give you money for it. If you said you were going to build it, I'm sure people would give you the money.</p>	<p>Basic need funding is one way of obtaining money for creating additional places, but the ability to show a future deficit of places is critical to attracting the agreement from Government that KCC can borrow this money. 1,2 and 3 miles radii are used in this calculation. Ashford Borough Council have traditionally been good at seeking developer contributions on KCC's behalf to support the creation of new school places, so we would anticipate further developer contributions being sought where there is a case for requesting these. There is £1.9M of developer contributions that could be used on this site.</p>
<p>If 500-700 houses are built on the Police Training Ground, would that generate the need for a school at Goat Lees</p>	<p>I hope it would create a case for a 7 class school.</p>
<p>If local residents wanted to enter a competition, are the figures in the public domain.</p>	<p>All the information I have presented is public, copies are available. The papers to SOAB are public too, as are the meetings.</p>

<p>1,000 houses a year in Ashford will generate the need for new schools. We want our school. Clearly there was though to be a need for it or you wouldn't have asked for the site.</p>	<p>Our modelling for determining the number of primary aged pupils being generated by new houses has been revisited and the expectation reduced. A need for a school in Goat Lees was identified using the old pupil product model.</p>
<p>The site has been built to be sustainable, for example safe walking routes. It is an ideal location for a primary school.</p>	<p>We are conscious of this. We have tried to help generate a case for the school by removing capacity in other locations.</p>
<p>Fairview homes are progressing discussions about the Police Training Ground. Site investigations have started.</p>	
<p>There is a growing concern that families will not be able to get their children in to local schools in the future.</p>	<p>The forecasts suggest this will not be the case, and data indicates that a greater proportion of younger children are in more local schools. This suggests that the original pupils had to access spaces where these existed (as casual admissions), but subsequent admissions via year R were able to access local schools, presumably by displacing more distant pupils.</p>
<p>What is the timescale for moving this forward</p>	<p>I propose to take a paper about your views to SOAB in July. The Board will advise on what action, if any, the Local Authority should take.</p>