

PROPOSAL TO CLOSE PARK FARM PS AND REPLACE IT AS A PRIMARY SCHOOL
WITHIN THE FOLKESTONE ACADEMY

**Summary of points raised during the Public Meeting
held on 9 March 2009 at The Folkestone Academy**

Issue or Comment	Response
Good to hear that the new Academy would support children who want to transfer to grammar schools.	
If you close Park Farm PS parents would not have a choice of secondary school for their child. Would you help parents move their child?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC will help where they can. Although KCC cannot create spaces that do not exist or where other schools are already full.
When was the idea thought of?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of KCC consultation process, initial point was SOAB meeting before Christmas 2008. • Initial idea was June-July 2008 between the two governing bodies. A lot of background work was done before reaching this point.
Where will the new Park Farm PS be built?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within the boundaries of the Academy site, the Park Farm site and the old Channel School site.
Is there going to be one entrance for all?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entry to the primary school is likely to be on Park Farm Road as that is where the land is.
To what extent will primary age children use the Academy building? Thinking of Health & Safety issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary children using, say, this facility for a production would be brought into the building in a supervised way.
Would the hours for primary children be 8.30am to 5.00pm?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No plan to introduce long hours for primary children.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the primary age uniform be the same as the Academy uniform? • The Academy uniform costs £300 concerns that parents of primary children could not afford this. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot imagine it would be the same but this decision would be for the new head of the primary school. • The uniform will not be as expensive as £300. New headteacher will review the uniform policy.
Will you finish this part of the Academy before you start on the new building?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is some landscaping to be completed. This will be done well in advance of building the new school. • There is a meeting arranged with local residents to discuss this.
<p>What was the implication of advertising for a new headteacher for the primary school?</p> <p>Why was the primary headteacher role advertised if this is not a done deal?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the proposal to create the merger, we advertised for a new headteacher for the primary phase. Current headteacher of Park Farm PS is fully supportive of proposals. • We have interviewed, but not yet appointed. Whatever happens with this proposal, 420 primary children would otherwise be without a headteacher in September.
Will the new Academy teach the National Curriculum?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academies are required to report pupil progress in agreed assessment procedures. Pupils will complete Standard Assessment Tests in primary school.
What was the view of Jim Knight, the Schools Minister?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He thought it was a very good idea to have an all age academy. The final details are with him for the final decision to proceed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would there be support from secondary school teachers in the event of illness of colleagues at primary school? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both headteachers will be keen to use and share resources. • Collaboration across primary and secondary happens

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re staff cover for next year – staff will not be allowed to cover across primary and secondary. • Will secondary staff be required to teach in primary school? 	<p>– in shows, PE and coaching sessions etc. There are positive development opportunities for staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist secondary schools already have staff who teach in primary schools.
<p>What stage do you need to be to clarify Board of Governors?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Review of governance happening at the moment. Likely to divide the task between two groups.
<p>Will the Academy Behaviour Policy be extended to the primary school?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary school will have its own Behaviour Policy. Not appropriate to have the same Policy for small children and teenagers.
<p>Cannot see how there will be a seamless transition if the policies are not the same?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The headteachers of both schools will work together on developing policies and understanding. There can be a common approach, but, for example, the sanctions for and expectations of a 4 year old would be different to those of a 16 year old.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will happen if this proposal is declined? • What will KCC do to improve Park Farm PS? • Would the available money go into the Park Farm PS if the proposal does not go ahead? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no statutory appeal, but there is a growing move to all-age academies. We will be guided by the outcomes of the consultation. • We do want to rebuild the school. The government will provide £1m, KCC will provide £1.4m, Academy Trust £1m and the land deal will pay the remainder. • The KS1 block would be replaced – KCC have pledged money to this. The primary school version of Building Schools for the Future (Primary Capital programme) starts in areas of highest deprivation. Park Farm is not the most deprived school. Do not know when the capital programme will get to Park Farm PS.
<p>Re the public consultation process – concerned that not enough public notice had been given – no mention on the website, or in the local press.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC normally produce 2,000 public consultation documents. In this case 4,000 had been produce. Legal requirement is the statutory Public Notice period. KCC hold a public meeting during the process. This is not a legal requirement and KCC could argue that they have done more than is legally required.