

The proposed expansion of these schools must also be delivered with infrastructure improvements to the roads serving the schools. To suggest the 'safer routes to school' is the complete answer is completely disingenuous to promote to the villages affected.

All the schools suffer currently with very longstanding and inadequate provision for designated 'pupil pick up and drop off'.

In the case of Chidham Parochial School there needs to be a solution involving the construct of designated parking away from the Road Highway where children can be safely dropped off and collected. Unless this is done in parallel with increasing the school building I feel I should OBJECT to the increase in pupils numbers that are being consulted upon.

Only where infrastructure solutions are provided in parallel will there be a robust means whereby the schools can safely develop and indeed grow. For Chidham I would advocate an approach to neighbouring landowners to understand if a reasonable swathe of agricultural land can be acquired with the view of permitting an extension to the school grounds and provide an 'off main road' solution to pupil drop off. This will require a financial contribution but will ensure pupil and village safety.

Elsewhere the same concerns exist and must be countered with similar infrastructure improvements, properly funded and working in association with the local parish councils.

Within Compton this could be done hand in hand with the affordable housing scheme that is being proposed nearby.

For Southbourne this should be coordinated with the PC and also with other local village groups. This is especially pertinent given the need for a replacement building for the Age Concern/Men's shed groups (the lease for the present building is not expected to be renewed by WSCC) and leaves these users needing to find alternative premises. This is an opportunity at Bourne Community College to promote expansion with improvements to infrastructure for the village as a whole.

This is a golden opportunity to plan effectively both for the expansion of the schools affected in Bourne but also in support of the wider needs of the community, it is vital this opportunity is not missed.

As part of this consultation I would also wish to know how sustainable the funding is for the schools given the perilous nature of underfunding currently across West Sussex schools. With the proposed increase in school numbers will these additional pupils be financed at the same level as present which translated means they will also be underfunded relative to other parts of the UK?

Mr Sandra James

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