

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 January 2018 14:53
To: Somerford Primary School Office
Subject: Goslings Nursery Closure Questions

Good afternoon

I am a member of the Christchurch Labour Party and have been contacted by some of our members regarding the proposed closure of Goslings.

I have spoken to some of the parents, and been shown minutes of your previous meetings with them, as well as the Formal Proposal to close your nursery provision, dated 16th Jan 2018, along with the comments and letters some of the parents have made.

As stated in this proposal, it is important that misinformation is not spread, and so to ensure there are no misunderstandings and that we can advise and educate our members and the community on their concerns I wondered whether you would be able to provide answers to the following questions please:

Good afternoon Mr Dunne

Thank you for your email and subsequent questions regarding our consultation.

As you have raised a number of points, I hope you don't mind that I have answered each one in turn. I have used a different colour to make the answers clear.

I hope this clears up any misunderstanding from your members. We are not pleased to be proposing the nursery provision closes and fully understand the anxiety this is causing some parents.

I will ensure your questions and my responses are forwarded to the LA so they may consider them when making their decision at the end of the consultation period.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Kind regards

Helen Frampton
Head of School

1. We note the distinct drop in numbers in Appendix A of the Formal Proposal since 2013. Please could you advise what research and analysis has been undertaken to ascertain the reason for this, and what were the findings?

The child care nursery next door to the school was graded as outstanding by Ofsted and this meant we lost children to this provision. Conversations with parents showed that the model of school hours, term time only child care is not the model that suits modern parents. Even those wanting the 30 hour funding, wanted a provision for continuous child care outside of the term time hours. We cannot offer that. This feedback is anecdotal, however, as we didn't lose children through the year, rather more did not start the following year, it was not easy to find out firm reasons. If they had left during the year, we would have offered 'exit interviews' but this was not the case.

1. What measures have been discussed or undertaken to alleviate this issue?

We liaised with the LA over what measures to take. We were advised not to advertise in the newspaper as this was, in their experience, wasted money and did not draw in parents. We

ensured the nursery is clearly visible on our website and the blog shows examples of the kind of experience the children have. We took out an advert in a local magazine to promote the nursery. We also talked to another school nursery as advised by the LA. We had several meetings with the LA to explore options.

1. We note in point 3 and appendix B of the Formal Proposal the numbers of other 'local' nurseries, some of which you state have available places. Please could you advise which of these nurseries have told you they have available space going forward for these 19 displaced children, should Goslings close in April this year?

I would like to point out that nowhere in the proposal does it say that Goslings will close in April this year. No closing date was specified in the proposal, in fact instead it states that parents have expressed a preference it stays open until the end of the academic year.

The nurseries that stated to us that they had available spaces for 3/4 year olds were:

Mudford Pre School

Mudford Woods

Tops Day Nursery

Stour Road Nursery

Burton Day Nursery

Christchurch Montessori

Pre School on the Marsh informed us they were expanding and spaces would be available over the summer term

Poppets Day Nursery informed us they would have spaces from September

Little Explorers said they would be willing to work with parents to find sessions available.

1. We note in Appendix D point 11, the Parent's Meeting on 7th Dec 2017, that the school undertook to research the ability to open over the lunch period, providing lunches for Goslings children. Are you able to tell us what the considerations are for this and the outcome of this research?

We sought advice from the LA and they suggested we spoke to another school with a nursery to see how they managed this lunch time. The school shared their model and, as stated in the consultation, as there were additional costs to this model, we did not feel we could commit more funds to the nursery when it was unlikely to bring in extra revenue.

1. According to the Schoolcuts.org website, Somerford Primary School is due to see approx £120k in funding cuts by 2020. Is this one of the main considerations in the closure of Goslings at this time, especially given the Roeshott development due in the next 24mths which, although projections by the LA state will bring 15 more children of this age to the area, this number seems incredibly small given the 'familial' nature of the estate being built?

This has not been a consideration at all. The money allocated to the school in its budget is for school age pupils. The school does not receive any funding for nursery other than the funding from the 15 hours or 30 hours parents claim. Therefore, if not enough children are attending the nursery, the school has to use a budget that is not intended for those children to keep the provision open and school age children at the school are missing out on the funding they are entitled to, as explained in the consultation.

I cannot comment on the projection by the LA regarding the Roeshott development as I can only work on figures given to me.

As you highlight, the Roeshott development won't be completed for at least 24 months and with current numbers in nursery, this would be a significant proportion of the school age budget that would have to be reallocated to nursery.

I would like to make clear that we do not intend to create issue or division with the school or the teachers and staff, but are responding to concerns raised directly to us by our members who are members of that community also.

Yours sincerely
Andrew Dunne
Christchurch Labour Party

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Mr John Stevens and Ms Helen Frampton
Chair of Governors and Head of School
Somerset Primary School
Draper Road
Christchurch
Dorset BH23 3AS

Date: 4 December 2017

Dear Mr Stevens and Ms Frampton

RE: CLOSURE OF SOMERFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSERY (GOSLINGS)

Thank you for your letter of 28 November 2017 in which you invite us to note any comments about the pending closure of Somerset Primary School Nursery (Goslings) to discuss at the meeting on Thursday 7 December 2017. We have noted the main stages of the statutory process and also note that this is the first stage of the 'pre-publication' consultation process.

In view of the strength of feeling in the community, we arranged to hold a meeting today Monday 4 December 2017. The meeting was held at Somerset Youth Centre, Bingham Road and was well attended by both current, former and future parents of children who the proposed closure of Goslings will concern.

We thought that it would help inform the discussion at the meeting on Thursday 7 December, if we provided you with some of the main concerns that the Somerset community has with the proposed closure of Goslings; copies of some of the parents' personal thoughts are attached.

We highlight below some of the shared concerns of the parents:

- Goslings has assisted with the development and social skills of many children, including building friendships of both children and parents;
- It makes the transition to primary school easier. It is an amazing 'feeder' school for the children ;
- The teacher, Mrs Knowles, is mentioned on more than one occasion, how marvellous to have such a competent teacher who has helped and continues to help our youngest children and prepare them for mainstream education;
- Parent/s of different nationalities have found Goslings has helped with the integration of their children into the local community and improved their language skills;
- Housing is due to increase by, I believe, 700 homes, putting additional pressure on existing educational resources;
- There are currently no vacancies within nurseries in the immediate area, 8 months has been quoted by one parent as the length of the waiting list;

- Where will the nursery age children who already attend be expected to go from Easter, having already had several terms at Goslings. This upheaval is undoubtedly going to have an impact on these young children, a disruptive and negative factor in their development;
- Parents who do not drive find it convenient to have their children all in one place, namely the Goslings and Somerford Primary schools;
- Parents who drive but have busy family lives will not be able to leave the primary age children at Somerford if their younger siblings cannot attend Goslings and there is a place in a nursery somewhere else in Christchurch. A consequence therefore, is that the number of pupils attending Somerford Primary may fall.

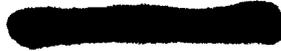
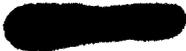
Parents who attended the meeting believed that:

- If the lunchtimes at Goslings were funded, then pupil numbers would increase and the number of children on waiting lists for other nursery schools in the area would decrease. These other nurseries provide cover for lunch enabling parents to work ;
- The numbers of children attending Goslings should increase;
- Their other children may also have to be withdrawn from Somerford Primary because of the closure of Goslings, as it is important to have siblings in the same location.

In addition to this meeting, we have a 'paper' petition with signatures and also an 'on line' petition with signatures and comments. The on line version can be located at care2PETITIONS <http://www.care2.com> and search for Somerford on this site. At the time of writing there were 73 signatories to this petition.

We understand that you will not be able to answer questions but perhaps will be able to inform on the basis of the doubts raised by myself and other parents. We feel strongly that Goslings should remain 'open' and continue to provide the high quality of pre-school education that many of our older children have enjoyed. Although there is a statutory procedure to follow, the closure of Goslings and the potential impact that this will have on our little girl's confidence, as well as her education, has affected us greatly.

Yours sincerely



All other local nurseries are fully booked with waiting lists of 8 months

Essex Housing have just built 40+ houses on the estate 2 minutes from the school these are 2-3+ 4 bed houses so with just those there are going to be so many children in area needing school places.

Just because there isn't enough children in this years nursery doesn't mean there won't be enough in next year as 3 years ago we were waiting for spaces at nursery because it was full.

700+ new homes being built in Roehampton.

Transport for people in area to get to other nurseries - Difficult if older siblings attending school.

- Where children will go from new estate being built (over 700 houses)
- New buildings on street front will house children
- Convenience for mums that cannot drive
- Good fundings, excellent teaching.
- Other schools have waiting lists
- My son starting in January
- Its a good foundation for the children to go before they start in Somerford School
- If the nursey is to close I will need to take my other 3 children out of Somerford School and apply ~~else~~ to other schools as I cant be in two different places at the same time.

[REDACTED]

Goslings Nursery part of Somerford primary school is a main part of children's education and social development. It has been open for many years as my 16 year old went there and 3 of my others have all gone there which has built there friendships up and made transitions easier and I also have one in goslings at present and 2 more I was planning on sending it physically wouldn't be possible for me to send my 3/4 year olds to another nursery as have young otherone's at the school and in little explorers who have a waiting list like every other nursery has. and I don't drive so can't walk miles which means my child would have no place to go. If ~~is~~ lunch was supplied for the children entitled to 30hr funding the number of children would rise.

[REDACTED]

The Somerford Goslings

My Son Tyler is due to start Goslings in April, I am very upset that he might not be able to start because you want to shut it down. I have just started work and Goslings was going to make it easier for me as it's by my home and my family all have kids at Somerford School.

The little explorers next door all have waiting lists and it's long so by the time Tyler gets a space he will be school age.

Goslings prepares the kids for school much better than a playgroup.

My older daughter went to Goslings and it was a lovely place for her and helped her and me.



The Somerford Goslings..

The Somerford nursery has been a god send. All 3 of my children have attended Goslings and doing so helped them feel ready for reception.

The teachers are amazing and help the children massively.

Goslings is the number one nursery its also good distance for walking / bus.

Knowing all 3 of my children were safe and happy and looked after everyday made me feel at ease.

~~Pat~~

[REDACTED]

Paul

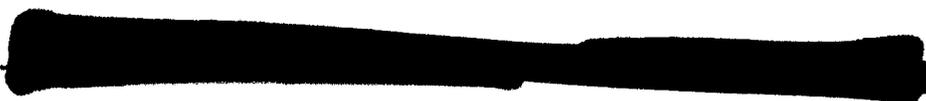
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Somerford nursery Not only helped with my daughter's development, it also helped me. I suffered really bad anxiety and was worried to leave my daughter, but they made me feel at ease, and helped me overcome it.

My daughter has now gone up to reception in Somerford school.

and I have another baby on the way who when starting school would need to be in Somerford as I don't drive and the little explorers not always has spaces.

The school has come so far, and people now believe this is a really good school, and recommend it to others.



We are a family of foreigners from Romania,
just settle here last year, and my daughter
Erika is shy and take long time to adjust
with new language and it will be
really hard for her to start some place different
and after that she must go to school,
so i think it will be very disturbing for her
because fragile age and the fact that she struggle
with new language.

I hope you will consider to let
Gastay's hurry keep your good job that my dear.



I feel that losing will be a huge loss to Somerford School.

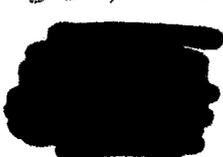
It's an amazing feeder school and has an great impact on the childrens.

Transition into school

It's great for local families and is in walking distance for lets who have no transport.

Mrs Knowles is an great asset to the school and had a huge impact on all three of my childrens school life

As I'm aware all other local nurseries are ~~do~~ full so where will the children go?

Two minutes walk from the school 700 plus homes are being built, where will the children go? 

The Somerford Goslings

Parent

Hello, my name is Felicia Cotea, my son Mathias, he is 3 years old and he goes to Goslings! We come in UK, on 11th of

October, and he went to the nursery right away.

At his age is very important to love his teacher and go in there with pleasure! He loves Mrs Knowles, it was very hard, to move from Romania, but she managed to get him love her from the first day! I think that will be frustrating, and will affect him very much if the Nursery will be closed! My bigger son is going in Somerford School, Y2, and this is very good for us, because I have to bring them both at the same time! And if I move the little ones from Goslings I will not be able to take them in the time to school and nursery! In my opinion it is not ok to ~~stop~~ stop Nursery during the year! It can affect children state of mind.

Another opinion I have is that if you want more children to come to Goslings give them lunch time. I live in Christchurch and it is very far from home, and I don't have enough time to take Mathias for lunch and bring him back, but if you offer lunch time then I will definitely chose for 30h at Goslings!

Thank you and hope to take the right decision!

4th of December 2017

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