

# Outcome of the Review of Primary School Places in South Bracknell



# Issues covered

- Schools covered by the review
- the problems with surplus places
- objectives of the review
- housing developments
- outcomes of consultation
- Executive's proposals
- next steps

# Schools covered by the Review

- Birch Hill Primary
- Crown Wood Primary
- Fox Hill Primary
- Great Hollands Infant
- Great Hollands Junior
- Harmans Water Primary



- St Joseph's RC Primary
- St Margaret Clitherow RC Primary
- St Michael's CE Aided Primary
- The Pines Infant & Nursery
- The Pines Junior
- Wildridings Primary
- Wooden Hill Primary



# Surplus Places

## Falling pupil numbers

- 2003 surplus places **602 (14.5%)**
- 2008 surplus places **883 (21.2%)**

# Why is this a problem?

- fixed costs become a higher proportion of schools' budgets
- maintenance less cost effective
- managing staffing reductions more difficult and in a greater number of schools as pupil numbers decline



# and...

- smaller year groups make school organisation more difficult
- schools become less attractive to new staff
- DfES guidelines breached



# Objectives

To ensure that:

- every child continues to have high quality education
- sufficient places in convenient locations
- all children assured of a place in their designated area school



- around 500 places removed
- schools are maintained at a viable size
- 10% surplus remains to ensure adequate scope for parental preference



# Housing Developments (1)

## Staff College Site

- 730 houses proposed on this site
- Approximately 270 primary age children
- Current designated area - Harmans Water, Wildridings and Fox Hill Primary Schools

- Government guidance recommends that only one school should be designated for each area
- Borough Council propose Harmans Water Primary because of capacity and natural boundaries



# Housing Developments (2)

## Peacock Farm

- 1500 houses will generate over 500 primary age pupils
- insufficient capacity in nearby schools
- significant distance to travel to other schools

New school required

# Outcomes of Consultation



# The Council's preferred option

- amalgamate Fox Hill Primary and Wildridings Primary on the Wildridings site  
(420 place school)
- amalgamate The Pines Infant and Junior Schools on the Junior School site  
(210 place school)
- Reduce the size of Birch Hill Primary  
(449 place school)

# Consultation Process

- 6 week consultation period
- consultation documents and standard response forms
- meetings with :
  - Headteachers
  - Chairmen of governing bodies
  - Teacher associations and trade unions
  - Diocesan authorities
  - Members of staff in schools
  - Parents and members of the community
- petitions, letters, e-mails
- website information and responses



# Consultation Response

- 4,800 leaflets distributed
- 343 (7%) standard response forms returned
- 124 (36%) supported option one
- 18 (5%) supported option two
- 41 (12%) supported option three



- 150 (44%) did not support any option
- Of these 74 supported the original option 3, which included elements of option 1.



- 347 letters

Majority regarding Fox Hill and Wooden Hill

545 Wooden Hill pro-forma letters

- Three petitions :

opposing closure of Fox Hill                      861 names

opposing closure of Fox Hill  
and Wildridings    224 names

opposing closure of Wooden Hill/  
reducing Crown Wood                                      2038 names



## Analysis of Standard Response Forms and Letters

	<i>Option 1</i>	<i>Option 2</i>	<i>Option 3</i>	<i>Other (old option 3)</i>	Total
Amalgamate Fox Hill and Wildridings Schools	124	18			<b>142</b>
Amalgamate The Pines Infant and Junior Schools	124			74	<b>198</b>
Reduce the size of Birch Hill Primary School	124	18		74	<b>216</b>
Reduce the size of Crown Wood Primary School		18	41	74	<b>133</b>
Close Wooden Hill Primary School			41		<b>41</b>
Reduce the size of Wooden Hill Primary School				74	<b>74</b>
Retain Fox Hill as 1 FE School				209	<b>209</b>
Retain Wooden Hill Primary School				661	<b>661</b>

Proposed changes to designated areas not supported by a majority – mainly responses from Fox Hill and Wildridings.



# Executive's proposals

- retain a school for each community
- retain flexibility over buildings

# Recommendations

- Staff College site solely in Harmans Water area
- amalgamate The Pines Infant and Junior Schools on the Junior School site  
(210 place school)
- reduce the size of Fox Hill Primary  
(210 place school)
- reduce the size of Wildridings Primary  
(315 place school)
- Reduce the size of Birch Hill Primary  
(420 place school)



# Total Effect

- Removes 505 places
- Reduces surplus to 14.7% by 2008

This does not include pupils from Staff College site and Peacock Farm developments.

# What happens next ?

- 3 February - Executive Member confirms and agrees Statutory Notices
- Feb - April Statutory consultation
- April - Executive Member considers representations and determines to proceed
- May - School Organisation Committee determines proposals



March onwards-consultation with governing bodies about accommodation

May onwards - planning and building proposals progressed

June onwards - governing bodies constituted and staffing processes begin

2005

September - complete implementation

