

Herefordshire Schools First



Bulletin 4
11 February 2008

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Dear friend

A short but punchy SchoolsFirst bulletin this week:

-- **Herefordshire Council has now formally voted to reject the schools closure programme**, at a packed meeting on Friday Feb 8th. But the status of some small primary schools remains unclear.

-- The **mass family rally and march in Hereford THIS WEDNESDAY February 13th is going ahead!** It will start from Merton Meadow car park in the City. Full details below and in the attachment from HACS.

-- A few tickets are still available to the **working supper with Michael Gove MP, the Shadow Secretary of State for Schools**, at Hereford College of Technology on Thursday February 21st. Come along and express your views at the highest political level.

The news that Herefordshire Council has voted to reject the school closure programme is welcome. It has always been clear that the proposals had no support from Councillors across the political spectrum. However, there are two "buts": **the national picture of inadequate educational funding for Herefordshire remains exactly the same**. And the Council left open the possibility on Friday that **a small number of primary schools may still have to close** on the grounds of size.

We must continue to monitor the situation of these schools closely. SchoolsFirst will continue to run all the key information for campaigners. For the present we will publish further bulletins as news and circumstances warrant.

Please circulate this to friends and fellow supporters. Ask them to sign up on the website. And if you have any ideas for the site

and the Bulletin, please email me details on the above address.

Thanks,

Jesse

NATIONAL NEWS

People power (and the Mail on Sunday) save village schools from closure - Daily Mail

Even by the standards of local government, meetings of Herefordshire County Council are generally a bit dozy. Normally, the public turn up only to complain.

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/news/news.html?in_article_id=513342&in_page_id=1770

Bishop's warning on village school closures - Daily Telegraph

The closure of rural schools will "hasten the decline" of village life across Britain, according to a leading Church of England bishop. The Bishop of Hereford, the Rt Rev Anthony Priddis, said cuts being made by local authorities risked damaging rural communities struggling following the loss of village post offices and shops.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2008/02/06/nrural106.xml>

LOCAL NEWS

Council rejects schools closure and merger programme - Hereford Times

Herefordshire Council has formally voted to reject the draft schools closure and merger programme. The vote means that no schools will close or merge over the lifetime of current council, other than those that would face closure under current policy.

http://www.herefordtimes.com/news/latest/display.var.2030855.0.council_rejects_schools_closure_and_merger_programme.php

Primary pupils take the fight to the minister
– *Hereford Times*

The fight to retain Herefordshire schools has been taken to Parliament by county youngsters. Pupils from Much Birch and Kings Cople primaries have urged Education Minister, Jim Knight, to save their schools.

http://www.herefordtimes.com/news/htnewseducation/display.var.2026895.0.primary_pupils_take_the_fight_to_the_minister.php

NFU joins campaign to save county schools
– *Hereford Times*

The NFU is backing the fight to help save Herefordshire schools. Members are opposed to proposals by Herefordshire Council and are seeing how they can support Herefordshire Against Closing Schools (HACS).

http://www.herefordtimes.com/news/htnewsfarming/display.var.2027089.0.nfu_joins_campaign_to_save_county_schools.php

PETITIONS

The Daily Telegraph launches a 'Save Our Village School' campaign

Log on and sign up!

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?view=BLOGDETAIL&grid=F11&blog=yourview&xml=/news/2008/02/08/view08.xml>

EVENTS

13 February

The HACS Family and Community Rally will go ahead!

HACS (Herefordshire Against Closing Schools) have confirmed that the Family and Community Rally planned for February 13th is going ahead! The rally will convene at 10.00 am at Merton Meadow Car Park (entrance off Blackfriars Street), and march to High Town at 11.00 am, after which there will be speeches. For more details, see the attachment, or contact Jane Ward on jane774@aol.com.

21 February

Working supper with Michael Gove MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Schools

Michael Gove MP, Shadow Secretary of State, will speak and answer questions at a working supper focusing on schools and local and national education issues at 6.45 pm on February 21st. A few tickets are still available to this event, which is being held at the Cider Orchard Restaurant at Hereford College of Technology. The cost is £15, for a two course meal including wine and coffee. Please email Jesse on jesse4hereford@gmail.com if you would like to come.

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