

# Herefordshire Schools First

**Bulletin 5**  
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No need to say what the highlight of last week was! In this SchoolsFirst Bulletin:

-- The **mass family rally and march in Hereford** attracted thousands of campaigners against school closures to the City from across the county

-- Matt Watson and a team at Hereford's own Rural Media have done a **brilliant online video and vox pop of the rally**, including the speeches

-- In response to many requests I have located and **attached the Council's small schools policy**. This will also be posted on [SchoolsFirst.org.uk](http://SchoolsFirst.org.uk) shortly

-- A final couple of tickets are **still available to the working supper on education with Michael Gove MP**, the Shadow Secretary of State for Schools, at Hereford College of Technology THIS THURSDAY February 21st. Please email me if you want to come along and express your views at the highest political level.

The rally last week showed yet again how deep is the strength of local feeling about school closures. Jane Ward and Eugene Gooch at HACS have done a phenomenal job in organising it and pushing ahead with the rally even after the proposals had been definitively voted down in full Council.

Now is a time to reflect briefly on where we are. A county-wide consensus has been created on the superb quality and importance of our primary and secondary schools. Thousands of people have taken

to the streets to show their feelings. All of us are engaged as citizens now, as rarely if ever before.

Now is the time for us all to step forward and show our support, not just by marching, but by volunteering and helping out. Contrary to government policy, schools are not merely buildings but living, breathing organisms each one with its own special skills and personality. Each thrives not only through the work of its head and teachers, but because of many unnamed people who pitch in and do their bit, and more.

Let us all now step forward and do what we can to help these extraordinary institutions to flourish for another generation.

*Jesse*

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Please circulate this to friends and fellow supporters. Ask them to sign up on the website. And if you have any ideas for the [SchoolsFirst.org.uk](http://SchoolsFirst.org.uk) site and for the Bulletin, please email me details on [jesse4hereford@gmail.com](mailto:jesse4hereford@gmail.com).  
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## **LOCAL NEWS**

### **Thousands march to protect schools - Worcester News**

IT was the biggest public rally in Hereford since the poll tax demonstration. They arrived in their thousands to support their schools and warn Herefordshire Council - we will be watching you.

[http://www.worcesternews.co.uk/news/wnnewslatest/display.var.2042340.0.thousands\\_march\\_to\\_protect\\_schools.php](http://www.worcesternews.co.uk/news/wnnewslatest/display.var.2042340.0.thousands_march_to_protect_schools.php)

**"Gobsmacked" at schools march turnout - *Hereford Times***

ORGANISERS of yesterday's save schools march through Hereford described themselves as "gobsmacked" at the 2,000 plus turnout.

[http://www.herefordtimes.com/news/latest/display.var.2043839.0.gobsmacked\\_at\\_schools\\_march\\_turnout.php](http://www.herefordtimes.com/news/latest/display.var.2043839.0.gobsmacked_at_schools_march_turnout.php)

**Parents remain cautious - *Ledbury Reporter***

SUSPICIOUS parents are refusing to drop their guard despite assurances from Herefordshire Council that plans to merge Eastnor and Bosbury Primary Schools have been shelved for the time being.

[http://www.ledburyreporter.co.uk/news/ledburynewsroundup/display.var.2044463.0.parents\\_remain\\_cautious.php](http://www.ledburyreporter.co.uk/news/ledburynewsroundup/display.var.2044463.0.parents_remain_cautious.php)

**VIDEO OF THE RALLY**

Matt Watson and a team at the Rural Media InTV project have done a brilliant online video and vox pop of the rally, including the speeches. See [www.insitemag.net/home.htm](http://www.insitemag.net/home.htm)

**EVENTS**

**21 February: Working supper with Michael Gove MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Schools**

Michael Gove 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 couple of 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](mailto:jesse4hereford@gmail.com) if you would like to come.