

# Herefordshire Schools First

**Bulletin 6**  
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*Dear friend*

In this week's SchoolsFirst Bulletin:

-- **The BBC's Politics Show profiles Herefordshire's schools**--and Cllr Roger Phillips says he expects **no school to close before 2011**.

-- In the wake of the rally, **Herefordshire Council publishes a formal letter of advice** (attached) on the current position to all school heads.

-- And **another petition against school closures goes live** on 10 Downing Street.

From conversations with heads, teachers and parents, it is clear that there is still a great deal of uncertainty on all sides as to the current position on Herefordshire's schools.

This particularly applies to primary schools who may still be affected under the continuing small schools policy--though Cllr Phillips's informal comments yesterday that he expects no closures at all are welcome.

But there is also uncertainty on several other issues: for example, as to whether and how school catchment areas will change; as to the treatment of pupils whose parents did not apply for certain schools in the belief that they would be closed; and as to transportation and other services shared between schools. We need clear guidance on these issues.

*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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## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **Herefordshire schools in national spotlight - Politics Show**

On Sunday the BBC's Politics Show turned its attention to possible schools closures in Herefordshire. Pencombe and King's Cople primary schools were featured, and there was an interview with Cllr Roger Phillips and Eugene Gooch of HACS. Cllr Phillips highlighted the contradictory nature of government advice--and crucially said that he expects no school to close before 2011. [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/politics\\_show/default.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/politics_show/default.stm) and click on West Midlands link.

## **LOCAL NEWS**

### **Battle for schools is escalated - Worcester News**

COUNCIL leaders in Herefordshire are to meet with schools minister Jim Knight next month to put the county's case for the protection of rural schools. It comes after a huge rally in Hereford, when thousands of protesters marched against the closure of schools in the county. [http://www.worcesternews.co.uk/news/wnnew/latest/display.var.2067581.0.battle\\_for\\_schools\\_is\\_escalated.php](http://www.worcesternews.co.uk/news/wnnew/latest/display.var.2067581.0.battle_for_schools_is_escalated.php)

### **Are larger primary schools missing out? - Ledbury Reporter**

THE THREAT of closure facing several small primaries in the Ledbury area has raised concerns that larger schools are not getting their fair slice of the financial pie. Bigger schools like Ledbury Primary, with bigger class sizes, are getting less money per child than rural schools with smaller class sizes. [http://www.ledburyreporter.co.uk/news/ledburynewsroundup/display.var.2059031.0.are\\_larger\\_primary\\_schools\\_missing\\_out.php](http://www.ledburyreporter.co.uk/news/ledburynewsroundup/display.var.2059031.0.are_larger_primary_schools_missing_out.php)

**Leader turns up the heat on government -**

*Hereford Times*

WEST Mercia police now estimate some 4,000 people attended last Wednesday's HASC (Herefordshire Against Closing Schools) rally in Hereford. The group is now in the process of becoming an official organisation and wants to continue fighting for Herefordshire schools.

[http://www.herefordtimes.com/news/htnewseducation/display.var.2062593.0.leader\\_turns\\_up\\_the\\_heat\\_on\\_government.php](http://www.herefordtimes.com/news/htnewseducation/display.var.2062593.0.leader_turns_up_the_heat_on_government.php)

**PETITION**

Llangrove School Action Group have put up a national petition on the 10 Downing Street, calling for Government to honour its promise to protect rural schools against the "spiral of decline" that school closures cause in rural communities. Please visit the site and sign up!

<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/Villageschools/>

**COUNCIL LETTER**

Following the huge march against schools closures in Hereford, the Council has published a formal letter of guidance to school heads on the current position. It is attached to this Bulletin and can also be found on

[SchoolsFirst.org.uk](http://SchoolsFirst.org.uk).

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