

Minutes of HoHH meeting held 20th February 2008

The meeting considered: a) The announcement by Ged Rowney on the 8th February that Haywood High would stay on its present site with refurbishment, and b) the subsequent publication of a confidential document which stated that the community were against change and that Haywood would not receive any major investment and would be at the end of the BSF programme – refurbishment in 2012 or 2013. Consequently the group had invited David Dickinson (Head teacher) to this meeting.

Meeting started at 3.25pm:

Mr.Dickinson explained that at the meeting on the 8th February Head Teachers received the proposals for the re-organisation of Secondary Schools from Mr.Rowney. It was confirmed that Haywood High would stay open and on its current site, with refurbishment. Mr.Dickinson asked when refurbishment would start to commence as no dates had been mentioned. The response was that no formal timeline had yet been drawn up.

Mr.Dickinson commented further on the fact that schools were not expecting immediate written details as the announcement was made on the last day of school term, he was therefore amazed to receive correspondence during the half term break.

The group were then given a copy of a letter sent to Mr.Rowney by Mr.Dickinson in response to the written details. The letter is on the HoHH website, along with a letter sent to Civil Servants.

An open discussion followed, during which Neil Dawson commented that he thinks there will probably be 2 phases of funding: 1. New Buildings. 2.Refurbishments.

Mr. Dickinson pointed out that publicity is currently all about Academies but that the BSF projects should be highlighted, the original proposal for the tower at Haywood being an example of partnerships and innovative design.

ND suggested that school also looks at other forms of funding alongside continual academic improvement i.e. SIP – School Improvement Partnership.

ND mentioned that St.Margaret Ward only needed to increase its size slightly and could possibly stay on its present site, but the recent proposal suggested refurbishment OR rebuild. This could mean that a new site would have to be found.

The possibility of 6th Form Colleges in the area was discussed. As yet there is no firm details of the future development of 6th Forms so we can only speculate, however, part of the alternative proposals put forward by the Northern Cluster did address this problem.

The group then discussed the future of HoHH, as the Hands off Haywood High campaign was, in essence, complete although everyone agreed that the support for Trentham High School and indeed for the South of the City would continue.

We therefore have agreed the following actions:

HOHH will continue the slogan will now be:

HANDS ON HAYWOOD HIGH

Our campaign will again bring positive suggestions to the forefront:

We are seeking written assurances and a timescale that Haywood High will receive funding for refurbishment. The refurbishment would be line with the school aims and involve all.

This is still a consultation phase and we support the Alternative Proposals, which present an academic and community good case for small local schools operating as a Federation. There is now considerable evidence that smaller schools are more successful.

We will maintain contact with all schools and actively encourage the Northern Cluster proposal. We should also encourage other areas to consider the federated approach.

We aim to build on the community involvement.

In the long term we hope this group and other interested people would convert into a Forum for good ideas.

The next meeting will be on 19th March 2008 at 3.30pm

The meeting closed at 4.45pm