

Parish Clerk
Mrs N Oliver BSc (Hons)
Heatherdene
Turkey Island
Shedfield
Southampton
SO32 2JE
Tel 01329 835019
Email whiteleyparishcouncil@msn.com

1 August 2006

Dear Resident,

On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to thank you for your support in opposing the Hampshire County Council proposal to build a new one-form entry primary school on the Meadowside Recreation land owned by Winchester City Council.

Following a further presentation by the Parish Council to Winchester City Council Cabinet on 10 July, the Cabinet recommended to **not agree** to the appropriation and subsequent disposal of land at Meadowside for the purpose of constructing a school. That same evening the City Council's Principal Scrutiny Committee considered this decision in some detail, questioning representatives from Hampshire County Council, Winchester City Council, The Diocese of Portsmouth and Whiteley Parish Council. At the conclusion of the debate the Committee resolved to support Cabinet's decision.

At the Winchester City Council full Council meeting on 19 July the Parish Council handed a further petition containing 380 residents' names to the Mayor of Winchester City Council. Following a lively debate and with one abstention and no votes against, Councillors agreed that, although there was a need for a school, Meadowside was not the right location and that the preferred location in North Whiteley should be pursued.

Throughout the process the Parish Council received total support from Mark Oaten, MP for Winchester, National Playing Fields Association and latterly Sport England. Over 85% of residents

who responded to the City Council's recent consultation were opposed to the scheme. It is most encouraging that Winchester City Council has listened to the community.

From the outset the Parish Council argued that the Meadowside was never the right site for a new school, and it is disappointing that there has been no contingency planning. Please be assured that The Parish Council will continue to work hard for Whiteley residents in obtaining a new primary school in the right location.

The views of local people are important and the Government has recently passed legislation which is changing the way councils plan for future local needs and Winchester City Council is actively promoting the involvement of local communities in the decision making process. The Parish Council welcomes this approach and will be working closely with the community so that residents can participate in decisions which affect their lives.

It is our intention to keep you informed of developments regarding the provision of a new primary school and all correspondence referred to above can be viewed on the Parish Council website [www. Whiteleypc.info](http://www.Whiteleypc.info). If you would like updates emailed to you please contact Nicki Oliver, Parish Clerk parishclerk@whiteleypc.info and please include your name and address.

Once again many thanks for your support.

Mike Evans

Chairman

Whiteley Parish Council

