

I understand you want alternative ideas and that you say things need to change but could this be managed on a less drastic way? I did mention this in my last correspondence but is there no option in looking at St Barts and Ashlands becoming infant schools with students attending up to year 2 and then crewkerne children attending maiden beech from year3-year 6 like a junior school which I believe is the plan in ilminster? This would save so many staff jobs and also stop the need for so much money being spent on the alterations to all the schools? Is there any way this could work, it would allow children to still progress through the three schools just slightly earlier?

There is nothing wrong with the school system as it is so why mess with it. Its proposed that greenflyde and swanmead will become 1 school but still work in separate sites so how is that any different? Children will still be going from 1 to the other!

Pollution is a major factor as there will need to be more buses. Children will suffer if there parents can't collect them from after school clubs. What if they are ill or have detention, miss the bus etc and the parent doesn't drive or is on a low income and can't afford a taxi to collect them?

Ilminster is a growing town with more than enough children to have its own secondary school without having to go to chard or Crewkerne.

As a past parent and member of staff I feel moving to a two tier system would benefit the students, at the moment when they come to Wadham they have 5 months with us then they have to choose their options. If they were here from year 7 they would make better informed decisions about their options.

We as a school would be able to provide longer high quality provision for pupils with SEND, which gives them a better footing for the exams.

We have the facilities and the space to become a secondary school.

I feel that if Wer ploughing money into this, then it should be to build on the education in ilminster, it's a big town, and should warrant the full schooling years to be with in the town.

I feel the 3 teir system is a good style of education for children to learn. It is a secure and steady system providing security and high education for our children. Allowing them to develop social skills and confidence in their learning and wider life.

I feel in this day and age all children should be educated in their home town. There should be no need to bus children around the county. Climate change also need to be considered. Young families will think twice before moving into the town. This may cause the population of the town to become older and stagnate the community.

The current situation with the pandemic means bused children will be at more risk of transferring and catching the virus. This illness I feel is going to be around for a long time and anything we can do to stop it is so important.

Most importantly education should be accessed in the town they live in.

This is causing extreme anxiety. I do not drive and there is no public transport from Ilminster to Crewkerne. I cannot send my 11 year old daughter, on a bus to Crewkerne, knowing that I cannot get there if I need to.

I think the plans are outrageous, for the following reasons

This is only being done to support Wadham financially

There will be large jobs loses for all other schools (me included)

Not enough children for all the primary schools

Maiden beech site is not suitable for young children

The need for converting to a two tier structure for both improved quality of education and to improve the financial stability of ALL remaining schools is long overdue and has been pushed aside for far too long. We had

hoped our own son would attend Wadham for his full secondary education well he is now in his second year of University so that boat / time frame was totally missed! He stayed within our local two tier catchment so as to not disturb his education.

As a parent of a child on the SEN register I know this will adversely effect his attainment if he has to attend two phase schooling rather than the smaller 3 phase settings.

After moving his setting from a primary Reception to yr6 and him having a gap in learning greater than 2 years between his actual and his attainment and making the decision to move and see if the gap closes or whether to apply for an EHCP I know the potential damage the changes will do.

Listen to parents and do not make the changes.

The consultation process has been rushed and poorly planned. Having no suitable alternatives cited as a reason for proceeding with the plans isnt acceptable. Neither schools not parents have been given proper time or information to formulate alternative proposals with SCC dismissing any alternatives that are being offered as 'not suitable' without giving any justification. Misterton and Crewkerne as a whole would benefit from face to face consultations as not all residents have access to attend these virtually. To force through these changes, during a pandemic when both schools, teaching staff, pupils and parents are under intense mental load is frankly disgusting with no regard for the emotional impact of the proposed changes.

As a side note. I wish it to be noted thay for question 6 above I would choose to tick EVERY box listed....to limit this to 2 choices is further silencing public opinion

The proposal can only be of benefit and offer a better, brighter, more sustainable education package for all the young people in our area.

There is 'significant opposition' to these proposals; therefore, as elected members, the Cabinet should seriously investigate further the reasons for such opposition and consider other alternatives. Failure to do so makes a mockery of the whole process

I believe these proposals are at the wrong time given the current climate.

I also do not believe SCC are listening to the views of the parents involved who are overwhelmingly opposing these proposals.

we need to get inline with other school in the area we are out dated. move to a two tier is the best way forward

Needs to move to two teir for a better education for all our young people.

I believe a 2 tier system would work but how your planning on doing that isn't, why close misterton? Me as a parent with children in St barts I will not be sending my children to wadham, it was rubbish when I went and hasn't changed apart from get in more debt, if you change maiden beach to a secondary school along side wadham and leave misterton open you then wouldn't need to take the intake in st barts to 10 reception kids, they have the capacity to take more children, your robbing Peter to pay Paul by using these cut backs to save wadham!

I feel that the proposal will disrupt a very strong community driven first and middle school system. The only problem with the current school system is Wadham School. To cause this amount of disruption to 'save' one school is to the detriment of all current pupils. With our network of small villages and small village schools, our children in first and middle schools currently benefit from small class sizes, excellent teaching and resources, middle schools with facilities not usually available to years 5 and 6 and the benefit of often being able to walk to and from school.

Wadham School needs a solution, but to entirely destroy the amazing schools and teaching staff we have in order to do this is wrong. To try and push this decision through during the most disruptive time our children have EVER been through is a disgrace. They need stability in forthcoming years to catch up on what will be nearly a year out of normal education. They simply CAN NOT have more disruption caused by these ridiculous proposals.

I am absolutely against the proposals, as are the VAST majority of parents.

And reference question 6 - I would have ticked ALL boxes had that been an option.

Schools are good or outstanding. If it ain't broke don't fix it.

I agree the 2 tier schooling would be good, but in 2022 my son is due to start school which I would love for him to be with his sister at St barts and because they are only having an intake of 10. It's very unlikely for him to get in, and then that would mean I have to get 2 kids to 2 different school. Dont feel its right.

It is sad that Misterton has to close but it is the right decision.

I can't believe the process has taken this long to happen. It should have happened years ago. All years at school are important but Wadham needs to be as strong as possible and this is period of education that counts towards the children's future and for this to happen we need a two tier system.

I really believe that the education of the pupils who are currently in years 4-8 are going to be most affected by these proposals, these pupils have already been adversely affected by Covid-19. I believe that MBA should change age ranges to 11-16 yrs, Wadham should also change age ranges to 11-18 yrs. This would add new school places for children, give parents a choice where to send there kids. I also think that all first schools should change there are ranges to 4-11 yrs and because me primary schools. There is enough space on the current St Bartholomews School and Maiden Beech sites to extend these schools to accommodate the extra pupils.

I don't understand why this is going ahead when there was significant opposition from school staff in most schools in the area, parents of most schools and in the community. I don't feel the timing and method of the review gave staff/parents/community time or opportunity to give their views or attend the consultations I believe that there are other alternatives that have not been discussed

I believe it is important for the council to work to sort this quickly so that money can go back to being spent on our children's education rather than reviews and court cases.

I believe that the long term effects of this project have not been thoroughly thought through or analysed, and that the cost benefit to the Council has been prioritised over the educational benefit to the students involved. My granddaughters are involved, one at Misterton School and one at Maiden Beech. Misterton provides a first class foundation in educational, moral, spiritual and physical education, and Maiden Beech is an excellent platform for the transition to Secondary education, allowing students to adapt to life outside Junior School without being dropped in at the deep end of a majority of much older students, which is far more difficult to adjust to.

Firstly, the timing of this consultation is wrong. It does not allow for face-to-face meetings and a fair consultation. It is also adding to the stress of individuals who are already dealing with their own personal circumstances during a pandemic/ national lockdown, some as extreme as dealing with loved ones dying of Covid-19; the last thing they need is the threat of significant school changes and, for some, redundancy as well.

The middle school system is a successful system - it allows for small, nurturing, first schools to exist in villages and then provides quality specialist education for Years 5 and 6, which mirrors the provision of private schools rather than state primary schools.

All of the schools involved in the consultation are deemed at least 'Good' by Ofsted, therefore what we should be seeking is a solution that doesn't look for significant change but looks to address the financial situation of Wadham.

Ultimately, a solution which sees the middle schools and upper school working together in the same Trust, with one Governing Body (and even one joint SLT) will see significant savings (including savings from excess Admin roles as well). This will be the best outcome and will avoid the years of disruption and uncertainty in both Crewkerne and Ilminster. Parents will not stand by and allow their children to be 'guinea-pigs' for change - they will seek secondary education elsewhere whether that is in Stanchester, Holyrood, Beaminster, Huish or even the Yeovil schools.

Firstly and quite importantly, on Q.6 it says "Select as many options as apply" however after making my selections and trying to submit the form it says I can only select up to 2 options. As I'm not able to choose more than 2 I have added the rest below.

I am concerned that proposals could increase mixed age and mixed phase classes - It's proposed that while adding 2 year groups at St Barts you want to reduce the number of classrooms, this is unnecessary forcing mixed year groups and possibly key stages that could very easily be avoided.

I am concerned there is a risk to the provision of high-quality provision for pupils with SEND

I disagree with the closure of Misterton First School.

You say it's not cost effective for Maiden Beech and Swanmead to become sole secondary schools even though they are already set up closer to a secondary school than primary, what would the cost be to do this compared to the £1.3m estimate to convert to primary?

The "Nearest to school" basis does not solve the admission numbers issue, under this proposal despite having a child already attending St Barts it's quite likely my youngest child will end up attending Maiden Beech as this school is closest to us and there will be

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more than 10 children with sibs already attending St Barts starting the same year. How am I supposed to be in 2 places at once for drop off and pick-up?

Thank you for putting together such a thorough review of our system. I feel changing the system to two tiers is essential, not only to ensure quality provision for its pupils from 5 - 18, but to encourage the schools in that system to begin to work together.

My son will be going to school from September 2021. I believe that the 3 tier approach is beneficial and helpful in keeping children's abilities to grow at a more manageable level and does not at 11 force them straight in to the deep end of secondary school where younger children will be routinely bullied.

Although not a current parent or member of staff I have worked in three of the Crewkerne schools that would be affected and my daughter has attended St Bart's and Maiden Beech. I feel the current system in Crewkerne works very well, the first schools and Maiden Beech have excellent teaching and support staff, pupils receive excellent teaching. I can't see any benefit to changing it and propose the system remains as it is.

I would think everyone would benefit with all the schools coming together as one academy this change your requesting will affect every child's education in a negative way and may parents will not send there children to Wadham school they will transport them to other schools.

There will be a huge extra number of pupils in crewkerne in the next few years due to massive amount of building going on and no provision for an extra school. This has cost millions of tax payers money to do this consultation when the problem was lack of funds at wadham. I believe the decision has already been made. There is no democracy and this is a consultation in name only.

I strongly believe that the proposed two tier system will provide the best education for all students in the local area

Misterton school is an asset, it has been a massive part of the village for all these years.

And to add it's a wonderful school. It's so upsetting to everyone involved. So many people DO NOT want misterton school to close. Listen to the views of the parents, staff and villagers here. Keep this amazing school open!!

I think it is ludicrous that the council are proceeding with this when as we stand are in the middle of a pandemic. If the plans go ahead in September 2022 children would have already had 2 heavily interrupted school years due to closures enforced by covid. The children's interests are not being put first

The current system is educational and successful if not broken dont fix.

Why not other systems considered fairly.

Just because the majority of the school system is 2 tier doesn't mean it works. There is a real problem as a whole in eduction due to lack of funding not the style of school system. The lack of thought into the practical concerns is obvious.

Classroom resources budget

Re training and redundancy of teaching staff

The ridiculous assumption that teachers just relocate. Teachers possibly not wanted or needed at Warham or the expansion of the first schools.

The loss of specialism teaching for year 5 & 6, such as PE, science, history, geography music, RE, MFL, art & DT just that is only the foundation subject specialist let alone the core subject specialist

The under use of an amazing building such as Maiden Beech. Science labs, PE

equipment, DT and Art room, cookery rooms. This is not cost effective.

The community as a whole don't want this.

The whole process has excluded many parents at this time with access to computers, the middle class wording of documents which they don't understand.

Some parents now facing the loss of jobs, illness, their children being home and now the future of their schools. It's overwhelming and you have excluded many by not having a face to face meetings.

Having been through this school system myself I consider the travel from Ilminster to Crewkerne a huge disadvantage for those students. And also a very big concern for parents who are unable to travel to Crewkerne in the event of a bus being missed or a child requiring pick up due to illness for example.

I am also concerned that those children attending the very small village first schools would have much higher level of stress at suddenly attending a much much larger school compared to having joined Swanmead and had a middle ground. And I very strongly feel that children having the specialist subjects in years 5 and 6 allows a much smoother transition into GCSE education.

I strongly feel that the only reason I would be able to accept these changes, however reluctantly, would be if a school for years 7 to 11 were to be built in Ilminster.

Strongly disagree as I believe that many students will suffer due to this proposal, notably as they will lose access to specialist studies offered at Swanmead in year 5/6. I also feel many students from the much smaller village schools will not properly be prepared to handle being suddenly thrown into such large schools. And I feel that the travel required from Ilminster to Crewkerne is already putting these students at a disadvantage which will only get more pronounced were they to attend Wadham for an extra two years.

I believe this proposal is more for SCC's benefit than the families it will affect. Whilst it attempts to justify the changes (which include the destruction of a community by closing the school) statistics prove that Maiden Beech is doing a valuable job in educating its pupils. Maybe SCC should investigate why parents choose not to send their children to Wadham and prefer to send them over the border to Dorset?

In order to accommodate more pupils Merriott school will need more classroom space and in the process lose outdoor space where additional buildings will need to be erected: more pupils - less space !!!!!!!

And have you seen the chaos in Church St at drop off and pick up now ?

Are small children from Misterton really expected to walk into Crewkerne to go to school - or put yet more cars on the road to transport them backwards and forwards?

As for the possibility that children and siblings will not necessarily be able to attend their nearest school if and when numbers change - especially in Crewkerne when the new housing estate is built - nowhere near a primary school ! - parents will be less than impressed.

Hinton School is really not part of any scheme - it has basically opted out of local provision and seems to exist as a feeder school for Perrott Hill.

We have some caring, dedicated staff in our schools and children are well supported as they start school and move through the existing system, personal involvement informs me that Wadham is doing an excellent job, it needs support and investment not more pupils.

If, as you are saying, you have money to invest, put it where it is needed to enhance what is in place and leave the current local education system as it is!

My children went to Greenfylde and Swanmead, now my oldest is at Wadham. I feel they benefited immensely from both of their first schools. They are both very nurturing, community based lovely schools, and they loved their time at them both. My youngest is in year 7 at Swanmead, and I love the fact she still has another year to go at our local school, before she goes to Wadham. In my opinion it keeps them much more innocent and carefree, it's a massive thing going to a bigger school, and I feel they cope better going in year 9, not year 7. I

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have absolutely nothing against Wadham, my oldest is getting on great there, I just like the fact they go at 13 years not at 11 years old.

I feel as do most parents, that your main aim with all of this it to sell Swanmead to make money. Your main concern is definitely not the children and their families, as there is so most opposition to this plan, so I don't understand why it is going ahead??

I am extremely worried about the impact the proposed plans would have on my children's education. The impact on the environment/budgets with having to transport more children further away from their home towns.

Secondary in Ilminster would be preferable as was the plan with BTCT

Too far four children to travel on a bus at 11 years old

Many parents wouldn't send their children to Wadham increasing applications to Holyrood and Huish

Financial deficit at Wadham will undoubtedly have an impact on a negative way on teaching and learning

Loss of community feel which is so important in Ilminster

The timing of this proposal and the apparent willingness of the council to plough ahead with the change, regardless of the disapproval of the majority, is very disappointing. I have a 4 and 2 year old and a 6 month old baby, all will be affected by this. My 4 year old and 2 year old most likely will have to go to different schools. My 4 year old has had the worst start to schooling possible, due to COVID, and if this is pushed through even more upheaval. The timings all wrong, it should be postponed for at least 5 years whilst we recover economically and educationally.

I feel the proposals are not the best and cost effective way of improving schooling in the area. We have good schools and risking them to reduce a deficit is crazy. The three schools Wadham, maiden beech and swanmead should come together and share their great resources of premises and staff. They are all good schools and to trash them is criminal. The three of them need to sort it out and work together in some form. It makes sense. I don't feel this avenue has been explored enough or if it has no evidence of it has been disclosed during the whole review. Get your act together church and academy's stop being so self indulgent. You're causing a car crash

It would have been useful to have planning and thought to children with send who are unable to attend current mainstream Schools.

Leave the first and middle schools as they are, look at improving Wadham school as children do not want to stay there for years 12 & 13 and would rather travel to Richard Huish. Wadham needs updating which would encourage children to stay at the sixth form.

Both of my children have benefited from the 3 tier transition process causing less stress when moving schools. Maiden Beech starts specific preparation for exams in year 5 and provides structure to lessons and learning which traditionally primary schools do not. Both of my children have become more independent and ready to learn because of this. Although brilliant, their first school did not provide the structure and advanced teaching that our children required.

Wadham school requires a huge amount of modernisation in order to accommodate additional children.

Maiden Beech would be our preferred secondary school if crewkerne moves to a 2 tier system.

It would be a real shame for the children if the system were to change.

The way this has been dealt with is disgraceful, the whole country is a mess due to the pandemic and to have to worry about online teaching along with this is a total disgrace. The three tier system works well and for some pupils it is an advantage as they would struggle with going to a much larger school earlier in their education, this would compromise their mental health, especially at the given time!

Maiden Beech has a healthy range of teachers, all have the children at the forefront of their minds. Crewkerne is a small market town and some parents struggle with costs and finances, so by keeping the three tier system they can walk to the school rather than using transport, this is a important factor as we all leave our carbon footprint where ever we go.

I do feel that this has been pushed through without any decent regard for our staff, pupils and community. If so many have voted to keep the three tier system then why are you still insisting in pushing it through? We already have a massive unemployment level in the country and we could be adding to local statistics at this rate., this is really not helpful.

When have any of the councillors even bothered to visit the schools and speak frankly to staff, not just at Maiden beech, all the schools should have met them at some point. Maiden Beech is a thriving school and has a good ofsted report, I feel we are being made a scape goat for Wadham and their issues regarding money and their debts.

It has been this way for sometime and the only reason is, that the church support it, well let the church bail them out and keep this school as it is.

To also decide to close Misterton is a mistake, its a much loved and important part of village life, the children have the support of valued staff and form important friendships at this early time of their lives, the school is in good repair and it would be a selfish thing to do, by taking it away you would have a abandon property which could lead to vandalism.

Why is the decision to change the educational system being made in the face of such significant opposition? It is absolutely appalling that the DEMOCRATIC wishes of local people are being utterly ignored. (Not surprising, given the appalling way in which the first consultation was conducted, with questions being blocked, ignored or flippant attitudes displayed e.g. In one meeting, in response to the matter of potential falling number of pupils, a giggling, highly inappropriate response was to suggest local people make more children...How disgusting to use flippant, childish comments to try to undermine the absolute seriousness of this situation, which threatens the education of local children and threatens the jobs of staff at local schools. My faith and trust in this

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consultation is zero; I believe that there are some in the Council Cabinet, blindly and ignorantly in favour of this ridiculous proposal, who have every intention of closing down not just Misterton, but Maiden Beech as well in the coming years...)

For starters, TAKE THE SIGNIFICANT OPPOSITION SERIOUSLY. Again and again our key question is utterly ignored - Why is the quite obvious and absolutely viable option being ignored? Why should Wadham's Head and Governing Body not be encouraged to take the CHEAPER option, to engage in discussion with the Bridgwater Trust, to become a member? Do you seriously think that after years of financial problems at Wadham, that a Two Tier system will resolve the problem of Wadham managing its' finances? How blind to reality is the Cabinet? How dare you support a proposal that eliminates one school, threatens the continuation of another and threatens to undermine the excellent quality of education in our area, simply to prop up the failing finances of another school! There is evidence that where three tier systems have been replaced by two tier, the quality of education plummets. A case in point is the Isle of Wight. I can quote others. Don't ignore democracy.

I would be concerned that the current leadership of Wadham does not have the ability to improve the school and build a good provision but under the right leadership this could be the most effective provision for the children of the area and even become a flagship for south somerset

As a retired teacher, I have a wide experience of teaching in both 2 tier and the Crewkerne 3 tier systems. My own children went through the Crewkerne area schools system so I have experienced it both as a teacher and parent. I accept that my children had a very good education but I am delighted that my grandson (currently at Ashlands First School) will get the extra advantages of the 2 tier system. I strongly believe that there are huge educational and social benefits for children attending Primary school until the age of 11 years old and then going directly into secondary school.

We are experiencing the most disruptive time any child has had in their education since WW2. To even contemplate this proposal at a time which has already seen a lost year of education, disruption to our children's social and emotional well-being and the well being of our communities is just destructive, harmful and ill considered. The county have not had good leadership in this process, lengthy delays and staff absence has produced poor communication with all stakeholders. The review was not accurate (factual errors) and I don't believe a fair consultation has taken place.

As a trained professional working with the most vulnerable children in our communities I also have grave reservations about the ability for Wadham to manage the transition of such large numbers of children at once and be able to provide high quality teaching in a safe and managed way. Our children will be lost in new system. The SEMH needs of our children is going to take years to repair after Lockdowns and Covid and now your considering damaging it further by complete disruption to their safe spaces. Surely a deal can be struck to allow Wadham, Maiden Beech and Swanmead where they can work under the same multi academy trust to provide the best deal to our children whilst keeping our great first schools. Trying to destroy a system to rescue one school is concerning.

Misterton first school is a great school! To see it shut will be a great sadness to our beautiful village of misterton all three of my children, attended there and my daughter is still there now, I think it works perfectly how it is as it's work for many many years.. 1. Please open your heart and think about the parents and children of this area; we are in the pandemic, we are being bullied to make a decision at a time when people are battling with their mental health. It is simply not good enough to say you have 'waited to reach a decision for too long' or that 'no time is a good time'..... we are in a pandemic! Please postpone this, it is our himan right to have a say, to publically discuss this and debate this. We have not been able to do this fairly and openly. The Council tell us that they must improve their relationship with parents and carers following their Ofsted and CQC results..... you are not listening.

The two tier system has to be the way forward to ensure financial sustainability for all schools

How many times does it take for the community to say no? In every consultation, either informal or formal, the overwhelming response supports maintaining the status quo.

I am deeply concerned that despite sensible alternatives being voiced, Officers and Elected Members are unwilling to take a step back and reevaluate the alternatives and to arrive at a solution that does not have a detrimental impact on at least three schools - Maiden Beech, Misterton, Swanmead (and to some extent, Greenfylde).

There is a real danger that if these proposals are adopted, there will be a hugely detrimental impact on the quality of education in the area.

I am concerned with the impact this change will have on my son going to Wadham secondary school in September 2022 next year and that there will not be enough support given to the pupils and staff.

I feel strongly that this review should not be continuing at this time whilst the whole country is dealing with a global pandemic. Families and schools are under considerable pressure at the moment, to continue with this review is going to add considerably to this as well as not being a fair process. Please do the right thing and suspend this until the education provision in our county is back to normality.

I am still at a loss to understand why such significant changes need to be made to all other schools within the area when there is only one school that seems to be a significant financial burden to the County Council. Wadham School is running an ongoing and significant deficit budget, and yet every other school in the area has to undergo significant change rather than any review being held into how or why there is such significant overspending at Wadham. Your consultation did not fully address this and the argument that pupil numbers are falling is not enough. The argument more pupils means more funding and therefore solves the problem, does not address how or why Wadham has ended up in the situation in the first place. The initial review showed NO CLEAR WAY FORWARD with each proposal having pros and cons and so it appears that the one the council liked the most and forced this through.

Thank you for finally sharing a schedule of costs for the proposal, which runs into the millions, even if you anticipate the redundancies being at their lowest possible cost. By pushing this through despite such significant opposition you are continuing to alienate parents and teaching staff.

This is not about raising teaching standards, or ensuring better outcomes for our children. This is about saving money and I believe that parents will vote with their feet and remove their children from Crewkerne schools. The specialist teaching in Year 5 & 6 is something that should be the jewel in the crown of Crewkerne schools but instead is being treated as "outside the norm". You still have not addressed the fact that entire intakes could be made up of siblings, completely reducing the choice for parents. This proposal makes other schools within the chain unviable, moving the problem somewhere else.

This questionnaire talks about fewer transitions for children with SEN requirements being a positive; my SEN child will transition between 3 schools in 2 years. Where has he been thought of?

I am concerned about the impact of the changes on children who have already missed so much schooling during 2020 and 2021. I believe the 2-tier system gives better outcomes for children in the long-term, so believe this to be the right choice, but am very concerned about the timing. Covid is having a huge impact on children's education and mental health - a bit of consistency and surety is what they need. Any change needs to be handled incredibly well. I am afraid I have low expectations of this being delivered. I am also concerned about the possibility of the children being exposed to some of the politics and uncertainty whilst at school at Maiden Beech (when/if they return) - the Trust have made their stance very clear!

If this was your child, how would you feel? My son has SEND. He has benefited massively from the middle school setup, if it didn't exist he would likely have fallen apart and would be unlikely to remain within the

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mainstream. Not because academically he can't cope but because emotionally he would be torn apart but the magnitude of a transition to secondary and the lack of compassion, understanding and support provided in secondary.

My son is not alone. The extra support required is beyond your estimations. As for the claim of consulting children. Which children? Mine certainly hasn't been consulted. It's their education. Not yours.

I feel this is definitely the wrong time to even be thinking about this change while we are in the middle of a pandemic. Students, staff and families have lots to deal with and the stress of losing a good school and worry about their child's education on top of it is crazy. When I moved to the area I started at Wadham and never went to middle school I found the whole idea a little strange but once I was sat in the hall of Maiden Beech listening to the head teacher explain how it worked I know that my child was going to have a great start. Only something I wish I had had the chance at. The facilities and the standard of teaching there is amazing and couldn't praise them more, my child has improved in so many ways and I would love for my son to get the same opportunity as my daughter. If my son stays at his first school I feel like he will not be ready for the jump from there to Wadham and will miss out on some amazing and educational experiences. I worry he will be put into a class of split age groups and be separated from friends, I worry for both my children and all the children's mental health which has already suffered enough especially at the time we are in.

I am very pleased that this process is going ahead as I believe a two tier system would be the best option for people in Crewkerne and Ilminster and would give Wadham the chance to truly grow and develop.

I do however think that, while the proposed changes in Ilminster are clear and logical, the changes in Crewkerne still seem over complicated and possibly even not ideal for educational achievement. I am concerned by the plans to change year intakes in the Crewkerne primaries to only 10, thus necessitating mixed year group classes in settings where this has historically not been the case. While this can and will be made to work, it is certainly not optimal for learning and is also difficult for teaching, especially with the Mastery Curriculum in Maths which stipulates separate learning for each year group (I notice that this specific point was not addressed in your recent discussion of people's concerns and am keen to hear your response).

I see your point about reducing transition points when looking at the suggestion of infant and junior schools in Crewkerne and also the concern that the infant schools could be too small. However, would it not be possible to federate MBA junior school with the infant school/s if the BTCT attained Church articles? I think this might create a much simpler solution, with a greater chance of increased parental confidence in the changes which are to take place.

This is being rushed through at the wrong time, we are all suffering so much anxiety and upset over the pandemic and this just adds to it. I don't feel like anyone has actually listened to our opinions and I think you are determined to create the two tier system no matter how the public feels.

I actually have a children at 3 schools but wont allow me to choose 3. Ashlands, Maiden Beech and Wadham

I think the timing of this consultation period is poor. Schools, gov boards and parents are overwhelmed with the global pandemic and the impact on our children. I am aware of the proposal to change the districts within Somerset. I think the council have already decided on schooling in the area, including planning the closure of thriving Misterton, and ensuring that this happens before the changes to the district councils seems to be a driving force.

I am disappointed that despite the results of the previous stage of the consultation indicating 80% of respondents were not in agreement, the council have continued anyway.

I am concerned about the lack of information for the families with SEN children and I worry about the needs of those children.

I am concerned about the closure of an Ofsted rated Good, thriving and important rural small school, in favour of a school not currently teaching reception to year 4 pupils expanding.

This questionnaire suggests that Wadham School could be improved by the proposed changes. If the problem is Wadham, why does another school need to be sacrificed?

Maiden Beech could extend to a secondary school rather than a primary school. I am concerned that the teachers and staff of schools in the area are being viewed as a staff body who can be moved around by the restructuring. This is incredibly shortsighted. You are dealing with individuals who chose to apply for specific schools not general geographical areas. There are many different reasons why they chose their schools. There is great potential for good teachers to leave for schools that they can choose, closer to their homes in different areas including out of Somerset.

It is agreed that Wadham has been losing pupils either before they reach the school or during their time at Wadham. Has this been investigated? How do you know this will cease once the system is two tier? Would Wadham benefit from phasing out the 6th form?

The 3 Teir system has been in place for many years & has worked well giving students the opportunity in many subjects in year5 & 6. The primary & middle schools are thriving due to high quality teaching & wellbeing of children Send included. Parents do not want to send their children to wadham that is why there is a low intake at wadham due to parents sending their children out of catchment areas. Why is this not being looked into. The behaviour is appalling at wadham which is escalating year on year which is having a detrimental effect on students learning in their crucial years of education. We as parents are considering other schools if this proposal comes into fruition & many other parents will be doing the same which isn't going to help with the ongoing financial situation at wadham. Parents do not want to send their children to wadham..!! Which has become apparent with 80% of parents strongly voicing their opinion on this..!!

Shame on SCC for their appalling joke of a consultation. To obliterate a highly successful school system AGAINST the majority of people's wishes and to conduct this matter in the middle of a pandemic shows just how much they care and 'listen'. This will not improve anything. It will bail out Wadham who should have closed its 6th form long ago.

Ploughing on with this idea is immoral and saying we have to do something and this is it, because no one has a better idea is plain ridiculous! What on earth are you paid for? Go back AND THINK AGAIN. HALT THIS NOW. This is a democratic country- how can you ignore what people want? Brexit got through on less of a majority!!!!!!!

I found the available response options to this questionnaire to be somewhat narrow in scope. Of most concern to me at present is the future of Wadham School. This is currently a good performing school with some demonstrable results to support this opinion. An increase in age range increases the need for building capacity and facilities on offer. There appears to be little or no mention of investment to meet this need. There is also an insistence on reduction in admissions despite the clear intent of the local authority to encourage and support housing development on a large scale in Crewkerne. Whilst I understand that the local education authority has a budget to work within, I think it's deceptive to state that priority is the quality of education rather than the

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affordability of it. This change is about the money and your job is to deliver the best provision you can of education to our young people. That is the gold standard you must strive for and all efforts should be made to increase budgets for education to deliver on this. I would like to see a commitment to Wadham to empower delivery of a quality GCSE and A Level programme with facilities and staff expertise to match. You should be seeking to hold this school up as a beacon example to all others across the region. Nothing less is acceptable from you.

I am pleased to see A level provision being maintained at Wadham and would hugely object to any proposal threatening that. I am hopeful this will put Wadham in a more secure position financially but have no confidence that the site can cope with the additional volume and want reassurance that this has been robustly assessed without leading to unacceptable class sizes. The school is performing and I would want to see that maintained, and if Wadham require investment to maintain performance as a result then that must be given. If this proposal requires one-off funding to succeed then that must be secured.

Subject specialism and a more independent culture at age 9 has been incredibly valuable to my children. This will be a significant loss and an enormous teaching transition. How can we be reassured that the financial pressure is not simply transferred to maiden beech?

Since both Wadham and Maiden Beech are currently performing schools, we cannot help but conclude that this is all about the money. Perhaps it has to be, but to suggest that this transition can be made without impacting that standard of education without funding for training and premises is frankly both ridiculous and a dereliction of your duty to provide a quality education. We need visibility of that investment, and if there is none, answers to some fairly enormous transition questions!

These proposals or something similar are essential to further drive school improvement in the area.

The proposal will support better education for all children in this area. With current pressures of education we have the extra barrier of being 3-tier

I cannot believe that SCC is ploughing ahead with the so called 'consultation' regardless of the fact we are in a global pandemic. The timing of this absolutely beggars belief. How on earth can such an important decision be reached while all persons concerned, ie pupils, parents and school staff are physically and mentally exhausted from dealing with the restrictive affects of COVID-19. Especially considering the vast overall opinion is AGAINST the proposals! How can you consider it sufficient to hold this period of consultation 'virtually'?? Something of this magnitude needs proper, face to face discussion and debate - NOT a series of wishy washy virtual meetings where it was easy for comments to be taken out of context and connection/sound issues meant that certain parts were 'lost in translation'. Many affected families were disadvantaged by not even having the appropriate technology in place to take part in the meetings! How can this be fair???

I believe this is the only way forward and having students from Year 7 at Wadham will make a huge difference to their education.

This is the only idea SCC have put forward. Why pursue it when it is so unpopular?
Why change a system that works well?

You should down size Wadham by closing the 6th form.
It is not viable.

Why change all of the other schools that work brilliantly?

LISTEN to what parent's want. It is not this proposal.

It is shocking to think that this proposal is even being considered at this time during a pandemic whilst mental health and stress levels are at their worse for children, parents and members of staff. The health and wellbeing of all should be paramount! It would be a devastation if this were to go ahead! I actually have a child at Wadham school as well, but it would not let me choose more than two options.

- Disruption to routine and travel arrangements that do not meet the requirements of children within 2 or 3 miles depending on age.
- The timescale is unrealistic for the educational restructure due to the clash in timing of Somerset becoming a unitary Council. Once Somerset is restructured, there may be a totally different assessment of the criteria. This should be delayed.
- Huge financial cost in altering schools requiring significant physical change in order to provide education that would not be as good as it is presently.
- A lack of trust in the Local Authority to manage a complex project with efficiency, sensitivity and in the best interests of maintaining or improve the education for young people in the area.

IF a two tier system were to be put in place for ilminster students it should be done in ilminster - the timing and proposed time frame for implementing the current proposal is extremely ill thought out and will be very disruptive for current year 4, 5, 6 and 7 especially in the current climate

How much would all of this cost compared to diverting funding from other areas?

How much is the Church financially involved? How much of this is about religion? How do you tally a 'decreasing pupil numbers' with a growing local population and the significant new housing developments being built in the area?

You will be losing quality provision, replacing an educationally successful system with larger class sizes, regression of progress by age, losing outstanding subject specialists who are either going to be made redundant or moved to centres they have not chosen to be at under a diminished role. What was the point of the previous consultation where two thirds were seriously opposed to the scheme only to be ignored. What would it have to be - 90%, 99%?

This smacks of box ticking and a fait accompli - minds already made up irrespective of what tax paying parents want. Who do you really represent?

Are you bean counters or genuine representatives who reflect the wishes of the people who put them there - are you worthy of the title: public servants?

Not one of the decisions so far has been taken to benefit the children. This is purely a financial decision which will disrupt and reduce the chances for a generation of children who have already been deprived of so much education due to covid. In closing swanmead you are forcing parents to chose between a school that only scrapes through due to the exceptionally hard work at both middle schools and Holyrood in Chard which is growing far too big and is now failing many of the vulnerable children who attend. Visit local Facebook pages to see just how many families are affected. Calculate how many Chard children are attending Devon schools at Secondary level.

Maiden Beech and Swanmead give children those additional years to grow with a vast amount of pastoral care, that bigger schools do not give and more importantly children like mine who moved from another primary school because he was being failed miserably due to his SEN has gone from being a bottom level student into a confident top set child. That is only down to the care and support within this 3 tier system and one that could be easily changed into 2 tier by closing wadham and investing into Maiden Beech and Swanmead.

Many children make the longer journey into these school because they rescue children like ours who get swallowed up by the ever growing system. There is a reason Somerset has the highest level of home educated children.

Our children have suffered enough disruption and if these changes take place then you have written off the next 5 years of gcse level of children whilst you implement this with our children being collateral damage. Your financial decision has already been made so its even more ridiculous that you are asking for opinions on here.

This is the the worst time to be undertaking a review - we are in the midst of a national pandemic and everyone should be concentrating on doing their bit for the country, not getting involved in a process that could have waited another year until it was started unless the financial future of Wadham School could not wait for it to take that long.

· A lack of trust in the Local Authority to manage a complex project with efficiency, sensitivity and in the best interests of maintaining or improve the education for young people in the area.

Swanmead is a great school the staff are very good with the children that go there it is so upsetting for children that there already that it will effect Please keep the school as it is we love Swanmead and the staff

Personally, this should have happened years ago. The three tier is dated and not financially viable

The middle school system gives children the opportunity to begin their journey into secondary education in a supportive and safe manner. They experience specialist subject teachers in a familiar environment earlier than they would do in a primary school, gaining in confidence and expertise earlier than their peers in a secondary school beginning in year 7. They are supported pastorally and educationally in a way that gently helps them to transition between key stage two and three in a school where they know the staff well; they feel comfortable and protected here.

The opportunity to be able to continue this journey in a through school in their own town rather than one where they need to travel has been denied through this 'consultation' which has been railroaded through during a period of worldwide pandemic, where we have been unable to put forward our views in a manner that makes us feel we have been listened to properly. Looking at the figures, where 80% of those who responded feel this is a negative idea, just shows how little the consultation process has been taken note of. It makes a mockery of putting this out to the public, when the public's view is disregarded. To say that no other ideas have been put forward is also untrue.

Many feel the consultation was a paper exercise, that the decision was made before we were able to comment. Wadham School has a huge financial deficit, yet somehow is being offered as a solution to the monetary saving that amalgamating the schools would allegedly bring.

Please listen to the people who live and educate in our towns. Swanmead School has offered superb education during this pandemic, offering physical lessons to key worker children and vulnerable individuals as well as virtual lessons to those at home. Teachers and staff care so much about our school and have truly gone over and above during this very difficult time. Why would we want to change something that is so good, so positive and so right for Ilminster?

My main concern around this proposal is the impact on reduced PAN numbers for St. Barts, Ashlands and Merriott for the first few years due to needing to feed into two classes at Maiden Beech. I think that it is better to reduce the PAN at Maiden Beech to 30 and share the 30 amongst the rest, this will reduce the need for mixed age classes. Mixed age classes work well when they can be neatly compartmentalised into two year groups with

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a maximum of 15 in each year group, but when the year groups have to be split across two classes or even across key stages, this gets very messy. The proposed PANs mean that this will have to happen. I think parents will prefer this option as there is a vast amount of trust in the current First Schools in the area and parents will be wary of sending their child to Maiden Beech based on the fact that it doesn't have a good reputation already, but also that changing it's age range will be a further factor in that it will not be established.

I think that children fare better with only one school move, like what happens in the two tier system. The schools are just not financially viable in the current set up.

This is the right way for the area and should have happened a long time ago.

Swanmead is touting it's parents and sending out responses that should be copied and pasted into this box. They are NOT a high performing school as the data in your responses briefing demonstrates and this is NOT reflected in the propoganda that they consistently spew out.

Hurry up and move this to a 2-tier system before anymore lives are ruined by an inadequate school.

I look forwards to hearing that this proposal has gone through. Wadham continues to receive students that are below the national average from Swanmead school as in your documentation, despite this we turn out superb young adults that have been added significant value to them from where the middle schools left them.

Massive thumbs up.

We believe that there is no need for an additional primary school. If any change needs to happen, then an additional secondary school should be utilised to help assist Wadham. The children have had enough upheaval through this pandemic which is looking like lasting far longer than the current 12 months and should not be expected to go through any further upheavals.

This is a disgrace. To push ahead, during a serious pandemic, increasing stress levels, and directly impacting the local children's mental health is unacceptable. To try to push this through against the majority view exposes the lie that you are prepared to listen to your constituents. You are not fulfilling your legal requirements with regard to this consultation, simple as that.

Please don't do this. If this goes ahead I think we are very likely to remove our children from the catchment altogether. They have already had so much disruption to their education with Covid, it is so unfair for them to be caught up in this too.

I do not believe that it is in the best interest of the children's education. There were other options that involved Wadham making a change to fit around the other schools which they didn't want to do so that option was off the board. Why now do the other schools have to change to fit around Wadham

This questionnaire is a poor response to the vast number of questions and issues that these proposals raise. Overall I do feel that a two tier system is the best option but I do not agree with this process. There are so many good schools in the area and this process is more likely to damage the quality of education in this area rather than improve it, especially at a time when schools are at breaking point with dealing with the pandemic. This whole process is an absolute farce and the local government should be ashamed of the way this has been dealt with.

The timescale is unrealistic for the educational restructure due to the clash in timing of Somerset becoming a unitary Council. Once Somerset is restructured, there may be a totally different assessment of the criteria. This should be delayed.

· Huge financial cost in altering schools requiring significant physical change in order to provide education that would not be as good as it is presently.

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- A lack of trust in the Local Authority to manage a complex project with efficiency, sensitivity and in the best interests of maintaining or improve the education for young people in the area.
- The likely and significant impact on the quality of education. High quality teaching staff and learning supporters may well choose to leave their schools thus a loss of talent from existing establishments. In addition, the specialist subject curriculum delivery in upper KS2 will not be to the standard of what is being accessed presently.
- The dismantling of a system that is the most successful nationally and is widely regarded as the structure used to deliver schooling in the world's most successful educational countries.
- The loss of a high performing school within the age range of 11 to 13 which has a specific emphasis on nurturing, pastoral care and personal development.
- Disruption to routine and travel arrangements that do not meet the requirements of children within 2 or 3 miles depending on age.
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The obvious way ahead of putting Wadham School into an academy trust has been dismissed without reasonable explanation. Wadham's problems are less or do with demographics, and all to do with the fact that Crewkerne parents avoid it as a choice for their children, due to its being regarded as badly underperforming. It follows that until this issue is addressed and corrected, the solution proposed will not resolve the low pupil numbers there. Academy trusts have a strong record of improving low-performing schools.

The single proposal put forward, without choice or alternative, is undemocratic and very high-handed. This proposal was the least well-received of six options put forward in 2019. The 2019 'consultation' was pulled early as it became clear that the single option now being put forward was the one most strongly opposed by the people affected by it - the children and parents of Crewkerne and Ilminster.

It is starkly obvious that the reason for this latest intent to force through an unacceptable proposal is twofold: firstly, to get rid of the three-school system entirely, despite the fact that serves the unique social and educational circumstances of children of South Somerset particularly well; and secondly to dig Wadham School out of a financial hole, caused by years of ignoring the problem and poor management by both local council officials and school leadership.

Put Wadham into a trust, allow that trust to resolve its financial problems over five years and then present this proposal again to see where it goes!

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I believe that this closure of Misterton First School is unnecessary and everything is not quite truthful-those in power will not listen anyway as its what they personally want to happen regardless of the negative aspects it would cause. How is a 4 year old supposed to walk to Ashlands school from Misterton , do a days work then walk home again every day? How are parents/ grandparents/ whoever supposed to do this ? Or do you assume everyone will drive? Then have to find somewhere to park , have you been to North Street in Crewkerne?? The pavements are narrow and dangerous, its already a nightmare and Misterton is a damn good school! Your arguments are born from arrogance.

The proposal (probably already decided despite what anyone might say) is not born out of common sense or concern for the welfare of the children and their education! It is because not all schools have managed their responsibilities correctly! Now they want others to pay the price for it. Disgraceful low handed behaviour by all concerned at SCC level. And those in charge at Wadham School should be ashamed of themselves for their mismanagement on more than one level.

Certain schools are paying the price for others' incompetence. Ultimately it will be the children who pay the price. The system works fine and Misterton School is a fine school on all levels, there is no need to make it a scapegoat.

Why should pupils travel on a bus to Crewkerne at the age of 11 when they have a perfectly good school to attend in Ilminster.

Ilminster will lose their young people from the Community as most events will be in Crewkerne.

If it works, why fix it? All pupils attending Middle Schools prosper better at an earlier age and become more independent than their peers.

From expereince I can see the pupils of Ilminster wanting to attend Neroche School so they can feed into Holyrood

Although not a parent I do have grandchildren in the Ilminster schools. I am also a resident of Ilminster all my life and have worked in one of the Ilminster schools. I know that the schools provide a superb standard of education. I also know that the cost of the proposals will be prohibitively expensive at a time when the council is pleading poverty. The proposed change would also be very damaging to the community. Ilminster is a vibrant market town and needs it's children to be educated here in their community

If this goes ahead I'm very concerned with the well-being of the pupils and parent also the amount of parent who will not send the children to wadham school and are looking into sending them to Stanchester or Holyroad school. This has been very badly handled in the current covid condition. The best way forward would be that the schools become an academy.

I think that a two tier system could be beneficial, however, a secondary school is sustainable within Ilminster. We have the infrastructure to support it. We have growing numbers of housing.

I worry about the impact of extra travel on the environment. There is no need to travel to crewkerne when we should have our own secondary school

The proposal is only advantageous to two schools. Wadham, who have really caused all the issues and greenfylde who need more places. It is a potential financial ruin for the other schools and council.

I am angry and sad at the prospect of the closure of Misterton school and the distress it is causing at a difficult time. There has been no regard to how it will impact the community at large.

We are pleased with Maiden Beech as it has given our children independence and they have grown up quickly due to the different subjects, resources and specialist teachers. My youngest daughter will complete a year at

Maiden Beech Academy as a middle school and then it will be a primary school. I am concerned about the education she will be getting, not only catching up from a pandemic, but then on top of that all the upheaval of changes which will affect both teachers and the children they teach.

The consultation itself and the subsequent SCC decision to proceed has been taken despite significant opposition to the proposals. This is undemocratic! The feedback from schools and parents has clearly been disregarded despite roughly two-thirds of respondents expressing negative viewpoints. Feedback from parents who responded said they did NOT want MBA, Ashlands, and St. Bart's to become primary schools or Misterton First School to close so why is SCC forging ahead with such an unpopular proposal?

I do not believe that this reorganisation plan has the pupils best interests at heart. The upheaval, so soon after the pandemic, will cause even more disruption and confusion for pupils who need to settle back into their learning in familiar, established and successful learning environments. Starting a new school with potentially 500 new students along with new staff and in new surrounding will not provide this safe, secure environment that they need.

Conducting this consultation during the pandemic has put undue stress and strain on staff, parents and pupils and is inconsiderate and immoral! It also seems as though SCC has used the pandemic's restrictions to their advantage by not even visiting the schools in question to discuss the issues face to face. Some SCC officials have not even bothered to visit these schools at all!

I do NOT believe that the consultation was conducted in a fair and transparent manner. All of the online meetings were too one sided. Participants were muted and unable to express, discuss or argue views properly. Not all questions were addressed. The duration of the meetings was too rigid and restrictive, preventing some participants from receiving the answers they required.

I do not feel that SCC has explored other options well enough. If MBA, Wadham and Swanmead were to join the same MAT and work together, this would negate the need to close or reorganise schools and would save huge sums of money. RETHINK!

? All the schools which are currently included in the proposed changes are currently rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. The Director of Children's Services has emphasised that he is bringing in this change in order to prevent a decline in the quality of children's education. We feel the proposed current timeline risks bringing about the very thing he wishes to prevent. Neither he nor anyone else managing this project appears to be taking account of the already negative impact on children's education of the Covid 19 pandemic or to be making any adjustment for it.

? We believe 5½ terms are insufficient for a well-planned and properly financed changes to staffing structures, buildings classroom furniture and school transport.

? Whitehall has set a deadline of 2023 for Somerset's conversion to either 1 or 2 unitary authorities. There is a real risk that, in the middle of all that, trying to restructure Crewkerne & Ilminster schools by the year before, means problems being overlooked & rushed decisions, with certainly short-term, & possibly long term, negative consequences for the children & very worried parents.

? Swanmead offers pupils a truly fantastic opportunity to experience classes only normally found in secondary school, e.g., DT, Science, Performing Arts and Science two years ahead of a traditional secondary school. This allows pupils to gain valuable skills which puts them on a strong footing when moving up to secondary school.

? Swanmead being in the heart of our community allows the pupils to walk to and from school, to have exercise in the clean fresh air, and arrive at school ready to engage with their learning. With the proposed changes pupils from year seven would have to travel to Wadham by coach, increasing the carbon footprint.

? Data collected from the NMSF displays that, in every area, results from schools in 3 tier systems outperforms the rest.

I think it's good that the schools will be changing to the same format as the rest of the country. As a young female primary teacher (in another area), I have concerns about any future child of mine going through a three tier system.

I strongly believe in the three-tier system as it allows pupils to be taught by highlyqualified specialist teachers in year 5 and 6. The problem is not the system but the appalling financial situation at Wadham which has been allowed to go on for many years with no accountability whatsoever. For many years a number of pupils from Maiden Beech Academy have gone to Beaminster (instead of Wadham) as parents have felt that the upper school would fail their children's education.

This proposal will not benefit the upper school in the long run as many students will carry on choosing colleges in order to pursue their education as they offer a variety of subjects.

This has been a consultation in name only, carried out in the middle of a pandemic. I am worried the unfair decision will have an impact on the future of education for many years to come.

Please think about the children! I have a year 4 child severely suffering with his mental health due to Covid. He is already going to have move to Maiden Beech this year with none of the transition processes in place and will have to move again after two years. It can't always be a financial decision.

I truly believe that the proposed system will provide the best education for the young people of Crewkerne and Ilminster

Not changing the school system is disadvantaging the local students more than the parents could know. They do not see the gaps in knowledge and the difference between students in both systems. As a practitioner for 15 years with experience of both systems I have seen those differences. This is about giving the local children the same opportunities as the majority of other schools nationally, the university system is the same across the board however the school system in this area isn't.

I cannot see how this is ever going to 'save' money. I feel for the staff in ilminster that

may find themselves out of work. I'm concerned about my children travelling to chard or crewkerne for secondary education at only 11years old. Will these buses be reliable and for those families without transport, how do they collect their child if they are unwell? I've heard such wonderful things about Swanmeads ability to teach yr5-8 and think those qualities will be lost in the secondary school. Let's be honest, wadham as a school needs to seriously up their game for children's education and supporting children's emotional well-being.

Hate wadham school, my children thrived at maiden beech, but since my children have been at wadham it's terrible, to think you are going to let them have two more years, children will just go down hill quicker and be in drugs earlier and smoking earlier, ashlands and St barts aren't big enough either until yr7, mine out grew the school by yr3.

My children are in year groups that will directly be affected by this. I still think without a doubt that the proposed changes are what is best for them and the area as a whole.

With swanmeads low progress data, I welcome this change. Shame it's too late for my son who moves to Wadham in September anyway.

This is the best system to provide a first class education to the children of Crewkerne and Ilminster

This proposal is, in my opinion, the best possible move for the children that attend school in this area. I understand the reservations some have, and the impact is unfortunate; however, if we remove any personal views this would make the educational experience for pupils at all schools better.

I strongly believe that the proposal is the way forward for all schools in the area. It will enable pupils to be nurtured within a primary setting up to year 6 where they are with a primary trained teacher supporting their basic skills. This will mean that pupils will enter Wadham better prepared for secondary school. If pupils enter secondary school at the beginning of year 7 it also gives Wadham more time to build solid relationships with pupils to ensure they make the best progress possible. Only getting pupils in Year 9 means that many of their habits are already formed and it is difficult to build those vital relationships with them in a short period of time. This is the only way forward for the area.

This change should have been implemented many years ago. Wadham has the potential to get even better if they have students from Year 7. There is a feeling that Year 7 and 8 are wasted at the middle schools. Wadham has the space to develop further.

I would have wanted both my boys to remain in the nurturing environment of the brilliant Merriott first school until they were due to go to Wadham. Transporting Year 5 pupils to another school (Maiden Beech) at such a young age is not acceptable.

I was disgusted that Maiden beech sent out a survey asking for pupil to go to Stanchester in their latest news letter. this is obviously just empire building with their academy trust not for the best interest of the young people in the area.

My son is in Year 7 of Maiden Beech and their standard of education in Year 7 is below what it was in Year 6. Maiden Beech have not performance markers for Year 7 and Year 8 therefore, they don't treat them the same as Year 5 and Year 6.

The Standard of all round education will be improved if The schools have full 2 teir system. School should not be allowed to affect this decision based on their own personal/ academy interests. This decision needs to be taken with the young people in mind!

In my capacity I am aware of many negative views that are not based on facts, especially about the low performance of the middle schools concerning the community that they serve. The facts have been communicated as responses to concerns raised but people are not considering these facts in their opinions

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about the potential changes. The facts clearly identify that the middle schools are underperforming and have done for a number of years. It is not necessarily the middle school's fault, it is the 3 tier system that breeds this failure due to changing of schools too many times. It is very encouraging to witness year after year that Wadham and its staff are able to make such tremendous progress with the young people and they achieve better progress than all of the local schools in the area.

My daughter has been dis-advantaged by the under-performance in her middle school. She has not been challenged to become an independent learner as she moved from KS2 to KS3. I struggle to identify how MB teachers can be expected to teach primary and secondary. Some primary trained teachers are teaching Year 7 and Year 8 and some secondary trained teachers are teaching Year 5 and Year 6. Surely this is part of the reason why MB's progress measure has been so poor over a number of years.

The community has been damaged by the involvement of a Trust that is not located in the local area. The Trust that a middle school now belongs to is not a successful Trust (government data from schools website) and therefore the reasoning behind the move to involve the young people of our community in this Trust and have our young people entrusted in their education strategy, planning and teaching is not clear. This has further reduced my faith in the leaders of the school.

A two Tier system is the only way forward, this will improve the childrens education as less there will be only one change and it also brings us in line with the rest of the Country as 3 tier education has been abolished in most Counties.

I have never been happy with the 3 tier system from when I moved to the area. There seemed to be no logical reason for it, as it is out of sync with the rest of the country. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] They needed more time in that small environment to help with their educational and social needs. Now they have moved to MBA with its sheer size and lack of real pastoral care [REDACTED] I can see no value apart from damaging my children in opposing the move to 2 tier. Now with all the proposed changes, its has turned into a 'turf war' with quite frankly appalling tactics and suggestions proposed by MBA and their Trust. They wish to split the community apart by coercing some parents to take them out of catchment to Stanchester and cause social and emotional issues there. Further to that, having looked at results over the past few years Wadham has beaten Stanchester and seems like an up and coming school. I have friends, that I trust, who have children there and they cannot speak highly enough of Wadham for its pastoral care, and the rise in academic standards. I am looking forward to my children moving there, the sooner the better in my opinion. All this politics by MBA and its Trust just proves they are not about the children and care about politics, as well as, happy to split up the community. I think the MBA is so big it would make a wonderful primary school that could really do some outstanding good for the community, which is ever growing in size with all the new housing developments taking place. What has concerned me further is that MBA are now using scare tactics about this change, which is worrying me and my friends, and they are just thinking about themselves and NOT the children.

I believe that the provision for SEND students AND students who fall behind would be better if they are supported by the same staff for longer, eg interventions provided by our staff at year 9 to help those with low reading ages so that they can access their learning is not happening. Offers to support students consistently across different schools are not accepted.

Although students may get specialist teaching for some subjects in Middle schools, I was shocked by the lack of knowledge that year 9 possess when they arrived (having moved from a 2tier system)

Our students are being disadvantaged on many levels and I don't believe that it is fair. We should be aiming to provide the best possible opportunities and outcomes for young people in this area.

I see this as the only viable option moving forward both in terms of finances and education. Education at Wadham is already good and having students for the extra two years would mean we could prepare them much more thoroughly for their GCSE's.

I believe this whole proposal is being rushed through during a pandemic, when people can't properly challenge it. My children both flourished in Swanmead, staying there until they are 13 keeps them more innocent and protected, and helps them so much with their education. This is clearly all about money, and not what is best for the children or the local area.

The mental impact this is going to have on our children is unbelievable! Some children will be fine with it, but what about those who already struggle to adapt to change easily? Wadham will never lose its bad reputation as long as it's in the hands of the council, maybe give it a chance and let Bridgwater and Taunton college take it over and get it to the standards it should be at, by closing our beloved Misterton school and ruining the lives of many children in this area for the sake of wadham school is not going to encourage people to send their kids there, it will make them run even further! I have already enquired about sending my oldest child to stanchester instead of wadham because seeing how much effort Bridgwater and Taunton college have put into making sure maiden beech is the perfect school and the finances given to improve the school beyond what was ever expected I know my children will have a much better education and be set for life at a school run by the college, rather than local authority! I went to wadham at the point it started going down hill when you took on mrs gee, I am now 34 and everyone my age or younger that I know have all said they wouldn't ever send their child to wadham because of our own experiences with the lack of education and just how little thought for child welfare there actually is! When I was there people were having sex in the toilets and someone got stabbed, never in a million years would I send my child to a school where that was our daily life and education was not! Your only hope of giving our children a chance is to either shut wadham or let Bridgwater and Taunton take it over, they worked wonders with maiden beech!

I have to question why you keep asking us what we think and then doing the opposite to it all anyway? Only a small few want a change and the only ones who want Misterton to close have never stepped foot inside the school, the education is amazing at Misterton!

I moved my daughter to Swanmead (in year 6 now year 7) because it is a middle school. My daughter was at a very small primary [REDACTED] and from year 7 was expected to go to a very large secondary school. I believe it would have damaged her confidence, emotional wellbeing and therefore ability to learn under the two tier system. And I have teaching experience, I know how to build resilience in children so I'm not over protecting. Children don't all cope the same and have individual as well as SEND needs.

Which you seem to be disregarding with this proposal.

There WILL be an impact on the quality of education. High quality teaching staff and learning supporters may well choose to leave their schools thus a loss of talent from existing establishments. This comes with change in any organisation and WILL happen. We have some truly outstanding staff in these schools.

The dismantling of a system that is the most successful nationally and is widely regarded as the structure used to deliver schooling in the world's most successful educational countries is unnecessary.

There will be a loss of a high performing school within the age range of 11 to 13 which has a specific emphasis on nurturing, pastoral care and personal development.

Disruption to routine and travel arrangements that do not meet the requirements of children within 2 or 3 miles depending on age.

The timescale is unrealistic for the educational restructure due to the clash in timing of Somerset becoming a unitary Council. Once Somerset is restructured, there may be a totally different assessment of the criteria. This should be delayed.

Huge financial cost in altering schools requiring significant physical change in order to provide education that would not be as good as it is presently!!

A lack of trust in the Local Authority to manage a complex project with efficiency, sensitivity and in the best interests of maintaining or improving the education for young people in the area.

The timing of this proposal and consultation is unfair for two reasons. Firstly teachers are coping with increased stress, changes to their usual provision and teaching delivery methods and Lateral flow testing during this pandemic which has already increased anxiety, stress and fear. The consultation process places even more stress on the situation as job uncertainty is now a reality to deal with. Secondly, this is taking place when the Somerset local authority itself is undergoing a restructure reducing the number of councils and amalgamation into different service providers. This will take place during the proposed restructuring timeline leading to serious doubts about how well this process can be led and managed.

Furthermore, I do not believe the proposed timeline takes into account the resulting training needs for middle school teachers who will face a change of educational phase as a result of restructuring. Even those who are secondary trained will need training before taking on a role in a secondary school. I did not know of any secondary school that employs a teacher to solely teach KS 3. They would anticipate that the staff member would teach up to GCSE. This will require at least a year to train for alongside an ordinary working and teaching role. The restructuring creates a surplus of primary places and a limited number of secondary ones resulting in the need for several teachers to retrain to teach in a primary phase if they wish to remain teaching in the area. You are promising teachers that jobs will be secured where possible but have not been clear that those most highly affected by potential redundancies will be middle school teachers.

I believe that the expense of this proposal vastly outweighs the gains of it. I also believe that these changes are to the detriment of the children in Ilminster and the quality of their education will be undermined by this process that claims to act in defence of it.

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While I can understand the financial benefits of the 2 tier system (even though Maiden Beech was the best school years I had, I'm now 43!) I strongly disagree with the time scale. Our children have had 2 years of schooling disrupted due to COVID and possibly a 3rd if the situation carry's on into next winter. I don't think these children should be the school years that are use as the guinea pigs for this transition as they are so far behind in there learning already. Example, If it takes a couple of years to get Wadhan running smoothly with there new school years our child would have had 5 schooling years disrupted due to COVID and changing a 3 tier to 2 tier system.

I do not want my children in 3 different classes with 3 different ages .Their education will suffer the classrooms isnt big enough also surely their health will suffer if all stuck in the same room.misterton school keep open do not close down a perfectly great building.i feel this shouldnt be going ahead until this covid 19 is gone .

This has tried to be put through in the middle of a pandemic, which puts a lot of people at a disadvantage. you only have to see on the news how many houses do not have computer for their children to do their work. so how are you supposed to be able to get on the zoom meetings for the consultations. plus I'm not sure why Wadham is being helped yet again after being baled out once. why were they allowed to get to this point again? seems like to save Wadham, which lots of people don't want to send their children too , is being given special treatment to the detriment of the all the other schools in the area. it isnt just one or two schools affect by this decision.

I believe the three tier system is a bad idea and too many students fall behind once they past year 6. We at Wadham feel the students arrive in year 9 having not matured beyond those I have experienced at other schools arriving at year 7. The middle schools seem to ignore the students in years 7&8.

Misterton First School is an important focal point in the community- a vital service for local families and valued by other parents as well who prefer a small village school for their children.

I feel you are looking at the children as £ signs not our future.

The 3 teir system works in this area as it allows the children to have the help they need and develop at their own rate not rushing and muddling through leaving it to when they attend wadham to have a hard time

I don't have a huge problem with the proposals although I do believe that closing the schools in Ilminster will be sad and I hope staff won't be affected in terms of jobs. However I do believe the three tier system is unsustainable. I also think Wadham needs to promote itself and it's improvements and convince local people to send their children there as currently too many choose to send their children elsewhere which is what I believe has caused this issue in the first place

It feels this is happening purely because Wadham is not managing as a school. I am not convinced that making Wadham a secondary school is really going to solve the issue. I would question with the amount of house building planned in the area if there could not be a secondary provision in both Ilminster and Crewkerne. I am not totally opposed to the two tier system but am very happy with the three tier system. Please don't destroy very good quality first schools with amazing staff and provision in order to bail out a struggling upper school.

I am astounded that this has been pushed through in the middle of a pandemic. The Consultation process should have been done when it could have been allowed to be face to face.

My child is in Year 5. They have had quite enough disruption and I am absolutely against the idea that they will have to move schools in a year and a half.

I chose the area because of the 3 tier system. My son has a reading age of 14 and is performing way above his age in every subject. Maiden Beech has opened up a huge variety of subjects and learning experiences he would never get in a primary school. If the idea is to make Wadham a Secondary School to create funding then we all know that it won't work. Parents in Ilminster will choose Holyrood as there is an existing bus route. Stanchester

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will also be a preferred option for a lot of parents. The many primary schools in the area should be condensed and the 3 tier system left alone! If Wadham were to offer specialised learning by affiliating with a College then it could turn its popularity around and gain more students.

Time to move forward with change.

Upper school. Given more time through KS2. Facilities at Wadham can be developed and make for an excellent school at Wadham. Practical curriculum / activities would gain especially P.E where activities such as rugby, hockey can be developed from Year 7

Schooling over the past year is a mess, with the fundamentals being missed for those especially in the first year of school. This would only damage their education further, surely this should be of utmost consideration. If this is pushed through the council will be failing thousands of pupils. If this must be pushed through it needs to be delayed for at least 3 years as an alternative arrangement.

Question 2. I Am a parent but child goes to another school. My child goes to Winsham

Primary (currently in year 2) and now having moved into Crewkerne catchment we were Hoping to send her to Maiden Beech to start in year 5 (leaving Winsham two years early) like the rest, as I went here. This would gently move her into a larger school before then going on to Wadham. Our plans are now up in the air.

The number of children requiring education in Ilminster is too many for the education facilities we have. I will move before I send my child on a bus to Crewkerne at age 11!!! It's too far. Chard is closer. I live 5 miles from Holyrood and 8 miles from Wadham. This move seems to advantage Crewkerne children at the disadvantage of Ilminster children, and that seems to be acceptable to you. You keep building cheap housing here and marketing Ilminster to families but don't put the proper educational infrastructure in. It's negligible.

I don't think there is enough space to extend Ashlands School to accommodate two more classes to include years 5 and 6.

Children improve more within their year groups than mixed classes, someone said that the younger children in a mixed class learn from the older, while this may be the case for some, it can also make the younger feel like they're not keeping up, therefore causing anxiety (of which I'm sure there are far more children suffering from these days) which will need to be met by enough staff to help said children and others with similar needs.

Mixed classes also create more work for already stretched teachers.

How will lunch be served?

Will it be made on site?

Will there be hot meals?

Without spending lots of money on a bigger kitchen with equipment to accommodate more children, I don't understand how it will be done.

Parking... with already no parking at Ashlands and St Barts, especially St Barts, Kithill is practically a no go on school drop off/pick up times, adding another two year groups will obviously increase already overloaded Kithill at these times.

As a resident living in Misterton I see how Misterton School is the heart of our village. There is no need or good reason to close the school, especially not with all the very many extra houses being built in close proximity that a great many will have children. If you think that the 2 tier system will mean keeping Wadham school afloat, then do something about Wadham! It has gone downhill badly in recent years, increasing numbers won't help that. People don't like sending their children there as a recent ex Wadham school parent I know this!

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This has been going on for far too long and needs to be actioned now or put to bed. Sadly this is all happening too late to benefit my children who are in year 7&9 now. I am very disappointed about this. You have missed several opportunities to make this change in the past, please don't miss this one too.

I firmly believe that parents who are objecting to this probably have younger children and don't realise how important this change is at secondary level and probably went to Wadham themselves, possibly at a time when it wasn't doing as well as it is now. Having been educated out of Somerset in a 2 tier system it is clear to me that it is a much better education system that is less disruptive overall.

I appreciate for some year groups the change will be disruptive but we have to do this at some point. Please get on with this now so we can all move on and reap the benefits of this.

Unfair to be pushing this through against everyone's wishes during a global pandemic

With the changes I would sincerely hope that Wadham School ups it's game to be a beacon of aspiration and ambition for our area rather than something that parents and teachers have to make do with.

We are lucky to have a middle school system with all the benefits it brings. A two-tier system creates too large an age range in one setting.

If these proposed changes happen, then the way it happens needs to be looked at again, for example, I would still like my current year 2 child to go to Maiden Beech for years 5 and 6 rather than stay at her current first school.

Has the option of changing Maiden Beech to a non mainstream school been considered? Like a SEND specialist school?

People are clinging to the 3 tier system for the sake of nostalgia and tradition, it is time for this area to join the rest of the country. Our children will be compared to those nationally when sitting GCSEs, A Levels and applying to University, however they have not had an equal footing.

Already a good school for my children to attend, I think they would have benefitted from two extra years at Wadham in year 7 and 8 to get to know the teachers and processes. They would also be prepared better for GCSE's as the teachers at Wadham know what they need to be able to do for that. Year 7 and 8 were not great at middle school- post sats!

I am disappointed that the system seems to be changed only because Wadham is in deficit again. why was this allowed to happen? . As far as I can see most of the other schools involved in this decision have had good Ofsted reports as well as Wadham, meaning they are all doing well in educating their pupils. so the system seems to work? Wadham has falling numbers because people have voted with their feet and moved their children to more local schools or ones they deem better quality. Surely your concern should be to sort out Wadham by either making the school smaller to cope with the lower numbers and then leave the rest as they are. The promise of new schools if more houses are built in both areas is not going to happen in my opinion there have been many houses built in both Ilminster and crewkerne over the last few years and still you can't get the numbers up. your changes are going to make greenfyld struggle to keep going, being 2 year groups down while still having to keep the school going financially. Why can't if the problem is Wadham has falling numbers then make that school smaller and fit for purpose. Even if it means selling some of it off. having had two children already go to Wadham for 3 years travelling on a bus I know the impact it has on them. having to leave early in the morning to get to the bus stop and wait for the bus . and then late home cause the bus was late. which also concerns people about the impact of bussing two more year groups to crewkerne isnt going to be good on the environment and the budget for this to happen. seems there is a awful lot for the children and parents of ilminster and surrounding area to have to change , just because wadham has been allowed to get into debt

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twice. yet again i ask how was this allowed to happen. I would think from the response of the consultations that were put on you should be aware of the impact parents think this is going to have on their children.

I am dubious as to the point of filling in this next consultation form as you clearly aren't concerned at all about what people want. You clearly have no intention of listening. Amelia Walker stated this wasn't a done deal - clearly a lie as SCC are forging ahead with this extremely unpopular proposal. Faye Pirbrick needs to get on one of the scooters she so fond of mentioning and actually visit the brilliant schools our local area has.

And not just stand in Falkland Square, Crewkerne making it look like she has. Faye also mentioned several times people asking her why the problem hasn't been sorted. THERE ISN'T A PROBLEM apart from the massive debt at Wadham — so sort that problem and leave the other fantastic schools alone. Wadham needs sorting NOT at the expense of other schools.

Best system for education of local children

I am concerned that children as young as 11 will have to travel to Crewkerne to attend school. My daughter is currently in year 11 and there has not been one single month while she has been at Wadham when there has not been a problem with the bus, being up to one hour late, not making it to school or not turning up at all. This has put extra stress on her and has affected her ability to work when at school.

I myself lived in Crewkerne growing up, went to Maiden Beech and Wadham and now living in Ilminster and my daughter attending Wadham I have noticed a big divide in what Wadham offers Crewkerne pupils compared to Ilminster pupils, there is no integration with the Ilminster community and it always feels like they are a after thought. When discussing activities outside of school with my daughters teachers the emphasis is always in Crewkerne.

Wadham has also not changed since I was there nearly 25 years ago. They need a huge amount of investment to improve the facilities to be in line with other secondary schools in the area.

I feel a more local secondary school for Ilminster pupils would be a huge advantage,

moving to a new school in year 9 and then starting their GCSE year the following year does not give pupils enough time to settle into the school before such an important time in their school life.

My child is currently in Yr 6 at Maiden Beech Academy. I am so concerned about the effect on my child's future education at Wadham school due to the financial deficit it has, and will continue to have in the short and medium foreseeable future which is when my child would be there.

We are considering applying to Stanchester Academy (which is part of the same trust as Maiden Beech) to ensure the quality of his future education.

In view of this I propose that Maiden Beech Academy should be considered as a satellite site of Stanchester Academy offering education from yr 7 upwards.

This will give the parents and carers of children in yr 6 a choice of upper school provision in Crewkerne which we don't currently have.

Disgusting process from start to finish. Allow Wadham to join the Bridgwater Trust!

This has been a calamity. The review is railroading the schools into something nobody wants.

I'm concerned for this proposal as I know for some children they do really find it hard to mix with too many people so making schools/classes bigger is going to be difficult for them too join in with anything. The other thing is I'd like to know is if the schools are not big enough they will need to extend which means spending money so if this is the case why the need to two tier and close misterton and use any monies that would have been used to keep misterton open.

I do not agree in any way with the proposals to change the current school system. I can't understand what the idea behind it is at all. Surely the extra cost of transport in itself will counteract any money you may save. My children have really benefited from the three tier system, as I did myself many years ago. I feel this is a very disruptive and completely unnecessary change. Please leave the current system as it is, and don't completely ruin a great system.

There is no need to close Misterton School it will still serve the community well and there are lots of family houses being built close by that will house young children who will want to go there. Put reason and common sense before scc dictating what we 'need' . (but actually dont need) - sort the troubled schools out ie wadham!

Despite having had 2 previous consultations which both showed a high level of feeling against these proposals I am disgusted that SCC are ploughing on ahead anyway. Obviously you don't believe in democracy. The phrase if it isn't broken why fix it comes to mind. It seems the only school that is truly struggling is Wadham with their huge debt and lack of pupil numbers and yet they are the only school that will not only be protected but will also benefit from these changes. This isn't about staff jobs although they are important, this is about the negative impact these changes will have on the education of Ilminster students. They will be hindered due to living so far from Crewkerne from fully participating in all areas of their educational life including extra curricular activities. This will affect those vulnerable families the most. Therefore the inclusive education that Ilminster benefit from at present will become a thing of the past. There are still families in Ilminster who do not want their children to attend Wadham even if it does become a secondary, this won't change and Wadham will still struggle to get enough pupil numbers to make them financially viable. Wadham's financial issues will obviously then impact on the other schools in the area which again will be detrimental to the education of the children of Ilminster and Crewkerne. The children of Ilminster deserve more than a council who is determined

to make changes just because they can with no true thought or concern for the education of the future generations.

To quite frankly close local schools to save one is ridiculous, Why was Wadham allowed to get into the mess it is currently in and been so for sometime now. With the current situation going on across the world putting more students at risk travelling back and forth. Also with the future and greener transport to reduce our carbon footprint staying local is better. Our current middle school has ample room on its land to provide more provisions for the primary school and 3rd tier schooling and not for SCC to sell for development to balance its books.

Wadham is a high achieving school and wouldn't it be great to improve this even further!

I am concerned about propping up Wadham which is clearly a failing school, when other better options are available. I feel the best option for teachers and pupils alike, would be for Greenfylde to become a primary school and Swanmead be made into a secondary school. There are already concerns that the proposed suggestion to use wadham as the main secondary will cost more than realised to make practical, and also transporting a vast number of children out if Ilminster does not sound cost effective or environmentally friendly.

I worry that children with SEND requirements will not get the support that they currently do. I also worry that this would dramatically affect those who need 1:1 support whom would have to commute on a bus.

I think wadham needs to become an academy, all other schools in the area have become one, children shouldn't have to pay the price for the poor management of wadham and getting its self into this trouble. The system works as it is and to change it during a global pandemic where people cannot meet properly and consult with the public is cowardly. The council have shown that we as public no longer have any say, seems as 2/3rd of the public disagree and yet things are still going ahead is shambles. Imagine if it was globally and 2/3rd disagreed.. and things still went ahead!**STRONGLY DISAGREE WITH ALL PROPOSED CHANGES TO TO SYSTEM.**

Stay with the school system we have already please

I strongly disagree with the proposal as I believe it will bring a poorer educational experience to local children. Upper Key Stage 2 children will get a much poorer deal - they will not have the benefit of the excellent resources (art room, science lab, DT room etc). In meetings Amelia Walker stated that she was sure there are lots of primary teachers with specialisms - this is not the same as having a full degree in the subject taught - which is what you get in a middle school experience. It very much seems that all other schools are the sacrificial lambs to Wadham. This is not wanted and it is morally wrong when the other schools which will be made to change are all good schools. The fact that SCC have only consulted on one plan is also wrong. Other avenues have to be explored when it is shown that parents and school staff alike do not want these changes. (A notable number of staff at Wadham do not even want this)

Although people seem to have said it is a closed door - the only way for our schools to work in harmony is for the middle schools and Wadham to join a MAT. The fact that the Diocese and Wadham are against this is wrong and selfish when it could save the three schools and make them stronger. To be fair, people don't send their children to Wadham because it is a faith school; they send their children there because there is no other choice.

SCC have driven wedges and an air of uncertainty and of mistrust amongst our local schools - these will take years to mend.

This is not the time to be doing this - many have people have said this but it has fallen on deaf ears. If you cannot meet people face to face and look them in the eye when you are planning on obliterating a successful and popular schools system - then you ought not to be doing it. If you cannot visit schools that you intend to change and use the pandemic to work in your favour - you ought not to be doing it.

Anyone with a conscience would not be doing it at the moment.

It's concerning the financial impact the new proposals will have. The environmental impact to transport more children to gain education further afield. The potential loss of very good teaching staff.

Our children and school staff are currently under so much stress due to the pandemic, I cannot understand why the council want to risk our children's mental health at such a tricky time. I believe doing this now without the public able to voice their opinions in real life and not from a screen is unacceptable

I think it's an unnecessary change. The system works as it currently is, its going to cost parents a fortune and disrupt the children. I worry that the age difference that will be created when moving to secondary school will have a detrimental effect on the children because the move will be more daunting and cause anxiety. I know my daughter will find this extremely worrying if it goes through.

I believe the proposal for schools in Crewkerne does not go far enough. I do not believe there is a need for 3 primaries in Crewkerne, particularly given St Barts has proven its ability to take in 3 times the proposed intake for coming years.

This should have been a clear, frank and open discussion on not just the justifications for improved education but the opportunity to improve the financial security of schools in the area and offload older/costly and restricted buildings/sites to allow funds to be focused on educational needs.

However sad this would have been for the sentimental, I would have considered closure of Hinton and Ashlands as well as Misterton.

I feel that all schools in the crewkerne area will be missing out but mainly Maiden beech will suffer because of wadham not be able to sort its financial problems out it's going to be hard on the teaching staff who are already been pushed!

It would be brilliant for the 2 tiers but I feel our primary school should have more than 10 in take each year as I'm not going to be able to get 2 children to 2 different school at the same time if my son doesn't get in where my daughter is. I feel none of it is being thought about correctly. Poor maiden beech is going to have to change drastically to support primary age children and I feel its too big a school for little 4 year old to go to school.

- St Bart's and other local schools are being reduced to 10 EYFS intake (down from 36 for us) from 2022. This means current siblings would not all gain a place. Parents can appeal if siblings of current children don't get a place but with no guarantee of success.

Parent choice is being diminished

-St Bart's are being reduced from 7 to 5 classes but taking more year groups (R-6). This could lead to as many as 3 year groups in one class in St Bart's, Ashlands and Merriott and more in the small village schools

-Reduced numbers mean a reduction in funding which will impact all pupils

-Scarce public funds are being used to adapt schools when there is already capacity here for seven classes

-Less funding will mean less staff. No clear outline of the financial support package for schools has been given in the interim years

I think the current system works well and should be left.

All other Schools are penalised for Wadham's issues. Deeply concerned over the safety of my job.

School admission is extremely low, set at 10 for a School that has around 35 every year.

Strongly in favour of the proposal. As a Wadham School teacher I see the disadvantage the Middle School system has first hand: students lose learning gains during years 7 and 8 that we have to work very hard to catch up on by the end of Year 11. The statistics bear out all anecdotal evidence. Students would be far better prepared for GCSEs by specialist teachers from the age of 11years old.

Fully in favour and believe the reorganisation to 2 tier represents the best way forward for children in the area in terms of both standards and financial viability

My daughter is due to move up to Maiden Beech in September 2021. Your suggestion of how things should be re-arranged will severely impact the quality of trust that children have in their teachers and the their ability to get to know them. Your suggestion would indicate that the children going into Year 5 in September 2021 will move up to Maiden Beech then move back to Junior School for Year 6 until moving to Wadham in Year 7! At what point is so much uncertainty any good for a child or their education?! It isn't!!

I have grave concerns that this whole consultation process is a sham and that the council have every intention of going ahead with the changes regardless of the opinion of the community. The results of the previous stage of the consultation have made it crystal clear that the majority do not want these changes to occur, yet the council are still continuing with the process. This isn't democratic and by pretending to consult you are wasting the council's money.

In the proposal it states that Ashlands School is the closest school to Hinton St George School. Surely Merriott First School is closer being 1.6 miles away.

Having taught in 2 tier and went to school through a 3 tier I feel that the 3 tier is a much better system. Children are wrapped in cotton wool at primary schools especially the very small schools in villages that will be affected, to then be suddenly sent to secondary is a massive jump. I am also concerned, particularly at Shepton School where there will be one teacher to cover 4 year groups and the financing won't be given to fund another teacher. It has been suggested that a teaching assistant will be brought in but research has found that TAs do not significantly impact a child's progression, they do not have the training and experience a teacher has.

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I am very concerned that children have to stay in the same school for another 2 years when there's no facilities or knowledgeable staff for years 5 and 6, especially when there's brilliant Maiden Beech academy very well equipped and with very knowledgeable teachers. I am very concerned that First schools would be able to take only 10 reception children a year when now they take 40! Where would other kids go to? And if there're siblings and only 10 places available at the school how then poor parents have to take them to different schools at the same time? As a parent I am absolutely against 2 tier system in Crewkerne!

Trying to sneak this proposal through when parents, teachers and the community is trying to navigate the ongoing process of covid and the impact there of is underhand and an inappropriate time to be tearing the system apart. A system that works. It is disgusting that this plan is still being reviewed.

This plan should not even be being considered at the moment. The needs of the parents and teachers as well as the children need to be considered and you are putting an unnecessary strain on the community during covid. Why can't you just leave it alone. It works and everyone is Happy as it is.

I don't think it really matter what me or any other parent says, I believe that Somerset County Council have already made the decision based purely on financial reasons and not what best for the education of the children in the area. SCC are simply going through the motions so that people think there views make a difference. Bearing in mind the amount of future development earmarked for Crewkerne should we really be looking a closing any school?

I strongly believe this should not be happening in the middle of a pandemic where even children who showed no signs of stress are actually now showing signs and this is not helping. My son is in yr 11 and will not be taking exams and his response is he feels very deflated as he has worked towards this all his school life. My daughter year 5 thought she would follow in his footprints but not so due to this restructure. Why can the 3 schools be made into an academy therefore saving more money rather than spending a fortune on restructuring. I really feel strongly this should not be allowed to happen at this present time and it needs to be put on hold and more research done when professionals can actually visit the schools and realise what quality is going to be lost by this restructure. Please please reconsider - you certainly will not regret stopping this proposal.

You say your aim is for our children to have access to high quality education - they get that already, in smaller schools and with appropriate age appropriate teaching. Maiden Beech and Swanmead meet the needs particularly well for their pupils and they are all very well educated.

I would hope that parents views will be taken into account but am fearful that the decision has already been made and any exercise is purely lip service !

Please don't excuse yourself and your decisions by saying no-one has given a better solution - that is not our role!

It is your job to listen to what parents want and act accordingly!

In the face of so much opposition why are SCC not listening??

The views of parents and school staff have all been ignored. The decision purely seems to be an economic one rather than for the benefit of the children in the community.

Reducing the intake of St Bart's to 10 would necessitate a drastic change of

practise and not fully take advantage of the facilities and expertise of a flourishing EYFS department. Why penalise St Bart's under a cloak of equity?

A mixed class of reception/year1/year2 involves reworking and rewriting the curriculum each year, adding to pressure and stress. This will not reduce work load or guarantee a 'better' education for 'all'.

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Why 'force' the first schools and Maiden Beech to transform themselves so radically - in so doing reducing their funding and adding great pressure and distress to their governing bodies, staff, parents and stake holders all to rectify the financial situation of one school - Wadham? You are potentially igniting a flame that could destroy the compassion and supportive ties that first schools have developed and strengthened over the years, and rip the heart out of a local community built on a three tier school system.

Why, despite a overwhelming negative response in the first consultation, is this review proceeding at such a stressful and inappropriate time? Why are you asking for our views and opinions only then to dismiss them and proceed regardless? Simply altering and paying lip-service to the nuances of this potential transformation does not change the fact that an overwhelming majority do not want the transformation per se to take place.

With the proposal receiving such significant opposition, how is it that the County Council has continued to take this plan further?

Is public opinion and viewpoint genuinely being taken into account in this consultation and decision making process?

My son who is 11yrs of age is very happy at Swanmead Community School and the education provided at this school is very good. I believe a 3 tier school system is much more beneficial because it provides better learning from the viewpoint that children mix with others of their own age group and a more personal tuition from teachers without the distraction from a larger group of teachers and pupils. Travel could also be stressful for children under the age of 13 years.

The currently school system provides a high level of education, where my child enjoys and even loves coming to school. It offers him the best education and the chance to start specialist subject like Dr and science as they would in secondary school but with comfort of a more primary school feel. I feel the only reason they council want to change the current system is to saving Wadham which is a failing school and doesn't have a good reputation from past students or parents !

We moved to the area because we like the three-tier system.

Why are you changing it?

It appears to be to get Wadham out of a hole. This is not fair on the other schools. There has to be another way. SCC should explore these and put a stopper on this proposal as it is so unpopular with parents and staff.

The three-tier system is what private/public schools tend to go for and in some of the best systems across the world - three-tiers seem to be what they have. This is a great way for young pupils to get a very broad and balanced curriculum with excellent facilities. A primary school cannot give a science lesson in a fully functioning science lab (they have these at Maiden Beech and Swanmead) - they would go to the science cupboard and get out the topic box. This is the same for DT and art. Why on earth would anyone think that not having these for our upper key stage two children is not a good thing? Maths and English are all very important and primary schools clearly do an excellent job here BUT SATs are not the be all and end all. To think thus is archaic. I want my children to have a wide curriculum with plenty of lessons across subjects and I want them to be taught by specialist teachers. Primary schools cannot offer this. (Isn't this what Ofsted look for - a broad and balanced curriculum?)

Please do not destroy this opportunity for my children.

Strongly disagree with the closure of misterton like so many others, this is not a good decision!!

I feel the changes should go ahead as quickly as possible

There are a lot of inaccuracies and irrelevant comparisons in the consultation outcome document. Everyone is under enough stress at the moment, ensuring the wellbeing and continuing education of our whole school communities, without having the pressure of worrying about what the LA want to do to our GOOD schools.

The proposal will impact heavily on both of our schools in the Federation, and on the longer term education of all our children Crewkerne and Ilminster.

This feels like ground hog day, I have already submitted my views in the first round of the consultation. The closure of Misterton school will be a devastating blow to the community.

At no point in teh process have my concerns about children with SEND been answered. the online meeting was not helpful and my questions about SEN were answered with an allusion to better provisions by way of resources because the class rooms would be new.

I do feel it might be beneficial for children to stay in a first school for longer.

However I do not agree with having mixed age or year groups.

The closure of Misterton First School would be terrible.

Also, I don't believe it would be beneficial to anyones mental health and well being, particularly the children, to have a massive overhaul of the local education system during the middle of a global pandemic as everyone is struggling as it is with the situation.

This consultation should not be happening in the middle of a pandemic when children and teachers are already stressed.

Evidence put forward in the documentation showing that Wadham would increase educational standards using 1 year(2019) as evidence was unbelievable , I would expect more evidence from school children. The fact that the year before(2018) the % level of pupils with a good pass in English and Maths GCSE was lower at 23% is probably the reason for this and does not show Wadham in a good light.

In the report it says that Somerset County Council wrote off debts in 2012/13 - What has it been doing since?

What has Wadham been doing? It seems that the reluctance to join an Academy has lead to this situation .

Meaning saving 1 school at the expense of all of the first schools and Middle schools. How much did it cost to go to the High Court to stop Ilminster Middle School joining the Academy that Maiden Beech is a part of?

Misterton School closing is unacceptable. I found the School to be excellent and Mrs Ball did a great job making sure that Misterton School remained at the heart of village life, involving the WI, Misterton Church- St Leonards, The village magazine, stalls and entertainment at the village fair. It will be a travesty if the village loses it's school.

How can Hinton St George School be allowed to operate at 62% capacity (last ofsted report) but Misterton is to close!! The last consultation made no difference and despite overwhelming negative response this Council is pushing on with the same plan. My respect for democracy is being eroded as our elected representatives are not taking our views into account. Please stop this madness as the financial and human cost is going to be huge.

I believe that these proposals are very tunnel visioned and with the aim to support and improve one school at the deficit of all other schools within this catchment area. I believe that the timing of this review should have been delayed once it was clear that the global pandemic was unfolding. It has significantly impacted on the individual's ability to voice their views on the process and gain support from within the local community. If Somerset County Council insists on continuing with this restructure despite the significant opposition from children, parents, staff, governors and significant numbers of the general public, the process should be delayed. All children should have returned to school in a form that is as close to normal as possible for a minimum of a

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whole academic year. This will enable children to find a sense of normality within what has been very uncertain year. They will be able to reestablish friendships and security within their peer groups. Staff will be able to assess each child's level of learning and ascertain if there is a deficit as a result of the disrupted access to education through 2020 and continuing in to 2021 and have the opportunity to help children get back on track.

In the global pandemic we are presently in where children will not have been in school for nearly 12 months these additional changes are poorly timed and not taking the mental well-being in of the children into account.

The council lack real clarity on the Wadham refurbishment plans and actually what this brings to the table. You say Wadham need more pupils how does Stanchester manage to operate with lower number?

I also support maiden beach staying as a middle school and the transfer to Stanchester option being potentially offered within the academy.

If an independent company operated this process it would not seem so corrupt, and I believe the council need an independent enquiry on the handling of this process.

I went to school in Crewkerne and followed the three tier system I believe that the children grow out of primary school by year 4, and need to move on, my son started middle school last year and it's done his confidence the world of good. Personally I think all counties should have a three school tier.

I would be very sad for the First schools to close, they are such a great start to education for our young ones.

This overhaul of these schools is long overdue. Should have been done years ago

I am broadly in full agreement and feel the 2 tier proposal in a good idea.

I am however concerned at the projected numbers for reception intake from 2022, it is currently proposed at 10.

That figure is far to small, intake at Merriott has always been high - 20 plus in reception, the village has huge development plans agreed bringing more families directly in to the village, and we wouldn't be able to cater for our own families in the village.

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Merriott First School numbers for intake need to be increased to serve our community.

Overall I am in favour of the proposals. The main reasons for this are the potential improvement for education of our pupils at the end of KS2 and also at secondary. In addition some of our SEND children find the transition to middle school a challenge due to it's secondary style environment for primary aged children. Whilst I appreciate that the specialist teaching can be advantageous and enriching for the curriculum, I believe this could be overcome through looking at resources available in other schools and businesses.

My main reservations are around the significant reduction in PAN for the Crewkerne First Schools. The current system allows for parents to choose, whereas the new figures are going to limit parental choice significantly. Many parents will only have one option at MB and will not be able to consider a smaller setting due to such limited numbers for Merriott, Ashlands and St Barts. Another reservation I have is around growth funding. The initial low numbers will impact the budget for several years - so it is essential that this funding is secured to ensure that schools can offer equitable opportunities to maintain and evolve provision. Otherwise these changes could lead to deterioration in provision in the smaller settings.

These low numbers do increase the numbers of mixed age classes in the area. Whilst quality education is possible in these classes, it does make it more challenging and it does increase teacher workload in those settings.

What assurances do we have that the academies will stick to the proposed intake so it's fair across all schools in the community. Our number of 30 intake was rejected but our intake could be as low as 10. What will the intake number be?

If the number is this low, then this will mean very mixed age classes even across the key stage. Whilst as a school we are very experienced and skilled as a school in teaching mixed classes, a class with more than three year groups would mean the curriculum would need to be re written each year adding extra stress and pressure to teachers and support staff. This would mean reducing the work load could not happen. We pride ourselves with providing excellent provision for children with additional needs and we are already over the national average rate for SEND, what assurances are there for ensuring children with SEND are well balanced between the schools in the area so they are all able to flourish throughout the community.

The current 3 tier model is a positive and relatively unique model which fits better with child emotional development. A child learns best in an environment where he or she feels socially and emotionally safe and belonging to. The 3 tier model is an opportunity to show how this can benefit children socially, emotionally and academically. The decision to change the structure should not be based on financial gain as it biggest priority.

Why are SCC pressing forwards with this terrible proposal ? If SCC can delay their own reorganisation because of the impact of the pandemic why on earth is this proposal being rushed and pushed through?

Losing the middle schools in the area and closing Misterton First School is a very poor way to sort out the problems that Wadham has. There has to be a better way.

SCC needs to stop this process now and rethink and begin this process when they have more than one idea to consult on. They also need to do it when poor school staff and parents and pupils are not in the middle of very worrying and unsettling times. This shows a distinct lack of humanity and care for anyone that will be affected by this disastrous proposal. We love our schools.

The likely and significant impact on the quality of education. The specialist subject curriculum delivery in upper KS2 will not be to the standard of what is being accessed presently.

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- The dismantling of a system that is the most successful nationally and is widely regarded as the structure used to deliver schooling in the world's most successful educational countries.
 - The loss of a high performing school within the age range of 11 to 13 which has a specific emphasis on nurturing, pastoral care and personal development.
 - Disruption to routine and travel arrangements that do not meet the requirements of children within 2 or 3 miles depending on age. I live in a rural area of Ilminster. I do not want my daughter to have to travel to Crewkerne to go to school. I feel this is unfair. Ilminster should have it's own secondary school as all the other towns in Somerset do. This restructure does not appear to be putting the needs of the children first. This restructure appears to focus on finances above the needs of the children.

A plea to Somerset County Council. Please put children first , they are the next generation and they are the future. If we start at the roots and help children and families to thrive then less money will need to be spent on Mental Health services further down the line. Somerset County Council please don't fail our children for financial reasons.

- The timescale is unrealistic for the educational restructure due to the clash in timing of Somerset becoming a unitary Council. Once Somerset is restructured, there may be a totally different assessment of the criteria. This should be delayed.
- Huge financial cost in altering schools requiring significant physical change in order to provide education that would not be as good as it is presently.
- A lack of trust in the Local Authority to manage a complex project with efficiency, sensitivity and in the best interests of maintaining or improve the education for young people in the area.

Years have been spent trying to agree on a way forward to provide high quality education for the children in the Crewkerne Ilminster area. The uncertainty has placed considerable pressure on all involved. I am delighted that through all the consultation a plan has evolved that looks to the future, gives financial support and secures a positive outcome for our children's education.

What's the point as the council has shown utter contempt towards parental concerns and has no interest in listening to parental voice.

I remain deeply concerned that teacher workload will be impacted negatively by the change in pupil numbers for Ashlands and St Bartholomew's First Schools. This will result in year on year change in class structure at St Bartholomew's which will mean rewriting of the curriculum rolling plan. Teachers are highly skilled in teaching two year groups in one class. However, when you add in two key stages and three year groups, the planning and organisation impacts grow which impact teacher workload. Both schools have been doing action research with the DfE to reduce staff workload and these proposals would would cause a significant a backward step. Another key concern is how SEND need will be managed proportionately across the Crewkerne and surrounding area schools. If these proposals go ahead, it is vital that each school's cohorts are looked at carefully to ensure that no one school has disproportionate need and all SEND children are enabled to flourish. I am very disappointed that the intake number for the three schools in Crewkerne has not been reconsidered. By giving a straight intake of two classes of 30 to Maiden Beech you are not considering the competition you are immediately setting up in Crewkerne to the detriment of St Bart's and Ashlands. MB will have a new EYFS

setting and straight age classes. This is in direct contrast to what you are setting up for St Bartholomew's which will have to have mixed aged classes in an environment which will not be newly refurbished like Maiden Beech. The very system you are setting up takes away St Bartholomew's current ability to offer a single age Reception class and makes teaching organisation more challenging.

I remain deeply concerned about the growth funding which has not yet been agreed by Schools Forum. How will the LA fund support for schools during the years of change if that funding is not agreed?

Primary education has its advantages but not when the organisation sets to negatively impact current high standards.

It's about time this area was aligned to the two tier system

I cannot agree to this proposal .Let's be clear this is to prop Wadham up and not improve the Education for children in Ilminster . [REDACTED] I see these proposals as harmful to our children

I have worked at [REDACTED] for many years, [REDACTED] this is a part of my family not just a place of work. I have seen many generations attend the school and still see adults who attended as children saying how much they loved their time with us. The proposal seems all about number crunching to appease those who have never even spent time here or see the daily challenges the team deals with to support every child. Our school is being made to suffer because of poor budgeting by Wadham. They knew for a long time of projected available funds yet still carried on being allowed by LA to increase their debts. LA should have intervened sooner before the debt escalated beyond control meaning other schools suffer due to the fault of others.

The timing of this proposal is absurd and totally unfair to the schools and pupils who will be affected by the proposed change. To even suggest this and to put stress upon all concerned is appalling.

This proposal had an extremely negative reception from parents and schools in the first round of consultation - it is stunning that it has now gone to this next stage. I believed

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that we lived in a democracy - SCC are clearly not listening and are not at all concerned about the schools, families and most importantly pupils that this will have an impact upon.

Why ruin middle and first schools who perform well for the benefit of just one school when parents have already made it clear that they rate and support the three-tier system?

As a student at wadham school- having been through the three tier system for my education - I know the Middle school system first hand. Students, like myself, have not been asked for their opinion - which I believe is ridiculous as this proposal is supposedly going to benefit us. However, the fact that we haven't been asked clearly points out that the students best interests are not being taken into consideration. So who does this proposal really benefit?

I have been through Greenfylde, Swanmead and I am now in my last year of my three year Wadham experience. Moreover, I know how credible and exceptional Greenfylde and Swanmead are. Likewise, I know the opinions of my peers who came from schools in, and around, Crewkerne - and how much they thoroughly enjoyed their time there. My Wadham experience has been a much less positive, and to me it is evident which school is the problem. Listen to the people - this is NOT a dictatorship!

In an area with a growing population, where we are to minimise car use; to close schools, force additional journeys and confuse an education purely based on finances, is foolhardy, and irresponsible

For my family, I am most concerned about the simultaneous transition of 3 year groups and staff - the slightly longer induction currently proposed will not make any difference to how chaotic and damaging it will be to the education of the children involved who have already been disrupted by Covid. Likewise, staff welfare will be adversely affected and enough access to training is unlikely.

Looking at the wider picture, I do not think that this proposal will have the desired financial effects. I question the decision to retain a 6th form at Wadham when it is known that 6th forms are very expensive to maintain with student numbers as low as they always will be at Wadham: It is highly unlikely that Wadham will ever attract new students to its 6th form, and many Wadham students will continue to look elsewhere for their 6th form education. This is because Wadham, due to size, will never be able to offer the breadth of provision which is already easily accessible locally by public transport. Community response to the consultation is also largely negative and families are already choosing to educate their children elsewhere as a direct result of the consultations to date. This migration of children out of area looks likely to continue. The proposed plan does not address how the deficit at Wadham will be reduced, only how closing Misterton and potentially financially destabilising a number of other schools will perhaps stop the deficit from becoming worse. To reduce the deficit, it has to be assumed that there would be additional cost-cutting and this would be at the expense of children who will have already been disadvantaged by the transition and Covid.

Finally, the timing of the consultation would appear to have more to do with the current local government reorganisation than to benefit of the Crewkerne and Ilminster area and I feel strongly that there should be more transparency about why this proposal needs to happen by 2022 and not at a later post-Covid date.

This appears to be rushed through without taking public opinion with you. We definitely need to move to a two tier system but for young children in villages with parents on low income and lacking transport more thought and real innovation needs to be given to the travel plan. I can think of 2 villages with schools but without pavements and where lorries frequently mount any pavement that does exist. You cannot expect 4 year olds to walk long distances whatever the rules say and how will parents without transport retrieve their child should it be taken ill and need to go home? You should start from how can we improve and what do kids need not be shuffling an inadequate deck.

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I don't see where the long term benefits are for the children. The children have been disrupted enough over the past year and while this is implemented it will cause much more disruption towards their learning and unsettling due to certain years having to change schools again in short concession. This will be detrimental to SEND children all the change. Although it's stated there will be extra support for these children where will that come from when services are limited already. I believe you will be seriously failing these children. How are the councils expecting the first schools to accommodate the extra years when space is already limited the cost implications for these schools is going to be huge and the extra staffing required for each school, where are they going to come from?

With regards to staffing with the proposals it looks like final staffing decisions would be made in May 2022. This only gives staff half a term to find a new job if they needed to - this is not enough time at all as most jobs will already have been advertised and filled for September. Most jobs for a September 2022 beginning start would be advertised from February 2022. This is totally unreasonable to expect staff to wait till May to find out if they are being retained or not as they will have possibly missed applying for jobs. It is discussed that teachers may be offered a job in another school somewhere else in the county. This may be realistic in subjects where teaching numbers are low, however in subjects such as P.E/D.T - hardly any posts come up per year in Somerset (these are often part time/maternity covers/or specific to a certain gender as well) with applicant numbers often reaching a hundred for every job. Therefore the chances of the local authority being able to find another post in these subjects would be extremely small.

It also does not give time for staff to undergo specific training if they end up being in a setting they are not used to eg. teaching in a primary / secondary setting when they are experienced in the opposite.

I strongly disagree with this proposal! I strongly disagree with this proposal moving to the statutory stage when the majority of people in the consultation before Christmas, do not want this. With disregarding the majority views and still moving ahead I feel that Somerset County Council do not care what people who vote for them think and that they are perfectly happy to pay lip service to democracy! I think it is time to end this process and work with the parties involved in a transparent way, which it hasn't been so far, to find a way forward.

I believe that having Greenfyld and Swanmead on two separate sites, although with one head, will still be a 3 tier system in Ilminster. I know senior staff will say that the children will move from one site to another but they won't as there isn't the excess staff needed to help walk the children. I also wouldn't want my children or their teachers to waste their precious learning/teaching time by walking to and from the separate sites. Apart from the walking time, there's also the preparation time and settling time to deal with too, especially with younger children.

I also love the fact that Swanmead have dedicated staff for Art, Performing Arts, Science, French and PE. What my sons have learnt from being at Swanmead in years 5 and 6 is second to none. They wouldn't have learnt the specialist skills they've gained at Greenfyld as one teacher cannot be expected to be an expert in all subjects.

I believe that the timing of this consultation in the middle of a global pandemic is absolutely disgusting. I know that life goes on but we (the staff) are all working harder than ever before to keep our colleagues safe, our children safe and our community safe. We are all working out of our comfort zones, and have been for nearly a year now, which is mentally and physically draining, and to then try and fight this ridiculous decision is hardgoing to say the least. You are putting an extra pressure on all staff in this area, and in particular those who's schools may close and those who are specialist teachers, which quite frankly is not needed. We are all now worried about our jobs on top of protecting and preparing our children to return to school. Our mental wellbeing will suffer. Please stop.

The time scale is unacceptable.

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The future has not been thought about properly and the alternatives not considered as thoroughly as the option you seem to favour.

Why when the majority of respondents are not in favour of your proposal are you ploughing on with it?

This could be hailed as an amazing system - it really does work educationally and that doesn't seem to be taken into consideration.

The money spent on this consultation is sickening. This could have been used to benefit the schools.

Allow an academy to take all the schools on and make a success of it.

Children, parents and staff have been through so much in the past year. This is not needed. It's too much.

I believe the main problem with the education system in the Crewkerne and Ilminster area is Wadham School yet the Council do not seem to want to hear this and are convinced that it is improving. As a former parent and an Aunt to children still at Wadham School I believe that it is not improving and still going down hill. The number of children leaving the Crewkerne and Ilminster area to go to school in Beaminster is unbelievable when you drive through Crewkerne in the mornings. I believe that County have already made up their minds to spend a fortune on keeping Wadham open and close a school that is not in need of any major works! We have not been listened to or feel that as staff in a school had the necessary meetings/information needed. The main feeling as staff is that the Council have made up their mind and nothing will change it (even if it is the right decision to go back on their plans). Unfortunately I believe that these changes will hurt the education system in this area rather than improve it.

Going through the three Tier system myself, I think it is better than a two tier. I was worried about going to wadham in year 9 because of the year 11's, if I was going in at year seven I would have been even more scared and it probably would have effected my learning

Children in primary school get more attention as the class sizes are not as big due to their being lots of first schools, which I think helps their learning progress more.

Each class should have only 1 year group, no mixed key stage classes.

There are at present proposals in place to build three new housing developments in Crewkerne. These are, if I remember correctly, proposals for 635 new homes off of Station Road, 150 new homes at Kithill, and 85 new homes behind Ashlands School. If these new estates go ahead, where are these 870 new families expected to send their primary aged children to school when, under your proposal, most primary schools would be running at reduced capacity? Have these new housing developments been taken into consideration when planning this? Your proposal states that both St Bartholomew's and Ashlands schools have the capacity to take pupils displaced from Misterton, yet you plan to reduce the number of pupils that both of these schools can accept. Since St Bartholomew's in particular is oversubscribed every year, this simply doesn't work. There are currently two classrooms at St Bart's, with the equivalent number of trained staff, designated for early years provisions, yet you propose to reduce the number of early years pupils at this school to ten, meaning that early years staff will either have to find places at other schools or lose their jobs. You also propose to reduce the overall capacity at this school by forty and yet expect them to also then cater for an extra two year groups, how is this supposed to work? St Barts is the larger of the two first schools in Crewkerne and, as the headmistress pointed out at a meeting a while ago, could have the potential to expand, rather than reduce size. Many people see great value

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in the three tier system as it means that children are catered for in ways more appropriate for their age group. A relative of mine moved her child to Maiden Beech from a school in the two tier system because she felt that he would benefit more from a school that does not need to balance the requirements of an eleven year old with those of a nineteen year old.

Having a two tier system would benefit students Less disruptions, Students would be more settled with the integration with other students. The Year 7s would be able to focus on their learning right through so By year 9 comfortable to be able to choose their subject options for GCSEs, in preparation for their careers.

They would not be playing catch up coming from various schools. By year 7 they would all be taught the same in one establishment.

SEN students do not like change and would benefit the consistency and familiarity.

Please look at how many children have to leave the area to be educated elsewhere in order to avoid wadham. Its an appalling school in almost all regards and is costing local families a fortune having to bus/taxi to other schools. If you dont believe me look at the figures on how many children have to go elsewhere. This affects all the feeder schools aswell. Misterton, maiden beech,are good schools but are all being let down by wadham.The problem is Wadham.

Two tier system is overdue in Crewkerne. Has the potential to greatly improve the education in the area and be more sustainable into the future. Investment is needed especially at Wadham School.

Wadham is a very unpopular choice for many families, surely this should be addressed before putting added pressure on a school already not in favour.

Travelling time for young children from Ilminster to children unfair and unsafe. I feel Holyrood and Huish will have increased demand as much popular choices and Holyrood much closer than Wadham.

Views of parents and staff have been disregarded.

There was a perfectly practical solution when BTCT agreed to take over Swanmead, a MAT with a proven record for success would surely have been a better option for families in Crewkerne and Ilminster.

you should take a good look at Wadam school and ask your self why are so many children are going to Beaminster school from Crewkerne its not just one or two its bus full. you need to come Crewkerne to ask parents why . Why do you need to close Misterton school which is the heart of the community , and are still in there budget and i know people who have gone to uni and became barrister in London and the world , so do not say village school are not important because they are . Some move villages so there children can have village schooling which is good . you need to listen to the people of Crewkerne to see what they want , it is no good sitting at desk get up and meet the people after the lockdown to find out what they want and also Ilminster want . if i livid in illminster i would send my children to chard ,

I am a Church Minister in Crewkerne and find this consultation process to behaving a detrimental affect on our Community. I do not believe you have taken consideration to feel and understand the full impact on our town. The decision to go ahead seems to have no plan b. The consultation has not once taken the opportunity to show a positive view or you process. That is a mistake. It is financially motivated.

As per normal, Crewkerne will have its decisions taken by county at detriment to those who live here. At best it's Bad Timing, at worst Bad management to Somerset Education. Is change needed - without a doubt. Is your model preferred - no. If futures for Somerset couldn't resolve the matter "The experts" I'm not sure a group (albeit elected) of ministers and counsel electives will make a prudent choice.

My kids have grown up in this town. Have attended, Ashland's, Maiden Beech and

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Wadham. All have a negative view of their time in Wadham. This led to them going to Holyrood and Richard Huish. Which are preferred options for parents. I know that things can and must change, but forcing this upon us at this time is not helpful. The online process wasn't great. It could have been handled so much better. The desire and mandate for Somerset Education to provide good schooling is constantly repeated as a must. That is great - except we have been doing quite well up til now. The two tier preference is not a financial guarantee for good education either. I'm sure you have many two tier schools that have been judged as inadequate or poor by Ofsted. Somerset has not shown Crewkerne and positive outcomes for the children of Crewkerne. That is why it has met with so much derision. Change - yes. The way you have done it - no. I am also aware of other schools outside of the Crewkerne boundary potentially setting up a bus service to nearby secondary schools. Even if they only take 25-30 pupils that will have an impact in Wadham, Parents will decide where their kids go.

The proposal will have a negative and disruptive impact on my children's education and

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on the Ilminster community. The proposal is costly and would be implemented at a time when our children's education has suffered immeasurably as a result of COVID 19. The proposal should be at least postponed for 3 years, and reviewed from the beginning, with an approach of minimizing disruption, with the maintaining the quality of children's education at the heart of it.

Firstly, the timing of this review is dreadful, and despite all the concerns being raised at the consultation, the planning is still going ahead.

I believe a 2 tier system could be put in Ilminster with the development of Greenfylde becoming a primary and Swanmead becoming a secondary for surrounding areas, a lot further down the line, after this current unstable period is over.

I think it will be such a shame to close Misterton first school, the children are all so close from reception until year 4, to split them all up now after all the time of with coronavirus seems unfair. It's also a brilliant first school and works well as a federation with Ashland's, a smaller school has done wonders for my little boy who really struggled with confidence and is now thriving, I feel we need to keep this option open for parents! With the new housing developments along station road and millpond both in close proximity I think Misterton will really thrive! I understand Wadham needs to reduce its deficit, I feel more work needs to be done to make Wadham and it's sixth form more appealing to parents and pupils before such a big change is to happen.

Many are concerned that your plans to make Wadham financially viable will put other schools at risk and therefore risk the quality of education they provide. Your own 'Future's for Somerset' report states '1.6.5. these changes have potential to result in significant surplus floor area across the estate over the short-medium term with related financial implications.'

Another concern overlooked above is the impact changes would have on Ilminster students whose parents don't drive. I realise you have taken on board the issue of lack of after school transport so students can participate in extra curricular activities, but there is still a lack of public transport meaning offspring of non-driving parents still can't socialise with their friends out of school hours. I think putting 11 year olds into this inaccessible environment is irresponsible and is not considering youngster's social development and mental wellbeing.

You seem to have great confidence you can pull these changes off, but even best laid plans often go awry. When you are subjecting schools to such a sheer scale of changes; potentially impacting them financially; refurbishment; relocation or re-training of staff; totally changing the age range of students taught etc etc. - how could anyone guarantee to maintain the standard of education when such large scale changes are being made? Honestly?

A far more prudent way to address a problem would be to hone in and try to solve it without causing a ripple effect through the system. Many believe this could be done if Wadham, Maiden Beech and Swanmead joined the same MAT, as savings could be made by sharing resources etc. When the alternative (your plan) will turn the majority of the school system on it's head, is risky, unwanted by a majority and will cost a small fortune to implement in refurbishment costs, additional transport, redundancy costs etc; I would like to think that religion wouldn't prevent a better and less disruptive solution being sought.

Wadham is an awful School, staff is incompetent, level of education is inadequate. I am NOT sending my child to Wadham. We are very happy with our school in Misterton, it is consistently highly rated. Just because you have some woke reorganisation ideas which only benefit bankrupt and poorly run Wadham, my child should not suffer.

If you are listening at all you now need to halt this proposal and think of something else that is less disruptive and more palatable. This way is too heavy handed and effects our good schools. Why change something that

works? My children are looking forward to going to middle school. This is why we moved and stayed here. It is unique and a lovely way to educate children with very good results.
Please come up with a better idea to get Wadham out of debt.

I believe the education received by my two daughters currently is second to none. Greenfydle first school is just outstanding, and my eldest daughter is year 5 at swanmead. She has spent almost half of her time there now working from home online and she misses school so much because her first months actually in school were fantastic, both schools create such a positive approach to education. This proposal is purely finance before education, a typical conservative view.

It is clear that the re organisation proposals will only serve to improve the provision of education in the area. Having taught in the Crewkerne area for nearly 20 years I cannot see how the current 3 tier system is benefiting the children in the area. I think the proposals offer a much better solution.

Very poor timing, inadequate consultation process and short sighted vision for our community. Shame on you SCC for pushing this consultation through despite resounding opposition and without all alternatives being put forward and explored

Financial problems of Wadham School should not dictate major policy decisions across a wide age range and a wide local area.

Years 5 and 6 certainly benefit from a move to the Middle Schools enabling them to be taught by more specialist staff and wider opportunities for development both educationally and socially.

Please defer the final decision because of the transition to a Unitary Council. Very soon the County Council will cease to exist. The County Council has requested a deferral of this May's elections. Using this same logic they should also defer a big decision such as this, when there will be no authority able to oversee such an upheaval and mistakes are more likely to happen.

Decisions that are made here will regress the most vulnerable of Somerset's children, for my child with complex needs transition to Middle School has taken 3 years of multiagency planning to co-ordinate. My child will have no choice but to go to specialist provision which will cost the LA much much more and is not inclusive and not what my son wants; we are taking away children's voices here.

The strength of Somerset's uniqueness is that it has small schools where it mimics the needs of our farming and more rural communities. This area of Somerset is like no other we should respect that and recognise its needs.

Transition into secondary is buffered by the Middle School system where staff are skilled in supporting the most vulnerable and children with SEND. Children who would have had no choice but to go to specialist provision stand a better chance of progression through a mainstream route into secondary.

Larger secondary school and primary schools will put enormous strain on children's and parents' mental health. Do not underestimate this impact; all our families have ever known is smaller rural provision. We are in a pandemic and it is anticipated parents and children will be affected in many ways.

Despite Wadham not being a large Secondary it will grow significantly and in particular as new housing is developed it will become like a 'big town' school. The uniqueness of providing discrete education to some of Somerset's most rurally isolated children will be lost. The strengths of communities working together will be fragmented and this will never return again.

It's not going to be a 2 tier school for greenfydle children as they will still go to 3 different school settings!!

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Why can't there be a secondary school in Ilminster? That way you can also have Neroche as they are also an Ilminster village school attending this secondary school instead of Holyrood.

The travelling for children is too much and not fair!!

I am very concerned that religious groups are using the academisation process to consolidate their control of schools, and that secular oversight is diminishing.

Thousands of children are sent to faith schools against their parents' preferences each year. Families in the area affected by this row have an extreme restriction on the choice of anything but a faith school. That is not right. Where schools need to be amalgamated, community ethos provision which serves everyone equally should be prioritised.

Somerset County Council should explore all options to maintain community ethos schooling. All local authorities should consider the significant religious decline of recent years, and the increase in religious diversity, when making decisions around school provision.

Secular schools allowing for the needs of all, should be the norm. Religious preference is best served at home, not at school, school must be fit for all the community as an inclusive whole. School must be a place of equal opportunity and learning of facts not a hotbed of religious indoctrination.

It's about time that we moved away from this outdated education system and moved towards a two tier system. It is more in line with the advanced counties of the country where this way of educating children are proven to be more beneficial to their academic and social development.

As a parent I strongly disagree with the current proposal to restructure the school system in our area. I personally do not feel it is beneficial to the children whatsoever, it's quite apparent that the main purpose is to save a high school from being in money difficulty. This is NOT our children's fault!

This would also have a detrimental affect on the environment with more buses and parents travelling in order to transport higher numbers of children to Wadham school. I also feel that it is absolutely terrible timing given the country is battling a pandemic...why throw more uncertainty in the air?!

Every parent in the area that I have spoken to feels the same about this and I feel it would be a disgrace for the SCC to plow ahead with the proposal while parents and councillors oppose the proposals in strong numbers.

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Re Swanmead amalgamating with Greenfylde. It is inherently wrong and unprincipled to amalgamate a community school with a religious school with the result that there is no longer a community school. What are parents to do who are not Christians and who do not want their children schooled into Christian beliefs? The County Council should consider this from a human rights perspective. It should also consider the significant religious decline of recent years, and the increase in religious diversity, when making decisions around school provision.

Very concerned if this go ahead I will not send my children to wadham at the start of year 7 I will move them to another school I've had children go through wadham and will not send the siblings due to bad behaviour and things that happen behind close doors very concerned with this school and putting more children in there care concerns a lot of people.

Firstly, I cannot believe this is being pushed through by SCC during a pandemic. It appears very underhand as it is knowingly going to be more difficult for individuals who oppose the proposal and gain support from the community and officials. But worse still, this is a time when we should be focusing on stability for the children not further impacting their mental health and anxiety with the massive disruption this proposal will cause. The proposal appears very shortsighted to the benefit of one school at the detriment to all others. There has been no evidence to suggest that the current deficit experienced by wadham will not just be pushed to other schools, whilst more costs confirmed with extra transport. So as a whole, the collective schools in the system being further in debt than now.

Furthermore, all schools are currently rated good or outstanding with ofsted and there is no guarantee that this proposal will improve these ratings, worse still no guarantee that the impact of the changes won't make the schools worse. 3 tier systems nationally have better results than those in 2 tier systems.

SCC keep continuing with this proposal despite overwhelming opposition from parents, children and staff, those who know the system and the children best. Exploration of other ways to solve the problem do not seem to be even considered. For the best interests of the children, please start listening.

It's not. Good idea. Do not change the system as it is now just to get wafham out of financial trouble.

Intake Numbers:

The number of a 30 intake was rejected for each primary school in Crewkerne due to the LA stating this number creates too much competition between schools. What could the maximum number our intake could be? As the drop to 10 would be such a drastic change to our practise and provision.

SEND Provision:

We already have above the national average rate for SEND children , we pride ourselves with providing excellent provision for children with additional needs, however, what assurances are there for ensuring children with SEND are well balanced between all schools in the area to ensure ALL children can flourish collectively throughout the community.

Mixed Aged classes:

In 3 years' time our intake will drop to 10 therefore we would have very mixed classes. For example a reception class would be a mix of reception/year1/year2. Whilst we are skilled and experienced as a school in teaching mixed year and mixed key stage classes, a class with three year groups would mean that our curriculum would need to be rewritten year on year adding huge pressures and stresses to teachers with already busy work loads. This contradicts advice and suggestions regarding reducing work load.

MAT:

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What assurances do we have that academies, etc will stick to the proposed intake numbers so that the intake is fair across all schools in the community?

Despite the presumption against the closure of rural schools the local authority are proposing the closure of Misterton First School. 80% of the local population have disagreed with the proposals set out and all 'so say' consultations have completely ignored local views and this has very much been presented as a fait au complis. During a global pandemic the LA has doggedly tried to achieve this outcome and caused huge stress for parents and children and the wider local community. In no way could this been seen as having desirable educational and emotional outcomes for our children.

instead of sitting behind a desk and crunching numbers, you need to come to Crewkerne and talk to people and have meeting here . Also there are more than a hundred children going to Beaminster from Crewkerne you need to fine out why . i tell you why because Wadham has a bad name , and they do like he way children are treated some children are bullied and the teacher do nothing at Wadham .

As a staff member at St Bartholomews I am proud of the work with SEND children however I would like assurances that the ratio of SEND children be taken into account and spread evenly across all schools or acknowledged with staff levels and budgets. Every child matters and so does every adult. Too much pressure on class teachers and TA's is not acceptable to give the care and attention children with additional needs require. It is not just the children with the EHCP in place but those being put forward in the lengthy process.

Whilst fewer transitions can be better for SEND (or indeed any) children the main concern is not the transitions but the staff time and availability to manage effectively and carefully the transitions.

I am also concerned that low intake numbers will mean that more classes being put together and whilst we have extremely skilled staff putting 3 school years into one classroom will not be a positive way of working for either staff or pupil. This kind of reorganisation will impact on the staff time because of having to rewrite the curriculum year on year. This contradicts advise and suggestions for reducing work load for staff. Middle school is a huge positive for lots of children and whilst I understand that most of the rest of the country is in a two tier system this does not mean we should change it here.

I think to have an improved and fantastic 6th form at Wadham would be worth spending money on. Has this been considered?

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I am concerned that if our intake drops to 10 then this will have huge implications. It would mean having 3 mixed years in a class, causing increased pressures, work load and the possibility of reduced staffing. The curriculum would have to be changed year on year. I understand that 30 was rejected as it would create too much competition between schools. What could be the maximum intake for us? Also, how can we be assured that those schools already part of an academy will stick to their intake numbers?

We already have above the national average rate for SEND children in our school and pride ourselves with providing excellent, extra provision for children with additional needs, however how can we be assured that children with SEND will be well balanced between all schools, to ensure they continue to flourish throughout the community?

Middle school is a fantastic opportunity for year 5 and 6 students. My children have both developed positively because of the way education is taught by some specialist subject teachers, i.e. French, English, Maths, DT, Science, Music, RE, by the increased responsibility of walking from one lesson to another and by having the fabulous equipment on offer at Madain Beech i.e. Cookery suite, the DT room, the computer room, the art room etc etc.

Transitions can be effectively managed if enough staffing, care and attention is given to those that need extra support.

It would be amazing if Wadham had a more viable 6th form. Could this be made better by spending money to make it fantastic and leave the other schools doing what they are doing brilliantly already? Can this be looked at as a possibility?

Could we be better at providing specialist education instead of children with additional needs having to travel to Yeovil?

I am concerned that the uncertainty for staff is going to impact negatively on the pupils over the next few years. These children have already been negatively impacted due to the extensive home learning during lockdown. Surely enough is enough for what has been a very difficult period of time for both student and staff.

I feel as though the people of Ilminster and Crewkerne are not being listened to during this consultation. I know many people who completely disagree with the proposed school structure and they have voiced their opinions either through letter or during live consultations and these were completely ignored in the decision for this to be moved forward to this stage! I feel like the thoughts and feelings of the people that these proposals are going to affect are not being taken into consideration. Choosing to go through this consultation during a pandemic is completely unfair! You should be visiting the schools but the majority of the people who are making these decisions either haven't been to the schools ever or have not been there in recent years!

A secondary education at one school will provide a more consistent curriculum, better preparation for GCSE's/A Level's and a much more settled educational experience for students. This will put them in line with the rest of the country. At the moment, their progress is held back by the three tier system- particularly post SAT's in year 6 until the end of year 8.

I dont know why i am bothering completing this, as the first consultation was a landslide of negativity towards this proposal and you are carrying on regardless!?! why bother asking if you have already decided and you will go against the majority anyway!?

As a teaching member of staff at Wadham I am concerned that every year when we receive year 9 students from the middle schools we have to reteach the basics of my subject because they simply do not have these skills that they should have been taught in years 7 and 8. It is my belief that once SATS are completed in year 6, these students are simply put on the 'back burner' so to speak and do not advance or even practice the vital skills needed to fulfill their potential. It is only down to the tireless efforts of myself and my colleagues that

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these students are able to succeed in their GCSE exams. If we had students from year 7 I have absolutely no doubt that more of them would achieve higher grades and thus give themselves the opportunities to progress further.

This is an exciting development for the schools in this area

I believe the views of any person in the community against this change are not really aware or aren't considering intellectually the huge educational benefits that can be gained from a more financially stable educational system in the area. This would provide a strong movement forward with the two tier structure and schools working together for the children of our community.

This must happen for the sake of the local children and their academic and pastoral futures. Why this hasn't already happened in this area I do not know, as it has put our children at a disadvantage for decades. Change it please, don't succumb to trivial persuaders. It is evident that many people are not speaking due to how many people filled in the initial consultation, their silence means they are not opposed to the proposals. It is merely a few people making a lot of noise about systems they know little about.

Allocating a straight intake of two classes of 30 to Maiden Beech immediately sets up competition in Crewkerne to the detriment of St Bart's and Ashlands. MB will have a brand new setting & straight age classes. This is in direct contrast to what you are setting up for St Bart's which will have mixed aged classes in an environment which will not be newly refurbished. The system you are setting up takes away St Bartholomew's current ability to offer a single age Reception class.

The proposals limit parental choice for church school places, with far fewer being available in Crewkerne than now.

Teacher workload will be impacted for Ashlands and St Bart's resulting in year on year change in class structure at St Bart's meaning re-writing of the curriculum rolling plan. Teachers are highly skilled in teaching two year groups in one class. However, when you add in two key stages and three year groups, the planning and organisation impacts grow which impact teacher workload. I fail to see how this aligns with national thinking and improving standards.

I remain unconvinced that SEND children are being considered, with a failure to recognise the above national average SEND and EHCP needs in some of the schools. If these proposals go ahead, each school's cohorts must be looked at carefully to ensure that no one school has disproportionate need and all SEND children are enabled to flourish. History in Somerset tells us that where a school is recognised for its SEND provision, children are sent in our direction, without other settings being considered.

This cannot continue.

How will the LA fund schools during the years of change? Many figures have been suggested, but no evidence of careful scrutinization of future funding required or suggestions on how schools will be supported has been supplied, despite it being asked for.

Primary education has its advantages but not when it is at the detriment of good and outstanding schools, where high standards will be negatively impacted

Our intake at St Bartholomew's will soon drop to only 10. The result of this is that in just a few years time, we will be in a position where we will have to have one class with Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children in. This is an utterly proposterous proposal. Our EYFS provision has been praised across the county and we have been visited by many professionals from other schools to use our practice as an example. Year 2 is a KEY year group with statutory assessments in which we must ensure we get excellent results. This mixed age structure will have a devastating effect on our children's progress. Also, in this age where on one hand both DfE and Ofsted are constantly talking about (or paying lip service to, depending on your views) Teacher workload, our curriculum

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would need to be rewritten YEAR ON YEAR to cope with these constant changes. How does this help our already sky high workload?

With regard to intake, what assurances are there that schools which are part of an academy will abide by these proposed numbers when they are under absolutely no obligation to do so whatsoever? If you're relying on good will and spoken assurances, then recent events have proved that these are worthless with one local First School converting to full Primary without any discussion with other schools. How will intake be fair across all schools?

At St Bartholomew's, we currently have above the national average percentages of SEND children. We pride ourselves on our excellent provision for children with additional needs. Nevertheless, I am hugely concerned that the numbers of children with SEND needs will not be balanced across the schools in the area, which will place unfair and imbalanced demands on staffing. In a class where there are already going to be inevitable mixed ages, a higher than average number of children with SEND needs will place even greater demands to ensure that ALL children's needs are met.

I am a former resident of Crewkerne of 20 years, having attended Ashlands First School, Maiden Beech Middle School and Wadham School. I am now the Headteacher of a Primary School in Cornwall, so very much 'in tune' with government agenda, including financial pressures, but also the impact on the well-being of children at these age ranges.

In 2011, I completed my own review of the 3 tier school model as part of my dissertation at Bath Spa University. My assessment focused specifically on the three tier model in Crewkerne, Ilminster and the surrounding areas. I conducted interviews with the Director of Education at County Hall in Taunton, met with the Headteacher of Maiden Beech and undertook a review on academic and pastoral performance.

The outcome of my research placed the current three tier model as being incredibly advantageous to the pupils. Academic performance was far greater when compared to other two tier model in similar demographics. However, what really became apparent was the social/emotional and well-being strengths of being a three tier structure of schools. Quite simply put, children receiving specialist teaching from Year 5 performed better academically and were much better placed to attend Upper School at the end of Year 8. Furthermore, exposure to peers more inline with their current age, rather than vast differences in age e.g. 11 year old with 16 year olds (or even 18 year olds with the Sixth Form) meant that the children were less likely to be exposed to higher safeguarding risks associated with older children e.g. Child Sexual Exploitation.

At a time of such uncertainty and instability, we REALLY need to promote the well-being of all children within the caring, consistent environments in which they are currently placed. I fully understand the financial pressures to do this, but many of the advantages that I have listed above are priceless in terms of the outcomes for children.

PLEASE, please consider the views of all stakeholders!

For a County Council to agree to inflict this significant change on the local education provision for children of all ages (both currently at all involved schools as well as those due to start in the near future) after a period of unprecedented stress, trauma and confusion due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, is completely unjust for not just the children involved but the parents, carers and families too. I would urge all councillors to rethink this proposal and avoid the damage it will cause to this future generation.

I think it's important to think about the longer term, with those with children already in the school system it can be very difficult to think objectively about making changes especially when they impact their own children, no

one really likes change but we do have to think if there 3 tier system is so good why is it not done more around the country?

I would like to look at other options as I believe the 3 tier system does work in other areas. It is really frustrating that the issue seems to be with parental choice and not wanting to send their children to Wadham and not that there are too few pupils in the system. Parents will still not send their children without a revamp or reorganisation of Wadham. We at Maiden Beech seem to be paying the price! The strength in our pyramid is the middle and it seems mad that this strength will be lost.

It is extremely important to me as a parent that my children receive the best possible education to enhance their future, I believe that a two tier system is the way to ensure this, by enhancing their GCSE learning at Year 7 and most certainly is in the best interest of every student in our local area.

As a staff member and parent I cannot stress enough the importance that Wadham receive students in Yr 7 to enable them the best possible start to their GCSE learning.

I believe this proposal is ill timed and carelessly executed and is not listening to the concerns and preferences of those it directly effects. This plan benefits only Wadham due to their previous financial struggles and penalizes a fantastic set of schools in Ilminster. If the solution to a £500,000 debit (Wadham) is to create major upheaval to our town and schools, is to magic up a £1.5m "solution" that is very much not in favour, then it is no solution.

Listen to those that this effects. We have spoken loudly, and clearly. We need to understand why this is being forced upon us and why we are not being listen to, despite the illusion of being asked.

I believe that mixing Key Stages would be difficult for the children and for the teachers.

If our school were to become a SEND school, then this would not be sustainable for recruitment, because it will be a highly challenging school environment.

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I believe our school have not considered the great provision for EYFS, so we should have a bigger intake than other First Schools.

You are taking away parental choice if intake is restricted and for SEND children. There will be a huge concern of finance for EYFS at Maiden Beech.

I am very concerned about travelling finances and where this money is coming from.

It is probably no surprise that the suggested future intake for St Bartholomew's has come as a great disappointment, especially as we have historically, successfully, succeeded in accommodating an intake of 36 minimum each year. This has become more confusing as while studying future development plans for housing in Crewkerne, St Bartholomew's would appear to be the closest school by road access to cater for any future families. As the sites are expected to be quite large the intake suggestion doesn't seem to match the possible places needed. We are the largest first school in Crewkerne and are equipped to run immediately with 7 straight year classes from reception to year 6 providing the high quality education we pride ourselves in delivering. Yet, we are expected to reduce to 5 classes, we can't help but feel penalised and concerned for future increased workload due to greatly mixed classes and loss of staff. With the limited intake, parents have also voiced concerns that there will be the possibility of siblings needing to attend different schools. This could possibly result in families moving their children out of the area to be educated in order to avoid separate schools. This could be devastating for education settings in Crewkerne, and could possibly lead to families moving away from the area as the choice of good education settings plays a vital role when people choose where to set up home. I have always felt is a great strength of schools in the Crewkerne and Ilminster partnership is the strong connections which exist in supporting all schools to develop together, this was not something I experienced when working in schools in other areas. It has been a challenge however, for the smaller schools in the area to fully be part of the development teams due to limited staff numbers and the challenges of releasing staff to attend development meeting. Smaller staff numbers will result in less schools being able to attend the involvement and improvement projects.

The number of a 30 intake was rejected. If this number creates too much competition between schools what could the maximum number our intake could be as the drop to 10 would be such a drastic change to our practise.

What assurances do we have that academies, etc will stick to the proposed intake numbers so that the intake is fair across all schools in the community. ?

In 3 years' time our intake will drop to 10 therefore we would have very mixed classes. For example a reception class would be a mix of reception/year1/year2. Whilst we are skilled and experienced as a school in teaching mixed year and mixed key stage classes, a class with three year groups would mean that our curriculum would need to be rewritten year on year adding huge pressures and stresses to teachers with already busy work loads. This contradicts advice and suggestions regarding reducing work load. We already have above the national average rate for SEND children , we pride ourselves with providing excellent provision for children with additional needs, however, what assurances are there for ensuring children with SEND are well balanced between all schools in the area to ensure ALL children can flourish collectively throughout the community.

The timing of the consultation process is shocking and very insensitive - given that the whole country has been in a nationwide pandemic experiencing lockdown conditions, job insecurity and a huge increase into mental health instability.

The negative feedback FAR outweighs any positive comments so why is the SCC steamrolling ahead with the proposals? It clearly has an agenda that it wishes to pursue regardless of any and ALL opposition.

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Maiden Beech school has enriched my children beyond belief. The opportunities given to them have given them unbelievable life experiences, namely exchanges to India and Young Chef Competition. It distresses me to think of what will become of this unbelievable exchange system.

There is no need to change to a two tier. Someone in scc sits and thinks I want to do this so il disrupt everyone's lives and education and tries to convince everyone else to think their way. Find something else to involve yourself in and leave the current education system alone!!

Whilst I understand why the LA may feel this needs to be done, I think the timing of this is frankly negligent. The majority of children have effectively missed out on nearly a year of vital education due to the pandemic, and I think all children are going to require substantial additional help in order to get them where they need to be (all children, not just disadvantaged ones). This is already going to create huge pressures for children and school staff, to add further pressure your proposals suggests possibly three year groups being taught in the same class, so effectively two key stages. I think this will have a massively negative impact on my children's education, coupled with the additional catch up. I'm not completely opposed to these plans, but I suggest you find an alternative solution that doesn't impact as negatively on our children's education. I accept that this is a long term plan and may resolve itself after a few years, but the children it will impact now are the ones that will suffer the most, especially as they've had their education disrupted.

I'm also slightly concerned that launching this at this time has been unfair as I suspect many members of the community are quite emotionally and physically strained and have not been able to engage in the consultation process as much as they would have due to pressures at work and home schooling etc. I myself am doing this much later than I intended as having three children at home since Christmas has impacted greatly on my time!

My additional concern is that the middle school are able to offer many more facilities and additional educational opportunities that the primary schools simply can't offer. How are you going to ensure that the year 5 & 6's don't miss out? Perhaps you need to give the primary schools a budget to update and improve their facilities? But as you plan to strip them of their yearly intake to a ridiculous number of 10 pupils then I doubt that is in the

The report says Crewkerne can't have 2 infant schools and 1 junior school as it's not viable - how is this different to having three SMALL primaries with mixed age classes? Maiden Beech has been a fantastic school for my children in both key stage 2 and key stage 3 especially with their specialist facilities. Why can't they focus on KS2 provision for the town and let the first schools do what they do well - KS1 provision. That way mixed classes can also be avoided and all schools have the potential to grow.

Why does the report mention Mosterton as an optional school for Misterton? Mosterton is in Dorset. I thought the whole point of the review was to stop children moving into Dorset schools!!!

1. The timing of this consultation has seriously hampered it's effectiveness within the community. The lack of opportunity for a real time conversation and discussion has been detrimental to the structure and to the well being of those involved in the process from parents to teachers, and to the older children who have are able to understand more about what is going on around them.
2. Currently my son attends Ashlands which teaches in straight year groups. The changes to numbers proposed would change this to mixed age classes which I would not have chosen.
3. I understand that the lowering of numbers into some schools will affect their budgets and potentially undermine the offer of education available.
4. I understand that the pressure caused by reducing numbers are therefore reducing staff is having a detrimental effect on keeping quality teachers within the system during this consultation period and beyond. This will potentially affect my child's current great offer of quality education.

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5. My child is currently part of an effective Federation where the children are able to learn with others outside their school, the teachers are able to plan together and resources are used effectively. I do not understand why Misterton is closing.

6. I do not understand why there is not an option to close Maiden Beech. Looking at the numbers involved with each school I cannot see why the current schools could not have developed further with the monies that are going to be spent on making Maiden beech Early Years and Key Stage One friendly. Village schools are an important part of the infrastructure of villages and we should be protecting them.

I believe this consultation should not have progressed at a time where communication has been so restricted. I do not believe Misterton School should close. Village schools are an important part of villages infrastructures and should be protected, especially when they are providing a good offer of education. The Federation structure between Ashlands and Misterton was created in an effort to ensure our smaller village schools were able to continue to thrive. The road system between Misterton and Crewkerne is not safe for children to walk along. Historically children who would have attended Misterton but choose other schools have chosen not stay in the Crewkerne but have chosen to be taught in Devon, this migration is set to increase following Mistertons closure.

Ashlands currently teaches in single year classes. This sits in line with the structure of the National Curriculum. Reducing our numbers will force us to mix age groups once more, and in the earlier years following any changes may place 3 year groups in a class.

This is an unacceptable impact on quality education.

Teachers are not looking to stay in Crewkerne as this consultation commences and are actively seeking employment at schools of their own choice as opposed to having to fight for positions in schools. This will impact on our offer of education.

Currently many Wadham aged children choose to sit on a bus and travel to schools outside the area - how will this consultation change this? Has the reasoning behind this been explored?

I do not agree with so much public money being spent on adapting an academy where there are good schools in the local area that could be further developed where the skills, good practice and early years of education are understood.

The Futures for Somerset Document is riddled with inaccuracies yet it sits as evidence of a previous successful consultation with parents. The initial document was lengthy, unwieldy and highly challenging to read and understand.

I am incredibly proud of our school. We have worked so hard to ensure we have a good

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reputation in the community and this is consistently evident in the applications for school places. We communicate well with our pre school providers and have a transition program that has been praised by educational psychologists.

This year we have 36 families who have put our school as their first choice. Putting our intake to 10 is not OK. It removes the choice of parents and will force our school into teaching split phase year groups which is there is not need to do. We have the facilities, grounds and teaching staff to run a one form entry per year group and I strongly feel that this is not being taken into consideration.

If this process is taking place to save money then surely it is going to cost a substantial amount to set up the EYFS department at Maiden Beech. We do not an injection of money we are ready to go!

I am also worried about my job. I know that reallocation is an option however I am keen to know how my salary will be protected.

I urge you to look at our school in much more depth. We have a spectacular site with the best links with the local community. We have the facilities to have one form entry per year group and are set in surroundings that only some schools can dream of. We have 36 families this year who want their child to come to our school and this is not just because of where they live. We have a skilled staff team who are all passionate and dedicated to ensure all of our children achieve their potential. We have are thriving in our nurturing haven and it feels that this is all being stripped away for no reason other than Maiden beech needing more numbers. This is not fair.

This feels a rushed process with very little knowledge of any of the schools involved and yet sweeping statements about the education provided are made.

It is also incredibly short sighted to think a transition can occur within 18 months and pupils not be impacted by this particularly the most vulnerable.

Financially this does not appear to solve the problems long term.

The initial consultation meetings were poorly structured with staff and parents not able to voice concerns and have a proper discussion. Some key figures in the meeting representing the council were incredibly patronising and rude with very little knowledge of the schools decisions are being made about.

I feel extremely sad and let down by the LA who have given us little funding or support for years.

My daughters are currently in years 4 and 7 so I need and want Somerset County Council to continue providing high quality education in Crewkerne for many years to come. I do however strongly believe that these current proposals, if approved, will have a detrimental affect on education in the area for the following reasons:

- Timing – This consultation should not have been conducted during a global pandemic; it is ironic that this is happening when our children are not even at school. Despite your claims, this has not been a fair and thorough consultation, there have been no face-toface meetings. The team's meetings did allow us to type questions, but it was impossible to respond and challenge the answers directly, it felt very measured and undemocratic.

Teachers, leaders and parents should all have 100% focus on overcoming this pandemic, not spending time on this re-structure and all it entails.

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- Disruption - In this last week, the outgoing children's commissioner has said that there is now definitive evidence of the harm this time out of school has caused children and it is impossible to overstate how damaging this has been. Yet, this proposal is going to cause A LOT of disruption for the next few years on top of everything else that is going on. I have already emailed Cllr Purbrick with my concerns about the major disruptions this proposal will have on the current year 4 pupils in Crewkerne. I also have a child in year 7 and it concerns me that she will be starting Wadham in 2022 with two other year groups. You have said that there will be a longer induction process to ensure a smooth transition, but the fact remains there will still be around 400 new pupils starting at the school in Sept 2022, which is going to take time to settle down. Why couldn't two-year groups start up there in 2022- and two-year groups in 2023 to alleviate this?
- Cost effectiveness – This proposal has been put forward because of Wadham's growing deficit but having looked at the figures

The wellbeing and education of children in Ilminster should be at the forefront of any plans for schools; the impact of the pandemic is becoming clearer and the government says that children have been adversely affected by it. It is abundantly clear to those of us in schools that students will need the consistency in care and support that the present system provides. Our teachers know the children as well as their families and we therefore will be in the best position to develop curriculum provision which is tailored for each child in our care.

To attempt to make significant, long-term changes to schools in the communities which have resoundingly rejected all proposals is at least, foolhardy or at most, utterly amoral.

To attempt to make significant, long-term changes during a pandemic appears Machiavellian and cynical, it cannot be painted in a less flattering light, despite the meagre offerings of consultation via virtual meetings. The history of this Council's sorry predicament is one of delayed communications, opaque processes and personal politics, all of which have led to a breakdown in trust between the Council and parents, staff and the community. The Council's attempts to control the public's ability to engage in meaningful dialogue adds to the extensive list of our grievances.

Our pupils deserve the stability, familiarity and quality of education which we have always provided, even during the pandemic which is far from over. I fear the greatest challenges are ahead as we bring our children back into our schools and endeavour to take the first steps in rebuilding their confidence, their skills and their ability to learn together in their classrooms. There are children who have experienced trauma, witnessed abuse, had Covid-19, been ill, been bereaved. We will support them all. I've been teaching for over 30 years. I am fighting for our pupils, for Swanmead School and for my job.

Come and talk to us: ask us how you can support us better in the future.

It is clear that there will not be single site primary school provision any time soon in Ilminster.

Having split site provision irrespective of being run by one management team will mean that children under the current proposal end up with a transition at a much younger age.

I feel this will be detrimental to the confidence that should be built in the school environment at this age and sadly may be unsettling for many children, particularly at this time when their education has already been disrupted for over a year.

The entire rationale for the changes is to make Wadham financially sustainable, but does not in my view sufficiently mitigate the risks and impacts that the changes will have elsewhere on the children who are within

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the first/middle/primary provision which is currently functioning well (despite the pandemic and the potential change that this consultation is seeking to make).

The council have indicated additional funding will be provided to support the transition period. It is not clear how sustainable the primary provision will be in the long term as this will be for the new leadership team to sort which I fear is leaving any new head with a poisoned chalice/problem for the future.

It is really disappointing that so much detail has become available at very late stages of this consultation - it is not clear why this wasn't shared earlier.

The summary paper and recommendation really feel predetermined and therefore this does not feel like a true consultation.

I fear that the position around Wadham will not improve as parents may still not opt to send their children there given the lack of transport and we will have damaged the good part of the education system for no gain at all.

I believe that the part of the root of the problem is to understand why parents don't want to send their children to Wadham now, this is not just about less children locally - I don't believe there has been any answers sought on this. Please find out.

I feel that this consultation is not really being undertaken in a fair and considered way that SCC keeps pertaining that it is. It is totally wrong that a consultation of this nature that constitutes such a dramatic change to our local areas education system is being pushed ahead regardless of the current COVID pandemic that we have found ourselves in during the last 12 months. By undertaking this completely online you are alienating a lot of people who struggle with either internet access/data or confidence to successfully access the online format that you have chosen to use. This format is not being done in a democratic way and surely if the local government has now decided to postpone local council elections this year due to concerns about voting it is quite telling about how you really view this 'consultation process' which is only consultation by name. I am most angry that you have not decided to even speak to the group of people these changes effect the most - the children! Why have SCC not engaged and used the current learning platforms to speak them and ask their opinions and views and how they see the education they receive and what they are worried about if changes happen. Assemblies or focus groups it appears have not even been considered.

Finally as a parent of 3 children, one who is currently year 5 at Maiden beech and another due to come up in 1.5yrs I am particularly concerned about the potential loss of specialist teaching available to year 5 and 6 if the proposal goes ahead. I believe allowing children this age to access this level of specialised curriculum from specialist subject teachers within classrooms dedicated to these subjects is of a huge benefit and provides them far reaching opportunities in regards to advancing their education and better preparing them for gcse and A levels.

The system as it stands now is financially at breaking point and it isn't giving the children the best education. Each tier needs to take accountability for a key stage so the coasting in Year 7 and 8 stops and we get pupils in Year 9 capable of starting the GCSE syllabus.

I have a daughter in Year 7 at Maiden Beech who is bright but not being challenged at all, discounting Covid as all schools are working with that same pressure.

Working at Wadham a half a term minimum is wasted making sure the same work has been covered by Swanmead and Maiden Beech and setting the standards needed to focus on GCSE work. The children arrive under par.

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Wadham is achieving great things despite this so can only do better after a reorganisation.
This cannot be left any longer.

This is great news for the crewkerne and Upminster area!

The time spent at first schools is too short. It would be so nice if children could actually settle into a primary environment and spend more years there. Having to move to 3 different schools is unsettling. I hope this 2 tier system comes into place as soon as possible

I am a member of the local community and wish the school system had been two tier when my children were at school. This would be very advantageous to the school community and it should be brought in line with the rest of the country

Less students means less funding for current 1st schools when they switch to primary. Less money to spend on new resources to support yr5 and 6. Already underfunded. No opportunity to move primary school to maiden beech. Less choice. Safeguarding concerns- wadham is a very open school. How would you ensure 11yolds will not be mixing with 15/16year olds?

I am not yet school child's parent however have children in early years. I feel this would be a good movement as feel it would help children only having to move schools once as this will help with friendship group bonding and less anxiety on the children. I remember when I was at school you formed friendships and then were split up and had to make more friendships at middle school and then again for Wadham whereas that would only potentially be the case once rather than twice. Especially nowadays with the anxiety and stress being high within children anyway I feel they would benefit from only attending and having to settle in two schools as opposed to three.

Longs the schools have the teachers and space in place I feel it's a good idea. It's also better economically and financially as there is potential to purchase less school uniform as if the PE kit and jumpers still fit parents wouldn't need to worry about purchasing any between year 4 and 5, the whole new school outfit changing twice is expensive and not environmentally friendly.

The number of 30 pupils per class was rejected, if this number creates too much competition between the schools what is the maximum number our intake could be? A drop to 10 would be such a drastic change to our practise.

What assurances are there that academies will stick to the proposed intake numbers, to ensure that intake continues to be fair across all schools in the area?

The proposal is that in 3 years time our numbers will drop to an intake of 10 per year, therefore we will have very mixed classes. Whilst we are a skilled school and experienced

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with teaching mixed year and mixed key stage classes, a class with 3 mixed year groups would mean our curriculum would need to be rewritten year on year adding huge pressures and stresses to teachers with already busy work loads - this contradicts advice and suggestions regarding reducing work load and ensuring work life balance. Limiting mixed classes would be a positive move.

What assurances are there for ensuring children with SEND are well balanced between all schools in the area to ensure ALL children flourish in our community.

I attended school many years ago in a two tiered system.i found it very daunting to start at senior school with the much larger and mature children in the higher age group. i also feel travelling to Crewkerne at such a young age to be wrong.

I have a total lack of trust in ssdc for pushing this agenda through, in time when proper public consultation cannot take place. They seem adamant to make these changes despite them being overwhelmingly unpopular with the local population.

I personally think that the plan for swanmead to become an academy and then expand to a secondary school. Would have been perfect for Ilminster and the surrounding villages. Swanmead is an absolutely fantastic school, which offers our children amazing opportunities and it would be the best outcome if this were to continue for up to year 11, without leaving our local area. Mr Walker is a brilliant head teacher, and I believe his plans for the future of Swanmead to be beneficial for the families and communities of Ilminster.

I believe that this would be a monumental waste of time and money. We would end up with a schooling system that is not as good as it is currently. Especially when there is already a better option on the table for Swanmead and maiden beach.

I am concerned about travel arrangements. The environmental impact of transporting 2 extra years of children around needlessly.

The likely and significant impact on the quality of education. High quality teaching staff and learning supporters may well choose to leave their schools thus a loss of talent from existing establishments. In addition, the specialist subject curriculum delivery in upper KS2 will not be to the standard of what is being accessed presently.

- The loss of a high performing school within the age range of 11 to 13 which has a specific emphasis on nurturing, pastoral care and personal development.

- The timescale is unrealistic for the educational restructure due to the clash in timing of Somerset becoming a unitary Council. Once Somerset is restructured, there may be a totally different assessment of the criteria. This should be delayed.

I think its disgusting that you are refusing to listen to parents who have continually said that they don't want this to happen and it is being done in the middle of a pandemic when they have only had five and a half months in school during the last eighteen months.

I am responding on behalf of the National Secular Society. The NSS works for the separation of religion and state and equal respect for everyone's human rights so that no one is either advantaged or disadvantaged on account of their beliefs. Education is the largest area of our work: <https://www.secularism.org.uk/education/>

We are responding to the consultation on the narrow point of the loss of Swanmead Community Middle School's community ethos status, an issue we reported on last week following concerns raised by the community: <https://www.secularism.org.uk/news/2021/02/parents-face-loss-of-community-school-to-protect-faith-based-provision>

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We are concerned that decision to amalgamate Swanmead Community Middle School into a new Church of England faith school is indicative of the systemic bias against community schools in amalgamations and reorganising decisions <https://www.secularism.org.uk/news/2018/01/research-reveals-systemic-bias-against-secular-schools> and will further reduce options for parents seeking an inclusive rather than faith-based education <https://www.secularism.org.uk/faith-schools/choicedelusion.html>

We believe that any decisions over amalgamation should include a full equality impact assessment. If the Council presses forward with the amalgamation, then the resulting school should have a community ethos and status in order to ensure all families have access to a suitable inclusive school.

Decisions around school reorganisation are always difficult for communities. But the restrictions imposed by faith schools' special status add to the stress and create unique challenges. Somerset County Council should explore all possible options to maintain community ethos schooling.

For more information, please contact:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I Moved to this village knowing full well there is a school within walking distance for my child to attend. I believe removing the school from the village is basically destroying the community. Consider this : no post office no local shop no school means no community.

We have this left in this village and nothing else unless your likely to invest in the village community and other amenities I strongly oppose the changes.

Also consider the current pandemic as well you are grouping more children together to save costs. Your not Grouping to improve education.

It's a proven fact that smaller classrooms means better 121 education .

I would like to state how very much opposed I am to Somerset County Council's proposed plans to restructure the Ilminster/Crewkerne district school system. This is being done as a financial rescue and with no thought for the pupils needs or parental rights. All parents and children should have a right to attend a non denominational school. The planned transporting of the children distances for education is also extraordinary considering that both Somerset and Ilminster have declared a climate emergency.

Swanmead does of course already have 276 pupils. By comparison with Wadham, their numbers are quite healthy. So, if it was extended I think it would probably reach the required numbers especially in view of all the building going on in Ilminster currently.

I strongly object to the proposed closure of Misterton School as it provides high quality education for our children, this is not the best option for our children, our families or our village community.

I don't believe enough has been done to seek alternatives and am disappointed in the way the process has been conducted for example the use of out of date evidence and lack of consultation with all stakeholders. I fear this

proposal may do more damage to the education system locally and believe parents views have been overlooked.

These proposals will severely reduce the quality of education of our year 5&6s and these plans are detrimental to the curriculum being delivered effectively. The changes to the intakes put the sustainability of our local schools at more risk.

Misterton school is a lovely village school and should not close. My 3 children all went there and onwards through the 3 tier system. They received a good standard of education and extra curricular activities throughout. Many parents do not want to send their children to Crewkerne for primary education. Staying in the village has higher benefits for personal development, staying out of trouble, friendships, child health and the community. There are safe road crossings in place, something which none of the other primaries have. This proposal needs to be stopped now.

Swanmead provides an excellent provision for children up to 13 years, avoiding the necessity to travel to Crewkerne until they are more mature and independent. Children's needs should be put before cost saving and the wishes of the Church of England.

Parent choice has been the flagship of education changes in recent years which will be negated by the Proposed reorganisation.

Environmental factors should also be at the forefront of Local Authority planning; adding to vehicle use by bussing children unnecessary distances is unacceptable.

We are looking to move to Misterton or nearby and the school is one of the main reasons for doing so. I have known for many years of the quality of schooling there. This would a

disastrous decision. And for what? There is no reason good enough to close the school as it is excellent! It brings the community together!

This school is the heart of the village. We know, we live here!! Take notice of what people are saying not just think you've done what was required and will do what you want anyway!!
The community want the school!!

Closing a village School is not good for social contact which is important for families, and the environment . Children need to know where they are in terms of living either in a village or Town.

There are many positives to a two tier system, namely less disruption for children BUT I am incredibly worried about the potential for increased class sizes, when they are already big enough. If this transition results in larger classes, especially due to the closure of schools, this will only have a negative impact on our children and their ability to learn.

Throughout this lockdown my daughter has had to continue to attend school, her class has gone from 28 to 6 pupils and because of this she has come on leaps and bounds, the difference in her capability (even though they've watched a lot of tv) is astounding and I believe this is all down to class size and increased teacher interaction.

I am of course against the closure of Misterton but I am for whichever provision will offer smaller class size!

Both my children went through the 3 school system and benefited enormously from it The transition they had by going to 3 schools benefited them and had it been a 2 Tier system they would not have been as successful with their GCSE grades

By going to Wadham at year 9 they has grown up and realised the importance of the 3 years they had there. Also closing a village school is detrimental to those living in a village.

My children thrived on being in a small school which gave them the confidence to go to Maiden Beach school and enjoy the 4 years there before going to Wadahm This proposal is stupid and even more unsettling at a time when Covid has robbed children of their education and the children need stability not more upheaval

As a resident of Misterton and a parent of 2 children who went through this 3 tier system I vehemently oppose the idea to close the school and make it a 2 school system

This shouldn't be done as the system works well as it is .Parents and Teachers do not want this change ,and Wadham school having a deficit should not mean the closing of Misterton School and changing of other schools

It is unnecessary, once again choosing money over quality of education!

Totally against this proposal and continued discussion in light of local views to date (80% or more anti) and nature of consultation. Totally inappropriate given Covid; elections were imminent but now delayed and this should be shelved pending those consultations and potential new arrangement; financial difficulties of part of system should not require total revamp without FULL examination of all educational provision Early Years 2 to 19+ and FE in the area and work to set up other means to rectify and re-establish sound finances for the one establishment; loss of specialised support and learning at critical phase; overall costs of this unnecessary enquiry and all the costs likely to be required to modify MBA existing specialist facilities (what a waste!) And provide additional resources elsewhere in town and village schools which do a good job and which, for the one village (Misterton!) must not be removed; unsure of exactly how this process and decisionmaking work - I fear there might be some matters of interest for some of those involved. Submitting as former parent, professional, Governor and CoG locally.

The reason behind this reorganisation appears to be solely to secure the financial future of Wadham school by sacrificing the excellent provision offered by first and middle schools.

We have been told that Wadham school has a £1.8M deficit at the moment, and a considerable overspend has previously been written off. How has this been allowed to happen and why was action not taken to control finances much earlier? It seems that the rest of the schools will now be penalised for lack of financial management at Wadham. Education in middle schools will be compromised by a move to primary, and so provide a lesser experience to pupils. Many of the specialist teachers will be lost.

There will be huge costs involved in necessary alterations to school buildings and an ongoing cost to providing additional transport. In times of decreasing budgets and reducing costs, how can this additional spending be justified?

What will be environmental cost be? At a time when all organisations are making efforts to reduce damage to the planet and work towards climate control, how can extra transportation for two year groups be justified?

Finally, to take this action - proposal, consultation and decision - in the midst of a global pandemic is grossly unfair. Pupils, parents and school staff have been under extreme pressure for almost a year now and bringing about a reorganisation - against the wishes of the majority of local stakeholders - is wrong. Instead of supporting well-being, you local authority is piling more stress and anxiety onto thousands of people who are already suffering under lockdown conditions.

Please delay any further action, or better still, stop the proposed reorganisation.

I think this is long overdue and the only way financially for the schools in this area to survive and be successful

We have a very strong Upper school in this area with Wadham and this change could enhance and improve this school even further having a positive outcome on this area of Somerset.

I feel strongly that by closing Misterton school you are reducing choices and chances for parents and students. Choosing a school is a big decision and not taken lightly by most parents, but closing the school their child's education could be disrupted and it could cause many other major difficulties with regards to travel and childcare, things that people structure their accommodation and lives around.

Concerned over the reduction in school places (ie funding) to all existing schools to fill up the new town primary school. Is this a push to get rid of village schools altogether, parents are entitled to choice, big town schools aren't suited to all children (as village schools aren't either). Concerned about staff ending up teaching ages they are not familiar with. Concerned about the loss of a village school. It only has low numbers due to this suggestion. Concerned about your inaccurate reports about the Pre-school, it currently has very good numbers, although your changes could affect this creating a knock on effect on Early Years provision in the area which is absolutely crucial to children's development and school readiness.

Concerned about the loss of a village school for the village families. Concerned about the effect on children that this is already having, has had and will continue to have. Only happy secure children learn well, will these changes ensure that all children are able to attend a setting that suits them best and therefore able to give them the best chances of educational success.

Misterton school should not be up for closure!! It is a fantastic school and my daughter absolutely loves it there! The failure of wadham school should not be allowed to affect all of the other schools in Crewkerne and Ilminster!

Very much against the whole proposal and wish SSDC would actually take all of these concerned parents/teachers/members of the local community into consideration when they are expressing their feelings towards this whole situation, which it doesn't seem they have done at all so far in this consultation process! Again, Misterton school should not be allowed to be closed down!!

The problem lies with Wadham. SCC's proposals do nothing to address this issue. The First Schools and Middle Schools are successful and offer good quality education, leadership and management, their OFSTED ratings and careful budget management reflect this. To sacrifice this model by changing the whole structure of schools for the sake of removing funding from two successful schools to prop up another simply doesn't make sense. It is not the education children and young people in Crewkerne and Ilminster deserve, it is not good enough. What is the point of spending to create more primary places when there are already enough for whatever the future may hold? There are other solutions, Wadham has plenty of land some of which can be sold at a premium for building, money that could be reinvested in Wadham's tired and dated infrastructure, possibly even rebuilt. At present it does not appeal to prospective parents and pupils who deserve much better.

The timing and management of this during a pandemic means proper debate is impossible and the results of so called "consultation" have been completely disregarded by SCC.

There is no cohesive forward plan this one is divisive and will cause unnecessary disruption in children's education for years to come. I urge SCC to spend wisely and not make change for the sake of Wadham, they can be helped independently in other ways. This is likely to be a very costly mistake.

As a parent of children who attend Misterton First School, I am unsurprisingly completely against the proposal to close our children's school.

I am not against change, however the way the closure of the school has been manipulated by Somerset Council during the COVID pandemic has been nothing sort of shocking, and shows a complete lack of regard for the well-being of the children.

The children have been through enough over the last year with the affects of the COVID pandemic, and the added stress/anxiety of the school closure I don't believe has been considered on the children.

This school closure will affect them even more, and if they develop long-standing stress/ anxiety issues I will make sure that Somerset County Council will be held to account for it.

I feel strongly that this proposal is the wrong thing for Crewkerne and the surrounding areas and that it will have a negative impact on the quality of education that our children receive. It entirely undermines the amazing specialist teaching that Year 5 and 6 currently have access to, and is really only going to benefit Wadham (without necessarily

User's Response: Free-Text

improving the school itself), which has had a poor reputation for many years. It seems as though other options have not been given proper consideration (the possibility of the middle and upper schools all joining a MAT) and that County are going to push this option through despite the majority (80%) opposing the change. The fact that they are willing to continue with this, in the uncertain and stressful time of a pandemic, when staff, families and most importantly children are at breaking point, shows a real disregard for anything other than the money involved. Disgusting.

I do not think that this proposal is a positive thing for the local area and think that people will begin to pull their children away from the area to protect them from the uncertainty and upheaval that is to come. I do not plan to send my children to Wadham school due to my own experiences there, and this is something that has been going on for many years. There are so many options for secondary schools in the local area that it is easy to send them elsewhere, and your proposal is likely to push children out of our education system even earlier. This is a hard enough time without you adding this weight to everybody's shoulders. My family moved to this rural location from London, and part of the draw was that my siblings and I would be able to attend the small village schools and have a more personal school experience. Your proposed change will destroy the amazing system we have that would be such a draw for people and has been shown to benefit some students who either struggle with a primary setting or a big secondary setting. In the words of Goldilocks, too small, too big, just right!

I am annoyed and discussed our young people are being put through this at this time. They are going to suffer from enough mental health problems due to having normal life and do this not is incensitive of the conservative government, I have always voted conservative but not any mire, you should be ashamed of yourselves. No communication has been had with the children, you have not listened to parents and teachers, this should be on hold so that the community can see you have some compassion.

I completely disagree that this is a good proposal for the children in our communities.

In very basic terms, I think that the timing of this proposal is extremely inconsiderate and unfair. This is a complicated and layered process which deserves much greater time, attention and consideration by all those whom it affects.

This was predetermined from the start. That's why you only gave one option. I'm just holding out for the redundancy then I can leave the mess you have caused behind