

Following the open meeting with all stake holders in Hatherden School, efforts should now be focused on pushing back on the points made, raising the profile of the school and ensuring that as much evidence can be given to support the case.

There are three main areas of focus

1. Pushing back on things like the financials, questioning their modelling for demographics and whether they have followed the correct process. These can be put to the council at the meeting on the 24th.
2. Highlighting the value of the school; through the eyes of pupils, parents, the local community and the church. These can be done via the online feedback form
3. Making a case for the school going forward, a platform for growth; demonstrating that there is a leadership, parent, and governing body committed to the school and as the recent turn up in the roll demonstrates, clearly demand for a school such as this.

WHAT TO DO NOW?

Please get online and send in your feedback to the council. The link can be accessed here:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=tdiBPwfuF0yGnB20OQGNm9jxfvfaVQdIlyHGJebE1URVVUNVZOWUuzNTMzVUFBTjFOVfHdN0s1SCQIQCN0PWcu>

Things to think about:

PARENTS

- What makes Hatherden special for your child (small class sizes, multi-age year group, strong CofE faith, links with church, forest school, diverse range of after school clubs)
- Rev Alex has arranged for the children to do short videos on Monday morning.
- Attractive school buildings/ grounds, space for children to flourish
- If you have children who have recently left, ask them what they valued most.

Also – spread the word. Speak to friends, anyone. We need to raise the profile and get people to come and see what Hatherden has to offer. As parents, you are the best salesforce. The school is always open for interested people to come and look around so encourage them to do so.

COMMUNITY

- Rural village schools the heartbeat of the community
- Demographic shift if they close – villages slowly decline
- Strong link with the church and the two-way benefits.

What has been observed in prior process is that the volume of responses matters, not just from parents but from all stake holders. Please campaign your local friends, acquaintances, broader network to write in with their support. Buy in from the whole community makes a *massive* difference.

If there are links to the local media, please do leverage in the context of raising the profile of the school, and highlighting the challenge the school now faces.

Please do write to Kit Malthouse (kit.malthouse.mp@parliament.uk)

At the meeting on the 24th Nov we are able to question them and so will be able to get a better feel for the areas of weakness which we can then sharpen the approach. Please encourage as many people to put this meeting in the diary. Again, this needs to be from all stakeholders, and so spread the word. It is an open meeting.

If you need any help, or have any questions please get in touch with the governors or school.