

A New School in Burnham

Burnham Community Through School Working Group

Burnham Parish Council Update

30th December 2021

The Aim:

**to re-open
at an existing educational site
non-selective secondary education
for
Burnham
and
its surroundings**

Buckinghamshire

- A Grammar School county
 - approx. 30% of the student population attends
- Every Grammar School in Buckinghamshire has a Non-Selective Secondary School in its vicinity
 - the remaining 70% of the student population attends

So, WHERE are Burnham's 70% going?

The Secondary School Experience:

- Your teenage years are your formative years.
- We all hear about youth disenchantment.
- We live in an area that has above national average of 10-14year olds; we have 6.4%, the rest of England has 5.8%.

What Happened to Burnham's secondary school?

- We did have a non-selective school.
- Doing well before it was handed over to an academy.
- Was handed over to the E-ACT Academy
- Over a period of a few years, it started failing, went into special measures and lost its reputation. (Why? In summary, lack of investment.)
- Parents stopped sending their children to a failing school – something any responsible parent would do.
- Numbers of new entries fell and it was justified to close it down in its current form.

What is the current student population in the local area?

The School Place Planning Officer, Children's Services, Buckinghamshire Council –

Numbers do not justify a secondary school - 152 in Year 6 (aged 10/11) from the local area primary schools:

Dorney School

Dropmore Infant School

Lent Rise Combined School

St Nicolas' CE Combined School

St Peter's CE Combined School

Missing from the list are other local primary schools:

Farnham Common Infant and Junior School

St Mary's CE Primary School, Farnham Royal (part of Bucks)

Our Lady of Peace – 60 in Year 6 (less than 1 mile from Burnham village centre)

The Priory – 90 in Year 6 (less than 1 mile from Burnham village centre)

Lynch Hill – (1.5 miles, attended by Burnham residents due to its proximity)

Conclusion: we have over 300 children in the local area aged 10/11.

70% of 300 = 210 children needing non-selective secondary education in our local area.

Where Are Our Current Non-selective Secondary Schools For 70% Of The Student Population?

There are NONE in this entire end of Buckinghamshire, including:

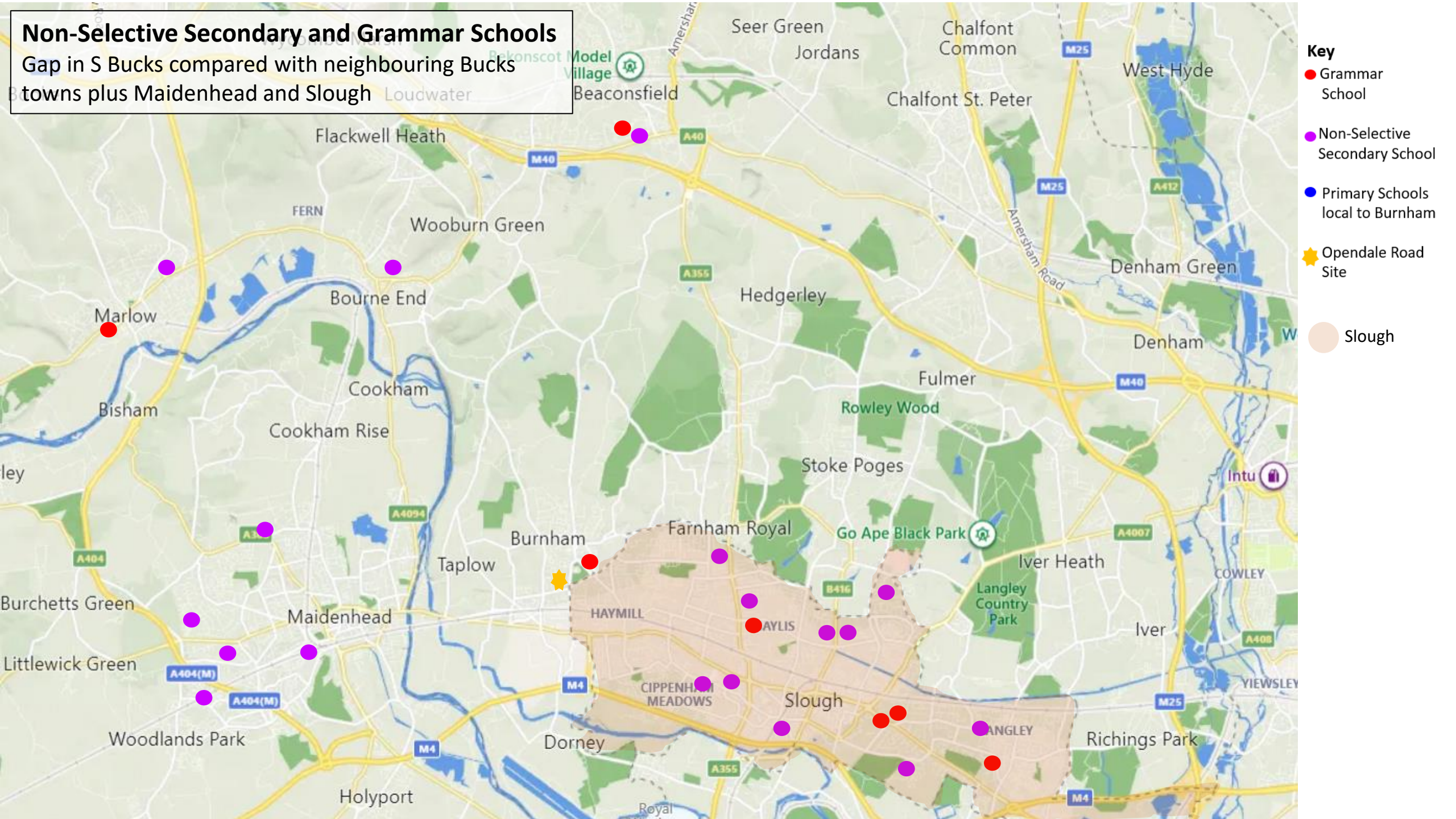
- Farnham Common & Farnham Royal
- Iver
- Taplow
- Dorney
- Burnham

Secondary School Geographic Spread

(Three slides to follow)

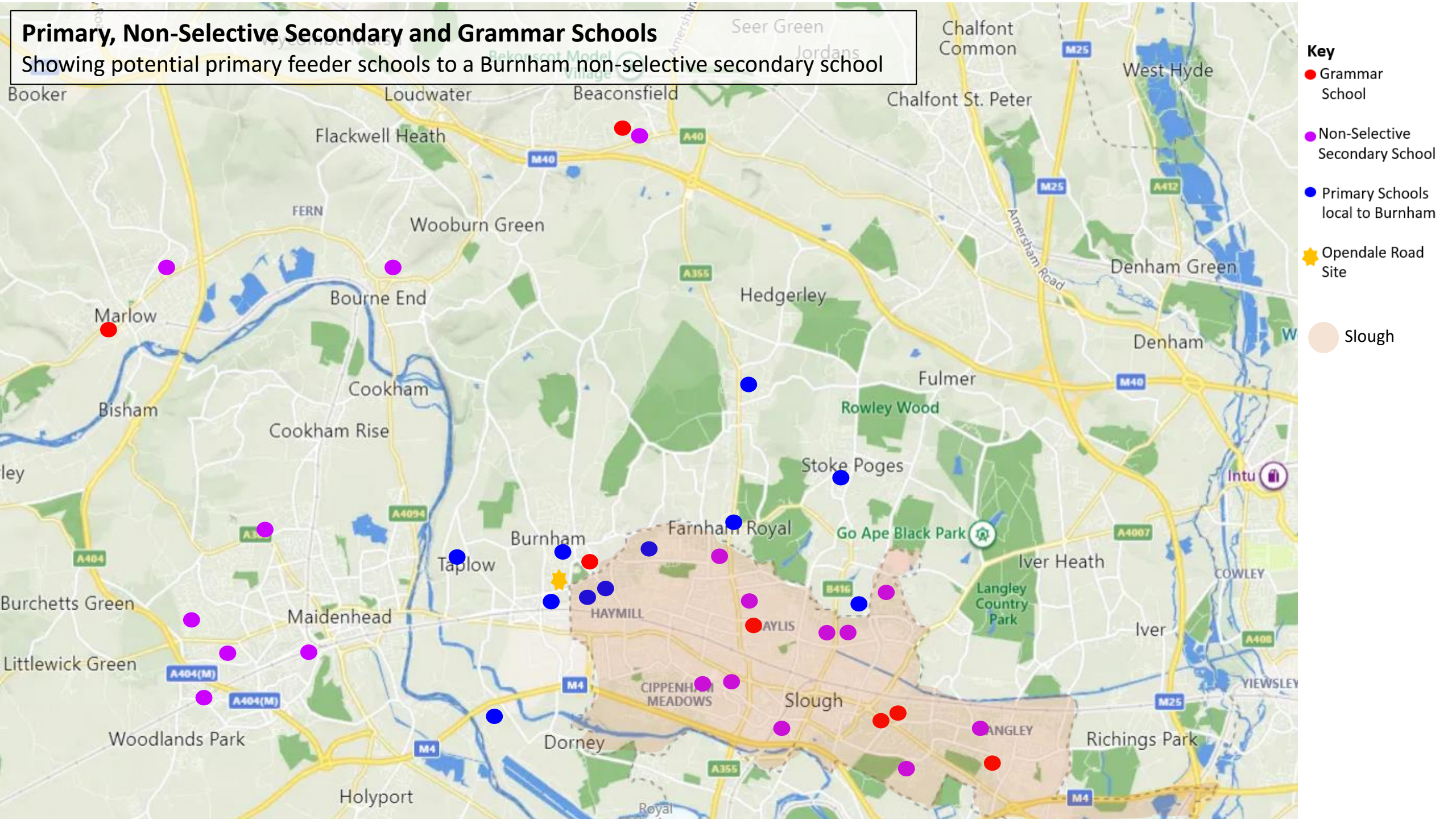
Non-Selective Secondary and Grammar Schools

Gap in S Bucks compared with neighbouring Bucks towns plus Maidenhead and Slough



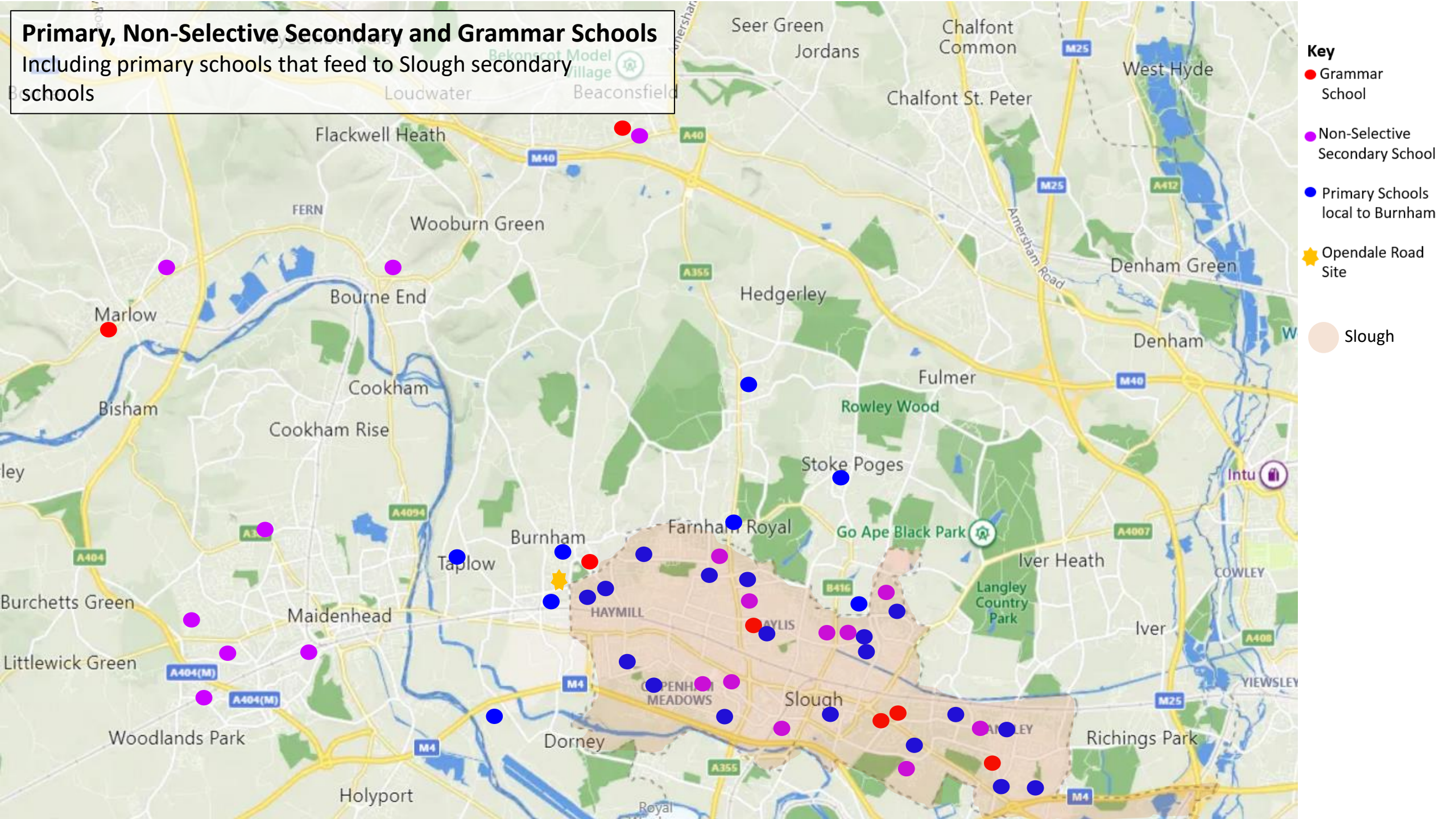
Primary, Non-Selective Secondary and Grammar Schools

Showing potential primary feeder schools to a Burnham non-selective secondary school



Primary, Non-Selective Secondary and Grammar Schools

Including primary schools that feed to Slough secondary schools



Key

- Grammar School
- Non-Selective Secondary School
- Primary Schools local to Burnham
- ★ Opendale Road Site
- Slough

Let Us Look At The Numbers Another Way - The Local Population:

- Burnham Health Centre has over 20,500 Patients registered.
- Burnham Health Centre data has 278 children aged 10-11 years.
- If one class size is 30, making the 70% assumption, 195 children will need a non-selective secondary school in our area.
- **DfE guidelines for a new school: you need 4 forms of entry, each form of 30 students. This means you need 120 children to open a school.**
- **We have 195.**
- **Using the DfE guide, even the (incomplete) BCCs number justifies a school – 152!**

Other Factors

- Costs to families transporting their teenagers into Maidenhead.
 - In the region of £900 per year in coaches alone.
 - Add extra travel costs if there is more than one child
 - And if students attend after school clubs and similar, medical appointments, dentist and optician trips.
- Cost to the environment of all this unnecessary travel.
- Costs to family life and teenagers.

Changing Population in the local area

- Yes, we note there are fewer births per family.

BUT

- Cross Rail is bringing families into the area
- Slough lost numbers to Brexit; however being an area of high employment, the numbers returning is proven by the housing developments in progress right now.
- Maidenhead - similar.
- Burnham itself has seen a great number of dwellings being built just within the last 2 years. And everything sells. There are no long-term vacant properties.
- There is demand, they build, they sell.

What Happened This Academic Year In This Area

- We know from data supplied by Bucks County Council
- 121 children in the local area had no local secondary school and ended up in schools in Maidenhead.
- It is likely there were more children as Bucks County Council have not counted all local primary schools.

- See slide 6 The magic number is 120 –
- 30 in a class and 4 forms needed to justify a school.

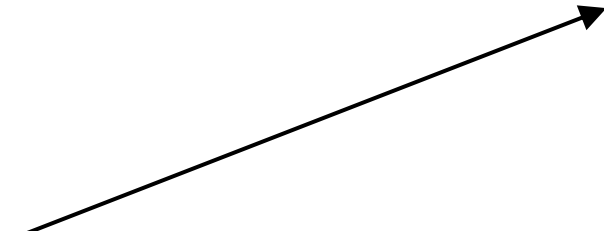
WE HAVE THE NUMBERS !! (... proven again...)

Area Population

- Burnham's population: 11,883 – 1 Grammar School
- Beaconsfield population: 12,100 – 1 Grammar School + 1 Secondary School
- Buckingham Population: 12,100 – 1 Grammar School + 1 Secondary School
- And there are more examples

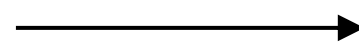
Opening New Schools

• Free school ?



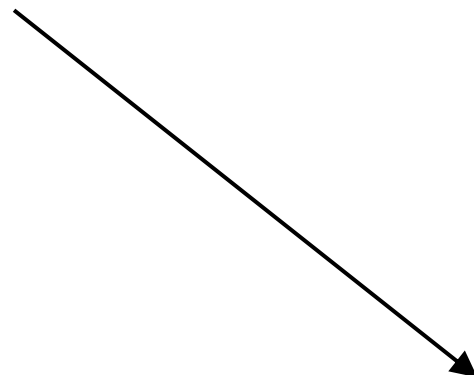
- RSC can provide the money
- Business can fund
- Group of parents / community
- A faith
- Not controlled by the local authority

• Community School ?



- More involvement from the council, saying the area needs a school
- The council funds the school, employs the staff and controls it
- The old days before academies
- Idea is running out as most want to become academies, depends on if academies are interested

• Academy School ?



- A management buy-out, usually take-over of an existing school
- But
- There are some academies that are brand new schools

• Faith School ?

• Private School ?

All require the approval of the RSC.

Example Of A Community School In Bucks

- More involvement from the council, stating the need for a school
- The council funds the school and controls it - the old days before academies
- Idea is running out as most want to become academies, depends on whether academies are interested

A community school in England and Wales is a **type of state-funded school in which the local education authority employs the school's staff**, is responsible for the school's admissions and owns the school's estate.

Cressex Community School is a cooperative trust secondary school in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. It is a foundation school, which takes children from the age of 11 through to the age of 18. The school has approximately 754 pupils.

Cressex Community School has formed a partnership with nearby Wycombe Abbey independent school, which enables pupils from both schools to work together.

The school was allocated £31 million of Government funding in 2007 to completely redevelop the site, which was falling into disrepair. The current site was opened in 2010

There is also Widmer End Community Combined School, which is a primary community school.

Conclusion

70% of our local area teenagers have no local secondary school.

There is a clear need for a local non-selective secondary school.

What can we do about it?