

BURNHAM COMMUNITY THROUGH SCHOOL (BCTS) UPDATE

Burnham Parish Council has set up a page on their web-site, under Projects, which will provide updates on the progress of this working group. The current terms of reference highlighting the key objectives, any significant progress and requests for community participation will be presented on this site. Please familiarise yourself with the site and your input as a member of the Burnham community is greatly welcomed.

The coordinators for the working group have now been established and are:- Nalini Milligan, Viv Nicholas, Ekta Kaur Ross, Bill Stringer and Bronwen Zeun.

In Autumn 2019, headteachers of Lent Rise School and Burnham Grammar School, hosted a meeting at Burnham Library to outline their proposal to work jointly to establish a through school which would serve children from 4 to 18 years of age. The proposal was enthusiastically endorsed by well over 100 community members present at the meeting but progress has proved difficult over the past year whilst we have all been grappling with the challenges associated with the pandemic.

A key next step will be to gain the support of the Burnham community and understand the additional pressures on families who have reluctantly faced the prospect that their children have had to go out from Burnham and travel long distances for their secondary school education.

A recent analysis of the transitions made by almost 400 Year Six children from our local primary schools in Summer 2020 revealed that in excess of 130 children now make the long journey to schools in Maidenhead.

How much better will the outcome be once the majority of our primary school leavers have the opportunity to walk to their local non-selective and selective secondary schools!?

It will certainly be a challenge to win central government approval to reopen the School but a vital requirement will be to gain the active support of parents, teachers, governors at all of our local schools located in both Slough and in and close to Burnham as well as the community at large.

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