**WE MUST ALL MAKE OUR VOICES HEARD**

The last two sentences of our update in the previous edition of RoundandAbout were :-

**All our children deserve an excellent education. Help make our voices heard.**

It becomes clearer by the day that we must all become more involved and more determined to influence both central government and our county council to ensure that a new non-selective secondary school in Burnham does open.

You may well have received a mailshot through your door and seen distinctive posters and banners in and around the village. We hope that this publicity will encourage you to take action and voice your own concerns as children, parents, grandparents and all those who care about the sustainability and quality of life within our local community.

In this modern age – every initiative must have a web-site and our overarching website is [www.burnhamparish.gov.uk](http://www.burnhamparish.gov.uk)

Look under the projects heading and you will find a link to – a new school in burnham - where there is the guidance you require to write letters and send e-mails. In addition, you can also learn of up to date actions and results of the campaign so far.

Such is the nature of our lives in general that we all tend to focus on our most personal concerns and preoccupations and leave others to tackle issues which are more complicated. But in this instance, we must all come together in order to impact on central and local government policy and thinking.

Burnham Park Hall was packed on mid-summer’s day when the community heard the thoughts of Dr Andy Gillespie, the head of Burnham Grammar School and members of the working group. We are hopeful that this meeting and the Village Fete will generate a hefty number of community champions that will encourage their families, friends and neighbours to voice their concerns over the lack of local provision of secondary education.

Our immediate thoughts and concerns must turn towards our parents who find themselves having to choose a non-selective secondary school for their children who are at the top end of their local primary schools.

Our survey of children leaving local primary schools this month to attend a non-selective secondary school in September reveals that less than 10% of children will be attending one of the two Bucks. schools allocated to Burnham children in Bourne End and Stoke Poges and for which free transport is provided for families living in Bucks. It is remarkable that in this challenging economic time that so many families are prepared to incur the expense and complexity of life associated with their children travelling primarily into Maidenhead.

How much more appealing will be the possibility of attending a new secondary school in Burnham which is managed by the same organisation responsible for the management of Burnham Grammar School? And also is able to build links with local companies on Slough Trading Estate in order to provide outstanding vocational training for older children and adults.

**Postscript.**  Please do not let the current flux in central government deter you from registering your concern. Write to the Secretary of State for Education (and omit the name of the minister) and/or e-mail

Customer.ENQUIRIES@education.gov.uk

And, of course, it is vital to write to Martin Tett, Leader of Buckinghamshire Council.

Viv Nicholas. 5/7 d3