

Article for Round and About – June/July edition

A School for Burnham – Help Us Make Our Voices Heard

The Burnham New Secondary School Working Group has been gathering information and justifying the need for a new non-selective secondary school for some time. It is becoming increasingly evident that we need to demonstrate the strength of feeling in the community to the highest levels of local and central government. We are asking everyone to write to the Secretary of State for Education – Nadhim Zahawi – and the leader of Buckinghamshire Council – Martin Tett.

The Burnham community needs to voice its concerns over the closure of Burnham's non-selective secondary school and the failure to replace it to provide good local secondary education for children who do not pass the 11+. Currently, the vast majority of those children travel out of county to school, which forces parents to pay up to £960 a year per child on bus fares. A campaign has been launched to highlight this discrimination and our many concerns on the effect on Burnham children to both central and local government.

Everyone in Burnham can be affected by the lack of a new non-selective school in Burnham. Whether you have primary school children who will be moving on to secondary school in a few years, or are a parent paying expensive coach fares to travel to school, or whether you are a resident concerned about the site being sold for housing and the resulting pressure on local infrastructure, the closure of the school and the fate of the site affects us all.

Please help by writing a letter – preferably to both Mr Zahawi and Mr Tett. On the campaign website (www.aschoolforburnham.com) you can find information including facts and points to include. Letters can be posted directly or delivered to a dedicated letter box located in the entrance to Burnham Park Hall. We will then plan special events to deliver the letters to offices in both Westminster and Aylesbury.

You will be seeing posters and banners popping up all around Burnham soon and also receiving a flyer. There will also be a public meeting in June where we will invite all members of our community to share their concerns and continue to develop our shared vision for a new school.

All our children deserve an excellent local education. Please help.

Viv Nicholas. Fourth Draft May 4.