Below are some facts you might like to include in your letter depending on your point of view.

* About 30% of the Burnham student population attends a grammar school, leaving 70% of our children without a local secondary school. This discriminates against children who do not pass the 11+.
* Burnham is the only place in Buckinghamshire where there is a grammar school but no non-selective secondary school. Why is this?
* Our local non-selective school (Burnham Park Academy) closed in 2019. It became a failing school and therefore an unpopular choice with parents, who felt they had little choice but to send their children out of county. We still do not understand why it was closed rather than improved.
* Every school day, an entire school of children travels from our community to schools away from the area, most of which are out of county, impacting on the quality of life for students and families.
* One school now offered to our children by Buckinghamshire Council is five miles away and run by the same academy chain as the now-closed Burnham school. This does not fill parents with confidence. It is also oversubscribed.
* The other school offered to our children is a Sikh faith school in Stoke Poges. Its most recent Ofsted rating was Inadequate and it is undersubscribed.
* Parents spend up to £1000 a year per child (up to £1100 from September 2022) on school bus transport, mostly to Maidenhead schools as the only viable school option, whilst Buckinghamshire Council saves money on every pupil transported out of county for secondary education.
* Buckinghamshire Council says that we don’t have enough pupils to justify a secondary school. This is not true. We have verified the number required and checked this against the number of children registered at Burnham Health Centre and the number of children enrolled in local primary schools. Yet still we are being repeatedly told that we cannot have a school.
* We have been told by educators in Maidenhead that housing developments in Maidenhead will eventually fill the spaces in their schools currently taken up by our children, who are out-of-catchment. This means that parents may find there are no suitable schools for their children at all.
* Selling the site for housing will only increase the numbers of children needing school places.