

Representations received from individuals

1. Mrs C, Parent. Email received 22 May

From: Mrs C

Sent: 22 May 2012 21:05

Subject: Objection

I write with regard to the recent notification by the City of York Council to begin the closure of Burnholme Community College. After hearing the result of the consultation, we have taken the decision after having being advised by a number of professionals at various levels working within the education sector to remove our child who is currently in year 8, from Burnholme as soon as possible rather than wait until the end of year 9 as intended by the City of York Council. I rang the educational services office last Thursday to enquire about looking around Huntington, Arch Bishops and Joseph Rowntree School and was told to contact each establishment to book an appointment. I was told that there are no spaces for year 8 children at Arch Bishops or Huntington so if we are to apply, we will not get a place at either of these schools. I then asked the question regarding funding from the Council for a replacement uniform and travel expenses to the new school and was told that this will only be made to people who keep their children at Burnholme until the end of year 9 - anyone removing their child before this time will not be eligible for any funding whatsoever.

I sent an e-mail to the educational services office at the council on Thursday querying this and finally received a reply today from Tom saying " " I can confirm that the transport assistance provided to children who had requested Burnholme for Year 7 entry next September has only been offered where the allocated school is over 2 miles from the home address. This same policy and distance is being used for transfers at the end of Year 9 for children currently on roll at Burnholme in years 7 and 8."

I find this totally unacceptable. My daughter chose to attend Burnholme and we backed her every step of the way due to the fabulous impression we got at the open evening and also the fact that it takes 1 1/2 minutes for her to walk there. When I pointed out to Tom that my niece who was due to attend Burnholme but has had to change to Joseph Rowntree will get funding for travel, he said that it was because she will be attending a school more than 2 miles away from her home. We live even further away but it seems one rule applies to one person and one to another.

Tom did say that we could chose to move our child to Arch Bishops, although we would not get funding as it is less than 2 miles from our house - we can't apply to Arch Bishops as there are no places so have no choice to apply to Joseph Rowntree as it is the only school near to us that does have places.

I find it immoral that you are holding families to ransom and discriminating against them because they chose Burnholme as the educational establishment to send their child to and maybe can't afford to pay bus fares to other schools. It could even be classed as being in breach of human rights:

Human rights are commonly understood as "inalienable fundamental rights to which a person is inherently entitled simply because she or he is a human being." Human rights are thus conceived as universal (applicable everywhere) and egalitarian (the same for everyone).

I therefore challenge your intention to only offer funding to children that transfer from Burnholme at the end of year 9.

I insist you give this e-mail the attention it deserves and reply promptly.

2. Mrs I, ex-pupil. Letter received 23 May

23.5.2012

To City of York Council.

As a past pupil of Burnholme secondary school, now Burnholme Community College, I am writing to ask you to keep the school open. You only want to sell it. To build houses on the land surrounding it. Give these children who attend the school a chance to learn. I was a pupil 62 years ago when the school first opened. It was a great school then. So I am betting it still is. Please leave the school alone. Leave it open. Find something to raise your funds. Like getting more from tourists you are so bothered about.

Yours sincerely, Mrs X

Aged 77 years

3. Mrs E, parent, letter received 25 May

Dears Sirs

I am writing to object to the closure of Burnholme Community College, I have a daughter in Year 8 and if it closes she will have to finish her last two most important years of her education in another school, she does

not need disruption and added pressure trying to fit in and make friends at the start of her GCSE's years. She is a bright pupil doing really well, but now with the thought of Burnholme closing it's already making her worried every day she asks a question starting with what if... so obviously it is affecting her already.

Why can't the school at least stay open until all the pupils have finished their education there? At least then the council would have a better idea of numbers of Primary school children coming through, also make all children in the catchment area of Burnholme go to that school like what used to happen.

I chose Burnholme and only Burnholme for my daughter to go to because I went there, all my nieces, nephews and eldest daughter went there, my daughter gaining 12 GCSE's of grade C and above. We all had a very happy time during our school years with no bullying, and everyone getting along together. I want exactly the same for my daughter who is there now.

I don't want her to go to any of the other schools, if I did I would have put them as a 2nd and 3rd choice.

Please, Please, Please reconsider the decision to close Burnholme, think how you would feel if it was your child that was being affected.

Yours sincerely,
X

4. Miss B, pupil, letter received 29 May

Dear Mr Dwyer,

I am writing to you as I am a current year 7 at Burnholme school. You talk about parents choice what about my choice? Do I not matter? I had a choice earlier in the year French or Italian I made my choice Italian. Now that has been taken away even though I have been told I will HAVE to do French where is my choice there. If I wanted to do French I would have chose French in the first place.

I am happy at this school

Your sincerely,
X

5. Ms R, parent, letter received 29 May

Dear Mr Dwyer,

I am writing regarding the closure of Burnholme School. We looked around all the Local Schools, my daughter chose Burnholme because of the size. Small schools in our eyes are better and she is doing well in all lessons. If she has to move to a big busy school, I believe this will do her education no good. All the teachers at Burnholme care and know all the pupils, we don't have to take a photo of our child to parents evenings, so the staff know who they are talking about, which, I have heard this happens at the other schools. At Burnholme my daughter is not just a number but she will be at another school if you make her move. Please keep this wonderful school open so these children can carry on getting a good education in a small and very friendly school. Yours sincerely
X

6. Mr F, ex-pupil, email received 3 June

From: Mr F

Sent: 03 June 2012 18:32

Subject: Closure of Burnholme Community College.

I would like to register my disgust at the attempted closure of Burnholme. Losing such a great school with high standards would be a massive loss to the local community. I have nothing but fond memories of my time there and of the excellent staff who work there. I suppose that it's all about the short term profits though isn't it, and I'm sure that the land would be well used to build some much needed student accommodation (please note sarcasm). This generation is being severely let down by politicians who are not helping local communities and if you support the closure of this school then shame on you for being part of the problem and creating fewer and fewer chances to our young. Burnholme takes in many children who are from disadvantaged backgrounds and instills a sense of self identity and community within a caring and nurturing environment. I expect you to stand up for me and the many others who oppose this closure"

7. Miss W, parent, email received 6 June

From: Miss W

Sent: 06 June 2012 06:48

Subject: Objection for closure

I object strongly to the closure of Burnholme. I have 2 children attending and another 4 I would choose to send there. The school is wonderful and right for a lot of children. If shut my kids education will be affected greatly. My eldest I transferred from Manor at the end of year 7 due to bullying. When I contacted the school about this they did nothing and

her form tutor reply to me saying she would not be returning and changing was "ok" and there was not even an apology or good luck to the future of my child !!! That is disgusting you see these big schools yes they are good but if your child isn't the quickest at learning they don't want to know to them they are just a number that gets left behind in the system . My child is a very polite well behaved girl but does lack confidence this is commented by all teachers past and present . When she arrived at burnholme she was 2 years behind for her age but they have worked wonders in just 1-2 years getting her there with the support she needs. She would not prosper in a large overcrowded school and I am sure this is the case for a lot of children . A small school is needed to ensure that all children across York are given the best start in life . The teachers all know each child individually and the needs of that child . Any problems are noticed and sorted with a result everytime . What will come of the 200 - 300 children attending if this happens ?? Disruption beyond repair !!! . Keep a small school open in York for the people that need it . Archbishops is so overcrowded there will be so many children having to travel across York to school when they have a right to attend a brilliant local school for there safety and best interests .

My deepest objections Miss W (current pupils parent)

8. Mr G, grandparent, email received 11 June

From: Mr G

Sent: 11 June 2012 12:02

Subject: Closure of Burnholme Community College

Having a granddaughter, attending Burnholme Community College (BCC), I am against the closure of this excellent school. As it stands, she will have to change schools, before her education has been finished, therefore causing even more upheaval for her in her short life, so far.

Would you also answer the questions asked in the document entitled FORMAL REPRESENTATION FROM THE BURNHOLME COMMUNITY PARENTS ACTION GROUP.

9. Mr H, parent, email received 15 June

From: Mr H

Sent: 15 June 2012 17:38

Subject: Proposed closure of Burnholme Community College.

Dear Sir, I wish to officially lodge my reasons for NOT closing Burnholme Community College. Firstly this education establishment caters for the community with which it is in and closing it would mean children

travelling further to a school. My son attends Burnholme and he is doing really well in his education, he hopes to join the RAF when he leaves school and he is well on track to do this, a move of school may disrupt him. I firmly believe that parents putting their children in to other schools at the advise of local primary schools has not helped. But I believe the main reason that the school does not have many pupils is due to the University of York. Many properties in the area are privately rented by students, paying a higher yield than a family renting the same property, this has effectively driven families out of the area, Archbishop Holgates catchment area covers many rural areas which are unaffected by the University students. I think you are being very short-sighted because I think in the near future the following will happen. 1. Derwenthorpe new village will provide students for Burnholme. 2. The University realise the financial benefits for getting students to live in halls of residence, thus they are currently building to facilitate this, the knock on effect of this is many houses in the area available to rent by families again. I was shocked at the way the council have already 'bulldozed' their way towards closing this school. It really does not make sense longer term to close this fantastic school, so what are your motives for doing this? Personal financial gain? The people of York voted for people to represent them, show us you can understand the feelings of a community and keep this school open. Can you also advise me as to when I can see all letters and emails of objection to this proposed closure.

10. Ms A, parent, email received 15 June

From: Ms A

Sent: 15 June 2012 18:37

Subject: Closure

I am writing to express my disappointment at the plan to close this school. My son attends the school and is currently in year 9. This was the only school that we both wanted him to attend, despite looking at the choices. He is very happy here and the education he receives is second to none. I am dismayed that a school with brilliant teaching, excellent exam results and a committed staff team has been over looked, brushed aside and earmarked for closure. The whole community will now suffer, as will the future education of the pupils. Despite your claims that the transition from school to school will be smooth, those children will be at the time in their life where they need stability and security so their education will not suffer. With having to move to a new school, one they didn't choose to go to, they will have to make new friends, get used to

new teachers and new teaching styles, then get ready to study for their GCSE courses. This will have a detrimental effect on them and their education. As for my son, he can stay, but you will only 'do your best' for the remainder of his education. Your guarantee of excellent education, that he is receiving now, would be far more reassuring. I think what is even more upsetting, is the lack of debate when it came to the decision to close

the school. It should stay open as statistics show pupil numbers will increase, when Burnholme closes. When this happens, what a sorry state the education of York's children, will be in.

Please think again and keep this excellent school open for the future of our children.

11. Mr D, pupil, email received 17 June

From: Mr D

Sent: 17 June 2012 22:48

Subject: Why close burnholme community college?

Why do you have to close Burnholme Community College while it is the only school that has Italian and it is a small school so, you wouldn't get lost if your new to the school. My opinion to get more students to the school is to change the name of the school and uniform because people will get more interested to the name of the school. That's all that I want to say. Hope my reasons are strong enough to keep the school open.

12. Ms K, parent, email received 20 June

From: Ms K

Sent: 20 June 2012 20:13

Subject:

dear mr dwyer please can you have another think about shutting burnholme community college as that was mine and my sons choice he really likes it there. i think it will really disrupt his education if he has to move schools at the start of year 10. his sister also has to start year seven at the same time. im sure if you work everything out properly school uniforms and bus travel will come very close to the cost of keeping the school open. it will be a massive ask of my 13 year old to make sure his sister gets to school and home safe because of the distance they will have to go. the students at bcc are like a family and they all love there school based in the community they all know each other and most of all the teachers no all the students. we all know in a few years you will have to build a new school because of student nos please have a rethink many thanks

13. Ms N, parent, letter received 2 July

Dear Mr Dwyer

I am writing to ask you to properly reconsider the closure of Burnholme Community College.

I have moved myself and daughter from Rawcliffe back over to Heworth where I was brought up and am back living with my parents intentionally on purpose for the sole reason of my daughters education.

She originally went to a school in Rawcliffe by after great consideration we left due to the fact there were too many pupils for the year she was in and was overlooked and left behind in the major subjects, this is because she is a quiet, considerate and studious pupil.

I chose Tang Hall School because it is a small school and close to our chosen secondary school of Burnholme College which is of similar size. At Tang Hall they have good sized classes where the children get the full attention of excellent teachers. In the first two weeks of being at Tang Hall where she was assessed properly she was upgraded 4 levels in reading and 2 levels in maths all because of the last school she was in a big class where unfortunately she was left behind due to the fact the teacher had so many pupils to deal with.

It has been our plan to move from Tang Hall to Burnholme to keep up the same level of education and hopefully even better it with it being a small school. I personally think with the class sizes teachers are able to give their undivided attention to the pupils so no-one gets lost in the system and it is like having a private education.

Archbishop Holgate and Huntington are the schools where it is suggested we send our children instead if Burnholme closes down, I for one am not happy about this as I have always felt there are far too many children there already.

I am currently on the Joseph Rowntree Housing Association list to buy a property on the Derwenthorpe site next to Burnholme College. When I originally got the plans and details for the local amenities Archbishop Holgate was listed as the chosen secondary school then approximately 6 months later I was sent details again which then listed Burnholme as the recommended secondary school, I think this speaks volumes for itself as the housebuilders have changed details for which many parents would be looking at schools when moving to a new property.

If Archbishop Holgate is already near to full capacity how will it manage? To be honest it seems to be a no-brainer but to keep Burnholme open as there will be an influx of children over the next few years from new developments in the area.

Please also note that parents and children from Archbishop Holgate have already been posting notes on facebook over Burnholme pupils moving there as there has always been rivalry between the two schools so could you imagine the impact this will have over everyone which will no doubt lead to big trouble.

I am requesting that you please take this to heart from a seriously concerned year 5 parent whose child has already been overlooked in an already overcrowded school, to which if Burnholme Community College closes will undoubtedly be lost again.

Yours sincerely

X