

**Weaverthorpe Parish Council
c/o Boltby Cottage
Main Road
Weaverthorpe
North Yorkshire
YO17 8EY**

17th May 2022

Kevin Hollinrake MP
UK Parliament
Westminster
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Kevin,

Thank you for enquiring via Hazel Dales whether we have received a reply to our letter of 12th April 2022 about the closure of Weaverthorpe School.

Since then we have received several communications regarding the letter, none of which give us any confidence that this subject is being taken seriously and make us think even more, that the outcome was predetermined months ago.

We were told by our NYC Councillor that there is little we can do and that our suggestions with regard to using the money that NYCC have set aside for transport over the next 5 or 6 years cannot be considered because they come from separate budgets. We must say that Cllr Sanderson has been extremely helpful and supportive of everyone concerned but sadly to no avail.

The Leader of NYCC, Cllr Les, says he shares our concerns, but NYCC cannot work beyond their powers. Earlier in the process, NYCC had refused to release a copy of a letter sent by the NYCC Director of Education saying that it was not in the public interest to release the document in a letter sent on the evening that the public consultation closed, had reference to a misuse of funds. That refusal was then rescinded saying that they had made a mistake and there was no misuse of funds!

The Bishop of Selby, who is named on the York Diocese website as being responsible for education pointed out that those powers have been given to the Bishop of Whitby. That Bishop pointed out that the CofE saw no reason to object to the closure, but that the Bishop of Selby would be giving pastoral care to those affected.

We asked NYCC to admit our Letter to the Secretary of State for Education as our objection to the Closure Notice published by NYCC, that was due to close at the end of April. That letter has been admitted.

Then on 6th May we received a letter from the Regional Schools Commissioner's office in Darlington to tell us nothing that we did not already know. On 11th May we received another letter from the same office, (dated 6th May also) from another person to say that the wrong letter was sent! They are now saying that it is NYCC's decision about the school closing. We know that it is the case but NYCC are saying they cannot go beyond their powers.

It is very interesting that the only person who has not replied, is the Secretary of State. According to the letter received from the RSC, they have been asked to reply, but were not copied on our letter, so who asked them to reply? NYCC say they cannot work beyond their powers, but the RSC says it their decision.

Meanwhile the pupils and their families are being manipulated by a system that it would seem no one owns, and a lot of lives are in turmoil. Further NYCC will effectively be the new unitary authority in less than a year's time, replacing several District Councils who we have experienced as being ineffective and a tremendous waste of taxpayer's money. NYCC are not demonstrating that they are in control of this situation, or indeed many others.

Could we therefore request that you as our elected Representative in the UK Parliament shed some light on how we can avoid our school closing and the waste of £228K in taxpayer's money, in the next five to six years.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J House', written in a cursive style.

J House
for and on behalf of
Weaverthorpe Parish Council

Attachments: Correspondence received