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13 March 2018

Green Oak Closure Consultation
Room 326
County Hall
Penrhyn Road
Kingston upon Thames
KT1 2DN

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Proposal to Close Green Oak CofE Primary School and Nursery

Godalming Town Council has been informed of the proposal to close Green Oak CofE Primary School and Nursery.

The Town Council fully appreciates the difficult decision facing Surrey County Council and the Dioceses of Guildford. However, this area has been ranked very low in the measure of the index of multi deprivation - 26 worst locality out of 709 in Surrey. This is an important consideration as the proposal to close the school will take the heart out of and further isolate an already vulnerable community.

The Town Council considers that regard must be given to the impact of the ongoing significant redevelopment of parts of the surrounding estate that has inevitably reduced the school age population in the short term. The proposal should also be viewed over the medium to long term, given the recent adoption of the Waverley Local Plan (Part 1). This removes land from the green belt which is only a 100 metres from the school. This land will unquestionably be prime for housing development (possibly 450 houses) within the school's current catchment area.

If, in the final analysis, it is decided to close Green Oak School, the Town Council considers it essential that such a decision will be accompanied by robust measures that will not only manage the inevitable isolation the children will feel, but also mitigate against the very real difficulties many current and future pupils from the area will face in transportation to alternative schools.

Yours faithfully

Andy Jeffery
Town Clerk

cc: Cllr Peter Martin – Chairman of Surrey County Council
Cllr Julia Potts – Leader of Waverley Borough Council
The Right Reverend Andrew Watson – Bishop of Guildford
The Right Honourable Jeremy Hunt MP
Surrey Advertiser