

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

22 May 2019

**Rory Sherwood – Email regarding agenda item 6
Specials Schools Consultation**

To Councillor Laura Mayes – Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills

Email letter

Dear Laura

I'd just like to say that I am utterly appalled at Wiltshire councils decision to completely disregard the wishes of the children , families , teachers and their communities in Wiltshire.

What is the point in consulting those people the school closures affects the most if anything they say , do or suggest is simply cast aside?

The proposal for 3 sites in Wiltshire seemed to make the most logical and plausible sense to the general majority , with the opening of the site in Rowde how will this increase the spaces available for those with special needs in Wiltshire?

With more and more school spaces needed each year I do not see how closing 3 sites to open 1 will placate the need for spaces?

I am lucky enough to have a son attend St Nicholas school removing him from our local community will exasperate his anxieties and struggles that already affect him massively on a day to day basis, the increased journey times alone I fear will make school life impossible for many children across Wiltshire .

I see the affects of elongated travel times in my own Job , I work at Springfields academy with some lovely children and you can ask any of those who travel in on taxi or bus what the worst part of their day is and it's getting up at a silly time to travel for 30-90 mins on a taxi.... it's often not the distance it's all the stops and waiting that children especially those with additional needs such as ASD struggle with.

I really do hope that those people who are ultimately "in charge" of this decision soon see sense and make the right choice not just the one that suits Wiltshire council.

Regards

Mr Rory Sherwood