

Baugh, Ben

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 January 2014 20:21
To: Baugh, Ben
Subject: SCHOOL TRANSPORT

I am writing regarding the proposed changes to school transport.
I have the following points to make about the proposals:-

1) My daughter currently goes to Lady Hawkins school & is in year 7.

This is our catchment school but Weobley school is very slightly closer.

She is feeling quite unsettled by our regular conversations about school transport as she has only just started at Lady Hawkins & hears us talking about possibly moving her to Weobley & it is making her very unhappy. This is not a good start to secondary school. There is much evidence that children who move secondary schools after they have started do less well.

We feel that it is unfair to make us pay for transport for a child that we have already placed at a school in our catchment area (which is the school that YOU recommend we send our child to)

2) Our nearest neighbour and others who live nearby take their children to Weobley school by car.

Under the new proposals they would be entitled to free school transport which would mean that 2 buses would then run past my house instead of one. How can this save money? The council's own report states that "the actual financial savings are hard to forecast precisely." I forecast that it will not save money but will actually cost more. Also, can the bus providers cope with extra demand for buses? This almost seems a ludicrous question to be asking when the proposals are about saving money!!!

Does this also mean that the bus providers will be paid for running two half empty buses instead of one full bus?

3) The change would encourage more parents to drive their children to school. So, not only would there be very little contribution from parents towards the buses, there would actually be more buses to run & pay for. There is also congestion, safety of the children & increased road repairs from increased traffic to consider.

4) We are now faced with a decision. Do we move our daughter from Lady Hawkins to Weobley? Or do we keep her at Lady Hawkins & send her sister to Weobley in 2 years time which means they'll both be at separate schools.
What a decision to have to make.

We hope you will take the above statements into consideration & please look again at the financial & environmental implications to the council & parents of your proposals.

