

Baugh, Ben

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 January 2014 21:40
To: Baugh, Ben
Subject: Re: School Transport Questions

Questions to be put to the scrutiny committee

1) There are inaccuracies in information given in the consultation period and at the recent cabinet meeting. It has been said on numerous occasions, including in the cabinet meeting that the proposal is already working successfully in Worcestershire. This is not true and therefore should not have been used. How do the council defend using inaccurate information to form their arguments?

2) A reason it has been called to scrutiny is to 'be clear about what the council wants to happen and how it will be achieved'. This has not been fully researched. The long term financial implications for Herefordshire have not been investigated.

a) people buy houses in small rural villages such as ours (Brimfield and Little Hereford) as the catchment primary school and high school are both very successful. People will be far less likely to buy in these areas when they will now be served by a bus to a secondary school which has entered special measures (Tenbury High School). How can the council justify our children going to a school in special measures, a failing school when they should be going to outstanding Wigmore?

B) In this area alone it is not clear how money saving will be achieved. As the council did not seem interested in looking at specific areas we have done so ourselves. Currently two 52 seat full buses serve our area, one going to Orleton Primary School and one to Wigmore High School. As we are on the counties borders and a quite 'spread out' village depending where your child lives on this bus route you will now go to at least seven different schools with the 'nearest' school in operation (Orleton primary, Bishop Hooper Primary, Burford Primary, Tenbury High School, Ludlow High School, Earl Mortimer and Wigmore High School). How on earth is this money saving?

C) Our children, like many others will have to go to schools in at least two counties, one primary, one high (three if our nearest small Primary school doesn't have room for all of our three children). In light of all the 'fining' for term time holidays, are Herefordshire council going to foot the bill for this when we have to take children out when their holidays differ? It is already difficult enough for rural farming families to have holidays in school holidays.

Regards

[REDACTED]