

Baugh, Ben

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: 10 January 2014 10:56
To: Baugh, Ben
Subject: Changes to Herefordshire school transport policy

Dear Mr Baugh,

I would like to add my voice again to that of the head teachers of Herefordshire's state schools and would like all their concerns properly addressed.

These changes will not only have profound effects both on destabilising the education of my son and 2 daughters, nephews and nieces and other families in my community, but also have longer term effects on the existence of our rural schools.

I sometimes feel our leaders feel backed into a corner to make decisions to justify the money spent on looking into the issues by agreeing with them despite the fact that they clearly wont make the short term or long term savings needed and will just succeed in making it even more difficult for some middle and lower income families to continue living in rural areas. These people being forced to move to towns will not save the council in the long term as the average age of the inhabitants of our villages will be encouraged to increase at an even greater rate than it is already. This may be good for reducing the education budget but has profound long term effects on our health and social care budgets which are becoming more unsustainable than education.

Rather than reducing rural buses we should be looking at ways to utilise them more. Allowing all the public to use school buses in my mind is practical and environmentally friendly and should not be dismissed as politically unacceptable. Most child abuse occurs in the home!

I work as a rural GP but spend one day a week travelling to Gaol Street clinic in Hereford. I have to allow an extra half an hour in term time and this situation would only get worse if more children had to travel to Hereford for school. It is ironic that we cant sort out the overcrowding of some city schools by encouraging and supporting all our rural schools.

The council's financial situation is clearly dire but maybe it is time to consider whether Herefordshire council was ever a viable independent entity and whether it has served the people of Herefordshire any better than amalgamation with Worcester did. Maybe there are more savings to be made by merging again rather than shaking up the school transport system and at least the administrative savings could be used to maintain rural services.. What do council members think of that?

Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED]