Northumberland County Council

**Education Consultations <educationconsultation@northumberland.gov.uk>**

# Fwd: Bellingham middle school closure

1 message

**Sue Aviston** <sue.aviston@northumberland.gov.uk> 8 May 2018 at 12:23
To: Education Consultations <educationconsultation@northumberland.gov.uk>

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **John Riddle** <john.riddle@northumberland.gov.uk>
Date: 8 May 2018 at 12:16
Subject: Fwd: Bellingham middle school closure
To: Sue Aviston <sue.aviston@northumberland.gov.uk>

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Kayleigh Barnett** <kayleigh.barnett1989@outlook.com>
Date: 4 May 2018 at 10:28
Subject: Bellingham middle school closure
To: "john.riddle@northumberland.gov.uk" <john.riddle@northumberland.gov.uk>

Dear John,

As a parent of one child already at Bellingham middle and one who is due to go in September the prospect of its closure is naturally concerning to me.
I was unable to attend the meeting held on Wednesday night so feel that I should also express my concerns ahead of the consultation on the 8th of May.

I would like to point out that I am not only expressing my concerns but also those of my children, the eldest of which showing alot of upset and has lost her perviously happy positive attitude towards school due to being worried about what is going to happen.
Please could I urge all the adults involved in this issue to be reminded that the children are the main priority in this and that they

should not be involved in campaignes and discussions that have no clears answers as yet.

My youngest child currently attends Greenhaugh first school and although I understand that people would like to save small local schools I fail to see how keeping them all open and closing Bellingham middle school is financially viable. I also do not understand how these smaller schools would be able to deliver an acceptable standard of education to an extra year group given their sizes and already stretch staffing levels.

I appreciate that Bellingham middle school does not have a gleaming ofstead however, I think it is acceptable to say that given the class sizes of all schools in the area non of them are achieving what they should be ie: outstanding.

My feeling is that should a two tier system be deemed the only way to help ease financial concerns then Bellingham middle school should become the central hub to the area. It has the space to allow for individual year groups to be taught separately giving them the opportunity to get an education that is fitting to thier needs as well as enabling them and encouraging them to gain some autonomy in their thinking before moving up to secondary school. Keeping children in very small rural schools until the age of 11 and then expecting them to go to a big secondary school would be both terrifying for them and detranental to their learning.

However, given the geographical area we live in and given that Bellingham town itself is due to expand in numbers over the coming years it would also make sense to simple leave the current system as it is and concentrate more on improving the education that is being delivered in all of the schools.

In conclusion I do not profess to know what the solution to this problem is. I simply ask that the emotional welfare of the children who will be directly affected is taking in to the highest regard as well as the impact that these changes could have long term on the standards of education that our local children receive.

Kind regards

Kayleigh.

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--
County Councillor John Riddle
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Sue Aviston

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