



**LOCAL COMMITTEE
(REIGATE AND BANSTEAD)**

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

20 JUNE 2011

One public question has been received from Mr Andrew Furtek:

“Why, when Horley Infants School is providing a new class for reception intake this September in response to increased demand for school places in Horley, is it not possible for Yattendon School to provide additional places to meet the clear demand for Year 3 intake in September 2011?”

Background: I and many other parents in Horley are faced with a situation where we have not been able to secure a place for our child at our school of preference, or indeed any school in Horley. We know there are well over 30 Year 3 children on the waiting list for a place at Yattendon School this September. Instead, we have been offered a place at Burstow School, which is in the district of Tandridge, not Reigate and Banstead where we live, and it will be impossible for me to get my child to this school. Burstow School is creating an additional class to take the increased numbers for the Year 3 intake when a local, Horley school should have been required to do this. Yattendon School had two temporary classrooms on its site which it decided to demolish this year, when it must have had clear knowledge of the need for Year 3 places in the area. Surrey County Council has known of this situation for years. A report from Reigate and Banstead Borough Council, in 2008 (Horley Infrastructure Provision Supplementary Planning Document, July 2008, paragraph 2.33 and appendix 3) made this clear and also stated that sending children from Horley out of the area to Burstow School was not an acceptable solution. There is a clear demand from parents in Horley for Surrey County Council to provide school places for our children at a school in Horley. I can see no reason why Yattendon School cannot provide these places this September by increasing existing class sizes and/or creating an additional class using existing or temporary space. I would urge Surrey County Council to do everything within its power to support Yattendon School to achieve this objective. I am sure you will have the support of many parents to do this, and as parents there are many who would be willing to help out practically to help make this happen.”

The Chairman responds on behalf of the Committee:

"Yattendon School, as a foundation school, is its own Admissions Authority. The school was not asked by the Local Authority to consider opening another class. A request was made to junior schools across the County to consider taking additional pupils this year. Yattendon did not wish to have classes in excess of 30 and therefore declined to increase class numbers.

Burstow School has traditionally offered places to pupils from Horley and there are 30 pupils currently in the school from Horley. In planning for future additional permanent provision, we would look to provide within Horley. However, in meeting current demand, officers have taken the view that we must maximise the use of existing resources wherever possible; whilst Burstow was full in Reception for 2011, it was not full in Year 3 and hence offers have been made at this school."

NOTES:

- (i) Surrey County Council's constitution, (Standing Order 66) requires that public questions be sent in writing to the Local Committee and Partnership Officer at least 7 days before the meeting.
- (ii) At the discretion of the Chairman, a member of the public who has given notice of a question may ask one supplementary question relevant to the subject of the original.