

**Local Advisory Group Meeting
St Mary's Primary School, Colton**

Monday 1 July 2019

MINUTES

PL	Paul Lovern – Executive Head	RC	Richard Crosse
SC	Sue Cockayne – Director for LAG and Chair of LAG	SM	St Mary's
HB	Heather Bowman – Chair of Directors	TH	The Howard
AA	Antony Allen – Parent Member Richard Crosse	AS	Anson School
MHE	Marcella Henley – PTA Member Richard Crosse		
PB	Phil Bate – Parent Member Howard		
CM	Claire Malcolm – PTA Member Howard		Abbreviations
CB	Chris Billingham – Community Member Howard	CIF	Condition Improvement Funding
AR	Anna Redpath - Parent Member St Mary's		
CC	Claire Clarke – PTA Member St. Mary's		
MH	Marie Havelock – Community Member St. Mary's		
NC	Neil Crawley - Community Member Richard Crosse		
NJ	Nicola Jarrett – Headteacher Richard Crosse		
RM	Rachel Mills – Headteacher Howard		
JW	Jon Wynn – Headteacher St. Mary's		
AH	Alison Howard - Clerk		

Attendance : PL, SC, HB, AA, MHE, PB, CM, CB, CC, MH, NC, NJ, RM, JW, AH

1. SC welcomed everyone to the meeting. The meeting opened with a prayer.
2. **Apologies :** There were no apologies.
3. **Pecuniary Interest**
There were no changes to be made to the Pecuniary Interest Register.
4. **Minutes of last meeting**
These were accepted as a true record and signed by SC.
5. **Head of School Reports**

Richard Crosse School: NJ presented the report, explaining that the building work at the school was virtually complete, with some refurbishment still to be done. Staff have had to move classrooms to accommodate the work, but everyone has coped very well. The car park has been a great success, with fewer cars now parked in the adjacent roads. Oliver's Charity has now raised over £10,000 and special equipment has been purchased for him. The school has also linked with the Nursing Home

in the village, with children visiting the residents to sing and do some planting. Although All Saints Church is still awaiting the new incumbent, there have been some school services in church with the help of the churchwardens. There have been a number of school visits, including to the Space Centre in Leicester, and Y1 and Y2 have visited SM to enjoy the new playground and park. Children have also enjoyed residential visits, a history tour of Kings Bromley and the Race Day in Stafford.

Howard Primary School: RM presented her report saying it has been a good year: the consistency of staffing has ensured that the children are now more settled; the children's behaviour and manners have improved. She thanked the volunteers, including CB who comes in to teach French to the younger children, and also Directors who helped during the SATs. The extra-curricular activities have been enhanced and now include Study Club, guitar and sports. The PTA have subsidised a Science Day and children have enjoyed a Sleepover, followed by a Teddy Bears Picnic, the Easter Bonnet parade, visits to the park and First Aid sessions. There has also been a six weeks' programme provided by Relax Kids for targeted children, which has been particularly successful for KS2 children. The behaviour programme 'Good to be Green' has also been very successful.

St Mary's School: JW mentioned a variety of very successful activities and events which have taken place: Fathers' Day, Sports Day, Art focus, Book Trust, First Communion at church, the summer Music Concert. Classes have been busy with local awareness, pet day, SATs and phonics tests, a visit to the Botanical Garden in Birmingham, a visit to the Adventure Farm, a triathlon and football; extracurricular activities include fencing, dance and drama. The premises work, including a new boiler, refurbishment and new carpets, have given the children pride in their school. The school is now a calmer place and, due to the imminent closure of a local school, the number of pupils is increasing.

SC thanked the three Headteachers for their presentations and for all their hard work. PL confirmed that SATs results and data will be presented at the next LAG meeting.

6. Trust Updates

PL gave a report on the Trust, saying that Anson School has now joined the Trust and he is meeting regularly with the headteacher, Mr E Howard. The children had a fantastic time at Race Day and PL thanked AA for helping to arrange funding and for his time, inspiration and enthusiasm. The Summer Concert was amazing: LAG members agreed that the children showed a range of talents and clearly enjoyed themselves. PL thanked the music teacher, Mrs Parkes, and other staff and volunteers for the concert and said that the concert showed the value of schools working together. HB appreciated the number of boys involved in the choir and instrumentals.

PL went on to advise that the budget for the coming year was being finalised, but it would be very tight as pupil funding has not been increased and there were extra on-costs for superannuation rises and the teachers' pay award. There would be no redundancies, but staff leaving may not be replaced. Although a balanced budget would be set for the coming year, in the following year based on this year's pupil numbers the MAT reserves may have to be used.

With regards to staffing, two members of staff on temporary contracts are moving to posts elsewhere and the office staff at RC will be a part-time position (as it is now at TH).

MHE asked about voluntary contributions to MAT funds from parents; PL will check that this is done through Parent Pay and will arrange for another request for funds to be sent out to parents at the start of the next academic year. AA asked how effective the request for funds has been and PL will check this.

PL informed LAG members that there will be new arrangements for a rolling programme of residentials starting this September, as it is proving to be expensive for parents to have annual residentials. Next year there will be a Sleepover for Y1 and Y2 and the trip to Borth for Y6; in following years there will be a residential for Y3 and Y4, and then a residential for Y5 and Y6. This will enable the MAT to offer more day visits linked to the curriculum. HB advised that parents should be sent a letter giving a timetable for the residentials so that they do not feel their children are missing out. AA said that the trip to Warwick could be offered to all Y5 and Y6 each year, if

staffing could be arranged across the MAT. JW thought the increase in day visits, possibly to places further away, would enhance the curriculum. NJ noted that voluntary contributions from parents are requested to finance the trips, but some parents do not contribute. HB said that if not enough parents offered to accompany the trips, some Directors would be willing to help.

PL informed the committee about the recent CIF bids: at SM to work on the flat roof, at RC to upgrade the heating system and at TH to improve the heating.

7. Community Updates

Richard Crosse/Kings Bromley: MHE reported that the new PTA Trustees were working well, organising the Big Breakfast, chocolate Bingo, raffles, photos and DVDs at the school productions. They have paid for new football goals, the trip to the Adventure Farm and contributed to the minibus. The Sports Day was re-scheduled, due to bad weather, and the PTA will be involved; there is also the Summer Fayre to come. At Kings Bromley Show, the PTA will have three stalls, offering skittles, a coconut shy and a sale of toys. The PTA will pay for hoodies for the Leavers and the annual photos. They are already planning on fundraising for the autumn term. £1,800 has been given to the school.

NC asked whether Anson School will be represented on the LAG committee, PL confirmed that Anson will have its own governing board. The Village Hall has now been refurbished to a high standard and is available to the school and parents for bookings. PL asked NC about HS2 and NC said that two Parish Councillors liaise with HS2 representatives; it has been agreed that the Crawley Lane route past the school will not be used by HS2. AA asked whether it was still agreed that parents could park at the Village Hall so that the children could walk to the school from there; NC will raise this at the next Parish Council meeting.

AA reported that Y5 and Y6 at SM, RC and TH had taken part in the Race Day competition at Stafford, with TH coming a very creditable third amongst a number of schools. He is looking forward to continuing the project and is planning to tie it in more with the curriculum.

The Howard/Elford: CM said that the PTA had had a fantastic year, with a focus on food. Events have included Chocolate Bingo, Smarties Challenge, the May Queen, which included a BBQ, and Sports Day. Tea towels have been sold. The PTA has paid for the Animal Man, the trip to the Adventure Farm, hoodies for Y6 and has made around £600 since March. A donation of £1000 has been received, which has paid for books, the hire of a coach, gazebos and pupil rewards for good behaviour. There have been more social occasions and they are looking forward to the Summer Fayre and perhaps an autumn quiz. The separate classroom fund initiative has arranged technical drawings and is now obtaining budget costings.

CB sees her role as taking the TSSMAT message out to the village, but said how much the presence of the school in church and with the May Queen event is appreciated. The children are writing pieces for the village news and there is a lot of positive feeling and goodwill towards the school.

St Mary's/Colton: CC reported that the team spirit in the PTA is high, with events such as Chocolate Bingo, Big Breakfast (which raised £600), summer film night, Sports Day. They are awaiting the outcome of their bid for funds from Tesco. The PTA has paid for Y6 hoodies, Big Breakfast mugs and banners, 5 wooden tables with benches and parasols, outside games and planters, the trip to the Adventure Farm, five new laptops and are making a contribution towards a six-week programme of dance and drama.

MH said that Colton is a village in transition with some of the older residents passing away and young families are needed. Many of the children on roll come from outside the village. She recommended that use is made of the wildflower area in the village park and the Colton Trust land near the river. People in Colton appreciated the children coming to sing and the Christingle in church. The vicar is doing a wonderful job at bringing the people of the village together.

8. LAG members' term of office

Most LAG members (except NC and AR) are coming to the end of their initial three-year term of office; however the constitution states that they can stand for a further two years. All expressed their agreement to do so, unless someone else wished to join the LAG committee. PL will arrange for parents to be notified via the school planners that the present representatives are willing to continue unless someone wishes to stand; he will contact the organisations which have community and PTA representatives that the representatives are willing to continue. There is also a vacancy for a parent representative at RC.

9. Any other business

NJ said a big thank-you was due to the PTA, volunteers and parents who do so much for the school. CC asked about the proposed staff changes which would mean that two Forest School practitioners are moving from SM to RC. JW confirmed that Outdoor Learning would continue at SM, delivered by all the teachers as part of their Schemes of Work and including parent volunteers. One of the Forest School trained staff will bring children from RC to SM to work with children there on Forest School activities. It is planned to upskill teachers in the Forest School curriculum to allow for succession planning within the MAT.

PB asked about arrangements for Class 2 at TH and RM confirmed that she will be teaching the class Literacy and Numeracy every morning and will be with the class all day Friday; she will be the main class teacher and will not be out of school so often during the coming year. PL said the movement of teachers between schools ensured they gained experience of different schools and age groups.

AA informed LAG members that the three cars made by the children are available to view and could be used e.g. at the Kings Bromley Show and the Scarecrow Festival in Elford.

SC thanked LAG members for their attendance during the year and for all their support.

10. Date and location of meetings 2019-2020:

LAG meetings: 4pm on a Monday

7 October 4pm at RC

9 March 4pm at TH

22 June 4pm at SM

Signed.....
Sue Cockayne, Chair of Local Advisory Group

Date.....