



Bridgwater Education Trust
South Sedgemoor Local Service Team
130 Taunton Road
Bridgwater
Somerset
TA6 6BB

11/07/2010

Dear Parents/Carers

Bridgwater Education Trust supports and coordinates the work of Bridgwater secondary and special schools collaborating to ensure that every young person in our community has the very best learning opportunities and life chances. In such a way our young people will be empowered and able to contribute actively to a brighter future for Bridgwater. Through Building Schools for the Future we were confident that this vision would be secured not just for the students in our schools but also their families and other members of our Community.

The Trust is made up of representatives from our four Secondary Schools-Haygrove, East Bridgwater Community School, Robert Blake Science College and Chilton Trinity- and our two Special Schools-Penrose and Elmwood. Bridgwater College, Sedgemoor District Council, and Somerset County Council have become Partners and are working with the schools to support the delivery of the Vision for Bridgwater. There are also four Trustees: Anne Fraser MBE, Sedgemoor District Council Portfolio holder for Business Support and Development. David Hinchliffe OBE, Ex Director of Inspection development within Ofsted. Patrick Parker a retired businessman and next year's Mayor of Bridgwater and David Eccles Head of off-site development of Hinkley Point C for EDF Energy.

From day one the plan has been to rebuild all six schools and create a town-wide learning campus – the first in the country.

In a shock statement last week, the Government announced that the project as it stands "will not go ahead" The plans to rebuild Haygrove, Penrose and East Bridgwater have been "STOPPED" .They have said they will review the plans for Chilton Trinity, Robert Blake and Elmwood to "see whether any should be allowed to proceed" For the last three years a significant investment of time and money has gone into planning and the scheme was due to go to financial close last Wednesday....just two days after the announcement. There appears to have been little thought given to the colossal waste of money invested in the development of our new schools so far nor to the impact on our local economy.

On behalf of your children and our community as a whole we are angry. We believe



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Bridgwater deserves better and we would like to challenge Mr Gove. We intend to fight to ensure that this ill-thought through decision is reversed. We expect Mr Gove and the Government to reverse their decision and allow us to deliver the six new schools we were promisedthe six new schools our students have helped design. We want to see equal access and opportunity for all young people across our town.

Please help us fight this! Let us pull together and deliver what our young people deserve!

The Bridgwater Mercury is running a Save our Schools campaign which you can support either by writing in at Bridgwater Mercury, Royal Clarence House, York Buildings, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 3AT or going to the Website:

www.bridgwatmercury.co.uk

Thank you in anticipation of your support,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Fraser".

Anne Fraser

Chair of Trustees MBE

Pat Hollinghurst

Head ,Chilton Trinity.