

December 2016

Dear Parent,

There has been a lot of discussion about the impact of the North Herts District Council (NHDC) Local Plan on the future of Ickleford Primary School. As you may know, the Local Plan proposes four sites for development in Ickleford which will add 319 new dwellings to the village (an increase of about 40%). Due to the inevitable growth in children of primary school age which would be associated with these proposals, the Local Plan also includes provision for the construction of a new, two-form entry primary school on site IC3, land between Bedford Road and the Sports and Recreation Club.

Consultation on the Local Plan closed at the end of November, and the response from Ickleford Parish Council noted, amongst other things, the adverse social and historic impact of relocating the school from its current location. NHDC will now consider all the responses received and then decide whether to send the plan to the Government for examination. Once the representations have all been processed, they will be available to view on the NHDC website.

This is a protracted process, and it will not be clear for many months whether the objections which have been submitted to some of the proposed developments in Ickleford will be upheld. Even if the Local Plan, as it affects Ickleford, is approved there will be no immediate impact on the school; all developments will be subject to normal planning processes and the building works would be phased over several years.

Please be assured that the Governing Body will monitor this situation carefully, and will focus on ensuring that the pupils of Ickleford Primary School continue to thrive during this period of uncertainty.

On a separate matter, the terms of office of two parent governors has come to an end, and therefore there will be elections for these posts in January. This is a hugely rewarding and important role, and I would encourage you to consider whether you could contribute to the school and our pupils' education by joining the Governing Body. We are particularly interested in people with financial or buildings/ health and safety backgrounds, but enthusiasm for the role is the most important attribute. Look out for nomination forms in the New Year.

With best wishes to you and your family for a Happy Christmas.



Miles Maxwell,
Chair of Governing Body, Ickleford Primary School