

Consultation on proposed changes to Captain Shaw's and Waberthwaite Schools – Questionnaire Analysis

Introduction

Between 1 November and 16 December 2011 a consultation exercise was conducted seeking the views of stakeholders and the local community about proposals for changes to Captain Shaw's and Waberthwaite schools.

Summary of Responses

A total of 97 people responded during the consultation period. 35 responses were in the form of completed questionnaires received by post, 47 were questionnaires completed online, 16 were submissions to the consultation sent by letter and 12 were submissions sent by email. (The number of response types will not add up to 95 as some respondents contributed their comments by more than one of the means mentioned above, in which case their responses were amalgamated into a single return). Those responding included school governing bodies, school trustees, the Carlisle Diocese, and Parish Councils. In addition there were also separate responses from the children of the two schools (see attached summaries).

Overall 79.4% (77) of respondents were opposed to the proposal to close Captain Shaw's School, 13.4% (13) were in favour of the proposal and 7.2% (7) made no indication. 54.6% (53) were against the combination of Captain Shaw's catchment area with that of Waberthwaite, 23.7% (23) were in favour and 21.7% (21) made no response.

Of those who had stated interest in Captain Shaw's, 94.8% (73) were against closure, 3.9% (3) made no indication and 1.3% (1) were in favour of closure. 66.2% (51) were against a merging of catchment areas, 20.8% (16) made no indication, and 13.0% (10) were in favour of combining the areas.

Of those who had a stated interest in Waberthwaite, 17.6% (3) were against closure of Captain Shaw's, 11.8% (2) made no indication and 70.6% (12) were in favour of closure. 5.9% (1) were against combining catchment areas, 17.6% (3) made no indication and 76.5% (13) were in favour.

There was also 1 respondent with connections to both schools that favoured maintenance of the current position.

25.8% (25) of all respondents were parents, of which 64.0% (16) stated an interest in Captain Shaw's and 36.0% (9) stated an interest in Waberthwaite. 2.1% (2) respondents were governing bodies, 29.9% (29) were governors, 4.1% (4) were staff, 3.1% (3) parish councils, 1% (1) borough council and 59.4% stated interest as being 'other'. Percentage total will not add up to 100 as multiple selections were possible.

60.4% (58) of respondents were within the catchment areas of the two schools.

Q1.

Given the situation regarding pupil numbers, available resources and educational quality covered in this document do you agree or disagree that the best option would be to close Captain Shaw's School and transfer pupils to Waberthwaite School?

90 respondents answered this question. Of those that answered 85.6% (77) were opposed to the closure of Captain Shaw's and 14.4% (13) were in favour of closure.

Q2.

Do you agree that Captain Shaw's and Waberthwaite Schools' catchment areas should be combined?

76 respondents answered this question. Of those that answered 69.7% (53) were opposed to the combination of the two catchment areas and 30.3% (23) were in favour.

Q3

Additional Comments

86 respondents made additional comments including:-

Comment	Frequency
The village School is the heart of the community. (Captain Shaw's)	20
Captain Shaw's provides an excellent education- former pupils and parents.(Good OFSTED results).- students go on to do well in further education	17
Bootle's status as a Rural Service Centre means that there is a good prospect of increasing the population in the village, and therefore the school. The School is an important asset for the RSC title, it will be lost with out it.	14
Local Children can walk to school - good for environment & health (thought this was County Council policy).	13
There will be a massive domino effect in loss of choice in education followed by lack of investment in the village and the jobs and revenue it would have brought and the village will sadly just become a dormitory. It is a thriving village with lots of amenities.	12
Closing the School will deter people from moving in to the village.	11
Children will/do benefit from Small numbers in classes and get one to one attention.	11
Unfair catchment areas (Captain Shaw's is much smaller) - needs to be looked at and has been unfairly eroded over the years.	12
Some parents have no means of transport to Waberthwaite in the case of emergency (also for after school activities)	7
Waberthwaite village has very few other amenities and that the school is therefore isolated from the community interactions that form an important part of a child's education.	7

The council causing uncertainty on the School is putting parents off leading to a lack of numbers. (lack of stability- no permanent staff etc)	7
The school is used for many other events as well as the school and the Council feel that the heart of the village would be taken away with the loss of the school infrastructure.	6
Biased against Capt Shaw's' large development due in 3 years time, cheaper to keep both schools open	7
Captain Shaw's School saves money on travel etc (cheaper than other schools) so why can't the council help them now?- they let Waberthwaite be in deficit for 3years.	5
Captain Shaw's was refurbished in 2000 to meet today's requirements.	5
To close Captain Shaw's would be an absolute travesty.	4
Children should attend their nearest schools	4
Children too young to travel on bus to Waberthwaite alone- don't want young children to be put on a bus.	5
Waberthwaite has no where for children to do PE whereas Captain Shaw's has- Waberthwaite has lack of facilities.	4
If Captain Shaw's had been properly supported resulting in higher pupils numbers, then this school would be far more economic to run than Waberthwaite which is already has a substantial deficit.	4
Will miss out on teacher interaction and meeting other parents if children are sent via bus.	4
I do not think the consultation gives a true picture of the situation and is flawed.	4
We are being penalised for managing our budget successfully, not congratulated (Captain Shaw's) - Waberthwaite is in deficit where as Captain Shaw's is not.	4
Waberthwaite School has the capacity and is well placed to take extra pupils. It consistently achieves good results for its pupils in a happy, caring environment. It also makes economic sense.	3
With a high number of children due to start school in Captain Shaw's catchment area, it seems foolish to stuff them all into another.	3
Waberthwaite will become over crowded if Captain Shaw's is to close- what if new families move where will they go?	3
No federation- Waberthwaite is settled, federation would rock this.	2
Waberthwaite does not offer after school care which Shaw's does. They would have to look at this if Bootle school were to close.	2
Children thrive in Captain Shaw's small secure environment.	2
It shouldn't be about money but the child's education.	2
Health & Safety needs to be looked at- route from Bootle to Waberthwaite is dangerous in the winter.	2
Both schools had good Ofsted reports, so educational standards are not in question.	2
Waberthwaite is continuing to be a successful school and has the space, indoor and out to accommodate more pupils	2
Would like a choice if School closes- suggest catchment areas are extended.	1
Why do some councillors already know that Captain Shaw's School building, and the school playing field are going to be sold?	1
Moved to area because Waberthwaite didn't have all the amenities needed- including a school.	1
Former pupils- children are/were all friends and supported each other in mixed classes as well as SEN being noticed and dealt with on 1-1 basis (small numbers made this possible)- Captain Shaw's	1

We went to Waberthwaite school, and all did very well. In those days there was over ninety pupils, three classrooms and 3 teachers. We went across the road to what was the old school for our lunch. Good days.	1
The costs per pupil at Captain Shaw's are nearly double the costs at Waberthwaite. Value to taxpayers, both local and national must surely be considered. Closure and transfer would offer better value for money to taxpayers.	1
Captain Shaw's Community are fundraising for the School.	1
We believe that higher cohort numbers encourage more successful learning.	1
Equality impact assessments need to be looked at as they are wrong.	1
Government need to keep schools open. (support them)	1
Looking at budget figures and targets on a computer screen does not give an accurate picture of a school	1
Our motto 'Learning, Life and Laughter' is a true definition of Captain Shaw's CE primary school.	1
The slogan is 'Every child matter'- it does not appear to be.	1
Bootle children attending Waberthwaite by parental choice and are therefore not entitled to free transport will immediately become entitled to it if the catchment areas merge.	1
It is wasteful to close a school which performs well and gives such a high standard of education	1
Waberthwaite offers excellent education	1
The cost of transport to Waberthwaite could sustain Capt Shaw's School	1
The CCC is not following it's own Council Plan	1
Waberthwaite already has to use a classroom for school dinners - this would cause further strain on the school	1
Waberthwaite is the hub of the community.	1
Financially Capt Shaw's is not viable	1

Consultation with children at Captain Shaw's School, Bootle, Millom
29th November 2011

Present were 12 children of the 16 on the school's roll. 1 child was absent and 3 children were excluded at the request of their parents.

2 parents requested to attend the session, permission was granted.

Facilitators had to adapt the session as the session went along as some children were a little upset.

Consultation Session

The children began the session by introducing themselves and saying one thing they liked about Captain Shaw's School.

The things the children liked were:

- The toys, teachers, Drawing, Swimming, PE, Computers, Drama, Writing
- It is small and there are not too many people so you are friends with everyone

When then played the 'Change places if game', there were some general questions, such as, change place if 'You are wearing green' but the significant questions were:

- Change place if you have a brother/sister at the school - Approximately half the children changed placed at this time.
- Change places if you walked to school - 5 children changed places
- Change places if you got the bus - 3 children changed places
- Change places if you came in the car - 4 children changed places (One said he would normally walk but it was a very wet day)
- Change places if you know where there are any other schools - All the children changed places and a number of children said they knew Waberthwaite School and named some children who go there.

We then asked the children to draw their 'dream school' and talk about it.

Ideas for their dream school were:

- For Captain Shaw's to stay just as it is - 8 children said this.
- Just the same as Captain Shaw's but different painting outside and a few more friends.
- It would have nice teachers.
- All the friends from Captain Shaw's would be there.
- Would have no uniform.

- Would have uniform as they keep you nice and warm and stop you from getting lost when you go out.
- Coffee machine for adults.
- Fanta machine for children.
- Music and media room.
- Fun fair.
- It would be small.
- 'I could bring my parrot with me.
- We would have pizza and fruit salad every day.
- We would be able to bring packed lunches.
- There would be ponies and we could do horse riding.
- Soft play room.
- Infants and juniors could play together at lunchtime.
- Have a roundabout in the playground.
- Have an apple machine to keep us healthy.
- Bigger play areas.
- Bigger classroom for the infants.

We then did a line up game:

The children were asked if they had to leave Captain Shaw's how would they feel
One end of the room was happy, one was sad and they could stand at any point -
All the children said sad

The children were asked how they would feel about going to another school such as Waberthwaite, one end of the room was nervous, one was excited.
Ten children went straight to the nervous end and 2 hovered in the middle.

We then moved on to their worries and wishes for school

Wishes (The children were encouraged as part of this to think about if they were to go to a new school)

Captain Shaw's School to stay just as it is - ALL the children said this was their wish

- If we can't go to Captain Shaw's go to Waberthwaite - All children said this.
- If we can't go to Captain Shaw's go to Seascale - 1 child said this.
- Have all the same teachers and staff as at Captain Shaw's.
- My parrot to be able to come to school with me and make friends with everyone.
- Have a stable at the school with horses.
- For any new school to know what we have already learnt so we don't have to learn things again.
- If we went to a new school to take with us all our school signs, toys, water cooler etc.

- Keep the same school dinners.
- Make any new school more fun.

Worries

- That Captain Shaw's school will close - ALL the children were worried about this.
- Having to make new friends - it takes ages - This was a worry for 10 of the children.
- Having new teachers.
- My Nan not being able to help settle me at school (she did that at Captain Shaw's but wouldn't be able to at Waberthwaite).
- Not being together with everyone from Captain Shaw's.
- Don't want to leave the new playground, it has just been finished.
- If Captain Shaw's closes people talking about it might make them sad.
- Leaving toys.
- It would be confusing.
- It would be hard for parents to pick us up - ALL the children were worried about this.
- Don't want to go to a bigger school - 11 of the children were worried about this.
- Some people don't have a car.
- Might get lost - ALL the children were worried about this.
- Won't see Nanna and Grandad every morning.
- A new school might not do excellent school plays.
- A new school might be boring.
- Captain Shaw's school was given to the people of Bootle for a school and should not be sold for people to live in.

Consultation with children at Waberthwaite School
6th December 2011

Present were 14 children. We adapted the session as we went along to keep the children interested as the majority did not seem too concerned about this issue.

Consultation Session

The children began the session by introducing themselves and saying one thing they liked about Waberthwaite School.

The things the children liked were:

- It's an old school with lots of history
- It has 3 play times
- You get school dinners
- Maths
- Playtime x 4
- Work
- The Teachers
- Dinners
- Advent calendars x 3

We then played the 'Change places if game', there were some general questions such as change place if 'You are wearing green' but the significant questions were:

- If you know where Captain Shaw's School is - 11 children changed places
- If you know people at Captain Shaw's School – ALL the children changed places
- If your brothers/sisters have been to Captain Shaw's School – No children changed places
- Been to Captain Shaw's School – 6 children changed places
- You like Waberthwaite School – 13 children changed places
- If you like Waberthwaite School just as it is – 9 children changed places
- If you would like new children at the school – 12 children changed places

We then asked the children to draw their 'dream school' and talk about it

Ideas for their dream school were:

- Have sweets – but not too many!!
- No school uniform

- Have more friends to play with
- Have electricity and no power cuts
- Chocolates on the wall – it would smell nice
- Have a bouncy castle
- Make the teachers into 5* servants
- Have the same friends as now and no more
- Have the same teachers as now
- Have a swimming pool x 3
- Have a time machine and bring back dinosaurs
- Have a school dog
- Have a personal chef
- Have a 15 ft toy box
- Bigger classrooms
- More toys
- Snow
- Shorter school day x 3
- Play a lot
- Current school to be knocked down x 2
- Horse stables x 2
- Somewhere we can plant flowers
- No bad weather
- Have Alligators x 2
- Have a tractor
- Have baboons
- For my girlfriend to come here (she is at Captain Shaw's)
- Have a snake
- Have sharks x 2
- Have a Piranha tank
- Have a Boxing Ring

We then did a hands up game:

The children put their hands up to the following questions:

- Who thinks it would be nice to have more older children in the school – 6 children
- Who thinks it would be nice to have more younger children in the school – 2 children
- Who thinks it would be nice for the school to be bigger – 11 children
- Who thinks it would be nice for the Captain Shaw's children to come to Waberthwaite – 8 children
- Who thinks it would be nice for Waberthwaite school to stay just as it is – 6 children

We then moved on to their worries and wishes for school

Wishes

- Everything at the school to be made of chocolate
- To have a space rocket
- More friends to play with outside
- More sports things to use
- Electrical scooter for the juniors
- Sweets for a reward system
- Waberthwaite School to stay just as it is
- New Pet Fish for the juniors (already have 4)
- Just play instead of doing work
- A bigger playground

Worries

- More children will mean pushing and shoving
- There will be more bullying with more children
- Don't want to go to secondary school at year 7, would like to stay at Waberthwaite for an extra year
- Don't want friends to leave
- There are too many sharp things to fall over if it gets dark and there is a power cut
- People would get hurt more
- With more children there will be more older people to get angry with us

We then moved on to looking at what they could do if new children were to come to Waberthwaite School to help them make friends, they said:

- Show them where the toilets are
- Give them a tour of the school
- Tell them who to keep away from and who the bullies are
- Let them join in with you
- Let them know when it is playtime
- Tell them where their locker is
- Tell them where to get dinner
- Help them to read

