



21 May 2014

East Herts Council
Wallfields
Pegs Lane
Hertfords
SG13 8EQ

Dear Sir/Madam,

Draft District Plan – Preferred Options Consultation 2014

Our school is pleased to see a comprehensive development plan for Bishop's Stortford. This plan should prevent uncontrolled development in and around the town where the local infrastructure and the road network are poor. We believe the plan to be well thought out and we are pleased to note that education requirements have not been forgotten.

The school has several comments to make which we would ask be taken into consideration:

- We believe one 6 FE (form of entry) secondary school located in Bishop's Stortford North will not be adequate to meet the town's future education needs. (Please note one form of entry equates to 30 students per year.)
- We have seen various estimates, from several organisations, of predicted school numbers, and we believe up to 12 FE will be required.
- The Hadham Road site, shown in the draft plan, is now not available for a secondary school, as this is being used as a land exchange to accommodate the 6 FE secondary school in Bishop's Stortford North.
- We have noted that there is 17 Ha reserved for education use in the Bishop's Stortford South site; however, we have calculated this site to be too small to satisfy the possible secondary and primary school requirements. We believe a site of 20 to 22 Ha is more appropriate, particularly if schools are required to expand in the future. A failure to allow for future expansion has, in the past, led to schools in this area being located on cramped sites, often with poor road planning and daily traffic problems.
- The Bishop's Stortford South site is now the last site available for development in Bishop's Stortford, which is large enough to accommodate a secondary school. It is important that the opportunity to make use of this site is not lost. Failing this, the only remaining option would be to build a new school outside the perimeter of the Bishop's Stortford by-pass in the green belt. We would find this unacceptable, as we believe is the prevailing feeling in Bishop's Stortford.

Yours faithfully,



Robert Fielden
Chair of Governors
The Hertfordshire & Essex High School