



**COUNCILLORS NEIL FUREY & JENNY PATTERSON - WORKING  
HARD FOR SKELMERSDALE NORTH WARD**

Provision Planning Team  
Directorate for Children and Young People  
Lancashire County Council  
Preston  
PR1 8BR

Date: 28 March 2015

Dear Sirs,

**Re: PROPOSED CLOSURE OF GLENBURN SPORTS COLLEGE**

We are writing to object to your proposal to close Glenburn Sports College.

We represent some 3000 residents across Skelmersdale North Ward and we strongly object to this proposed closure. To close this school will be a huge loss to the local community, not only as a school but valuable sports facilities will also be lost for good. We have already lost Skelmersdale's Sports Centre and we cannot afford to lose further facilities across the town.

We join parents and pupils who have shared their concerns and disappointment with this proposed closure.

We feel closing this school is the 'easy' option and further options must be explored to deal with the school's financial position and falling pupil numbers.

We wish for this decision to be deferred and Lancashire County Council consult on plans to build a brand new school and new sports facilities on this site.

Yours sincerely,

**Councillor(s) Neil S Furey & Jenny Patterson**

SCYTHET 111 50-03-11  
RH  
(5)  
**Hargreaves, Rachel**

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**From:** Iain Smith/CYPS/STHMBC <IainSmith@sthelens.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 27 March 2015 17:03  
**To:** CYP School Reviews  
**Cc:** Andy Dempsey/CYPS/STHMBC  
**Subject:** Proposed Closure of Gleburn Sports College



I am contacting you to respond to the Notice and Proposal that you recently published in relation to the closure of Glenburn Sport College.

St.Helens Council would like some assurance from Lancashire County Council that should the number of children seeking secondary school places within the Skelmersdale area begin to increase to a higher level than your current projections show, you will commence work on a new build secondary school in the Skelmersdale area or expand Lathom High School, to meet local demand.

The Year 7 projections within section 5 of the Proposal predict that you will only have 5 spare places in 2019 (including Up Holland High School) - this is unlikely to provide sufficient capacity to accommodate parental choice or In Year Transfers in future years. Furthermore the proposal states that the projected Year 7 numbers are based on parental preference which suggests that you have already built in to your formula the assumption that children will secure places outside the borough. Our projections suggest increasing demand in future years for our Secondary Schools and if our schools (in particular, Rainford High School) fill up with children from Associated Primary Schools then there will be limited opportunity for children from Skelmersdale to secure places in Rainford High School based on the oversubscription criteria - this may leave you with more children to accommodate in your secondary schools than your current projections show.

Do you have sufficient funding to build a new secondary school or increase capacity at Lathom High School, should the demand increase to a higher level than your current projections show?

If so, can you assure St.Helens Council that you will take action to provide places for children from Skelmersdale should they be unable to secure a place at a local school in Skelmersdale?

Regards

Iain Smith

School Organisation & Forward Planning

Children & Young People's Services

St.Helens Council

Tel: 01744 676671

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## **Response from the Governing Body of Glenburn Sports College to the consultation on closure**



The Governing Body of Glenburn Sports College met on 23rd March 2015 and agreed the following statement:

**The Governing Body recognises the significant issues facing the school in respect of pupil numbers, educational standards and budget challenges. Whatever the outcome of the consultation process, first and foremost they are committed to safeguarding the education and well-being of the pupils attending Glenburn.**

**The Governing Body considers that Lancashire County Council should address the provision of high quality secondary education in Skelmersdale. They believe this would be best served by a new-build, community or non-faith school accessible to all pupils in the town, and which would be attractive to parents of pupils who currently attend high schools out of the area. This would also continue to provide the well-used and much-needed community facilities currently located at Glenburn.**

**The Governing Body will seek to ensure that Glenburn:**

- **is able to provide a level and quality of staffing to maintain a balanced curriculum delivering all options chosen by current pupils;**
- **can support current pupils to achieve successful outcomes**
- **can maintain the fabric of the building to provide a stimulating, safe and healthy learning environment.**

**In pursuing these aims, the Governing Body expect the full support of Lancashire County Council. This should be in the form of a budget which will provide:**

- **guaranteed staffing stability and the retention of staff in all key areas**
- **external consultancy and other support to continue to raise standards**
- **for the fabric of the building to be maintained.**

**The County Council must also ensure that clear and prompt communication takes place with the school and parents at all stages during the process.**

**The Governing Body is disappointed by the transport arrangements proposed for pupils to relocate to other schools. It urges Lancashire County Council to commit to the provision of transport for all pupils currently in the school and those offered places for September 2015. In addition it considers that the County Council should offer assistance towards the cost of school uniform. It believes these measures will reassure parents regarding pupil safety and recognise the real financial challenges many face.**

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9 March 2015



**Shirley Gornall**  
Senior Her Majesty's  
Inspector

Mr Ben Terry  
Provision Planning Manager (Central)  
Provision Planning Team, Room B34  
County Hall  
Fishergate  
Preston  
PR1 8RJ

Our ref: CAS-319830

Dear Mr Terry

**Consultation on the proposed closure of Glenburn Community Sports  
College, Skelmersdale**

Thank you for your letter of 2 March 2015, which was received by Ofsted on 5 March 2015. We have noted the contents of your correspondence and forwarded your letter to the inspector who has been monitoring the school's progress since it was judged to require special measures at its most recent inspection.

Yours sincerely



**Shirley Gornall**  
Senior Her Majesty's Inspector  
North West