

6246/527/M00

Education Matters!



29 High Street Halberton Tiverton Devon EX16 7AF UK

Tel/ Fax

Mob:

Email:

www.education-matters-uk.com

Local Plan Review Consultation,
Forward Planning,
Mid Devon District Council,
Phoenix House,
Tiverton,
EX16 6PP



14 February 2017

Dear Head of Forward Planning,

Local Plan Review Consultation

I wish to take this opportunity to flag up the need to provide a sufficient number of school places in the coming years in Mid Devon.

I attach a current update related to a proposal for a new Free School in the vicinity of Junction 27. This gives an outline of the idea. I request that this identified need for educational provision be taken into consideration within the Local Plan.

[REDACTED]

Terence Payne
Director

New Free School Proposal: An Update by Terry Payne

For some time now, I have been consulting widely about the idea of establishing a new free school at Junction 27. I am delighted to be able to tell you that the proposal is moving forward well. At this stage, here's a summary of where the proposals stand:

- The school will be a free school, funded directly by the Government; 500 are planned or already existing; the Government wants another 500 built.
- Our, as yet, unnamed school will be either a secondary (11-19) school with a sixth form (16+), or possibly an all-through (4-19) school.
- Locally, there will be insufficient school spaces in the near future with the building of 8000+ homes, to the west and east of Tiverton and at Cullompton.
- The School's 16+ students (Year 11) will be joined in the sixth form (Years 12 and 13) by students from Tiverton High (from the west), Uffculme (the east), Cullompton (the south) and possibly Court Fields Wellington (from the north).
- This will give students wider choices at 16+, avoid travel to Taunton or Exeter, save time, money and offer them social and cultural opportunities locally.
- It is likely that the school will offer IB courses (International Baccalaureate) rather than A level; nurturing individuals' talents at all levels is paramount.
- This will give the school a very large sixth form of 500-700 offering a very wide range of subjects. The total school population will be 1200+.
- The new School will work collaboratively with all other educational institutions in the area; they are all being kept fully informed about his exciting project.
- When the school starts, it will have a sister school, a highly successful, over-subscribed free school already established by a Higher Education Institution based in Devon.
- The application to start the school will be made later this year; by the end of the year, we should know whether the proposal is agreed by the DfE.
- The new School will open as soon as possible in temporary premises with a small number of classes whilst the new building is constructed.
- The curriculum will be innovative, preparing young people to be resourceful, creative and resilient in a fast changing world buffeted by unpredictable events.
- Learning will be experiential but robust in a school that young people relish going to because they are happy, inspired and excited by the way they learn.

You will be updated regularly in coming newsletters. In the early Spring, I am going to establish a Steering Group building on the enthusiasm and support already expressed by many individuals and organisations. If are interested in joining it, especially if you have relevant expertise, please contact me or [REDACTED] or

[REDACTED] ASAP. My experience teaching here and abroad, as an OFSTED inspector and in establishing a new international school in Portugal, leaves me with no illusion about the enormity of this project. This seems to many of us that this is the right place at the right time. It's our opportunity to seize and give life changing opportunities to coming generations in our belief that education matters!