

John Halsall, Leader of the Council
Graham Howe, Executive Member for Children's Services
Carol Cammiss, Director of Children's Services
Wokingham Borough Council
Shute End
Wokingham
Berkshire
RG40 1BN

27 July 2021

Subject: Secondary and Post 16 Education for children in Shinfield Parish

Dear John, Graham and Carol,

As you are aware Shinfield Parish has planning consents for circa 3750 new houses. The plans for the South of M4 Strategic Development Location (SM4 SDL) include expansion of existing primary education through increase year entries and 2 new primary schools of which one has now opened. However, there appear to be no plans to expand secondary education in the parish nor to provide post 16 education. We are already aware that our nearest Wokingham schools at Oakbank and Bohunt in Arborfield are full to capacity and Bohunt is considering post 16 education for its existing cohort of pupils.

Wokingham has not funded any expansion of Oakbank School and we have returned to position of sending our secondary children the furthest distances in the borough to reach central Wokingham schools which will in turn fill up with Children from the Hatch Farm development and the north and South Wokingham SDLs. Without local post -16 education our children are having to travel to Farnborough and Bracknell.

The Parish Council requests that Wokingham Borough Council, as Local Education Authority responsible for ensuring capacity is available to meet the needs of Secondary and Post 16 education, provides a report on how it will meet these educational needs of the children of Shinfield Parish. We invite Wokingham Council to present that report to a Full Council meeting of the Shinfield Parish Council meeting in the autumn of 2021.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Grimes
Chair
Shinfield Parish Council