

**From:** jen hopkins <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 16 December 2020 13:50  
**To:** Ham, Paula [REDACTED]; Burnett, Lis (Cllr)  
<[REDACTED]>; Thomas, Rob <[REDACTED]>; Moore, Neil (Cllr) [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** St Nicholas New School Build

Dear all

I am writing on behalf of the Governing Body of St Nicholas CIW Primary School. As you will be aware, there have been ongoing discussions at high levels regarding the future of the school and as a Governing Body we wish to put forward our own perspective for the council's consideration.

It is now almost two years since we received the exciting news that funding had been identified to enable a complete rebuild of our school. This was extremely welcome news to all of us, as we are well aware of the deteriorating physical state of our buildings and the constraints this puts on the staff and children. Initial meetings were very positive, and the school leadership team and governors were able to be involved in decision making.

It was inevitable that there would be complications regarding highways due to the nature of the village, and this was foreseen from the outset. However, more recently the process appears to have become somewhat lost in a circuitous series of discussions and meetings and we appear to be slipping ever further away from the reality of a new school building our children desperately need.

As a governing body in this situation decision making about a whole variety of elements becomes difficult, but particularly for any new purchases. We are very conscious that our older children are missing out on provision because we are reluctant to buy equipment that will not be suitable to be moved into a new build. We have ongoing and pressing structural and grounds issues that we again cannot justify spending money to address when the whole site is due to be demolished within the foreseeable future. We have new families moving into the village with young children hoping to be able to access nursery provision in our school, and at the moment we have no guarantee we can provide this for them.

While our staff never complain, we are again aware that they have for some time now been working in a position of uncertainty, in rapidly deteriorating buildings. They are aware of an atmosphere of hostility from some of the school's neighbours, which is likely to continue while this current uncertainty regarding the school's future continues.

We would like to remind those currently determining the ultimate fate of our school that our children and staff are so in need of this new building, to enable them to learn and work effectively.

With best wishes

Dr Jen Hopkins  
Chair of Governors  
St Nicholas CIW Primary School