

East Cowes.



Mrs Angie Mathews,
28, Yarborough Road,
East Cowes,
Isle of Wight,
PO32 6SH.
18th August 2009

Dear Ms Hales,

The following is my response to the competition and statutory notices for the new primary school in the East Cowes area. I declare my interest as an employed member of staff and Governor at East Cowes Primary School and as a resident of East Cowes and an active member of the local community.

My immediate concern is that I have always preferred the option of working for a community school as part of the LA and was disappointed that the LA chose not to bid for this school but did for the other new primary. Mr Simmonds' statements about this decision have been omitted from the OPM meeting notes. I would wish to be part of a bigger and stronger unit than a single school run separately outside of the LA. However, at the Public Meeting held to present proposals on 21.7.09, AET clearly stated (although the statement has worryingly been omitted from the OPM meeting notes) that they do not wish to get into disputes with staff over changing pay, conditions and pensions and would recognise all national agreements on pay and conditions of service. They also committed to working with LA schools and trainers as appropriate and to work closely with the LA during the transition period. In addition they recognised the local knowledge and commitment of the EWO group and would take on board appropriate commitments from their proposal. Furthermore, as they are bidding to run the only other primary school to be in this position, current staff in the East Cowes area have another group of staff to relate to in this unsettling period of change.

I therefore wish to support the AET bid for running the new school at East Cowes. This group is committed to providing an outstanding education for the children of East Cowes (within a larger AET group of schools) and clearly has the capacity to provide it. It also has a proven track record in education, a solid management structure and clear sustainability and succession planning. I believe it is the best option for achieving the LA vision for the East Cowes area of the Island.

I would hope that a new build school will be possible, which will house excellent facilities for children and adults in East Cowes. I also hope that there will be no compulsory staff redundancies.

Yours sincerely,


Mrs Angie Mathews.
