

HYDE PARISH COUNCIL

Rt Hon Sir Desmond Swayne MP
by email

20th March 2017

Dear Sir Desmond,

National Funding Formula for Schools

As Chairman of Hyde Parish Council I am writing to you personally to express our Council's deep concern about the possible impact on our village school of the national funding formula proposals as currently set out.

As a rural community in the north west quadrant of the New Forest National Park our continuing focus is to develop the facilities at our disposal so that we may be recognised as a desirable - and affordable - place for families to live, to work and to give their young a good start to their education. In this context there are three primary indicators:

- affordable housing,
- modern working facilities and
- local education resource

In spite of the inherent difficulties of establishing affordable housing in the National Park, we are encouraged by recent developments in other areas of the New Forest and will be re-examining our own possibilities in this regard as a matter of urgency.

Our self-funded project to bring faster broadband to over 345 homes in our community is nearing completion and this will provide a really key facility for those who wish to work and study from home.

As our Parish Plan makes clear, we see Hyde Primary School as a real asset in our quest to bring young families to our community. The new government proposals appear to put the viability of this school in serious doubt. Ours is a small school, but we already have 50% of our pupils within Parish/catchment and our roll is set to increase by 10% in the forthcoming academic year. Without significant alteration, the current proposals will certainly ensure that our school will move into financial losses which will become unsustainable in the medium term.

Please use your good offices to lobby for the changes that are needed to ensure the continuance of this vital 'third leg' of our Parish drive to remain a vibrant community. We look forward to hearing from you in this regard.

Yours sincerely,



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