

Statutory proposals for school closures

As set out in the Establishment and Discontinuance Regulations the information below **must** be included in a proposal to close a school:

Contact details

Proposal, published by North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, to discontinue:

Skelton Newby Hall Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Skelton on Ure, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 5AJ, from 31 August 2023.

Skelton Newby Hall Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School is a 3-11 Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school in North Yorkshire.

Implementation

It is proposed to close the school from 31 August 2023.

Reason for closure

There are two key concerns: 1) Falling roll 2) Maintaining the quality and breadth of education for all year groups

Falling roll

The critical concern is the fall in pupil numbers, which would inevitably result in an inability to provide the necessary breadth of curriculum experience and would also irrevocably undermine the schools future financial position.

The number of children at Skelton Newby Hall CE VC Primary School has been falling over the past few years. At the beginning of September 2021, there were 15 pupils on roll in the school plus two children in nursery. This was well below the capacity of the school which could accommodate around 52 pupils. Marketing of the school has been a collective effort by governors, staff and parents though this has not had a long-term result. At the start of this academic year in September 2022, there has been a further fall in numbers and the school had 9 statutory aged and one nursery child remaining on roll. In February 2023, only one pupil (year 6) remains on roll at Skelton Newby Hall CE VC School and is educated at Sharow CE VC School (Federated with Skelton Newby Hall CE VC School) alongside year group peers. In these circumstances, it would be difficult to sustain quality education.

Maintaining quality and breadth of education for all year groups

The small size of the school and the very small number of pupils in each year group will limit the range of personal and academic challenges for pupils including

opportunities for child-initiated play and interaction in early years. This is particularly the case now with only one pupil in total at the school and who is now educated at Sharow CE VC School.

The School was last inspected by Ofsted in March 2020, when there were 20 pupils on roll. The overall effectiveness was judged to be 'Requires Improvement' as were the four key judgements on the quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development and leadership and management. The arrangements for safeguarding were judged to be effective.

Sharow Primary School was last subject to a full Ofsted inspection in 2016 and judged to be 'Good' overall. A monitoring (section 8) inspection took place in December 2021. The report states that the evidence gathered suggests that the inspection grade might not be as high (as 'Good') if a full inspection were carried out now. The next inspection will therefore be a full graded (section 5) inspection.

The Ofsted Education Inspection Framework, introduced in September 2019, places significant weight on curriculum provision. Delivering a curriculum that has 'breadth and ambition' is a particular challenge for a very small school. For example, the National Curriculum for PE states that "pupils should be taught to play competitive games (for example, cricket, football, hockey, netball, rounders)". When the pupil count was in single figures (ranging in age from 5 to 11) it was very difficult for the school to provide meaningful opportunities for competitive sport. Teams were created only when the School was able to combine with another school, usually the federated school, or the School attended organized sports festivals so that children could compete in mixed teams created at such events.

One of the aims of English curriculum is that pupils 'are competent in the arts of speaking and listening, making formal presentations, demonstrating to others and participating in debate'. High quality age-appropriate debate is challenging to stimulate and maintain within a small number of pupils.

The Financial Position

Pupil numbers determine the school budget. The latest financial forecast submitted to the County Council for Skelton Newby Hall CE Primary School indicates that the school will have an accumulated budget surplus position of £109.2k at the end of the 2022/23 financial year, £94.1k at the end of the 2023/24 financial year and £55.6k at the end of the 2024/25 financial year. The funding calculation in the forecast is based on 15 pupils in October 2021, 9 pupils in October 2022 and 11 pupils in October 2023. The position will be significantly worse now there is only one pupil at the school (Year 6 who will transition to secondary school at the end of this academic year) and there appears to be no reasonable prospect of recovery. The likely position of no pupils on roll at the October 2023 census, means that the School would not receive any per pupil funding for the 2024/25 financial year.

Pupil numbers and admissions

The numbers (distinguishing between compulsory and non-compulsory school age pupils), age range, sex, and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is currently made at the school.

As at 27 February 2023, there is currently one pupil on roll at the school of compulsory school age

	Pupil numbers	PAN
Reception	0	7
Year 1	0	7
Year 2	0	7
Year 3	0	7
Year 4	0	7
Year 5	0	7
Year 6	1	7
Totals	1	

The school's age range is 3-11 years, and provision is available for boys and girls. There is no boarding provision. Information on special educational needs of pupils is not provided as this would contravene the Data Protection Act. With only one remaining pupil on the school roll this is significantly lower than the capacity of the school which is designed to accommodate around 52 pupils.

Displaced pupils

A statement and supporting evidence about the need for school places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

Details of the schools or further education colleges at which pupils at the school to be discontinued will be offered places, including—

- a) any interim arrangements;
- b) the provision that is to be made for those pupils who receive educational provision recognised by the local authority as reserved for children with special educational needs; and
- c) in the case of special schools, the alternative provision made by local authorities other than the local authority which maintain the school.

Details of any other measures proposed to be taken to increase the number of school or further education college places available in consequence of the proposed discontinuance.

- a) No interim arrangements have been necessary

There are five other North Yorkshire primary schools within reasonable travelling distance with places available currently. Across the area there are places available for the one remaining pupil currently on roll at Skelton Newby Hall CE VC School.

The nearest school to Skelton Newby Hall CE Primary School is Kirby Hill CE VC Primary School. Kirby Hill CE VC has spaces in all year groups and was rated 'Good' by Ofsted.

There are also places available at Boroughbridge Community School, Roecliffe CE Academy, Dishforth Airfield Community and Sharow CE VC. These schools were all judged 'Good' or 'Outstanding' in their last Ofsted.

Revised school catchment area arrangements that would apply, in the event of closure, from 31 August 2023

It is proposed that should Skelton Newby Hall CE VC close, Kirby Hill CE VC Primary School, as the nearest alternative school and also a CE school, would be the appropriate choice to adopt the existing Skelton Newby Hall catchment area as an addition to its existing area in the event of a closure.

Parents have a right to express a preference for any school and, in the case of community and voluntary controlled schools, the relevant Local Authority is the admissions authority and will meet that preference provided there are vacant places or the school is happy to admit above the published admission number. In the case of Voluntary Aided schools, the governing body decide the conditions for admission to their particular school. Where a child attends a school which is not their normal school or nearest school, parents are normally responsible for making transport arrangements.

- b) This is a mainstream primary, and therefore, not a school that is reserved for providing to pupils with special educational needs
- c) This is a mainstream school, and therefore, not a special school that is reserved for providing to pupils with special educational needs

Impact on the community

A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community of the closure of the school and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact.

In some communities the school is the only meeting space. Skelton on Ure has a Reading Room which has capacity for 40. The Reading Room is a valuable resource for the village and is available for hire to groups. It has a large modern well-equipped kitchen. The existing school facilities are not currently used by the community.

The school has close links with the parish of Skelton cum Newby. St Helen's Church is located in the village of Skelton cum Newby and nearby Christ the Consoler Church located in the estate grounds of Skelton Newby Hall. The school uses the local church for collective worship and educational activities. The school hosts a number of school events at Christ the Consoler with kind permission from The Churches Conservation Trust.

The village pub at Skelton on Ure is currently closed but campaigners are looking to save the pub as a community hub for the whole area.

The school site is owned by the Skelton Newby Hall Estate and leased to the school. Future use of the school site and buildings will be taken by the owners after the closure proposal has been determined.

There is no planned housing development in the school's catchment area as part of the Harrogate Local Plan.

Whilst the impact on the wider economic and social sustainability of the community is an important consideration, the key consideration is to determine whether the proposal is in the best interests of children's education.

Rural primary schools

Where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of Section 15 (Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA), a statement that the local authority or the governing body (as the case may be) considered Section 15(4) EIA.

Skelton Newby Hall CE VC is designated as a rural school under the Designation of Rural Primary Schools (England) Order. The School Organisation regulations and guidance contain a presumption against closure of rural schools, and it is a requirement that proposers must consider the effect of the discontinuance of any rural primary school on the local community. The statutory guidance specifically states that 'This does not mean that a rural school will never close, but the case for closure should be strong and a proposal must be clearly in the best interests of educational provision in the area.' The guidance states that when producing a proposal, the proposer must carefully consider:

- the likely effect of the closure of the school on the local community;
- the proportion of pupils attending the school from within the local community i.e. is the school being used by the local community;
- educational standards at the school and the likely effect on standards at neighbouring schools;
- the availability, and likely cost to the LA, of transport to other schools;
- whether the school is now surplus to requirements (e.g. because there are surplus places elsewhere in the local area which can accommodate displaced pupils, and there is no predicted demand for the school in the medium or long term);
- any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the closure of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase; and
- any alternatives to the closure of the school.

These are examined in turn below.

The likely effect of closure of the school on the local community

Please see the section above 'Impact on the Community'

The proportion of pupils attending the school from within the local community i.e. is the school being used by the local community

There is currently one pupil on roll and this pupil lives in the catchment area of the school.

There are 26 primary aged children who reside in the Skelton Newby Hall CE VC catchment area who attend a North Yorkshire maintained school (October 2022 Census, Department of Education). Six pupils residing in the school catchment area attended Skelton Newby Hall CE VC School in autumn 2022.

The availability, and likely cost to the LA, of transport to other schools

If the school closed, there would be a potential additional cost to the Local Authority in providing transport to other schools in future. Free home to school transport would be provided for entitled pupils within the enlarged catchment area in accordance with the County Council's Home to School Transport policy. The County Council's Home to School transport policy sets out that free school transport will be provided to the catchment school or nearest school to a child's home address if it is over the statutory walking distances set out by law. This is:

- Two miles for children under eight years of age;
- Three miles for children aged over eight; or
- where the route to the catchment or nearest school is not safe to walk accompanied by a responsible adult.

If the nearest catchment or nearest school is full, transport will be provided, in accordance with the authority's transport policy, to the nearest school with places available.

As the only pupil currently on roll at Skelton Newby Hall School will move to secondary education before the proposed closure date, there would be no immediate transport costs.

Any pupils living in the current Skelton Newby Hall catchment area applying for school places at other local schools after the closure would be assessed under the home to school transport policy at the appropriate time. As such future transport costs cannot be estimated.

Children from low income families (children entitled to free school meals or whose parent are in receipt of the maximum level of Working Tax Credit) have additional eligibility criteria for additional home to school transport and details are available on the County Council's website at <http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/26071/School---travel-support>

Whether the school is now surplus to requirements (e.g. because there are surplus places elsewhere in the local area which can accommodate displaced pupils, and there is no predicted demand for the school in the medium or long term)

There are 5 primary schools within a 4.5 mile radius of Skelton Newby Hall School by road:

- Kirby Hill CE VC
- Boroughbridge Community Primary School
- Roecliffe CE Academy
- Dishforth Airfield Community Primary
- Sharow CE VC (federated with Skelton Newby Hall)

Kirby Hill CE VC

- 2.4 miles by road from Skelton Newby Hall
- Rated Good by Ofsted in December 2021
- Capacity 150
- 103 pupils on roll
- Forecast 105 pupils + 23 from housing by 2025/26 (Outstanding permissions)

Boroughbridge Community School

- 2.8 miles by road from Skelton Newby Hall
- Rated Good by Ofsted in July 2022
- Capacity 252
- 184 pupils on roll
- Forecast 199 pupils +141 from housing by 2026/27 (Outstanding Permissions)

Roecliffe CE Academy

- 4 miles by road from Skelton Newby Hall
- Rated Good by Ofsted in November 2017 (pre-conversion to Academy status)
- Capacity 72
- 72 pupils on roll
- Forecast 60 pupils +3 from housing by 2026/27 (Outstanding Permissions)

Dishforth Airfield CP Primary School

- 4.1 miles from Skelton Newby Hall by road
- Rated Outstanding by Ofsted in December 2021
- Capacity 189
- 85 pupils on roll
- Forecast 74 pupils +1 from housing by 2026/27 (Outstanding Permissions)

Sharow CE VC

- 4.3 miles from Skelton Newby Hall by road
- Rated Good by Ofsted in December 2021
- Capacity 99
- 93 on roll
- Forecast 85 pupils +20 from housing by 2026/27 (Outstanding Permissions)

The view of the Local Authority is that there are surplus places in the local area which can accommodate displaced pupils. Eight of the nine pupils on roll at the start of term in September 2022 have now found places and transferred to other local schools. Currently there is only one pupil on roll at Skelton Newby Hall CE VC and this pupil (year 6) is educated at Sharow CE VC School with peers as has been the case since September 2022.

Any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the closure of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase

It is not considered that there would be significant additional car use given the small number of pupils who would be affected by the closure.

Any alternatives to the closure of the school

The Governing Body and officers from the County Council and Diocese have explored alternatives to the closure of the school.

It is considered that there is no potential for the school to convert to academy status or to join a multi-academy trust because it would not meet tests of due diligence due to its small size.

The school is currently federated with Sharow CE VC since 2012. Both schools share the same Executive Headteacher. The federation maximises available opportunities to bring together pupils to share activities and learning opportunities.

The consultation process has not brought forward any suggestion for alternative partnership arrangements with any other school.

Balance of denominational provision

Where the school has a religious character, a statement about the impact of the proposed closure on the balance of denominational provision in the area and the impact on parental choice.

Skelton Newby Hall CE VC is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School. The LA is under an obligation to consider the impact on the proportion of church places before it determines the outcome of school closure proposals.

- The nearest Church of England school, 2.4 miles from Skelton Newby Hall CE VC is Kirby Hill CE VC Primary School.
- There is also a Church of England school at Roecliffe CE Academy Primary School which is 4 miles away.
- There is also a Church of England School at Sharow CE VC (Federated with Skelton Newby Hall) which is 4.3 miles away.

The Diocese is supporting the LA with the consultation and given the availability of places at other local Church of England schools has expressed no specific concerns about the impact on proportionality of places in this area.

Maintained nursery schools

Not applicable

Sixth form provision

Not applicable

Special educational needs provision

The existing provision at Skelton Newby Hall CE VC Primary School is not reserved for pupils with special educational needs.

Travel

Details of length and journeys to alternative provision.

The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how the proposed arrangements will mitigate against increased car use.

Eligibility for home to school transport will be determined in line with the County Council's current home to school transport policy and procedures based on each child's home address and individual circumstances.

Where a child attends a school which is not their normal school or the nearest school, parents are normally responsible for making transport arrangements.

The County Council's home to school transport policy that pupils up to the age of 8 would normally be eligible for free home to school transport if they live more than 2 miles from their normal area school (or 3 miles for those over the age of 8). Parents can always express a preference for a school other than their normal area school, however, they would usually be responsible for making transport arrangements. Eligibility is assessed on an individual basis taking into account the child's home address.

North Yorkshire County Council's Home to School transport policy states that 'Transport will be arranged so that children will not normally spend more than 1 hour 15 minutes travelling to a secondary school or 45 minutes to a primary school. Journey times might need to be longer than this in some more rural areas and where road or weather conditions mean that these times are not practical.' This is in line with statutory guidance from the Department for Education. The journey time for children living within the current Skelton Newby Hall CE VC Primary School catchment area would depend on which other school they attended and their home address. The nearest schools are:

Kirby Hill CE VC (2.4 miles from Skelton Newby Hall CE VC), approximate travel time 5 minutes away. Boroughbridge Community School (2.8 miles away, approximate travel time 8 minutes away). Roecliffe CE Academy (4 miles away, approximate travel time 9 minutes away), although this school has reached its published admission number in some year groups, there is capacity in other year groups. Dishforth Airfield Community School (4.1 miles away, 9 minutes approximate travel time. Sharow CE VC (4.3 miles away, approximate travel time 10 minutes away).

Procedure for making representations (objections and comments)

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object

to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Corporate Director-Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD, or by email to schoolorganisation@northyorks.gov.uk by 5pm on 27 April 2023.

Consultation

The decision to consult on closure was taken by the Executive Member for Schools on 13 December 2022 following a request from governors. A consultation paper setting out the proposal was sent to parents of pupils on roll, staff at the school as well as other interested parties and individuals. A copy of the consultation paper is included in Appendix 2 and a list of the consultees is included in Appendix 3. The consultation period ran from 6 January 2023 to 24 February 2023. A public meeting was held on the 17 January 2023, a note of the meeting is attached as Appendix 4. There have been 50 consultation responses received (Appendix 5).

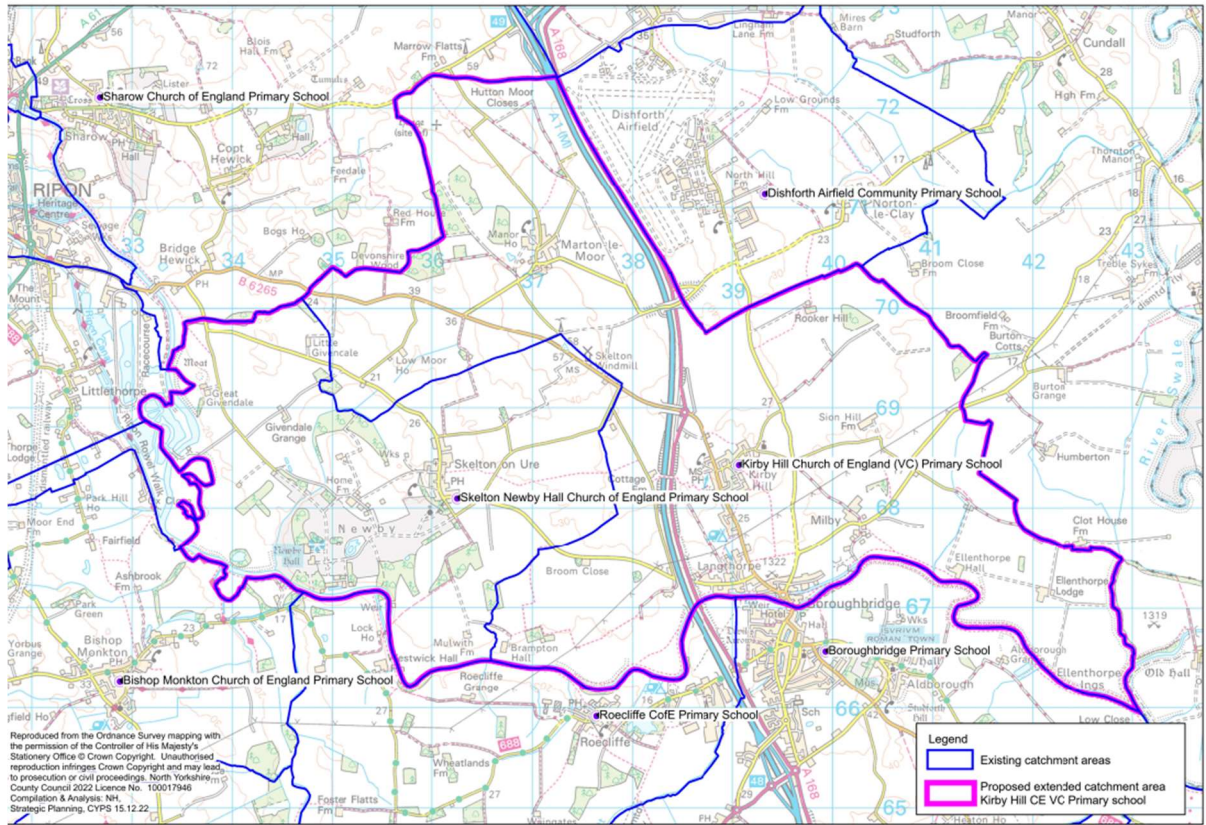
Appendices

- Appendix 1: Statutory Notice**
- Appendix 2: Consultation Paper**
- Appendix 3: List of the Consultees**
- Appendix 4: Note of the Public Consultation Meeting**
- Appendix 5: Consultation Responses**
- Appendix 6: Equality Impact Assessment**
- Appendix 7: Climate Change Impact Assessment**

Below is a map of the proposed catchment area which forms part of this Statutory Proposal.

Appendices 6 and 7 are attached as appendices E and F.

Proposal to close Skelton Newby Hall CE VC Primary School - current catchment area and proposed extended catchment areas for Kirby Hill CE VC Primary School



NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
Proposal to Cease to Maintain a School
Skelton Newby Hall Church of England (Voluntary
Controlled) Primary School

Notice is given in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, intends to discontinue Skelton Newby Hall Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School, Skelton-on-Ure, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 5AJ on 31 August 2023.

The proposal also includes revised school catchment area arrangements that would apply, in the event of closure, from 1 September 2023.

Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE and are available on the County Council's website at www.northyorks.gov.uk.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, by 5pm on 27 April 2023.

Signed: B. Khan
Assistant Chief Executive
(Legal and Democratic
Services)
Publication Date: 30 March 2023



Consultation Document

Proposal to close
Skelton Newby Hall CE VC Primary School
from 31 August 2023

Skelton Newby Hall CE VC Primary School

January 2023

This paper sets out details of a proposal to close Skelton Newby Hall CE VC Primary School with effect from 31 August 2023. It gives the background to the proposal. There will be a public meeting at Skelton Reading Room, Main Street, Skelton on Ure, Ripon, HG4 5AJ on Tuesday 17 January at 6pm.

Background

Skelton Newby Hall CE VC Primary School, Ripon is located in the rural village of Skelton on Ure. The school is currently federated with Sharow CE VC Primary School, an arrangement that has been in place since 2012. Both schools share the same Executive Headteacher. The federation maximises available opportunities to bring together pupils to share activities and learning opportunities.

Skelton Newby Hall CE VC Primary School was last inspected by Ofsted in March 2020, when there were 20 pupils on roll. The overall effectiveness was judged to be 'Requires Improvement' as were the four key judgements on the quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development and leadership and management. The arrangements for safeguarding were judged to be effective.

The number of children at Skelton Newby Hall CE VC Primary School has been falling over the past few years. At the beginning of September 2021, there were 15 pupils on roll in the school plus two children in the nursery. This was well below the capacity of the school which could accommodate around 52 pupils. Since then there has been a further fall in numbers and the school currently has nine statutory aged pupils and one nursery child remaining on roll. Due to low numbers Key stage 2 teaching is currently taking place at Sharow Primary School. The Governing Body have been active in their collective efforts to raise numbers at the school through many initiatives over recent years including the introduction of nursery provision in September 2019, which has attracted some children to the school, although numbers have been small. Marketing of the school has been a collective effort by governors, staff and parents though this has not had a long-term result.

At a recent Federation governing body meeting, governors agreed unanimously, with regret, to ask the County Council to consult on closure proposals for Skelton Newby Hall CE Primary School. This decision was not taken lightly by the governing body.

The main factors prompting the request were considerations around being able to provide such a small number of pupils with the rounded education that they deserve, together with little prospect of future improvement in pupil numbers.

Factors Affecting the School's Viability

Pupil Numbers

Skelton Newby Hall is a 3-11 Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School and currently has nine children on roll and one child in nursery. The school is located in a rural area of Ripon, serving families living in and near the village of Skelton on Ure and the surrounding area. The number of children at Skelton Newby Hall Primary School has been falling over the past few years:

2016/17 – 50
2017/18 – 36
2018/19 – 22
2019/20 – 16
2020/21 – 15
2021/22 – 15
2022/23 – 9 (plus 1 nursery pupil)

Four of the nine children currently on roll in Reception to Year 6 reside in the catchment for Skelton Newby Hall Primary, the remaining five children attend the School from another catchment area.

The School has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of seven pupils per year group. The School has capacity to accommodate around 52 pupils if all spaces are in use, and therefore has the potential to contribute 52 places in the local area.

School Leadership and Standards

The most recent full Ofsted inspection for Skelton Newby Hall CE VC was in March 2020. At that time there were 20 pupils on roll. The overall effectiveness was judged to be 'Requires Improvement' as were the four key judgements on the quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development and leadership and management. The arrangements for safeguarding were judged to be effective. In September 2022, there were nine pupils registered at the school and one nursery pupil.

Leaders and Governors have worked collectively to mitigate the impact of low numbers at Skelton Newby Hall and have maximized the range of shared experiences with Sharow CE VC School. However, low pupil numbers mean that even with the best endeavours of the School it is difficult to provide education of a high quality for all year groups, and to meet the expectations of the 2019 Ofsted Education Inspection Framework that places significant weight on curriculum provision. Delivering a curriculum that has 'breadth and ambition' is a particular challenge for a very small school.

Sharow Primary School was last subject to a full Ofsted inspection in 2016 and judged to be 'Good' overall. A monitoring (section 8) inspection took place in January 2022.

The Financial Position

Pupil numbers determine the funding for a school budget. The Federation of Skelton Newby Hall CE VC Primary School and Sharow CE VC Primary School operate separate budgets for the two schools within the Federation.

The latest financial forecast submitted to the LA for Skelton Newby Hall CE Primary School indicates that the school will have an accumulated budget surplus position of £109.2k at the end of the 2022/23 financial year, £94.1k at the end of the 2023/24 financial year and £55.6k at the end of the 2024/25 financial year. The forecast is based on 15 pupils in October 2021, 9 pupils in October 2022 and 11 pupils in October 2023 as the basis for the funding calculation.

Whilst in-year budget deficits are forecast of £15.2k for the 2023/24 financial year and £38.5k for the 2024/25 financial year, the school is currently forecast to remain in a cumulative budget surplus position over the three year period.

Schools are presently facing significant cost pressures and there is continued uncertainty as to the level of cost increases for 2023/24; this may impact on the financial forecast.

Primary School places in the local area

In October 2021 there were 27 children living in Skelton Newby Hall's discrete catchment area and attending a North Yorkshire primary school. Six of those attended Skelton Newby Hall Primary School at that time, with the remaining 21 attending a total of nine other primary schools in the local area.

There are five other neighbouring primary schools within 4.5 miles of Skelton Newby Hall Primary School. Across the area there are places available for all pupils currently at the School. Further details of school capacities and pupil forecasts are set out in an accompanying document.

The nearest school to Skelton Newby Hall CE VC is Kirby Hill CE VC where there are places available in all year groups.

Boroughbridge Community Primary School also has places available in all year groups.

Roecliffe CE Academy is operating at around capacity but has some places available in all year groups apart from year 3 and year 6.

Dishforth Airfield CP has places in all year groups.

Sharow CE VC (federated with Skelton Newby Hall CE VC) has reached PAN in all year groups, however, the facilities at Sharow offer some ability to operate over PAN in certain year groups.

The Proposal

For the reasons above it is proposed that Skelton Newby Hall CE VC Primary School should close with effect from 31 August 2023.

It is also proposed that the catchment area of Kirby Hill CE VC Primary School should be extended to include the current Skelton Newby Hall catchment area. This is shown on maps accompanying this consultation document. The Leeds CE Diocese have indicated early stage support for this approach. These arrangements would be implemented from September 2023 only in the event of closure for Skelton Newby Hall CE School.

Kirby Hill CE VC Primary School is the nearest alternative school to Skelton Newby Hall CE VC Primary School and there is currently space in all year groups.

The County Council would welcome views regarding the future catchment area proposal as part of this consultation.

Admissions and Transport

There is available capacity in the local area to ensure sufficiency of school places. Parents of future children living in the current Skelton Newby Hall Primary School catchment area will be able to express a preference for school places at any school.

Parents have a right to express a preference for any school. The Local Authority is the admissions authority for community and voluntary controlled schools and will meet that preference provided there are vacant places, or the school is happy to admit above the published number. In the case of Academy schools, the Multi Academy Trust decides the conditions for admission.

Free home to school transport would be provided for entitled pupils in accordance with the revised catchment area arrangements in accordance with the County Council's Home to School Transport Policy.

North Yorkshire County Council's Admissions Team is always happy to give advice to parents – please contact schooladmissions@northyorks.gov.uk

Staff

A separate staff consultation process, including a meeting for staff and their professional associations and unions, will run in parallel with this consultation on the closure proposal. Staff are also welcome to comment on the proposal as part of this consultation.

The School Site

The school building and site is not owned by the County Council. Decisions about the future use of the school building will be taken by the owners after the closure proposal has been determined.

Additional Information

This consultation document should be read in conjunction with the following documents which can be found here <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/consultations> :

- Maps showing the current local catchment areas including the proposed extension of the catchment area for Kirby Hill Primary School should Skelton Newby Hall Primary School close
- Other schools – capacities and forecasts

What Happens Next?

Your views about this proposal are welcomed. You can either complete and return the attached response sheet, or submit an online response

Paper responses should be returned to North Yorkshire County Council at the address below:

FREEPOST RTKE-RKAY-CUJS
Skelton Newby Hall
Strategic Planning
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
NORTHALLERTON
DL7 8AE

Online responses may be submitted by following this link:

<https://consult.northyorks.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=167093812603>

Responses to the consultation will be published on the County Council's website. Your personal details, and those of others you may refer to, will not be published.

The closing date for responses is 5pm on Friday 24 February 2023

All responses to the consultation received by this date will be considered by the County Council's Executive on 21 March 2023.

If the County Council's Executive decides to proceed with the closure proposal, then statutory notices would be published in the local press on 30 March 2023. These notices would provide a further four weeks for representations to be made. A final decision is then scheduled to be taken by North Yorkshire County Council's Executive on 30 May 2023. If agreed, the school would close on 31 August 2023.

Anticipated Key Dates

All dates are subject to approvals at each stage.

Consultation opens	6 January 2023
Public meeting	17 January 2023 at 6pm
Consultation closes	24 February 2023
County Council's Executive considers consultation response	21 March 2023
Statutory Notices published (4 weeks for representations to be made)	30 March – 27 April 2023
Final decision by County Council's Executive	30 May 2023
Proposed school closure date	31 August 2023

Skelton Newby Hall CE VC Primary School Consultation

This is a consultation on proposals to close Skelton Newby Hall CE VC Primary School from 31 August 2023.

We are collecting this information for the purpose of gathering views on the proposal. Your personal data will not be published or passed to any other organisation unless a legal obligation compels us to do so.

Reading our Privacy Notice will help you understand how and why we process your personal data. www.northyorks.gov.uk/privacy-notices

Do you have any comments about the closure proposal?
(Please do not disclose any personal information in your answer)

Do you have any comments about catchment areas?
(Please do not disclose any personal information in your answer)

What is your interest/status? Parent / Governor / Teacher / Community / Other

Other (please
state)

Name of school:
(if applicable)

To confirm your proximity to school and to prevent duplicate responses we are asking you to provide your name and address. This information will be removed from any analysis or reports.

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

To help us assess whether we have provided clear information, please let us know whether you found this consultation easy to understand? **Yes / No**

Do you have any suggestions for improvement?

Please send this response sheet to the following "FREEPOST" address. You do not need to use a postage stamp.

FREEPOST RTKE-RKAY-CUJS
Skelton Newby Hall
Strategic Planning
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
NORTHALLERTON
DL7 8AE

Or to submit your response online go to:

<https://consult.northyorks.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=167093812603>

To be received by no later than 24 February 2023

Skelton Newby Hall CE Primary School – List of Consultees

Skelton Newby Hall CE VC Primary	Parents	via school
	Staff and governors	via school
	Chair of Governors	
Neighbouring Schools	Kirby Hill CE	
	Boroughbridge CP	
	Dishforth Airfield CP	
	Roecliffe CE	
	Sharow CE	
Unions and Professional Associations: (as at September 2021)	NAHT	
	NASUWT	
	NEU (formerly NUT & ATL)	
	VOICE	
	ASCL	
	UNISON	
Diocesan Directors	Anglican Diocese of Leeds	
	Catholic Leeds Diocese	
Neighbouring Local Authority:	N/A	
Local County Councillor - (Wathvale & Bishop Monkton)		
Harrogate Borough Councillors		
Local Parish/Town council	Newby with Mulwith, Givendale & Skelton	
Community Organisations & Local Interested parties	Library Service	
	Skelton on Ure Reading Rooms	
	Newby Hall Estate (c/o Agent)	
Regional Director for Yorkshire & Humber		
Secretary of State:		

Local MP		
15 Early Years Providers		

Internal distribution	Advisor	
	Governor Support	
	HR Advisor	
	School Admissions	
	Passenger Transport	
	Catering/Building Cleaning	
	Press Office	
	FMS Officer	
	Executive Members	

Record of Public Meeting concerning proposed closure of Skelton Newby Hall CE VC Primary School held at the Reading Room, Skelton-on-Ure

Public Meeting held on 17 February 2022 at 6pm

Present: County Cllr Annabel Wilkinson (Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills, NYCC), Amanda Newbold, (Assistant Director Education and Skills), Howard Emmet (Assistant Director Strategic Resources), John Lee (Strategic Planning Officer, NYCC), Canon Richard Noake (Director of Education, CoE Diocese Leeds), Peter Cannings, (Chair of Governors, Federation of Skelton Newby Hall CE VC and Sharow CE VC), and Sue Turley (Strategic Planning Officer, NYCC).

Executive Headteacher Skelton Newby Hall CE and Sharow CE School, Chair of Parish Council, Skelton Cum Newby, County Councillor for Wathvale and Bishop Monkton division, and approximately 19 members of the public from the community.

Apologies: None noted

AGENDA

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting opens – brief welcome - Introduction to the Panel 	Peter Cannings – Chair of Governing Board
Executive Members Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short statement about the process 	County Cllr Annabel Wilkinson
Presentation	John Lee – Strategic Planning Officer NYCC
Question and Answer Session	Chaired by County Cllr Annabel Wilkinson
Meeting Close	County Cllr Annabel Wilkinson

1. Welcome

Chair of Governors Federation of Skelton Newby Hall and Sharow opening remarks

Peter Cannings, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the panel including Richard Noake and County Councillor Annabel Wilkinson who would be chairing the meeting.

Executive Member opening remarks

County Councillor Annabel Wilkinson introduced the meeting and said that it was an opportunity for the County Council to listen to people's comments and questions that would be included in the report to the Council's Executive.

2. Presentation from NYCC

John Lee Strategic Planning Officer, NYCC, explained that the meeting was being held to discuss the proposal to close Skelton Newby Hall CE VC Primary School from 31 August 2023.

John Lee provided a presentation which covered:

- The proposal
- Background to the proposal
- Pupil numbers
- Pupil recruitment efforts
- Finances
- School Leadership and Standards
- Impact on the Federation
- Local Schools
- Local Housing
- Catchment area
- Potential impact on secondary catchment areas
- School staff
- Federation Governing Body
- Diocese statement from Canon Richard Noake
- How can people comment

The slides explained the background to the closure proposal of falling rolls and the impact of this on maintaining quality and breadth of education for all year groups. The Governing Body had been active in their collective efforts to raise numbers at the school including the introduction of nursery provision in September 2019. Marketing of the school had also been a collective effort by governors, staff and parents though this has not had a long-term result.

The slides explained how falling pupil numbers formed one aspect of the background to the proposal and went on to explain that the school has a net capacity of 52 spaces. As of October 2021, there were 27 primary aged pupils living in the Skelton Newby Hall School catchment area and attending a North Yorkshire school – 6 of those attended Skelton Newby Hall School.

Numbers on roll have been reducing since 2017/18 and there are currently 4 pupils on roll and one in nursery. Due to low numbers, Key Stage 2 teaching is currently taking place at Sharow.

Skelton Newby Hall CE VC School currently operates a single budget as part of the federation with Sharow CE VC Primary and pupil numbers determine the funding for a school budget. The latest financial forecast for Skelton Newby Hall School indicated that the school would have an accumulated budget surplus position of £109.2k at the end of the financial year 2022/23, £94.1k at the end of the 2023/24 financial year and £55.6k at the end of the 2024/25 financial year. In-year budget deficits are forecast of £15.2k for the 2023/24 financial year and £38.5k for the 2024/25 financial year.

The budget figures for 22/23 were based on 11 pupils but clearly now there are only four pupils at the school, this position would worsen.

An Executive Headteacher leads both schools within the federation. The most recent full Ofsted inspection for Skelton Newby Hall CE VC was in March 2020. Overall

effectiveness was judged to be 'Requires Improvement', as were the four key judgements on the quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development and leadership and management. Arrangements for safeguarding were judged to be effective.

Leaders and Governors have worked collectively to mitigate the impact of low numbers at Skelton Newby Hall CE VC and maximize the range of shared experiences with Sharow CE VC School. The Ofsted Inspection Framework places significant weight on curriculum provision. Delivering a curriculum that has 'breadth and ambition' is a particular challenge for a very small school.

Low pupil numbers at Skelton Newby Hall CE VC mean that even with the best endeavours of the school it is difficult to provide education of a high quality for all year groups, and to meet the expectations of the 2019 Ofsted Education Inspection Framework. This framework places significant weight on curriculum provision.

Sharow Primary CE VC School was last subject to a full Ofsted inspection in 2016 and judged to be 'Good' overall. An initial (section 8) inspection took place in December 2021.

Closure of Skelton Newby Hall CE VC School would dissolve the federation. The governing body may need to consider future arrangements for Sharow CE VC School should Skelton Newby Hall CE VC School close.

There are five neighbouring North Yorkshire primary schools within 4.5 miles of Skelton Newby Hall School: Kirby Hill (CE VC) Boroughbridge (Community); Roecliffe CE Academy, Dishforth Airfield Community Primary, Sharow (CE VC) federated with Skelton Newby Hall. Across the area there are places available for all pupils currently at the school. The pupil rolls and capacity information for all five schools is on the County Council's website.

At present, there is a discrete catchment area solely for Skelton Newby Hall CE VC School. It is proposed that Kirby Hill CE VC as the next nearest alternative school at 2.4 miles and which is also a CE school, would incorporate the existing Skelton Newby Hall catchment area as an addition to its existing catchment area in the event of a closure. The Church of England Diocese of Leeds has indicated early-stage support for this approach.

John Lee explained that views on this option, or other ideas for future catchment areas, should the school close, are being asked for as part of this consultation.

If Kirby Hill CE VC was to adopt the existing Skelton Newby Hall CE VC catchment area this would have implications on existing secondary catchment areas. The existing catchment area of Kirby Hill CE VC is in the Boroughbridge High secondary catchment area and the existing catchment area of Skelton Newby Hall CE VC is in the Ripon Grammar School /Outwood Academy Ripon catchment area.

Should Skelton Newby Hall CE VC close and the Kirby Hill CE VC catchment be extended, parts of the Kirby Hill primary school catchment areas would be split across two different secondary school catchments. Views on this are welcome and would be taken into account as part of the consultation process. Any proposed change could be consulted on as part of the Admissions Consultation Process for 2025/26

There is a parallel staff consultation process being undertaken.

In terms of Governance, John Lee explained that the federated governing body would remain in place during the consultation. In the event of closure, the federation would be dis-established, and a new governing body established for Sharow CE VC Primary from 1 September 2023.

The school buildings and the site are not owned by the County Council and it would be a matter for the owners to determine. Decisions about future use would be taken after determination of the closure proposal.

Richard Noake said he was representing the Diocese and that it was disappointing the meeting had been called under the circumstances presented. The school has been in existence since 1856. As a church school, Skelton Newby Hall requires the involvement of two statutory bodies, the County Council and the Diocese to consider a closure proposal, noting there is a Department for Education presumption against rural school closures.

Richard continued, noting that John Lee has outlined the challenges the school faced. Pupil numbers are key and drive the budget. With reducing rolls and only four pupils left at the school, it is challenging to provide quality provision across all year groups, the governing body had therefore reached the decision to ask the LA to consult on a school closure proposal.

Richard said that he had met with the Skelton Newby Hall Estate to discuss the potential school closure and consultation. The Estate currently leases the school to NYCC and are disappointed the school is in this position.

John Lee then outlined the consultation timescales and he emphasised that a two-stage consultation process would take place before any decisions on the proposals were taken. All views expressed at this public meeting would form part of the report which is considered when the decision on whether to proceed to the second statutory consultation is taken. The statutory consultation is a further 4-week period when there is opportunity for comments and responses.

John Lee stated the consultation runs until the 24 February 2023 and urged people to respond either online or by freepost. A report will be prepared and presented by Cllr Wilkinson to the Council's Executive on 21 March 2023.

John Lee then presented a slide with the details of the panel who would take questions from the audience:

Cllr Annabel Wilkinson – NYCC Executive Member

Canon Richard Noake – Diocesan Director of Education, Church of England Diocese of Leeds

Peter Cannings – Chair of Governors

Amanda Newbold – NYCC Assistant Director, Education and Skills

John Lee – NYCC Strategic Planning Officer

and he then handed over to Cllr Wilkinson who chaired the questions and answer session.

3. Q&A Session chaired by Cllr Wilkinson

A member of the public said they understood that the school's budget was difficult but the school is in an amazing location. Nationally, Lockdown has had a disastrous effect on children and they are still suffering. Children are taken by taxi all over the county and there needs to be more joined up thinking and opportunities for pupils that have a greater need. There is the school building and outside space and access to the countryside. It is not good enough saying there are not enough children at the school. There needs to be a bigger wider plan.

Amanda Newbold responded saying use of specialist provision is something that the Council is reviewing and is keen to reduce transport costs. As regards the building, the County Council does not own the school site or building.

An ex-parent of the school said their child had started school and was very shy with additional needs and their local catchment village school (Kirby Hill) was felt to be too big which is why they chose Skelton Newby Hall School which is outstanding compared to other local schools. Skelton Newby Hall School managed the pandemic superbly well with small groups, whereas other local schools had overcrowded areas, so if you take out Skelton Newby Hall School, you will have overcrowding in others.

A Parent said her child had recently transferred from Skelton Newby Hall to Roecliffe Primary School and expressed concern they felt compelled to act due to the number of school places available at Roecliffe and did not want to miss out by applying later. The parent did not want to leave the school. They were aware that two other pupils had also left to go to Boroughbridge Primary School and Sharow School was at capacity. Concern was expressed about the impact of housing developments in the area including new builds (two bedrooms) which target young families. The parent was keen to understand the pupil forecasts with the number of planned housing developments in the locality. She said it is important to recognise the limitation of living in a small village, you can't just walk to other schools.

John Lee responded saying a pupil census takes place termly and that housing developments and pupil yields are monitored carefully but it is clearly a moving picture. He reiterated that there are places available in all the nearby schools (as per the local schools capacity slide), there was only one school where two of the year groups were at capacity. The County Council works with Harrogate Borough Council to obtain the latest details of planning permissions and anticipated pupil yields from housing developments and include these in our pupil forecasts.

Cllr Wilkinson said it was important to put concerns about housing developments and the impact on pupil forecasts and places in consultation responses.

A parent asked about reception places in September 2023 at nearby schools as they wanted their child to attend the same school as their siblings.

Amanda Newbold said we are not yet at the National offer date for reception pupils and the application would be considered for sibling priority.

A parent at the school asked what happens when all the new houses are built out, school places are taken and what about pupils who may have additional needs? Their child was thriving at Skelton Newby Hall School, the family had received little notice about the proposal and needed to act quickly to secure a place at a nearby school.

Amanda Newbold responded saying please contact the Admissions Team and that a preference exercise could be considered for those pupils currently on roll at the school to look at school choices and try and match parents/carers requirements.

John Lee confirmed the LA could look at a preference exercise for those pupils currently attending Skelton Newby Hall School.

Parish Council Chair said that the proposed closure and consultation had been discussed at a recent Parish Council meeting. The school was founded in 1856 and that there should be a long-term view taken as once the School is lost it will be lost forever. Growing up in the 70s he had experienced housing expansion and portacabins attached to schools as a response.

Skelton Newby Hall School is federated with a school more closely linked to Ripon than Boroughbridge and is the smaller school.

A forest-based learning would be a great facility, which could offer something different and could draw people to the school. Skelton Newby Hall School provides something different adjacent to the Skelton Newby Hall Estate.

Boroughbridge and Langthorpe will continue to grow and when we look back in 2026 it will not have been a good decision to close the school. Local developments are putting a squeeze on local school places.

There is a feeling that the focus from management has not been on Skelton Newby Hall School but Sharow where the school is delivering a 'good' education.

Ex Chair of Governors Federation of Skelton Newby Hall and Sharow, thought the consultation was a 'fait au complet' and that children are now being forced to apply for other schools and this will increase transportation costs. There is an 'ebb and flow' of pupils at the school and this should be taken into account.

Cllr Brown County Councillor said he had recently been elected and was here to listen this evening, his constituency covers Langthorpe, Sharow and Roecliffe they have good schools. Boroughbridge is expanding and not yet stopped. Given there has been a school here since 1856 this is a really important exercise to undertake. There were nine pupils at the start of September and now just four. Cllr Brown said there is a real passion in the community for the school to stay open and a former headteacher at a recent Council meeting had expressed concern at the proposed closure.

Cllr Brown asked what marketing had taken place to encourage the growth of pupils at the school?

The Chair of Governors Federation of Skelton Newby Hall and Sharow CE Primary Schools said that he had been appointed to improve governance under a fixed term agreement and that he does not have personal knowledge of the past but understands that a significant amount had been carried out in terms of marketing and locally advertising banners had been displayed.

Executive Headteacher Federation of Skelton Newby Hall and Sharow CE Primary Schools added that all the new builds in the area had flyers distributed. The school had also invested in drone footage which is available for perspective parents to view on the school's website. There had been a lot of recruitment activity.

Amanda Newbold explained that despite this, ultimately parental preference comes into play as a parent can choose any school.

Cllr Brown added that Boroughbridge is doubling in size and that the new settlement planned at Cattal and the surrounding area will also have secondary pupils feeding into Boroughbridge High School.

Cllr Brown asked to see the forecast for Boroughbridge Primary School.

John Lee explained that currently the pupil forecast for Boroughbridge Primary goes to 199 in 2027/28 (as detailed on the County Council's website) and additionally, predicting around 144 pupils to be generated from existing housing permissions but added if you currently live in Boroughbridge you would not expect your child to attend Skelton Newby Hall School unless you specifically chose that school.

Cllr Brown said a lot of pupils benefit from being educated in the countryside. The local schools are not quite at capacity but could be.

A former headteacher at the school had requested that a school remain in Skelton on Ure and that it should be given a budget for another year.

Cllr Annabel Wilkinson said the consultation was not a 'fait au complet' and urged people to respond to the consultation.

The Parish Council Chair said that the community had raised money for the local pub and that the village needed time to give the school an opportunity for growth. The village is active and there is a real strength of feeling a real passionate view that they can help support it.

A member of the public said it would be helpful to understand why the local community didn't support the school.

A member of the public who had lived in the village for 32 years echoed the passion for the school and community feelings. Roecliffe is a good school but not all the pupils there lived in the catchment area

Cllr Wilkinson replied saying Governors asked the County Council to consult on a proposed school closure.

Amanda Newbold said the number of pupils at the school drives the finances and governors have a responsibility for due diligence. The consultation does allow a genuine opportunity to respond to the closure proposal of the school.

A member of the community said someone had met recently with Julian Smith MP regarding the lack of school places in the area.

A member of the community said there is no KS2 provision at Skelton Newby Hall and there were 3 years with no pupils in reception class, there is parental choice but why have parents gone elsewhere?

Amanda Newbold encouraged people who don't use Skelton Newby Hall School to get in touch via the consultation to say why they have not considered the school.

Cllr Brown said he is keen on parental choice and asked what information parents receive if they move into the area and into one of the new builds.

Amanda Newbold responded saying there is Admissions information on every school in North Yorkshire on the County Council's website and that carers and parents can preference up to five primary schools.

A member of the public said she found it very concerning that pupils are already leaving the school this term to take up places at other schools before it is too late and places become unavailable.

Skelton Newby Hall Estate representative said it would be very sad to lose the school which has been virtually provided rent free with no profit from the Skelton Newby Hall Estate and they will campaign against the school's closure. The capacity figures provided need to be more transparent with details of pupils entering at nursery and leaving. Is it not better to keep the school open rather than expand another school by putting a portacabin on it? This meeting has not told us the minimum number of pupils you require to keep the school open.

Amanda Newbold responded saying every school has individual operating costs and the needs of the children in the cohort have to be taken into account. There are examples of schools in North Yorkshire that run with small numbers and have nurseries.

Skelton Newby Hall Estate representative said all of the information surrounding this proposed school closure should have been made available at the same time, the Estate got to know before the Parish Council.

John Lee responded that all the supporting information about the school closure including numbers on roll and capacity at other local schools is available on the County Council's website.

A Governor at Kirby Hill Primary School said they had come to observe the meeting but wanted to add that Kirby Hill School was rated 'Good' by Ofsted in 2021 and is a lovely village school and in a beautiful rural setting and is comparable with Skelton Newby Hall School. Kirby Hill Primary School had grown year on year over the last 4 years, The capacity of the school is 150 pupils. The school is 20 years' old and well maintained. None of the class sizes are large and it is an excellent school.

A member of the public added that prior to Kirby Hill Primary School receiving a 'Good' Ofsted rating it was rated 'Requires Improvement'. Parking is an issue and more traffic is driving through the village.

A member of the public said they have lived in the village for over 20 years' and the school had its own Headteacher before federation in 2012. Initially there were good pupil numbers at the school reaching 50 but it feels now that the school is the poor relation in comparison to Sharow. Skelton Newby Hall was rated 'Requires Improvement' by Ofsted and Sharow 'Good' but had a full inspection taken place this might not have been the case and the report cited staff absenteeism as one of the concerns. A further observation was put forward in relation to the federated governing body in that it did not include governors representing Skelton Newby Hall School.

The Executive Headteacher Federation of Skelton Newby Hall and Sharow CE Primary Schools replied saying the federated governing body had worked very hard to recruit governors from the Skelton Newby Hall School community.

The previous Chair of Governors Federation of Skelton Newby Hall and Sharow CE Primary Schools added that they did try to encourage villagers and parents to join but they didn't get engagement.

The Executive Headteacher Federation of Skelton Newby Hall and Sharow CE Primary Schools highlighted all governors work as a collective for the Federation not for one school.

A member of the public asked if leadership had been more concentrated at Sharow rather than Skelton Newby Hall and if that might explain only 27 attending the school (Oct 2021 census) and six pupils from the catchment area.

The Executive Headteacher Federation of Skelton Newby Hall and Sharow CE Primary Schools replied saying that was not the case and leadership is split equitably across the two schools and responds to needs as they arise.

Richard Noake explained further that even with 50 pupils the Skelton Newby Hall school would be unlikely to be able to support a separate headteacher and that moving to a federated model makes things more manageable, safeguarded the school and was the most sensible action to take. 35 pupils is around the number of pupils needed to partner with a larger school but you have to take into consideration other factors and it is a real struggle to recruit experienced, quality leaders like the existing Executive Head to manage more than one school. Ultimately parents have a choice where to send their children.

Amanda Newbold added we use the word 'leadership' deliberately as there are a number of leaders in any one school and it is not just the Headteacher.

Following some questions from the audience, a brief discussion took place about why schools become academies and it was pointed out that this is a government agenda and that becoming an academy is not a panacea.

A member of the Parish Council said that surely it would be cheaper to keep Skelton Newby Hall School open rather than build a new school in Boroughbridge?

A member of the public asked why the numbers at the school have been dropping and it seems that the Chair of Governors had no idea why this was the case.

The Executive Headteacher Federation of Skelton Newby Hall and Sharow CE Primary Schools said that the decline in numbers started sometime ago, it was not recent.

A former governor suggested the school seemed to have gained a reputation that it was a Special School and that a pupil needed an Education, health and care plan (EHCP) to attend.

The Executive Headteacher Federation of Skelton Newby Hall and Sharow CE Primary Schools said it becomes difficult for any child when there no other children in the cohort.

A member of the public asked how many leaflets drops to the new housing developments were made?

The Executive Headteacher Federation of Skelton Newby Hall and Sharow CE Primary Schools said she was not sure of the exact number but an extensive leaflet drop had been carried out.

A member of the public said that 4k leaflets were distributed regarding shares in the pub.

Cllr Wilkinson thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting and said that the meeting would now close.

At this point a number of further comments/concerns were raised from the audience

A member of the public asked what were the reasons for the decline in numbers and that they felt this question remained unanswered also why had the current Chair of Governors been drafted into support the school?

The Chair of Governors Federation of Skelton Newby Hall and Sharow CE Primary Schools said he did not know why pupil numbers had dropped and that he had been recruited to the role of Chair of Governors to improve governance due to past knowledge and experience, but the proposed school closure was now absorbing his time.

Cllr Wilkinson closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance and said input and comments would be included in the note of the meeting and in the report to the Executive.

The **meeting closed** at 19:40

	Do you have any comments about the closure proposal?	Do you have any comments about catchment areas?	Consultee	Do you have any suggestions for improvement?
1	The school should not be closed, it is a valuable asset to the village and the closure of this school will have an impact on surrounding villages. There is currently approved planning for at least another 214 houses within the Boroughbridge area, we have already have had around 1000 new homes built since 2017. These new homes will have an impact on local schools which are already oversubscribed or near to capacity.	Other village schools within a few miles of this school are either over capacity or close to capacity. I see if closed Skelton school catchment will join Kirby Hill area. Kirby Hill has already seen a huge increase in traffic caused by parents driving their children to school, as they do not live locally. A lot of children come from outside walking distance of Kirby Hill, the village already has a problem with parents illegally parking and leaving their engine running for up-to 15 minutes, this is not good for the environment or the villagers. I have been told by Kirby Hill school that they know there is a big problem with parents parking illegally and the police have been to the school to try to solve the problem but it is still an ongoing problem. Perhaps it would help if Skelton School was allowed to increase its catchment area as there are very few homes, within the catchment area as it is, for example it could include Boroughbridge.	Ex parent of Skelton school and resident of Kirby Hill Village	
2	I am against the closure of Skelton Newby Hall school. Boroughbridge has expanded with numerous new build estates which bring additional families to the area. Surely additional primary school places should be an asset and the school pushed forward to encourage parents to choose Skelton Newby Hall School for their children's education	As I understand the catchment area for the school is small and mainly rural. Perhaps if the catchment area is increased to include some of the new build estates at Langthorpe it will encourage parents to choose the school and take the pressure off Kirby Hill	Other	
3	Skelton Newby Hall Primary schools strength is, and always has been the ethos of a small village school. It excels in the fact that it can offer small niche class sizes, which are invaluable to children requiring this setting, especially for children who do not cope well within large class numbers. During the covid pandemic, when all the children returned to school, there was much less disruption to classes and learning, as the school bubble was smaller resulting in fewer children off sick and isolating. School life returned to normal much quicker than in any of the surrounding larger primary schools. Surely there is a huge lesson here to be learnt!	Skelton Newby Hall Primary schools catchment area, as it is now, only actually consists of one village; Skelton Newby Hall, so there is no surprise children numbers have dwindled, as this area has seen very little development of new housing, unlike the Boroughbridge area which has seen an overwhelming amount of new homes. Perhaps this should of been addressed by the county council, along time ago, as increasing Skelton primary schools catchment area to include more villages my have meant this proposed closure would not be the case. Joining Skelton catchment onto Kirby Hill may cause problems in the future as we see continued growth in planning	Parent	

		permissions and new housing developments within the Boroughbridge area.		
4	Yes I think closing the school will be detrimental to the village and its future children	Yes Primary school children should be able to walk to school	community	
5	<p>I have lived in Skelton on Ure for nearly 20 years and during the first 10 years Skelton Newby School had its own headmaster. Certainly in those initial years Ofsted Reports were good. Joint management of Skelton and Sharow has been in effect for around 10 years and the Ofsted results for 2014 and 2016 were still good. Move onto 2020 under the current leadership and the Ofsted results are 'Requires Improvement'. Looking at Sharow Ofsted results, again these were generally good until 2021. The evidence given for 2021 shows that, had a full inspection occurred, the result would not have been as high. Reasons given were poor discipline in the younger year groups and issues of bullying in years 5 and 6 not being dealt with quickly enough. A more worrying cause given was the high levels of staff absenteeism. Worrying as this can only have impacted on the amount of attention given to Skelton and hence the reason I mention issues and problems at Sharow. Skelton appears to be the poor relation in the partnership. This is strongly evidenced by the make-up of governors for the schools. Not one representative from Skelton appears on the board and all appear to be associated with Sharow. With a board of Sharow governors, it would be a no brainer that their decision would, without any recourse, be to close Skelton. I am not aware of any campaign to find willing governors in Skelton and it could be that present parents were not aware or appreciative of this situation and possible consequences. The Ofsted report for Skelton for 2020 gives a 'requires improvement' outcome. The areas assessed range from 'quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development to leadership and management'. ALL require improvement, a truly shocking result and it is no surprise that perspective new parents, on seeing these results, would decide not to send their child to Skelton. Even children within the village have been failed by their local school and have attended other primary schools. The numbers attending Skelton, have as a result fallen rapidly to the today figure of 9.</p>	<p>The nearest school being offered as the alternative is Kirby Hill. It should be noted that Kirby Hill is in the Boroughbridge secondary school catchment area whereas Skelton is in the Ripon catchment. This does not appear to have been mentioned anywhere. Also, there is no direct bus route link between the villages. I note that entitled children will receive free transport, but it will have an impact on those who do not qualify. Other schools may have space but some appear on the brink of being full. I hear talk of classes of 35 children and, with the continued house building in the area, this situation can only deteriorate. Dishforth Airfield School is at least 3 to 4 miles away and not that accessible for Skelton. It seems that there appears to be absolutely no forward planning when it is suggested that a primary school should be completely and irrevocably shut.</p>	Member of the local community	<p>It was easy to understand but not totally accurate. Is that it? Is this what you call a consultation? I have a lot more to say than this.</p>

	Indeed, a shameful failure of leadership. There is now no Key Stage 2 taught in Skelton. I believe, in line with Skelton being the poor relation that the Key Stage 2 teaching is and always will be completed at Sharow. Another nail provided. The recent history and catalogue of events leads me to conclude that the closure of the school has been very constructive. I notice that Skelton has an accumulated budget of £109.2k for the financial year 2022/23, quite a healthy sum of money. I wonder why this has not been or is not being put to some good use. The area is now in danger of losing a fantastic resource with the best and largest outside space a school could possibly wish for. A huge shame after 150 years of history as the school has been a resource given cheaply to the local education of primary age children. It will be lost for good if this decision to close goes ahead.			
6	This seems very sudden. There does not seem to have been much advertising of the school. Although numbers have always been low the performance seems to have plummeted over the last few years. Leadership issue?? I hope this already has not been decided and I hope that you do listen to people's views and do not just think about budgets. If you close this school that will be it - we will never have another village school again. As Boroughbridge keeps expanding what happens to the current schools that will be at capacity - stick a prefab building as an extra classroom in the car park??? Surely in the long run it is cheaper to keep Skelton then build a new school elsewhere in the near future. Ofsted report isn't great but Sharow is better, how can that be? Surely they should be the same?	Why isn't it in the Boroughbridge catchment area. It is a beautiful rural school in a gorgeous setting it could be so much more. If people don't know about it there is no wonder the numbers are low.	Community	Twin the school with a different one; not Sharow, it feels like Skelton has been somewhat 'shafted' and all the concentration has been on Sharow. Has Skelton been set up to fail? Why aren't any governors from Skelton? Could the school be a forest school? Apparently it got a bad reputation as it was used for SEND pupils, some who were very disruptive.
7		The school is not a choice for the large Hockley Croft for the large housing developments at Langthorpe	Community	A separate Head Teacher would prevent the "favourite child" syndrome of the shared head !
8	I believe the reasons being proposed show a short sighted view of the teaching requirements in the surrounding area over the coming 5-10 years. Boroughbridge has expanded	Given the rapid expansion of housing in Boroughbridge (& proposed expansion in Ripon) there is the possibility that additional capacity in	Village Resident	

	significantly in recent years with further building underway. Ripon seems likely to have a significant expansion on the site of the Army Camp all will require additional primary places. Retaining Skelton gives parents the option of town or village learning I find the marked difference in OFSTED scores for the two twin schools strange given that both schools share staff & management. So this shouldn't be used as a differentiator in deciding the fate of Skelton School. It may suggest that the available resource may not have been applied evenly between the twin schools	primary education would be required. In Skelton you have that capacity ready to go if catchment areas are more flexibility applied and allow Skelton to routinely take Pupils from Boroughbridge & Ripon. Being educated in a School building is preferable to the Portakabin open which was deployed in the 80's to address the shortfall. Worked for NYCC as a bike ability instructor 2015 - 2018 and at that time Skelton school had a mix of pupils from the village and from Ripon & Boroughbridge. It seems that the catchment area or its application has changed.This seems to unfairly penalise village schools.		
9	The school should not be closed and marketing catchment area should be increased to allow parents to apply for spaces from areas and villages which surround Skelton-on-Ure. Pre covid there were over 40 pupils at the school who came from the surrounding area not just the village, however this doesn't happen now. Pupils who live in the village now seem to be being pushed to attend Sharrow school which is three miles away.	As i understand it the catchment area for the school has been reduced and parents from Langthorpe 2 miles away are not offered Skelton School as an option. In my opinion the catchment area should be widened.	Village Resident	
10	Close the school. Its no longer needed.	Its a poor location for a school.	Parent	I feel the school is no longer require. We have plenty of school with spaces in the local areas. I feel a school not stay open with such small number of pupils and that being a number of those have to go to sharrow anyway so no requirement for the school.
11	I,m very sorry to hear about this closure proposal. We had children go to our school since 1987, & a grandson was also there until his mother & father moved to France. Our daughter owns a very successful recruitment agency in Dubai, with 15 employees, & our two sons both have successful joinery businesses, one in France, & the other in Ripon. I feel this school did them a world of good.	I would have thought that with all the building work being carried out in our area, school places would be at a shortage, so closing a lovely school in a beautiful area just doesn,t make sense to me.	Ex-parent.	

12	Would be a shame to lose (yet another) village amenity	Surely, with all the new builds around Boroughbridge, there is a case for having this village school in such close proximity	Community	
13	It is such a shame that other schools are short of space, inside and outside. Skelton Newby Hall school is in such a lovely location with space outside for children's social & physical development as well as space for three classes - which there were only five/six years ago. Maybe people need to look at the bigger picture.	More support from the local area/ community and estate. No new housing in this area so no new families moving into village. School is not on a commuter route so no one knows it exists.	Community	Information was not current and the method and chronology of information issued was not helpful.
14	The closure of Skelton Primary School would be a great loss both to the village and surrounding area. With the huge popularity of 'Forest Schools' in recent years, with some forward thinking and appropriate investment Skelton School could be a fantastic asset to our area. There seems to have been a lack of commitment to the wellbeing of Skelton School and it's children from the Council in the last few years. It is not surprising that it has had poor Ofsted ratings when it has been run by a Head based in Sharow. The school needs support from the Council to improve it's Ofsted rating, with a more dedicated staff - with improved Ofsted reports I'm sure it could become a thriving 'village' school and attractive to parents seeking a small school environment for their children.	As I understand it, Skelton School is not in the catchment area for residents of Kirby Hill or Boroughbridge, even though they are only 2/3 miles distant. With the change due this year to one 'North Yorkshire Council' , this would seem the ideal time to take the opportunity to remedy this strange ruling. With the ongoing housing developments in Langthorpe, Milby and Boroughbridge it is obvious that Kirkby Hill School and Boroughbridge School will both be at or over capacity. Sensible planning NOW, would see the value of an existing nearby primary school facility, which could accommodate 52 children, in a very pleasant setting. With the appropriate backing from the Council, Skelton School would become a popular choice for Langthorpe, Kirby Hill and Boroughbridge children and it should be given the help it needs to remain open, turn around it's recent decline and it could become a desirable over-subscribed village school.	Community	
15	Failed over the last few years, vicious circle , low numbers. Not as good leadership as it was when my eldest attended	Never mentioned in Boroughbridge catchment. Zero marketing from the school	Past parent	
16	Are there minutes of the governors meeting stating closure was a unanimous decision?? You Need to clarify this?	Skelton not mentioned in Boroughbridge area	Ex parent	With the school or this form?
17	Our family have intended this school over the generations and aa next generation comes along where will they be educated??	We need local to cut down miles travelled, why are you closing a school rather than promoting it?	Parent	
18	It would be such a shame if the village school closed it is such an asset to the village and we as a community would really like it to stay	Surely with all the new housing estates being built in the area there should be enough children in the area to keep this lovely village school open	Community	
19	It would be an absolute loss to our village to close this school and lose its amazing setting as an opportunity for local children to learn and grow. With schools so over	If we can't get the attendance from within the catchment then surely it is feasible, with all the new	Villager, ex pupil, parent of ex pupil	

	crowded this little school has so much outside space to offer its such a lovely place for children, especially those who may live in built up areas and not experience the same freedom at home.	people coming to live in the area, to open up the opportunity to the surrounding catchment areas.		
20	The Boroughbridge area is having many hundreds of new homes built which will bring a vast number of new families to the area. The children will all need school places. The current schools are already full and some with waiting lists. Why would the Council even consider closing a local primary school when there are children on waiting lists for other local schools? It is very short-sighted. Where will all the primary school aged children go when Kirby Hill, Boroughbridge & Roecliffe are all full? Skelton Newby Hall Primary is in a unique countryside setting which offers a very special environment for up to 50 children. It would be extremely remiss of the Council to lose this unique educational asset when local families will need schools within their catchment area. The Council cannot agree to the building of so many new homes on the one hand & reduce the educational provision on the other.	Skelton Primary is perfectly placed to accept children from the local villages & the Boroughbridge area that is being so heavily developed.	Skelton-on-Ure resident & former parent at Skelton Newby Hall Primary School	
21	It would be a huge loss to the village to close this school. This school has served the villages of Skelton, Marton le Moor and Langthorpe for many years.		Community and ex parent	
22	I feel that it is ridiculous to close a school when nearby areas have undergone major housing development and nearby primary schools will be busting at the seams. Why hasn't the school been advertised with the contractors?	The catchment area should include Boroughbridge which is actually closer to the school than Ripon is. As mentioned above Boroughbridge has probably double in size during the last few years.	Community & ex parent to the school	Include Boroughbridge in the catchment area and advertise there! There are lots of new families that don't know the area and are probably unaware that this school even exists.
23	This school has served many in the village and local area for many years. The family feel and care and attention for every child is second to none. To lose this school would be a disaster. So many children have thrived from the education a small school can provide. Years ago children came from the village and beyond, I would imagine with all the new housing around that a school like this is much needed. This school was a great foundation for both my children and springboarded them onto success. We need	Catchment area should include Skelton and Ripon and Boroughbridge and villages. New housing means school places will be in demand. With the right marketing this school could be filled again and could thrive.	Parent of former pupils	

	to fight for schools that can really treat children as individuals and give them a holistic educational experience.			
24	I think it is really sad to consider closing such a beautiful school. The parents whose children attend the school have chosen it specifically for the small classes and bespoke education for their children. The school governors did not consult with parents or teachers, putting parents in a vulnerable position, no wonder they felt they needed to look elsewhere. While I understand that small numbers in school has a financial and social implication, the way it has been handled has put the school in a very poor position to make any sort of recovery.	It is deeply disappointing that local schools, in responding to enquiries from Skelton parents, needed to offer immediate places rather than being able to hold open places until such a time that Skelton Newby Hall school actually closed. The LA has created a situation that Skelton is unlikely to recover from.	Other	
25	Skelton Newby Hall has provided a sound education for my two children who are now in secondary and tertiary education. The school is in an ideal setting with close links to the local estate at Newby Hall and has access to many acres of woodland and open space. It is disappointing to see the falling pupil numbers are in direct proportion to the communication effort put into letting people know of the opportunities that are available at Skelton. The emphasis on Sharow school, following the confederation in 2012, is in plain sight and their healthy pupil numbers have been at the ultimate cost of the smaller, rural school. To remove this school from the North Yorkshire portfolio is short-sighted and one that ultimately has come about through poor decision making (confederating without a dedicated Skelton only board of Governors) and poor marketing - these combining to force pupil numbers down, lessen the attractiveness of Skelton thus creating a weak leadership team. These issues are all fixable and every effort taken should be taken to do so. The building has little or no rental costs, the school was very successful only 5 years ago, we know why the numbers have fallen. Fix the fixable issues and the school will be back as a successful centre for learning, providing rural employment, a hub for the village, reducing vehicle journeys and, most importantly giving a small rural school as an option for our children.		Parent of Children who both attended the school, local resident and employee of the Newby Estate	
26	Our local school has been a huge plus for the village, a safe and engaging environment for local children. There seems to have been a distinct lack of engagement from County in keeping the school in the public eye - house development	Far too narrow	Community	

	plans with no mention, for example. It almost feels like a deliberate ploy... there are questions to be answered by both the board and the governors. Indifference seems to be the prevailing emotion. Not good enough. This is a living, working village which needs a school supported by the local authority, not ignored.			
27	For many years the school has served the local community as a valuable asset, my daughter expresses fond memories of her time there and the sound base they gave her to move on in education and now university. A thriving village school helps create a sense of community in many in rural areas and can be a foundation for its young people to interact.	It's very short sighted to contemplate the closure of the school with the abundance of developments within a five mile radius. What provision will be made in existing schools to accommodate these new residents? How would this be managed as the foot print for most local schools won't allow for extension. Children benefit from been in a primary school where they are known, your proposal would create pressure in other local schools which doesn't need to be there. In a time where peoples carbon footprint is a large concern your proposal forces more commuter traffic, more congestion and more aggravation on the already congested road network around here at school times.	Parent/community	The local authority should promote the school to families moving into the vast new developments in the area, it could work in conjunction with other local schools to integrate learning and out of school activities.
28	It would be a great shame if the school were to close. It has always played a central role in village life and has given a wonderful education to children of the village and surrounding areas. My daughters went there and went on to get degrees at Durham and Cambridge. It has always offered something slightly different being a small school set in the countryside which has been a key element to its makeup.	With the large amount of housing development in Boroughbridge it is surprising that there are not children who would welcome a smaller, more family/community oriented school.	ex parent, ex governor	
29	I have previously responded on this forum - but that was before I attended the Public meeting on Tuesday 17th January. I am horrified by the fact that parents have been "forced" into, prematurely, removing their children from the school, with indications that if they didn't do so now, they might not get places. This is ridiculous, if true, it would be a serious worry for future residents in all the new builds around Boroughbridge. It makes the closure seem a foregone conclusion. I am afraid that this meeting only confirmed impressions I have previously formed (most notably, a Public meeting to discuss the Allerton Incinerator building), that HBC has to hold these meetings, but they are purely a rubber stamping exercise on a rollercoaster which has no breaks.	Infrastructure does not appear to have been satisfactorily addressed in the Boroughbridge area. Little, if anything, appears to have been done, over the years, to raise the status and profile of Skelton Newby Hall School - a tragic mis-management of resources.	Community- village resident	

30	<p>The school has been heart of our community for a very long time. My son attended the school, albeit 15 years ago now, but was very happy there. It was always full of students and an extremely lively little primary school. It saddens me beyond belief at how this once thriving school has been allowed to diminish in such a way. There is such a huge volume of new housing estates and developments in and around Skelton, mere minutes away from the school, that it beggars beleive that Skelton Newby Hall School couldnt have been pushed as an option for new families in the area, to attend. This is shameful. The closure of this lovely school has seemingly been hidden from people's attention. There are many interested villagers who would definitely have liked to have their say far sooner, had the closure been publicised better. It would be a woeful waste of resources and money if this school is simply allowed to close after such a long history, purely due to a lack of effective promotion. I for one do not wish to see the school close when all is needed is are better and greater efforts to promote it.</p>	<p>As there are a multitude of new housing developments within easy driving distance from the school, as mentioned in my previous comment, it would surely make better sense to promote the school within these areas, via a targeted campaign, in order to fill the available places. It's nonsensical to allow a well established, up and running school to close unnecessarily, without properly promoting it to those people best placed to use it, in the immediate local vicinity.</p>	<p>As an interested member of the village.</p>	
31	<p>I think more time should be allowed to find out why local village children are not sent to Skelton school Perhaps an anonymous questionnaire could be sent out</p>	<p>I think it should be extended to include Boroughbridge now there is so much new housing especially Hockley Croft and Langthorpe</p>	<p>resident of Skelton-On-Ure whose children and grandchildren attended Skelton-On-Ure</p>	
32	<p>• Newby Hall Estate have provided this facility for the village and local community since 1856, at a very low rent, as part of its pastoral role for the parishes of Newby with Mulwith and Skelton. • The school is a little gem with playground, playing field, outdoor space in a very secure, pleasant rural location close by to the major conurbations of Ripon and Boroughbridge. • Over the past few years numbers at the school have fallen, due partially to identifying it to provide education for children with special needs, which has then limited its attraction to the wider community and losing its unique identity by being “federised” with Sharow School. • Until the consultation process was publicly announced there had been very limited, if no interaction with the Parish Council or community, advising them of the worsening situation, which may have opened up the opportunity to</p>	<p>See above.</p>	<p>Managing Agent for Newby Hall Estate (Landlord)</p>	<p>See my comments above: Better statistics and facts should be provided, without needing to ask for them. Earlier engagement with interested parties.</p>

	<p>turn the situation around. • It would seem that the Chairman of Governors has pursued very few, if no marketing initiatives since his appointment in September 2022 in order to rectify the falling numbers and retrieve the situation. • We have been told that other similar schools in the locality have capacity for extra pupils yet parents have repeatedly said that they continue to have trouble securing places for their children at these schools. • Presumably this can only get worse as the new housing developments in the catchment areas for these schools continue to be occupied. • It would seem that the chart showing future population expansion is only limited to Langthorpe. Surely expansion in all the local parishes must be taken into account in order to provide a true picture. • It would seem that very little effort or thought has gone into considering how Skelton School could complement the other local primary schools (not just Sharow), which all come under the same Education Authority. Big is not always beautiful. • Surely it will be more expensive in the future to have to expand and enhance the other local schools rather than maintain Skelton School and promote it as an existing facility. • Has the cost of providing transport for existing pupils having to move schools been taken into account in the forward budgets – to credit against the costs of Skelton School presumably. • Trying to comment constructively on the impending closure at this point has been made much more difficult by the lack of background statistics, lack of well-argued reasoning, lack of much needed earlier interaction with the local community and lack of open discussion. • I think I speak for everybody by saying that this is already a “done deal”, a “foregone conclusion”, whatever you want to call it, that could have been prevented with more forethought and vision for the future.</p>			
33	School needs closing. Children attended the school are left struggling and very behind for their ages.	There’s limited access to the school (Skelton) so it wouldn’t be an ideal location regardless	Parent	
34	I agree that the school should be closed due to low attendance and the cost of running the school should be shared out amongst local schools of that age group	Parents should have a choice of what school their child attends irrelevant if catchment area at primary school age	Community	

35	Nor enough pupils therefore school not financially sustainable	There are a large number of Primary Schools in the Boroughbridge and Villages catchment area, down to parental choice.	Governor	At the last intake BHS received pupils from 33 different primary schools
36	Very disappointed to hear the proposal to close the school in August 2023. It's such a shame if the council close the school. Why can't the school or school do more fundraising days and bring the community together. The more locals know of our schools the more infrastructure we can add to Skelton and build the numbers up. It just seems a dam shame if you give the school up with lack of numbers when this can be revived by lots of fundraising and Open days inviting our parents into the school and showing them around. My twins are due to start school in Sept 2024 and this was our first choice. Please consider doing open days and showing the school off. I'd love to come and look around and would definitely participate in fundraising to help for my children to join the school. If there's a nursery I will be joining them from September this year 2023.	Please do open days and be more flexible on the catchment areas. Many schools in villages are often denied for parents as they don't live close to the catchment area. So it's not just about not knowing the school is there, there's that issue as well!!!	Parent	
37	More and more houses are getting built, now is not the time to be closing schools	Make the catchment area bigger	Community	
38	I strongly oppose the proposed closure. This small school has played a crucial role in giving countless children an excellent education as well the opportunity to thrive in a rural environment and small classes. My son had been home schooled for 3 years prior to attending and it was the perfect environment for him. My husband was serving in the army and we had been posted to N Yorkshire. We struggled to find a place for him and came across Skelton by chance and we could not have hoped for a better school. Our son gained confidence, excelled academically and passed his 11+ which gained him entry to the Grammar school. The quiet village location provided valuable opportunities for a holistic approach to learning and forming friendships. He took part in orienteering, did road cycling safety awareness, took part in sports activities and remembers the plays, and services in the Chapel. It was an incredibly happy school with pupils and staff able to get to know each other in a more meaningful way than is possible in a large school.	I appreciate that the age profile of any town or village will change over time but Skelton will one day have young families living there who need a school. The military community in nearby locations make it perfect for a wider catchment area. My only suggestion is that if you are struggling to fill the school, improve your marketing. We did not find the school on any lists but were told about it by the head of a school to which we had applied but which was full.	Parent if child who attended 2006 - 2010	

39	<p>It is my feeling that the school has been run down over a number of years. Becoming a federation and not having a discrete head teacher has been part of this. For small children, having to get a bus to school is not ideal and not everybody has a car. The village itself would be affected by the closure, as all school/community activities would stop, although they have decreased greatly since losing a discrete head. I am astounded that the decision to consult o closure has come from the governors. Interestingly, none of the governors live in Skelton, but are Sharow based. It appears that no one in charge has the interests of Skelton and its children at heart. Numbers are small, but this happened 20 years or so ago, too, but grew. Our son became Head Boy at his secondary school and is now a successful lawyer, thanks to his grounding at Skelton School, which turned out well educated, rounded human beings, whatever their background or academic ability.</p>	<p>Kirby Hill and the other schools mentioned are all worthy schools, but small children travelling, notiving in the village where they go to school, is problematic in terms of friendships, personal development etc.</p>	<p>Community. Ex parent governor of Skelton School.</p>	
40	<p>I write as a previous Chair of Governors at Skelton Newby Hall Primary School. I do not believe the school at Skelton should be closed. Over the years it has provided a good education for local children. Since the school was federated with Sharow there have been problems keeping the numbers at the appropriate levels, this followed the introduction of children from outside the area. There has been new building of homes at Kirby Hill, Milby and Langthorpe, there must be increased demand coming from these 300 plus homes? The school is in a good location and is well equipped with all the necessary facilities. It was not so long ago that the lavatories were installed inside and the mezzanine floor put in. Is this investment to be wasted? I do think there is an opportunity to move pupils from Sharow to Skelton, as Sharow is running at capacity. I hope that the Education Authority will think long and hard before closing this excellent facility.</p>	<p>Kirby Hill is the nearest school and has capacity. It should be noted however that there are already difficulties in dropping off and picking up of children due to the lack of parking and being adjacent to a busy road through the village.</p>	<p>Former parent with children at the school and former Chair of Governors</p>	
41	<p>Small schools are vital for our community. With all the extra homes being built it'll make the bigger ones fuller then local people will have to travel further to do school runs etc</p>	<p>I think catchment areas should be abolished. Some people travel really far for work and it could be easier to have their kids closer to work, they might nit be in a position to move house and even then they might not get grated a place inn school so would still have to travel more.</p>	<p>Parent - community</p>	<p>Maybe cater to a different sort of person. What about kids who don't fit in main stream because of sen but aren't sen enough to go to a full sen school</p>

		Maybe cater to a different sort of person. What about kids who don't fit in main stream because of sen but aren't sen enough to go to a full sen school (hope that makes sense)		(hope that makes sense)
42	This is ludicrous - all the other schools are close to capacity (yes they are) . Seems a very suspicious closure proposal - none of it makes any sense. How can it fail when it's under Sharows wing? Some one has taken their eye off the ball and the children and community are suffering as a result	Why haven't they included Skelton in Boroughbridge area?	Other	
43	<p>RESPONSE BY SKELTON-CUM-NEWBY PARISH COUNCIL TO THE CONSULTATION TO CLOSE SKELTON NEWBY HALL PRIMARY SCHOOL IN AUGUST 2023</p> <p>Skelton Newby Hall Primary School was founded in 1856 and for 167 years has served both children from families in the local village of Skelton-on-Ure and further afield. The proposal to close the school at the end of August 2023 would remove this valuable asset from the portfolio of primary schools supporting the rapidly growing population within five miles of the school. The Parish Council of Skelton-cum-Newby has listened to the representations made both during the recent Parish Council meeting, and at the public meeting held in the village as part of the formal consultation process organised by North Yorkshire County Council.</p> <p>The Parish Council does not support the proposal to close Skelton Newby Hall Primary School on the following grounds.</p> <p>1. Failure of the existing federation: Skelton Newby Hall Primary School was federated with Sharow Primary School in 2012, and despite a boost in pupil numbers in Skelton in the early years, recent years have seen an accelerating decline. It is a matter of record that the last inspection of Skelton concluded the school 'required improvement' and whilst the last inspection of Sharow in December 2021 held its 'good' rating, it noted this would likely not have been the case had it been a full inspection</p>		SKELTON-CUM-NEWBY PARISH COUNCIL	

<p>which would follow within two years. A number of concerns were raised around bullying, staff absenteeism, and a lack of leader feedback. In September 2022, ## was appointed as a new Chair of Governors to ‘trouble shoot’ performance at the federation (by his own account at the public consultation meeting). ## is a National Leader of Governance (NLG). According to the NGA, NLGs will provide Department of Education funded, targeted support to those schools and trusts with governance issues. Despite the falling numbers, it would appear that there has been no substantive effort to understand why parents of local children have not placed them in their local school, or, as has been the case, why parents have removed their children from the school. As the smaller site, Skelton is the junior partner in the federation, and it would be manifestly wrong to permanently remove this setting from the local community when the federation is failing as is recognised by the Ofsted inspections and by the recent appointment of ##. It is worth noting, at the time of writing, the Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body has not been updated since September 2021. By ## own admission in the Public Meeting, it is unusual for him to be appointed Chair which in turn reflects the extent of the challenges being faced in the Federation, and he stated this Consultation process is delaying his ability to address the issues at Sharow. Councillors have heard accounts of how Skelton has missed opportunities to acquire new pupils due to a below average response to enquiries and also how the school missed out on a public library initiative, the Summer Reading Challenge, which went unanswered at Skelton School even though Sharow School participated. The current state of Skelton School does not reflect its potential but the failure of the existing federation arrangements.</p> <p>2. Population expansion: There has been a significant increase in the local population within a 5 mile radius of the school, following several developments in Langthorpe and Boroughbridge. More developments are planned, including the MSA at Kirby Hill, which would enable Skelton Newby Hall Primary school to flourish and provide essential care for residents and workers of these</p>			
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<p>local developments. Whilst statistics show that there are currently places available in the area, parent experience has shown that this availability is not evenly spread across year groups and first choice alternatives have not been available.</p> <p>3. Lack of marketing: Whilst Skelton sits in the Ripon catchment including RGS, which is clearly a benefit to local residents, and whilst parents have the ability to select Skelton regardless of where they live, the orientation of the federation, facing Ripon rather than Boroughbridge, has meant that Skelton has missed out from a proper concerted marketing campaign within the new developments on its doorstep. When asked at the Consultation, there was no clear understanding of what marketing had been undertaken in recent years to promote the school. The Headteacher said that there had been some marketing locally, but when compared to the marketing undertaken by the village for the community pub it was acknowledged to be at a much lower level.</p> <p>4. Sustainable model: North Yorkshire is known nationwide for its proud tradition of the provision of smaller rural schools blended with larger ones in towns and cities. When asked at the Consultation for the minimum sustainable number for the school to survive, there appeared to be no number in mind. ##, Diocesan Director of Education, offered the number of 35. When reviewing the future of this school, especially one which has been in existence since 1856, it is important to view the longer term trend of pupil numbers, which has sat between 20-40. In recent years the maximum of 52 was reached and other well run local schools, such as Roecliffe, demonstrate it is possible to sustain a school with a sensible blend of in and out of area pupils, when properly marketed.</p> <p>5. Financially robust: Skelton Newby Hall School is currently in possession of a surplus which will be depleted if pupil numbers do not recover. However, whilst the school may have benefitted from targeted funds for a school of this nature, the provision of the school buildings and grounds,</p>			
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<p>in this stunning setting, by the Newby Estate, mean that it is realistic to establish a sustainable forest school for the long term benefit of the local and wider community. The Newby Estate has indicated their ongoing support for the school and would not like to see its closure.</p> <p>6. Poor representation to the local community: The decision to begin the consultation to close the local school came as a surprise to the village. The Parish Council was first informed via the Newby Estate and local parents before the official notification was received from NYCC or the School itself. Parents had already been advised to seek alternative schools for their children which has resulted in all but four children leaving the school. ## advised the Chair of the Parish Council, when asked before the public meeting started, that all but one of the consultations he had been involved in had led to closure, and the other school had only lasted another year which was not the best use of public funds. The community has felt let down by the lack of proper consultation, as the current process, whilst statutory in nature, feels like a foregone conclusion to those who attended the public meeting.</p> <p>Skelton-cum-Newby Parish Council would like the opportunity to demonstrate that there is a sustainable future for our primary school. This will require support to rebuild pupil numbers over the next couple of years. We would like to consult on the best operational structure to take this forward as it is apparent the existing federation has failed. This community has demonstrated its ability to mobilise in support of community assets and, in conjunction with the Newby Estate, we want to do the same for our school.</p> <p>We want to work with NYCC, and its successor NYC, to ensure that our school can provide a valuable educational setting for the expanding community in the area. In the past we have seen housing expansion lead to the need for temporary school buildings placed to accommodate growing numbers. Skelton is an amazing forest school</p>			
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	<p>which can provide an unrivalled education in one of the most amazing settings in North Yorkshire. There is an above average outdoor space with access to expansion rooms in the village (including the Reading Room and local Church). An integrated plan could envisage this school as either an all age setting as it has been over the years, or indeed as an early years feeder for other local primary schools which would allow them the ability to accommodate more pupils.</p> <p>The Parish Council asks NYCC to reject the option to close Skelton Newby Hall Primary School and to work with us and the local community to realise the potential of this setting.</p>			
44	I believe Skelton school needs to stay open. The increase in houses in the local area means another school is still required. More houses are planned to be built and therefore more spaces will be required. Couldn't it work with Kirby Hill for the younger years to be placed at the Skelton school?	Widen the catchment	Community	
45	Disgraceful. Although numbers have always been low the school used to be much better run Why doesn't NYCC signpost parents to the school, friends in Boroughbridge say it wasn't even offered as a choice to them?	Make it a wider catchment area now rather than after you close the school which is pretty obvious that's your plans.	Past parent	
46	I think it is outrageous. I attended the meeting in Skelton on 17/01/2023 and it became very obvious that the 'consultation' was in name only and that the decision to close the school had been made weeks or months earlier. The OFSTED inspection judgement 'requires improvement' is surely a reflection on the leadership of the school? The headteacher and governors must take some responsibility for that and should have put a plan in place to raise standards, however evidence has been produced to the contrary, including a member of the leadership team actually encouraging parents to move their child(ren) from the school before the end of this school year. It is no wonder that roll numbers have since fallen further. Prospective parents understandably look at OFSTED ratings as one of the key factors in choosing a school... it is not just about location. It is obvious to me that the leadership team at Skelton school have a clear conflict of	Boroughbridge has seen and continues to see rapid population growth, which is already putting pressure on primary school resources. It is clear that Boroughbridge, Kirby Hill and Roecliffe schools will not be able to cope without further building and infrastructure work which can be avoided by keeping Skelton school open.	Village resident for 34 years	

	<p>interest in that running Sharow school without having Skelton school federated with it must make management easier. That leadership team should not have any say in the closure of Skelton school, let alone actively encourage its demise. I accept that the decision has been made to close the school, however I implore you to consider a) keeping the school open and b) prepare resources and leadership to market Skelton school for the new academic year starting September 2023. Maybe a federation with Kirby Hill school would produce a fresh leadership challenge and provide the motivation to re-create a thriving village school?</p>			
47	<p>Yes I am very unhappy that the school is closing. I think the school has been mismanaged leading to parents taking their children out. Previously the school was an integral part of the village joining with the community for such events as the village gala. Children from the village who attended the school have gone on to be successful. I know of at least one past pupil who has gone on to get a PhD. I think the latest management side lined the Skelton school in favour of Sharow. It was probably easier to have the school in one building and obviously the management gave no thought to the devastating consequences of that. Our village has been poorly served. It is simply not true that efforts were made to increase pupil numbers. Skelton school has received good Ofsted reports and it is only since the new management team has come in that it now requires improvement. There was enough money in the schools budget to spend money on improvements. This unfortunately wasn't done. Why not. I hope there wasn't an ulterior motive there. Please do not close the school. Please give it another chance. There will be new children in the village and it is wrong that very young children should have to travel by bus to school.</p>	<p>None of the catchment areas suggested are near enough to be suitable. So none of them are suitable.</p>	community	
48	<p>The Government's published Code of Practice on Consultation (2008) has seven criteria, the first criterion states, "Formal consultation should take place at a stage when there is scope to influence the outcome". This was followed by the publication of Consultation Principles (2018), the second principle titled, "Consultations should have a purpose", which expanded by stating, "Consult with implementation plans when the development of the plans is</p>	<p>In the event Skelton Newby Hall CE VC school remains open then I think the catchment should be reviewed to help support a sustainable future for the school. Whilst children living in the village could still retain the benefit of being in the catchment of Ripon GS, there is no reason why the school cannot also benefit from a closer association with neighbouring villages, e.g. Roecliffe, Kirby Hill, and Boroughbridge.</p>	Community	<p>A consultation could and should have started earlier. This consultation will hopefully demonstrate that it is not simply a 'box ticking' exercise and has meaningful</p>

<p>at a formative stage. Do not ask questions about issues on which you already have a final view". Whilst those who attended the NYCC Public Meeting on 17th January 2023 unanimously felt that a clear view had already been formed, and indeed the communication to parents from early in this academic year had left them clear that they should find alternative settings for their children, it can only be hoped that NYCC with the Diocese of Leeds will have retained an open mind as to how we have arrived at this point of considering closure and the possibility for a sustainable future for this school which has been in existence since 1856. 1) Failed federation. It is a matter of public record that Sharow school only retained its Ofsted rating as Good because it was a short inspection, with a full inspection being recommended within two years due to a number of concerning observations. It is also a matter of record that the current Chair of the Governors has been brought in to resolve governance shortcomings. This federation has failed and failed the junior partner at Skelton to the extent that the school is now consulting to close. 2) Failure to market Skelton Newby Hall school. At the public meeting the school representatives were unable to explain the scale of marketing undertaken to promote the school to the large new housing developments in Langthorpe and Boroughbridge. As the school is federated with one on the edge of Ripon, it seems quite evident this opportunity has been missed. 3) Sustainable model. Skelton Newby Hall School is an amazing forest school setting and whilst a small school (optimum 35 pupils, which ## stated was the sustainable number for a school), it could form a perfect complement as a nursery and early years setting as an alternative to an all-years primary school. Whilst NYCC stats suggest there is ample capacity in the area, the parent experience when finding places has not borne this out across all year groups. An example, in support of this proposal to create an early years school in Skelton, Roecliffe Academy is running at capacity at this age group and would benefit from more capacity to help support and build sustainable numbers for the older age groups. It is a good example of how this solution would free up capacity in other local schools as the population expands with the</p>			<p>purpose to consider viable alternatives to closure.</p>
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	<p>current and proposed housing developments. The school currently has a financial surplus, an amazing setting, and strong support from the local community (including the property owner Newby Hall) to retain and properly market the school. The Sharow Federation did not have any representation from the community of Skelton when it forwarded the proposal. Indeed the new Chair of Governors stated at the public meeting that this process was delaying him on delivering his core brief at Sharow. The community of Skelton want to work with NYCC (and its successor NYC) to demonstrate that there is a sustainable, viable model when properly run and marketed with local support. If this consultation stays true to the Government's code of practice and consultation principles, then this community should be extended the opportunity to explore this option, which would be consistent with the NYCC stated position that closure of a school is a course of last resort.</p>			
49	<p>The proposal to close Skelton School has risen on previous occasions beginning when ##, the last teaching head, retired in 2012. The school was federated with Sharow under the advice that there was a shortage of Headteachers and one would not be found. This was further threatened when numbers began to reduce approximately 4 years ago. Following federation the school did well, but a group of children were able to join from another school, at a relatively young age, who had differing educational needs and Skelton School was understood locally to be a 'Special School', which it never has been. Unfortunately the parents of children without educational statements chose to remove their children to other settings and numbers have reduced as a result. There is little or no evidence to show that NYCC have done anything proactive to support Skelton School since the start of the Covid Pandemic or to support use of the school. Governors have made an effort to recruit children for the school, but during 2020 to 2022 few people have been able to move schools, or wished to do so. The style of consultation has been interpreted by the parents of the group as advice of closure, local schools in turn have indicated that unless children are moved immediately they might not get a place. This position has therefore created a vicious circle. Skelton</p>	<p>The catchment area of Skelton Newby Hall school is very tight and serves only the village of Skelton on Ure. The River Ure means that villages to the south of the river are unable to access the area. Life in Skelton on Ure is much more closely associated with Ripon for services than it is Boroughbridge, despite relative distances.</p>	<p>Community (Previously Parent and Previously Governor)</p>	<p>The consultation process was clear to me due to my previous involvement with schools, but evidently it is not at all clear to the local population, who have acted with fear not balance. The way that this matter has been handled by NYCC means that there are now NO children on role at Skelton School. It should have been made clear to parents that with support (more students) the school could have been protected, this opportunity has been missed. These text boxes are too small.</p>

<p>on Ure village is currently home to an ageing population, albeit this will change with time when it is likely that younger families will move into the village, as a result the number of primary school aged children will rise once more with associated demand. Boroughbridge, Langthorpe and Kirby Hill are all subject to current housing projects which will see the construction of substantial numbers of homes, many of these aimed at young professionals and young families. There are currently 215 primary places in existing schools (Kirby Hill 46, Boroughbridge 68, Roecliffe 0, Dishforth 94, Sharow 7) covering 7 year groups, an average of 30 children per year group. Dishforth is 4.3 miles from Boroughbridge. Kirby Hill and Skelton are equidistant (0.7miles) from Boroughbridge. As demand rises therefore it may be seen that there is a facility to accommodate that demand in Skelton on Ure. A village school is an important feature for rural communities, similar to the Public House, Shop and Bus Services. Sustainable growth can be accommodated, according to Development Control Guidance, where these services exist. If Skelton School is supported it can continue to offer a facility to the villagers and capacity in the area, losing a village school is a disaster. The current Chair of Governors advised at the village meeting that he has been drafted in to deal with OFSTED issues, albeit it was quite evident that he was unable to hear the majority of the meeting, he was certainly unable to hear the participants questions. I do not feel that the current chair is appropriate or that it is fair that he should be in post. If the school is to be closed there will be children who then have to travel further in order to attend school. This is bad for their wellbeing extending the school day, financially bad for the parents who have to transport them, bad for the environment which suffers consumption as a result of un-necessary movement and bad for NYCC who may have to fund elements of this transport. The financial information shows that the conduct of the leadership team in the Sharow and Skelton federation has led to a position in which the school may be supported for additional time in order to offer recovery from Covid and to see the effect of the completion of some of the Boroughbridge developments. Lastly, some believe that</p>			
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	<p>the quality of education in village schools might not be comparable, my child who attended Skelton School achieved 12 Grade 9 GCSEs, only one child in the UK got 13 GCSEs and another 11 achieved the same result. Demonstrating the value of a Village School Primary Education. I object to the proposed closure of this village school.</p>			
50	<p>It was very disconcerting, appalling and somewhat unbelievable to hear the information given out at the meeting in Skelton-on-Ure on 17th January 2023. The way the meeting was opened made it obvious that everyone was very sad about the school closing. This decision had obviously been made months before and it seems that the powers that be had done everything they could to ensure the school would become unviable. I believe that an inquiry must take place to find out how a school, that was small but thriving, went from 9 pupils down to 1 before the middle of February. Why did all these children suddenly move to other schools? We know a lot of the parents and children who were at the school, where the parents were told that if they did not move their children now they may not get a place in September. This scared parents into moving their children who were happy and thriving at the school. One family has three children and there was only space for two of them at the proposed new school. • Why did the school not continue? • Why did the head and the chair of governors not actively and enthusiastically try to recruit more pupils to this school? • Why was the village not informed about what was happening earlier? • Why is the boundary for the intake of the school restricted? These are all questions that need to be answered. You cannot make such a monumental and catastrophic decision such as this without further investigation as to how on earth this came to be. Where are the priorities for the dual head? Are they equally divided between Sharow and Skelton cum Newby? Is there a conflict of interest? The village residents have not seen any activity encouraging parents to send their children there or children from surrounding areas. From what we were told, quite some time ago there was one leaflet drop to the new houses in Boroughbridge. This is not active marketing; this is not trying to keep a</p>	<p>There has been a massive rise in population in the Boroughbridge and Kirby Hill areas over the past few years. Ripon and surrounding villages have also seen large numbers of housing developments. Although we were shown many facts and figures through the presentation they did not relate to reality. Different schools were shown to have x number of places, however when it came to people trying to get a place, there were no spaces in their child's age group. Our population is growing and more school places will be needed. You have a wonderful facility at a reasonable cost, thanks to the Compton family at Newby Hall. Why not use it? Schools such as Kirby Hill and Roecliffe will need more facilities, infrastructure and buildings to cope with this growing demand, which will involve enormous cost and logistical problems.</p>	<p>Ex Primary School Teacher and now Play Therapist. Village resident for 33 years</p>	

	wonderful school alive. You have an amazing facility here that could be utilised by many children who struggle in larger schools and those with additional needs.			
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