



## **Coggeshall Community Action Group Newsletter 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

**Dear Resident,**

Thank you for all your support in our campaign to date, we have been amazed and impressed by your efforts. We estimate that 400 letters objecting to the new build were delivered to Honeywood School and 300 to Priti Patel our MP. As you may well know the school governors held an extraordinary meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, as a result of this they issued the following statement:

### **Plans for our New Building - Update 22nd May**

Following their meeting on May 22nd School Governors have agreed to:

- Fully consider the views expressed by the local community as to the school's desire to create a new facility to deliver 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning for youngsters in our community.
- Formally consult with the Essex County Council as to whether it would agree to a change of use for the current site on which the school is located.
- Continue to investigate with other potential partners how the school can achieve its desire for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning environment for its youngsters.

### **CCAG issued the following response on our website and facebook page**

CCAG has read the 'Plans for our new building-update' posted on the school website on 22nd May.

- We are delighted to see that the school Governors are prepared to listen to the strong views of local people. In the future we look forward to working with the Governors as they actively seek the views of the village community.
- We remain convinced that the school can develop and improve without embarking on a wasteful and flawed building scheme, such as the one originally proposed.
- We will continue to monitor carefully all proposals for future development put forward by Honeywood's Governing body.

**Over the last few weeks the CCAG committee have been meeting on a regular basis, liaising with other local pressure groups and waiting to see what the school Governors and Marks Hall Trustees plan to do next. Here are the latest developments...**

During a meeting at Marks Hall it was revealed that the architects Melville Dunbar plan to put a planning application into Braintree District Council towards the end of this year. **SO THIS IS REALLY GOING TO HAPPEN UNLESS WE ACT TOGETHER TO STOP IT!**

The Honeywood Gazette of 6<sup>th</sup> June features an article about the new build. We would like to highlight the following points and have printed our response to these in red.

Some members of the local community have articulated concerns and I would like to assure them that their views are being considered as we reflect on the best way to take our ambitions forward.

**We are delighted that you have listened to us, please continue to do so!**

Sadly, as I write, there remains a group who state implacable opposition to our ambitions and we have been unable, despite our best endeavours, to get them to engage with the school.

**This group can't be CCAG as some of our representatives have had a meeting with Deputy Head Mr Williams. We hope that representatives from the school will be willing to meet with us again in the future. Or does 'engage with the school' really mean 'unwilling to fall in line with our plans for the new build'?**

Can I make it clear to our whole community that our school has no desire to create disharmony. However, we will not accept the sub-standard learning environment in which our youngsters are forced to learn every day and will do all we can to explore every available avenue to find a solution to this intractable problem.

**CCAG has read the OFSTED report of 2013 and noted that it does not consider the school buildings to be inadequate. The tone of this paragraph implies that CCAG don't care about the needs of local young people. Nothing could be further from the truth. We want our young people to be taught by knowledgeable, inspirational and dedicated teachers in an environment where they feel happy, safe, valued and able to succeed.**