

Council meeting

19th May 2011

Dr David Dunlop

Re:-Proposed closure of Culverhay School

The Bath Society believes that the Conservative B&NES administration's attitude to the Transport Package and to Culverhay School were inconsistent and unfair. Conservatives resolved to persist with the outdated, flawed and costly Bath Transport Package with B&NES contributing a further 9 million pounds – presumably by selling off assets – our family silver. This is on top of the initial £8.7 million ie almost £18 million pounds in total.

In comparison, the decision to close Culverhay was made "in the wider interests of the whole of Bath" we were told, on the basis of saving money. None of the many arguments in support of Culverhay as a vital Community asset were listened to, just as none of the arguments against the BTP were taken on board. Some consistency there then !

Culverhay is more than just a school. It has many user groups of all ages.

B&NES Core Strategy for the period 2010 – 2026 recognised on page 10 that the number of Primary School age children will increase by a projected 17%-almost a fifth. It would therefore be another failure of joined up thinking to allow the Culverhay closure to go ahead. Let Culverhay become co-educational and accept also Primary age pupils so that it can move forward and continue to properly serve its Community.

We believe that the last minute decision to close Culverhay was driven by the impact of the new Government Education policy on Oldfield Girls School. We witnessed a heartless kneejerk reaction based on short termism that ignored B&NES Strategic Policy and flew in the face of the "Big Society".

