

Save Our Shelter Save Our School

Friday 6th May 2005

Dear Supporter

PROPOSED CLOSURE OF GLENBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL & NEIGHBOURING SHELTEREED HOUSING

We are parents, carers, staff and residents campaigning to keep Glenbrook as a community school and to save the sheltered housing on Clarence Avenue. There is currently a proposal to close the school and the home and replace them with a City Academy for 3 to 19 year-olds, which is a privately sponsored DfES funded school.

Local responses since the announcement of the proposal have been:

- Representations made at numerous council meetings by parents, governors and children
- A unanimous vote by staff against the proposals
- A ballot of parents showing 84% of returns against the initial plan
- A vote by governors showing unanimous opposition to the proposal
- A public meeting held by the SSCIL and the Nelson Mandela Foundation with over 250 people who voted unanimously against the plan
- Two consultation meetings in the school with unanimous votes against the plan
- A representation by parents to the local councillor and local MP
- A tea party attended by over 300 people to give support to veterans living in the sheltered accommodation and to emphasise the unity of the local community against the closures.

We have seen lots of mistakes made over the past ten years or so when school sites have been sold off against the wishes of the community. Now we are paying the price and have not large sites to build schools on. The borough is desperately short of school places. We do not feel that it is fair or just to make primary children and elderly people pay for these mistakes. If the plan went ahead to give away yet more public land, the people of Lambeth would feel that no lesson has been learnt. You cannot solve one problem – a shortage of secondary places - by creating two more problems: closing a community primary school and closing down a sheltered housing unit. Short-term solutions are likely to lead to unforeseen long-term problems.

C/o Glenbrook Primary School, 15 Clarence Avenue, Clapham, London SW4 8LD
Tel: 020 7926 2223

There is an alternative solution to the shortage of land. It is one that is currently being investigated by a council and community working party looking at the site on Brixton Hill. This would ensure a much more even spread of school places, giving access to much needed places to the children in central Brixton. This solution would require some investment by the council to purchase the land.

Our message is that you cannot provide decent schools, adequate play space and decent sheltered accommodation without some investment. It is not right to support an option just because it is free in financial terms without counting the cost of disruption and harm done to young and old alike.

Glenbrook Primary School has recently had a lot of investment and has many brand new facilities enabling it to continue to be an innovative school and a proactive part of the community.

The sheltered housing unit is home to 27 residents, many of whom are in their 80s and who have lived together as a family for almost 20 years. A move such as this would have a devastating effect on these vulnerable, elderly residents.

The transfer of this land for an academy would mean the end of a primary school. The new all-age academy would be only the third in the country to try this model and the parents and staff are not happy to be part of an experiment. A cross-party select committee of MPs have recommended that this educational experiment needs to be halted until it is fully evaluated.

We are asking members of the local community to support our campaign. Please come to the next council meeting on Monday 9th May at 7pm in the town hall in Brixton or the forthcoming public consultation meetings in local primary schools. The first one is on May 13th at Richard Atkins School at 3.30pm. For dates of the next meetings please contact the campaign. Please write to Friends of Glenbrook c/o of the school, e-mail [admin@glenbrook](mailto:admin@glenbrook-primary.lambeth.sch.uk) ← primary.lambeth.sch.uk or phone 020 7926 2223 for more information or to offer support,

Yours sincerely

FRIENDS OF GLENBROOK

SAVE OUR SHELTER