

Yarmouth Times

The newsletter of Yarmouth Town Council

Yarmouth School site edition



NEW PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AT YARMOUTH, ISLE OF WIGHT.

In spite of a spirited campaign by local residents, businesses and Yarmouth Town Council in 2019, Yarmouth C of E Primary School has now officially closed its doors and its pupils moved to a new £5M school at Freshwater, in spite of massive local support and the fact that Yarmouth School enjoyed one of the most impressive education records on the Island.

The school premises and playing fields are to be marketed by IWC, from which £400K will go towards the development costs of the new school in Freshwater, with any balance going to the Government. In November 2022 Yarmouth

Town Council submitted a successful application to register the School premises and associated land as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) as part of a huge local campaign to preserve the School as a community asset. Two public meetings have been held, each attracting some 150+ residents, though, disappointingly, there has been no representation at either meeting by IWC officers. Indeed, there has been no consultation by IWC with residents about the sale, and it is understood that its brief is to sell the site for 'best value', in spite of its provenance as a gift to Yarmouth. However, a Steering Group has been established to co-ordinate the campaign, and legal advice is being sought as to the disposal of the property and the fate of covenants which are believed to have been in place on it.

What particularly upsets local residents about losing their local school at which many of them and their children were educated is that the land on which the School stands was originally gifted to Yarmouth borough by local landowners on the proviso that it would remain as an educational establishment in perpetuity, and there is believed to be a covenant on the property which reinforces this. In addition, a local campaign in the recent past raised some £20K towards mobile classrooms, and these have now been dismantled and removed. The Yarmouth Community has invested heavily in the School and want to see it used for a community purpose.



So what would you like the site used for? Tick one or more choices in one of the boxes below, tear off this slip and return to the Clerk at CHOYD, email to yt1135@gmail.com, or go online to www.yarmouthtowncouncil.co.uk and complete a survey.

- Education purposes as the covenant says. This might include adult education, apprenticeships and sport and exercise, continued use by scouts and guides.
- Exhibition centre promoting the local environment and history.
- Demolish and build market value properties
- Affordable housing 80% of market rates
- Social housing 60% of local rent for people with a connection.
- Other (specify).....