

## Appendix 1 – Stage One Consultation: Events & Feedback

The table below shows the consultation events which were held, and with whom, during the consultation period. Subsequent sections show the feedback received in each of these events.

Section	Consultation event	Date
1	Meeting for parents/carers of children currently attending Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School	31.01.2023
2	Meeting for staff currently working at Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School	31.01.2023
3	Meeting for members of Gt Gidding community	31.01.2023
4	Pupil voice session	02.02.2023
5	Meeting for local schools / Headteachers	06.02.2023
6	Parent/carer 1:1 meetings	06.02.2023
6	Parent/carer 1:1 meetings	09.02.2023
7	Parish Council meeting	09.02.2023

### **Section 1: Meeting for parents/carers of children currently attending Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School**

The following presentation was shared with parents/carers.

[Presentation shared at Consultation Events](#)

The following questions were raised. These were then added to the FAQ document.

#### Questions raised

What has been done to assess the impact that this will have on the wellbeing of our children?

Why can't the catchment area be changed to include other villages, such as Sawtry?

Why are there so many children in the Abbots Ripton catchment, compared to Great Gidding?

How is a new school in Sawtry considered to be sustainable with 10 pupils, but this one isn't?

Why wasn't closure mentioned previously?

Are there any circumstances that will change which would enable the school to stay open?

What are the Ofsted ratings of surrounding schools?

If the decision was taken to close the school, would the existing structure remain until the end of the school year?

If the decision was taken to close, would transport be available to other faith schools?

What happens if academies refuse to take children?

## **Section 2: Meeting for currently working at Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School**

The following presentation was shared with staff.

[Presentation shared at Consultation Events](#)

Given the sensitive and personal nature of these conversations, comments were not recorded.

## **Section 3: Meeting for members of Gt Gidding community**

The following presentation was shared with members of the local community.

[Presentation shared at Consultation Events](#)

The following questions were raised. These were then added to the FAQ document. Any questions which had already been raised, or which were already included, are not listed.

*Is the Governing Body Quorate? Who are the Governors?*

*Have you actively recruited for a new Headteacher?*

*Will consultation responses be available for us to view?*

*How can we share our views at CYP Committee?*

*Has the funding model changed from 2022/22 to 2023/24?*

*What other schools are of a similar size?*

*Did DEMAT carry out full due diligence before rejecting any proposal for Great Gidding CE VC Primary School to join the Trust?*

*How were DEMAT able to take on Guilden Morden Primary School in a similar position?*

*What was the feedback from those you have approached about partnership working with the school?*

*If the school had been taken over by DEMAT previously, would a potential closure still be being considered?*

*Have you considered changing from Voluntary-controlled to Voluntary-aided? Would this attract more funding?*

*Do you see any future for small schools?*

*What would happen if Committee voted against the potential closure?*

*Have you considered the impact on local businesses, the church and the village hall?*

## **Section 4: Pupil Voice**

**Led by:** Lisa Valla, School Improvement Adviser  
Deborah Bowles, Interim Headteacher

### Context

- Consultations were led in pupil's classrooms wherever possible so that pupils felt comfortable to share their feelings.
- The whole school (in attendance on the day of the consultation) were consulted.
- The pupils were grouped three ways.
- Reception, Year 1 and 2 (as these pupils are taught in one class)
- Years 3, 4, & 5 (Year 5 were asked to join the Year 3/4 class, as it was felt that they had more in common with regards to the proposed closure than the Year 6s)
- Year 6 (were consulted separately as they are in a position where they will move to secondary school as the school closes, if the proposal goes ahead)
- The same two questions were asked to all 3 groups, in an age-appropriate way.
- 20 minutes was spent with each group
- Each group was offered the opportunity to share other ideas, by post-it note to the headteacher, if they had ideas after the session.

### Questions asked during the consultation

1. How do you feel about the proposed closure?
2. How can we help you during this time?

### Reception, Year 1 & 2 responses

#### **1. How do you feel about the proposed closure?**

'Sad and scared. I can't sleep at night. I will have to move to a new school if this one closes.'

'This school actually helps us and it's not good if it has to shut'

'Everything in here (furniture) will have to move. Where will it go?'

'I'm afraid to move away from all of you (peers)'

'Happy. I have a cousin in my new school and teachers still help you.'

'I'm shy to meet new friends'

'I'm happy because I will have more friends to play with.'

'I'm sad because I like this school and second, people are already going because they don't want to find out what is going to happen.'

'Sad and nervous because there's lots and lots more pupils in the school that I'm going to, and I didn't want to leave this school.'

'Sad because it's hard to speak to new people.'

'Nervous about talking to new friends.'

'Sad because I'll never see my friends again'

'A bit happy as I'm moving to my boyfriend's school.'

#### **2. How can we help you during this time?**

'I would like to know who else is going to Sawtry School?'

'Can we raise some money to keep the school open?'  
'Can we try and get some more children to come to the school?'  
'Teachers can get more involved and try and stop the council'  
'Can we have a cup cake sale for raising money to keep it open?'  
'Can we have a class pet?'

Years 3, 4, 5 responses

**1.How do you feel about the proposed closure?**

'Upset because I will miss my friends.'  
'Sad because I will miss the teachers.'  
'Sad because I seem to be going somewhere (a school) completely different to everyone else.'  
'Nervous, scared, sad. I've been here since Reception and I'm now in Year 5.'  
'My mum has been really really sad and has been putting up posters to say 'save the school'. I'm going to really miss this school.'  
'I've been here since Reception. I've got really connected to this school and I don't know how to connect to a new school, as I will only be there for a year.'  
'I feel annoyed.'  
'All my older siblings have grown up here.'  
'We can't do the residential trip.'  
'We won't get to sing at the O2, and I love to sing.'  
'This is my 3<sup>rd</sup> school and I wanted to stay but now I'm going to have to go to a 4<sup>th</sup> school and I've only just made friends here and I will only have a year to make more friends.'

**2.How can we help you during this time?**

'There could be more support, like more TAs in the classes.'  
'I went to the consultation, and there were so many reasons give to keep the school open'  
'A school pet'  
'Fun school trips'  
'More support in how people are feeling about the school closure. If we are ever feeling down and we can go and do a fun activity to cheer us up.'  
'Add more entertainment in the playground... particularly on Thursdays.'

Year 6 responses

**1.How do you feel about the proposed closure?**

'Sad because I know this is a great school and I have a sister who was going to come to this school, but she might not be able to now.'  
'Disappointed and sad. I have a nice connection with the school. I live in the village, but I won't be able to come back and volunteer and see the other children going through the school like I did. I've been here since the first day of Reception...yeah, half our lives.'  
'I've had a lot of bad luck with schools before this. I joined reception in another school because the headteacher was really nice but she left and it wasn't as good. I was there until Year 5 and then I moved to Great Gidding (the village) mainly so that I could go to the school, so I now feel very unlucky. It's disappointing.'  
'Worried. My brother's here and we had to break the news to him. It upset me how upset he was.'

*'Worried and feel sorry for the younger ones. Other schools are really strict so these children might get into trouble.'*

*'We are all one big family'*

*'Upset. I've been here since Reception but I'm lucky that I'll be moving to secondary.'*

*'I feel bad for the Year 5s. They will have to find new friends in another school.'*

*'I've heard them all saying (the Year 5s) about going to Hilltop (a residential trip)*

*They will also miss having the chance to be house captain, have the Year 6 roles, sit on benches in assembly. They may not have these things in their new school.'*

*'All headteachers are different.'*

*'My little sister was going to start in September. We may have to move house to go to another school.'*

*'Sad as we had a lot of chefs. They make meals that you would never have had in your life. I will miss the nice ones.'*

*'What will happen to the school website? (went on to discuss the photos on the website and the memories they hold)'*

*'A bit sad because so many teachers have left us whilst we have been here' (the class then listed 11 members of staff that have been at the school whilst they have been here but have now left)*

## **2.How can we help you during this time?**

*'Do lots of fun stuff.'*

*'Make lots of memories'*

*'Will we have a proper leavers assembly/ party/ disco?'*

*'Can you clearly share with us information around the school closure and what will happen next?'*

*'A field trip'*

*'Year 6 leavers trip'*

*'Make a kit car and race it around a track at school (previous activity at the school)'*

*'A whole school event? Something we make as a whole school...get into mixed year teams and then have a den build off.'*

*'A school fair'*

*'Being there for the younger children, saying 'everything is gonna be OK'*

*'Put a worry box outside each class'*

## **Section 5: Meeting for local Headteachers**

**Led by:** Clare Buckingham, Strategic Education Place Planning Manager  
(Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council)

**Location:** Folksworth Village Hall

Questions raised

**Question:** *Is it possible to admit above 30 in reception / key stage 1? There are siblings who we cannot currently offer a place to.*

**Response:** *It is possible for a school to exceed the Infant Class Size limit if the admissions are deemed to be excepted pupils (e.g., they meet the requirements set out in paragraph 2.16 Schools Admissions Code 2021). At present, children on roll at Gt Gidding would not meet these criteria.*

**Question:** Will local schools be expected to admit above PAN?

**Response:** It would be at the headteacher's discretion to admit above PAN. The LA has a local protocol that it expects mixed classes to take up to 32 in key stage 2, and 34 in discreet year groups. The admissions team are therefore likely to contact you about this if applications are received which would take your school above PAN.

## **Section 6: 1:1 meetings with parents/carers**

Individual comments relate to person circumstances and so have not been included.

- Key themes arising from discussion were as follows:  
Transport and whether the Council would meet the cost of attending other local schools
- School uniform and whether there was any support with meeting costs should children be required to attend other schools
- Availability of places

## **Section 7: Meeting with Parish Council**

### **GREAT & LITTLE GIDDING PARISH COUNCIL**

#### **Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting**

##### **Reason for the Meeting**

It is unusual for either the Council or the Diocese to recommend consideration of a school closure. However, on 17 January 2023 the Council's Children & Young People's Committee agreed that a consultation should take place on the future of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School with effect from 31 August 2023.

Extraordinary meeting held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023 in Great Gidding Village Hall

PRESENT: Parish Cllrs Hodson, D'Altilia, Maciag, Hargrave, Moody, Bolton, the Right Honorable Shailesh Vara, MP for North West Cambridgeshire and resident in the school catchment area,  
County Councillors Gardener (Alconbury and Kimbolton Division (which includes Great & Little Gidding parish and the school catchment area)), County Councillor Simon Bywater (Cambridgeshire county council (Sawtry and Stilton) Huntingdonshire district councillor (Sawtry ward), Ross Martin (Huntingdonshire District Councillor (Sawtry ward).

Mr Jonathan Lewis, Director of Education – Cambridgeshire County Council

Ms Clare Buckingham, Strategic Policy and Place Planning Manager - Cambridgeshire County Council

Ms Bryony Goodliffe – Chair of Children and Young People Committee – Cambridgeshire County Council

Ms Fran Cox, Assistant Director, Education Capital and Place Planning - Cambridgeshire County Council

Andrew Read, Director of Education for the Diocese of Ely

Mr Iain Nott, Head of Estate – Milton (Peterborough) Estates Co. and the Clerk.

Joined by 34 members of the public

Notices had been posted in the village, on the website and shared on social media platforms, advising of the meeting and its purpose. The notice invited written submissions prior to the meeting and, after the deadline, these were shared with the Education Department to enable them to research and respond at the meeting.

At the meeting:

Parish Council Chairman, Paul Hodson, opened the meeting by thanking those in attendance and those that submitted questions and comments prior to the meeting. Mr Jonathan Lewis, Education Department, gave a background to the process that had led to the consultation regarding the future of the village school.

Parish Councillor Karen Moody read out questions and comments that had been submitted and, in turn, Mr Lewis responded. Later in the meeting there were questions directed at the Parish Council and then to Mr Vara – all were answered. Mr Vara's request to address those present was granted.

\*\*\*The closing date for the consultation on the future of Great Gidding CofE (VC) School is **12 noon on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February** – any further questions and comments can be submitted to that consultation via an online survey - <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/GGconsultation/>

+++ the next meeting of the Children and Young People's Committee will be held on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 2.00PM** in the Red Kite Room at New Shire Hall, Alconbury Weald.

**The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023 starting at 1930 hours in the Village Hall, Great Gidding.**

**Meeting closed at 21.05**

### Questions and answers

Parish Council Meeting – Questions and Answers 09.02.2023

#### Question 1

"My understanding is that the previous governors who resigned in the autumn were not given the support they needed, especially in connection with the recruitment of a headteacher in Spring 2022.

Would the representatives from the local authority please explain why they failed to support the governors, which has contributed to create the present situation?"

**Answer 1**

*Support has been provided to the school and governors prior to this process.*

*Following the resignation of the headteacher. The LA and the Diocese advised that before heading out to recruit like for like, the governors take stock. They were advised that a full time non teaching headteacher was not sustainable and the school needed to explore federation (with diocese and LA support) to allow for an executive head model which would be more financially sustainable for the school given its size. The LA and Diocese also suggested an interim headteacher would be an option to explore to allow for time to consider federation.*

*The governors did not take the advice provided and went ahead with recruitment advertisement. The pool of applicants was few and no candidate was shortlisted. At this point, and given the time delay following the recruitment process, the LA and Diocese again suggested to the GB that an interim headteacher for Sept was the best next step to allow for the exploration of federation.*

*The Diocese and LA met throughout the summer term 2022 to look at the option both for an interim headteacher and longer term. Numerous factors resulted in the resignation of governors, including the challenges we have presented.*

**Question 2**

Can you explain why then at least 3 people in the village, volunteered to be Governors when several resigned, they were not contacted and you chose to appoint your in-house Governors?

**Answer 2**

*Following the resignation of two thirds of the Governing Body (4 of the original 6) and the Clerk to Governors the Local Authority has swiftly taken action to reconstitute a compliant governing body with the statutory minimum number of governors (7). This had to be done immediately and before any volunteers came forward. Appointments were based upon skills and background experience at this time with the current membership including; an experienced Chair of Governors, a representative from the Diocese of Ely, a serving Headteacher of another school and a former senior Local Government officer from a neighboring Local Authority.*

*The Governing Body's constitution accounts for 10 governors in total. Since changes to the membership, the main vacancies are parent governors – the process for appointing which is outlined below.*

*Since their appointment, Governors have worked initially with the Local Authority to secure a new Interim Headteacher and SENDCO support- both of which are essential and statutory functions of the school. Any matters handed over from previous leadership and governance arrangements were also prioritised.*

*Soon into their tenure, the school received an OFSTED inspection, which then became the priority.*

*At its meeting on Tuesday 7th February (only the second meeting of the new governance arrangements - first meeting Dec 22) governors have agreed to proceed to broaden the GB membership and will be going out for expressions of interest for parent governors. There are two parent governor vacancies. If more than two parents volunteer- an election will be held, otherwise they will be directly appointed. It is anticipated that they will begin to contribute to the work of the Governing Body immediately thereafter.*

*Whilst the Governing Body has engaged in various aspects of the school closure consultation and will make written representation as part of the process, they also remained focused upon providing appropriate support, challenge and accountability to school leaders in the interest of their ongoing education at the school.*

### **Question 3**

How much did the fact that there was very little interest in the post of Head Teacher affect your decision?

### **Answer 3**

*This was one factor which was taken into consideration as leadership and management is essential to be able to run all aspects of an effective school. However, there were numerous other factors which also influenced the decision to consult.*

### **Question 4**

Was the option of reducing to 2 form entry discussed with the previous Governors, and what evidence do you have that the quality of learning, in two form entry schools is significantly worse than 3?

### **Answer 4**

*Discussions with the former Governing Body were focused around leadership recruitment/partnership opportunities, not any changes to the existing structure/teaching staff etc. However, officers have explored this and will present the impact of a two-class structure within the committee report on 8<sup>th</sup> March.*

### **Question 5**

At the meeting on the 31st it was said that there are no 2 form schools in Cambridgeshire, but there are other schools in financial difficulty, from the budgets we have seen, Gidding School can set a positive budget for at least the next two years, why was the decision made to consider closing Gidding school but not on any other school?

### **Answer 5**

*Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School has been under review for some time due to the financial challenges with low pupil numbers. However, forecasts suggest this decline will continue. We have to consider the educational impact of a balanced budget. The LA is currently supporting the additional cost of the Headteacher and a SENCO. We also pay the rent on the building separate from the schools budget.*

### **Question 6**

At the meeting on the 31st it was suggested that predicted numbers over the last 10 years had always been significantly lower than the actual turned out to be, can you provide us with the predicted numbers and the actual for the last 5 years at least.

### **Answer 6**

Tables 1 and 2 show the number of pupils forecast to attend Great Gidding CE VC Primary School. This is based on the trends experienced within the last three years and includes children expected to attend the school from out of catchment.

Tables 3 and 4 show the number of pupils expected to be resident within the school's catchment area only. This does not take into account patterns of parental preference, or children coming from out of catchment. All tables show a decline in pupil numbers.

This will be included as part of the report back. The data shows us that the forecast numbers taking account of out catchment trend have declined in the last 5 years and they are consistently higher than the actual that attend the school hence our view around long term sustainable. In 2018 forecast 13 reception children and no children came to the school.

**Table 1: Forecast number of children attending Great Gidding CE VC Primary School**

Academic Year	Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2018/2019	13	8	11	6	6	6	10	<b>60</b>
2019/2020	6	0	9	10	7	6	5	<b>43</b>
2020/2021	4	8	1	9	10	5	6	<b>43</b>
2021/2022	9	5	8	1	9	9	5	<b>46</b>
2022/2023	4	7	5	8	3	8	9	<b>44</b>
2023/2024	4	4	7	5	8	3	8	<b>39</b>

**Table 2: Actual number of children attending Great Gidding CE VC Primary School**

Academic Year	Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2018/2019	0	9	10	7	6	5	11	<b>48</b>
2019/2020	8	2	9	10	7	7	7	<b>50</b>
2020/2021	5	8	1	9	9	5	7	<b>44</b>
2021/2022	7	5	8	3	8	9	4	<b>44</b>

**Table 3: Forecast number of children living within the Great Gidding catchment area**

Academic Year	Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2018/2019	1	4	3	3	3	5	5	<b>24</b>

2019/2020	3	1	5	3	4	3	5	<b>24</b>
2020/2021	3	3	2	5	2	4	3	<b>22</b>
2021/2022	4	2	3	2	6	2	4	<b>23</b>
2022/2023	0	5	1	1	2	5	2	<b>16</b>
2023/2024	0	0	5	1	1	2	5	<b>14</b>

**Table 4: Actual number of children living within the Great Gidding Catchment Area**

Academic Year	Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2018/2019	1	5	2	4	3	5	5	<b>25</b>
2019/2020	3	2	5	2	4	3	4	<b>23</b>
2020/2021	2	3	2	6	2	4	2	<b>21</b>
2021/2022	5	1	1	2	5	2	3	<b>19</b>

### **Question 7**

Development in the village: (2021 census shows 160 households and 330 people in Great & Little Gidding parish)

At this moment, there are planning applications sitting (stagnating) with Huntingdonshire District Council for at least 15 housing units – almost an additional 10% to be added to the existing housing stock. The proposed developments consist of differing sizes of property, some with potential appeal to younger people of child-bearing age, even families with ready-made children who may be attracted to the village because it has a small school. We are fortunate in having Milton Estates as the chief landowner in this parish and, hopefully, this will prevent huge housing developments being built but there is more potential for infill and small development sites - out of interest, what is the optimum number of children on the school roll to keep this school open?

### **Answer 7**

*There is no optimum number for keeping a school open. Each individual school is unique, with many factors which influence its viability. Financial viability of a school must be therefore reviewed on a case-by-case basis when challenges arise.*

*The Council is particularly concerned however, that for Gt Gidding, the number of pupils is forecast to drop below 40 for the next academic year. This would require the school to revise its class-structure to offer two classes instead of three.*

### **Question 8**

The analysis for school numbers is based on the number of children in the catchment area: which is low in our case. In the case of Great Gidding however most of the children come from outside the area either because the parent like smaller schools or other schools have reached their quota. Why is this not factored into their analysis?

### **Answer 8**

*The Council produces two sets of forecasts. The first set focusses on children resident within the school's catchment area, and the second set focuses on trend of pupils on roll over the last three years. Officers have taken into consideration both of these, and both evidence that numbers are falling.*

### **Question 9**

Why cannot the Great Gidding school catchment area include Sawtry?

- Gives the parents more choice to go to a large or a small school
- Utilises existing bus service
- Better for SEND children
- Allows economies of scale regarding head teachers etc

### **Answer 9**

*School catchments have been in place for many years. Whilst broadening the school's catchment could attract more pupils, it would need to be significantly broader to make a significant impact. It would also mean other pupils may have further to travel to their local school, and negatively impact the rolls of other schools. This is therefore not an option.*

### **Question 10**

Can you clarify the arrangements for the LEA paying for transport if the school closes – specifically do parents have to go through the selection process, to get free transport, and if a parent removes their child and finds another school such as Brington or Folksworth, before the end of summer term, would they qualify.

### **Answer 10**

*Unless a decision is made by CYP committee to close the school, eligibility for transport will be determined by the Council's statutory responsibilities and its published transport assistance policy. We will be considering transport as part of the March paper following feedback from parents. Our baseline for any discussion will be the 44 children who were in the school at the time of the publication of the CYP committee in January.*

### **Question 11**

Also, if after school provision is provided would the LEA transport accommodate this or is the transport only provided for core school hours.

### **Answer 11**

*In line with Council's Travel Assistance Policy, children eligible for school transport will be provided with it to coincide with the official start and end of the school teaching day. This excludes before and after school provision.*

### **Question 12**

If 2 additional classrooms are made available in Sawtry, in theory all of the children from Gidding could be accommodated, if parent preference is say Brington how can you reassure parents that every endeavour will be made to get them into their 1st

preference, when for the LEA the simplest and cheapest option would be for them all to go to Sawtry.

### **Answer 12**

*Every school concerned must comply with the statutory School Admissions Code. The education model is that of parents being able to express a preference for the school they wish their child to attend and we will do all we can to support parental preference and have opened discussions with local schools to find additional places to support parents at GG school.*

### **Question 13**

Transport – Please clarify the safeguard procedures in place for transporting very young children, ie 4 years of age.

### **Answer 13**

*The safety of children and young people is paramount. Please refer to pages 18 and 19 of the Council's transport policy to find out more about the measures in place.*

[Home to school travel assistance policy \(cambridgeshire.gov.uk\)](http://cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

### **Question 14**

School playgrounds are protected – what exactly does this mean for Gidding – would the school playground become a village facility and if so, who will maintain it.

### **Answer 14**

*In the event of school closure, approval would be required from the Department for Education (DfE) to dispose of any land. Any land would be subject to the Council's disposal policy which would involve declaring the site surplus to the Council's requirements, at which point suitable alternative options for their use would be explored.*

### **Question 115**

Given that when the Air-source heat pumps were installed you considered the school viable, and presumably the accommodation acceptable, what was the significant change, that brought about the suggestion that the school should close.

### **Answer 15**

*Forecasts are reviewed on an annual basis. At the time, when we were approached regarding the air source heat pumps, the school was viable and operating with a 3-class structure. Concerns were evident but monitored in the same way as they had been previously.*

### **Question 16**

It would be so sad for the young village children to have to be transported out of the village for education.

We don't have much in the village it would be a real shame for the school to close. I can't believe that closing the school will be in the interest of the children.

If the school were to close, what do the council plan to use the building it for? Are there any plans to convert it to an immigration Hostel?

### **Answer 16**

*The building is not owned by Cambridgeshire County Council. It is leased to the Council by Milton Estates. It would therefore be for them to determine how the building would be utilised going forwards, if the decision was taken to close the school.*

### **Question 17 and Answer 17**

A) Cambridgeshire County Council, Ely Diocese and Milton Estates all have an interest in the site that the School stands on.

1) Who owns what? *The majority of the school site is owned by Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) on a freehold basis. A smaller part of the site is leased from the Milton Estate. This includes the land on which the main school building is situated.*

2) Who is financially responsible for repairs and replacements on each element?

*The school is voluntary controlled, meaning that CCC has condition related responsibility and is deemed the "responsible body" by the DfE.*

3) Do the costs of decommissioning the site outweigh the cost of keeping the school open until the new school is completed at Sawtry. *Delaying the closure would not support this situation. The new school will open in reception only and grow in line with housing development.*

B) Should the School close, given that the school is in the heart of the Conservation Area of the Village, and is visible from the main road through the village, neither Parish Council or residents would want the site to become derelict or overgrown with vegetation. Comment has been noted.

1. 1. who will be responsible for carrying out and funding the cost of decommissioning? *CCC would decommission and would maintain and secure the site.*

2. 2. what would be the timeframe to make it a site suitable for sale/redevelopment? *No timescale can be put on the sale of the site. There are two ownerships so there would need to be discussions between the parties around alternative uses and type of sale (sold as seen or unencumbered site).*

3. 3. what will be left on site? *It is not appropriate to hold these discussions at this stage and pre-empt the outcome of consultation. The consultation is education focused and is not driven by the potential for an asset sale.*

### **Question 18**

The January 2023 statutory guidance on the opening and closure of schools states that in respect of closure of rural schools, the proposers should also provide evidence to show they have carefully considered the scope for an extended school to provide local community services and facilities (e.g. childcare facilities, family and adult learning, healthcare, community internet access), and the overall long term impact on local people and the community of the closure of the school. How has the proposer determined the long term impact on the people and local community (e.g. the potential viability of the shop, church, village hall etc which have been used by parents or the school in the past? And how will you evidence the outcomes of your considerations?.

### **Answer 18**

*The impact of closure will be assessed prior to any decision being made via an Equality Impact Assessment and a Community Impact Assessment. In addition, there will be a specific response to the 'Presumption Against Closure of Rural Schools'.*

### **Question 19**

Lastly given it seems that the Local Education Authority wants the school to close, what positive policies does Cambridgeshire County Council have to ensure that small settlement communities mentioned in the HDC Local Plan continue to thrive?

### **Answer 19**

*We have referred previously to the Community Impact Assessment that will be developed as part of the CYP Committee paperwork. We have spoken to Huntingdon District Council about their local plans support rural community education.*

### **Question 20**

Diversity and parental choice are two concepts which are interlinked. Choice is only choice when there are proper, diverse alternatives from which to choose. The move towards centralisation in larger schools may be a necessity for students of secondary school age where specialist subject-based teaching with, usually, students moving from expensive provision of space and equipment several times during the day, which is not the norm in primary schools, nor, probably, is it an age-appropriate system for smaller, younger children, for whom stability and continuity are essential for emotional well-being and natural development. If it is acceptable to roll up small schools and bus children over some distance, at what point is the process halted or the enlarged schools rolled up in their turn for even larger central schools?

### **Answer 20**

*The Council is not advocating large schools but, as school funding is based on pupil numbers, it is essential that there are sufficient pupils to make the school viable. Without this, it is not possible to run the school effectively, and could have a detrimental impact upon pupil outcomes.*

### **Question 21**

Jonathan Lewis explained at the School Meeting that a closure is based on a case by case assessment. There does, however, seem to be no published criteria on school closure. So going forward how does a school know it is under threat or review?

### **Answer 21**

*The Council has not been in this position for approximately 30 years during which time many factors have changed e.g., funding, curriculum etc.*

*It is difficult to create a published set of criteria as each school has its own unique set of circumstances which must be taken into consideration. However, officers are, carrying out a piece of work to review all small schools within Cambridgeshire (those with less than 100 pupils) and will be running workshops for these schools later this*

*academic year so that options can be explored. This will inform the Council's small schools' strategy.*

**Question 22**

Jonathan Lewis explained yesterday that all the options analysis was done last year before the Closure Consultation was announced. This seems to be in the wrong order. Why does the Local Education Authority not follow a process of

- Warning to the school and the community based on the published criteria,
- Options analysis made public - federation, academy, change to catchment area etc
- Closure consultation?

**Answer 22**

*The process has been carried out in line with guidance issued by the DfE.*

*[Opening and closing maintained schools \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)*

*Conversations have been held with the governing body, and other options explored in collaboration with the Diocese of Ely Multi-Academy Trust as would be expected, prior to reaching this point. It is at this point that it is now being brought to the attention of the community as no alternative option has been identified which would avoid closure.*

## **Section 8: Smart Survey**



### **CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM**

How you can give your views

#### **Overview**

#### **Background**

It is unusual for either the Council or the Diocese to recommend consideration of a school closure. However, on 17 January 2023 the Council's Children & Young People's Committee agreed that a consultation should take place on the future of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School with effect from 31 August 2023.

Within the survey, there are two short questions, in addition to a box where you can include any comments which relate to the proposal. The information given in response to questions 2 and 3 will help us to assess the level of engagement with our survey and will be useful for informing subsequent stages of the process, should they occur.

We would be grateful if you could complete the survey to let us know your views by 12 noon on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023. It should take no more than 15 minutes to complete.

#### **GDPR statement**

This survey is to assist and inform Cambridgeshire County Council in its statutory duties to secure sufficient and suitable childcare places (Childcare Act 2006). We may share your information with our consultants, our partners and with the Council's analysis team.

You do not have to give us any personal information. We will not publish any personal details you do give us, but may publish our response, and include it in public reports, with personal details removed. Personal data will be held securely, in accordance with data protection legislation. We will only store it for 12 months after the results have been analysed.

#### **Contact us**

If you have queries about the survey or would like a copy of this document in paper format, on audio cassette, Braille, large print or in other languages, please contact us via [School.consultations@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:School.consultations@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) who will then liaise directly with you to support your request.

Please note, we will enter onto the electronic Smart Survey any responses which are received in paper format so that analysis is accurate. A note will be added onto the response when input, so that it is clear which responses this relates to.

**1. What is your relationship to Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

- Parent of a child currently at the school
- Parent of a child who previously attended the school
- School governor
- Member of staff
- Resident within the school community, but not a parent or member of staff (including governors)
- Other (please specify)

**2. What are your views regarding the potential to close Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

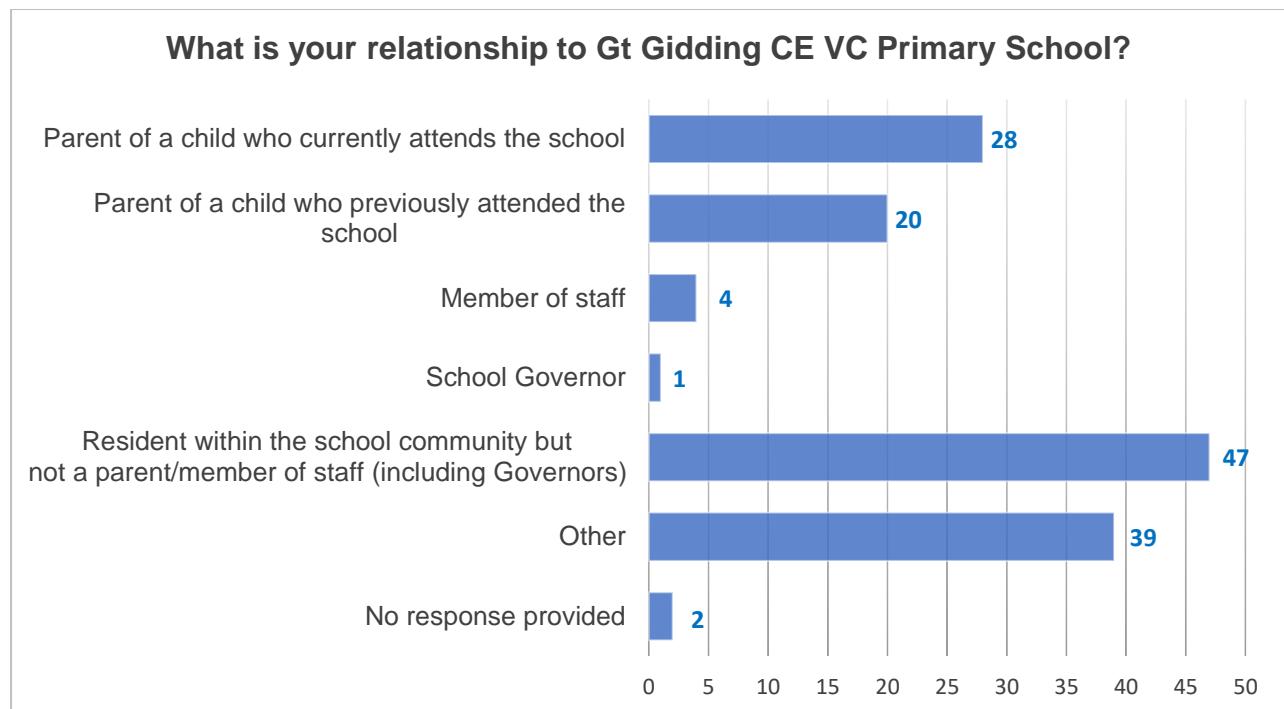
- I strongly agree with the potential closure.
- I agree with the potential closure.
- I neither agree nor disagree with the potential closure.
- I disagree with the potential closure.
- I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School. You may continue overleaf if more space is required.**

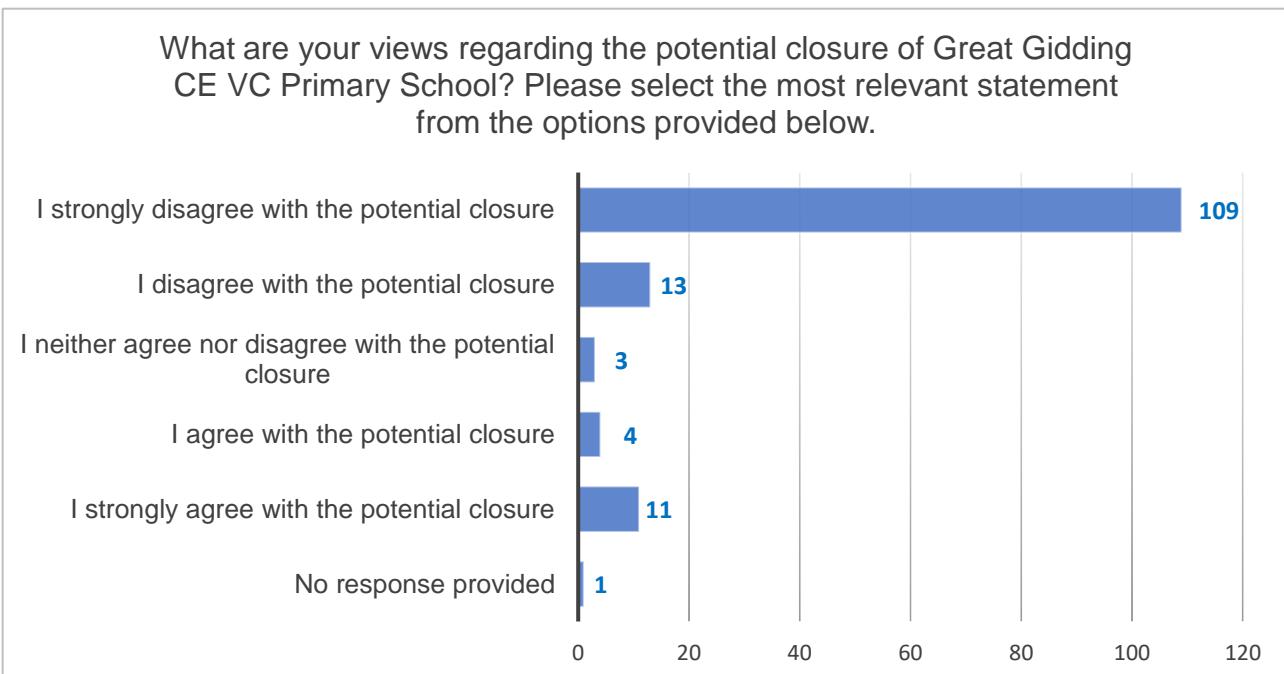
Thank you for taking the time to share your views. The consultation will close at 12 noon on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023. After this date, we will take into consideration all comments submitted, and publish a formal response.

## Section 9: Smart Survey Results Summary

### Question 1



### Question 2



## **Section 10: Smart Survey Individual responses**

In line with GDPR regulations, information provided within survey responses has been redacted where there is potential for the individual to be identified. This includes:

- Response ID
- Details specified in Question 1, with regards to relationship to the school
- Personal experiences or reflections which could disclose an individual's identity.

Redacted responses have also been reviewed by the Council's Information Governance team prior to publication.

<b>Response Number</b>	1
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Parent of a child who currently attends the school

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

Dear Councillors, Officers, Fellow Parents, Record Keepers, and most importantly, Children,

*[redacted]*

Whilst I understand all the concerns that have led us to this point, I do still feel a sense of unfairness for Great Gidding and its school. If all the avenues were fully explored where is the evidence of this process? The point at which parents became aware of the closure was only after the preparatory work had been undertaken to facilitate the closure itself. We are answering to a debate that was held long ago, and without our knowledge. That is disappointing.

Children of this age range have already had their education disrupted with the pandemic. They have struggled in a variety of ways, but managed to find their feet and now they must start all over again. School must feel like a game of snakes and ladders.

The provision of places across the area affected are thinly distributed in such a way that all children from Great Gidding school will be losing contact with most of their friends. They cannot go all together to another school, nor can they go in groups. There is competition for places. These social pressures will take some toll on their academic progress. I think the overall well-being of a child comes above test scores etc, but that is another debate.

The officer's report seemed to point the finger at the interim leadership around the school. Was this not the leadership that the school was given by the authority itself? Have they really been dealt a fair hand?

At this moment in time, the school budget is not in deficit according to the figures presented. The Ofsted report is unchanged as Good. The children and teachers were very happy. This wasn't a failing school, but a failing governance. Officers, the Diocese and past governors have had a breakdown of communication, and somehow between them all they must have lost sight of what was important. I take a simplistic view, perhaps, but essentially children are paying for adult mistakes. There was always scope to mend these problems, and work out a way forward, but it wasn't an

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

easy option to take.

The onset of this process has already had impacts. Children are already worried. Parents are panicking and competing for places elsewhere. Teachers are struggling to sleep at the thought of losing their jobs. The requirement now is a rescue package. But is there a will to find one? Was there ever? I may never know.

After 175 odd years of history, must we now write down this as the last chapter for Great Gidding School?

<b>Response Number</b>	2
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who currently attends the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

The closure of the school will be devastating to the area in many levels. You are taking away parents choice... whilst there is a proposed new school to be built in Sawtry it is doing a phased reception intake each year so the first pupils attending will not be exposed to a proper school setting. Would be interesting to read research papers into this. Secondly according to forecast numbers that school will be over-subscribed. Where will pupils attend? It seems no real thought about the children had been considered and more about pay increases to councillors.

<b>Response Number</b>	3
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

It seems counterproductive to consider closing a school without a robust plan in place to find these children an alternative space.

<b>Response Number</b>	4
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who previously attended the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

Great Gidding school is invaluable not just to the local community but also to the children from the wider local area that might struggle with the larger school environment. It is an exceptionally special place of learning where all children thrive and achieve to their fullest potential. The LA could do more to support the increase in numbers by not over subscribing other schools during allocations and also extending the catchment.

<b>Response Number</b>	5
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*No Response*

<b>Response Number</b>	6
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*No Response*

<b>Response Number</b>	7
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who currently attends the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*[redacted]*

<b>Response Number</b>	8
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

Schools in the general area are full. The new school at Sawtry is 2 years away. GG School is the only Faith school in the region. If the school were to be marketed as an option in the catchment area, the take up would be higher. Many of the reasons given by the main speaker against the school cannot be supported in fact and many were completely wrong. It appears that there is a hidden agenda within the campaign against the school and a far more thorough investigation MUST take place before this valuable asset to the whole community is lost. The supporters of the school will not be fobbed off with half truths and will not allow the matter to be terminated as a fait accompli. These councillors who are looking to close this school are servants of the constituents not masters. The committee MUST support the will of the constituents.

<b>Response Number</b>	9
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

*[redacted]*

<b>Response Number</b>	10
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*No Response*

<b>Response Number</b>	11
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

[redacted]

<b>Response Number</b>	12
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

For a couple of years the closure or reduction of public amenities in common ownership - land, libraries, museums, leisure centres, swimming pools, education establishments, markets, etc. has reached near epidemic proportions and it is very worrying, especially when many of these decisions is clearly motivated by money. Some of the closures and subsequent sales seem so hurried and autocratic as to suggest individuals within the authorities could have a personal interest or benefit in the decisions. Often the public are denied a chance to provide input and where there is a consultation the input is usually ignored.

Money would seem to be the motivation in wanting to close this school and not primarily for the savings that might be made heating a small modern school, more likely the sale of the freehold of such a quaint building with a reasonable amount of land and ripe for conversion into a premium dwelling would bring a high price - the school clearly wouldn't be closed just to stand empty...

What the pupils of a primary school think are very important and familiarity makes them happy. They are little kids after all. Unless it is absolutely necessary to change something about their school lives, such as the building being in a dangerous state, it is best to change nothing.

Only mean and wicked people would do something that would upset a child...

[redacted]

<b>Response Number</b>	13
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

Other local schools have large class sizes, poorer results and limited parking. This is also a village C of E school which is important to many parents. There's no guarantee that a new Sawtry school will materialise any time soon, the 'new' Doctors Surgery never did. Neither have any of the other promises from previous house building.

*[redacted]* why not attract more children from the other schools. If you provided transport options, you'd be over run with parents trying to get in there.

If there's absolutely no alternative in it closing, it needs to wait until the potential new Sawtry School is built and fully up and running.

Thank you.

<b>Response Number</b>	14
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

I am extremely disappointed that Great Gidding school may close, as the school is highly regarded within the local community and there are issues with accessing the other schools in the surrounding villages which will make it challenging for those already attending this school and those looking to attend this and other schools in the area.

*[redacted]*

There is an existing issue with over subscription to the current schools within Sawtry, and although I understand a new school is due to be built as part of a new housing development within the village, this has been delayed and when it does open, will only be for reception at first, so this does not help those children currently at Great Gidding currently. In time, this will probably also only realistically help with the increasing numbers that the new houses bring rather than solving the issue of schools which are already full now.

People will then need to travel further afield in order to access schools with space, which is neither good for the parents, children or the environment. Public transport has been reduced recently in the village too, so this would also not be an option for helping students get to these schools.

It is very difficult to understand closing a school which is so highly regarded within the local community, and is really needed by the local residents.

I would really like all avenues to be explored to prevent the closure of Great Gidding School and protect the future of our next generation within the local area.

<b>Response Number</b>	15
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who currently attends the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

I feel the closure of this small rural school, which is a central part of the local community is another example of the narrow minded nature of the council's Children and young people's committee.

Funding once again being diverted too numerous and repeatedly failing projects continues, all the time being slashed from vital services.

Allowing the closure of a well performing and much admired school purely on the basis of a financial shortfall is a terrible decision which will have a deep and ongoing impact in both the short and long term future.

*[redacted]*

And to add further worry onto already emotionally and financially stretched family units, we have still been provided with no confirmed plans for the future of our children schooling, the provision and availability of school places, transport and funding.

We are already seeing a decline in the services and facilities for young people in rural areas and when this is factored along with the shortage of jobs, limited public transport network and a lack of social life how can we expect young people to willingly move into areas that are suffering from such depopulation and reduction in services.

This is not just about a school, it is also about losing a vital link between the local community and the surrounding areas.

The opportunity to save this fantastic school and staff must not be missed.

The proposed new family housing being built in Gt Giddings and Sawtry should be taken into consideration when looking at current and future school intakes. The lack of spaces currently available at the existing Sawtry school and the uncertainty surrounding the proposed opening/construction of a new School in Sawtry, (which we have been informed that in its first year will only be taking me reception class age groups) should also be used to further divert new intake to the Gt Giddings school.

There are many options and choices available other than the shortsighted nature of

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

closing the school and I hope all possibilities and options are given a fair chance of discussion.

<b>Response Number</b>	16
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

[redacted]

<b>Response Number</b>	17
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who previously attended the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly agree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*[redacted]*

<b>Response Number</b>	18
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who currently attends the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*[redacted]*

<b>Response Number</b>	19
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

Sawtry is becoming more of a town than a village with the number of housing developments going up.

All you are doing by closing this school is depriving parents of good school places for their children

Cannot see any reason for closing this school down

<b>Response Number</b>	20
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

The school has been a vital part of village life for many years, interacting with other village institutions across those years, including the inclusion of many of its pupils in events at the church, on the sports field, at the village hall. Although links between school and village suffered under some head teachers, this has improved with the children getting involved in diverse village events and undertakings.

The village shop has benefited from the school's presence as parents and children have called in there regularly after school. The effect of the school's closure on the shop could be catastrophic and result in the village losing not one but two vital amenities.

House sales will also be affected as young families who would previously have chosen to live here because of the school's presence will now find no compelling reason to be here. This might well result in Gidding becoming overwhelmingly occupied by the 60+ age group.

What we do not understand is where the children will be taught as there appears to be a paucity of places at both local schools and those further afield. There appears to be no credible plan for their future and the disruption for young lives could be considerable and arguably damaging to their long term education.

We believe this plan will result in damage to many different aspects of Gidding village life.

Only a few years ago we were in line to have a brand new primary school, eventually cancelled for lack of funding. That it has now come to this, is a sad reflection on both local and National government.

Please, please Save Our School!

<b>Response Number</b>	21
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who currently attends the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*[redacted]*

I think the Department of Education should feel ashamed for even suggesting closure of such a fantastic school. There are endless reasons why this should not be allowed to go ahead. I'm sure you, the reader are well aware of them all. Local community, presumption by the dept that closure should not go ahead unless good reasons (which there are none) that closure should not happen. I take issue that the committee took a political decision to vote for consultation to spite the opposition. Childlike political actions should not be happening on decisions involving schools. The D of E only agenda is closure for financial reasons, flying in the face of all the evidence and policy. Also trying to make, underhand behind "closed door decisions" with the chair and vice chair, with about as much integrity as a south American Junta. I will be arguing for this school to stay open and fighting it all the way.

<b>Response Number</b>	22
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

Please can this school be fought for, rather than dismissed?

To disrupt childrens' education is a serious issue, at any level. They aren't 'just kids', they are the future of our country, and they are happy at this lovely school.  
This closure will harm the children involved in both the short and long-term.

<b>Response Number</b>	23
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*No Response*

<b>Response Number</b>	24
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

Why did the school get heat pumps partly installed but never commissioned?

Is that when it was decided to close down?

Not very green and a lot of wasted money.

<b>Response Number</b>	25
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who currently attends the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

I feel the closure of this small rural school, which is a central part of the local community is another example of the narrow minded nature of the council's Children and young people's committee.

Funding once again being diverted too numerous and repeatedly failing projects continues, all the time being slashed from vital services.

Allowing the closure of a well performing and much admired school purely on the basis of a financial shortfall is a terrible decision which will have a deep and ongoing impact in both the short and long term future.

*[redacted]*

And to add further worry onto already emotionally and financially stretched family units, we have still been provided with no confirmed plans for the future of our children schooling, the provision and availability of school places, transport and funding.

We are already seeing a decline in the services and facilities for young people in rural areas and when this is factored along with the shortage of jobs, limited public transport network and a lack of social life how can we expect young people to willingly move into areas that are suffering from such depopulation and reduction in services.

This is not just about a school, it is also about losing a vital link between the local community and the surrounding areas.

The opportunity to save this fantastic school and staff must not be missed.

The proposed new family housing being built in Gt Giddings and Sawtry should be taken into consideration when looking at current and future school intakes. The lack of spaces currently available at the existing Sawtry school and the uncertainty surrounding the proposed opening/construction of a new School in Sawtry, (which we have been informed that in its first year will only be taking me reception class age groups) should also be used to further divert new intake to the Gt Giddings school.

There are many options and choices available other than the shortsighted nature of closing the school and I hope all possibilities and options are given a fair chance of discussion.



<b>Response Number</b>	26
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

*No Response*

<b>Response Number</b>	27
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who previously attended the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly agree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*[redacted]*

<b>Response Number</b>	28
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

[redacted]

Parents choose small, faith schools to meet their children's needs. There needs to be a better way of supporting this provision. Children should be able to thrive and flourish in an environment that suits them. Funding should be available to provide a range of options and opportunities to support future generations. All avenues should be explored to keep the school open, and potentially even expand.

<b>Response Number</b>	29
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

Awful shame to close the school, especially with other schools full!! The stress for all involved is heartbreaking

<b>Response Number</b>	30
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

*No Response*

<b>Response Number</b>	31
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*No Response*

<b>Response Number</b>	32
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

Closure of schools and amenities near to growing villages is totally wrong.

<b>Response Number</b>	33
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Member of staff

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*[redacted]*

<b>Response Number</b>	34
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who previously attended the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*[redacted]*

<b>Response Number</b>	35
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

Great Gidding is such a wonderful ,special and unique school which offers children the opportunity to learn and gain confidence within smaller groups.Quiet less confident children often thrive in a smaller school due to the relationships they build with the staff and peers .Closing this school which has been open to pupils since 1845 will be a travesty.

<b>Response Number</b>	36
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who currently attends the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*No Response*

<b>Response Number</b>	37
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who currently attends the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*[redacted]*

<b>Response Number</b>	38
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

*[redacted]*

<b>Response Number</b>	39
<b>Date</b>	23 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

Whilst the scholar is in existence please continue to support it as we villagers do. A lot of fellow villagers children have attended this school and it is remarkable for its friendliness rather than having a huge Input of young people, ie, as in mass collective schools with many hundreds of students, as once closed it can never reopen its doors.

<b>Response Number</b>	40
<b>Date</b>	24 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

School Governor

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

Great Giddin Primary School has been there for a long, long time and haveing been a Govenor I strongly disagre with the decision to close the school.

<b>Response Number</b>	41
<b>Date</b>	24 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who previously attended the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

Population dynamics will certainly change over time. Thus a time will come when there are again many children in the catchment area. The school in any case is viable as things stand. It will be a great loss to the whole community if it closes.  
From a Diocesan angle, it would be highly retrogressive and regrettable to further withdraw its presence which is already in steep decline.

<b>Response Number</b>	42
<b>Date</b>	24 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who previously attended the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*[redacted]*

The school provides the right learning environment for children who are not suited to large classes. The teaching team were always outstanding. This type school is exactly what is missing from small communities. It helps to bring rural communities and people together.

It's an absolute disgrace that the school have not been helped or supported by the council. Placing money over children's care and education is always something to be ashamed of. Closing a village school will not bring any attraction or draw to people looking to buy in this area.

<b>Response Number</b>	43
<b>Date</b>	24 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who currently attends the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

To be discussing the potential closure of a School, any School is incredibly disheartening. These wonderful children are our future, and to constantly be cutting budgets to the point where you can't support a school through a tough patch is incredibly disappointing and shortsighted. What impression do you think this gives the children. Especially when there's clearly enough money out there to line your own pockets with big pay rises, and swanky new council buildings.

What this school needs is advertisement, and transport options for those that have no choice but to chose this school because their local school is full or oversubscribed. This in itself will generate a higher demand.

*[redacted]*

<b>Response Number</b>	44
<b>Date</b>	24 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

Great Gidding Primary School is a valuable place of learning for many children that do not deserve to be uprooted from a school they are settled in and thriving in.

There are no places in sawtry to accommodate these children if you close the school, as Sawtry is already over stretched/sunscribed and the new school no where near completion.

It would be absolutely ludicrous to close a school that is so valuable to the local community.

Instead of closing the school and posing a massive issue for the students who attend there, if the closure is due to low numbers, maybe put in the use of a school bus or at least more frequent and cost effective transport so that more people in surrounding villages can make use of the school places there, to make staying open more viable.

Please see the bigger picture and not just the low numbers of the school and the financials. These are children's lives and education you are dealing with here.

<b>Response Number</b>	45
<b>Date</b>	24 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

There are not enough available school places in the vicinity for the GG school pupils especially in 23-24. The new school proposed in sawtry has not been started yet and appears to be opening only for reception initially. Short sighted and ill thought through

<b>Response Number</b>	46
<b>Date</b>	24 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

With sawtry already over stressed this school is needed not only for the residents of the village but for the surrounding villages

<b>Response Number</b>	47
<b>Date</b>	24 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*No Response*

<b>Response Number</b>	48
<b>Date</b>	25 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who previously attended the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly agree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*[redacted]*

<b>Response Number</b>	49
<b>Date</b>	25 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

[redacted]

Of course, there have been challenges at the school, especially with the unsettling time of the old head teacher leaving and the appointed head leaving after only a short while. However, Mrs Bowles is doing an excellent job with the school, staff and pupils and has my full support. [redacted]

All the teaching and support staff are excellent - I can't fault their commitment to the students and their desire to give them an excellent learning experience.

[redacted]

The Parish Council is intending to put a MUGA (multi-use games area) onto the playing fields in the village, so they obviously feel our young people are worth investing in, as do I. Rural communities should not be abandoned or penalised by the council just because their needs don't fit neatly into funding streams and per-pupil funding pots. There is a presumption not to close rural schools unless every possible avenue has been explored.

<b>Response Number</b>	50
<b>Date</b>	25 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who previously attended the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

Great Gidding is a lovely little school and serves the needs of the community with dedication and passion. It would be very sad to see it closed.

<b>Response Number</b>	51
<b>Date</b>	26 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

Many children, especially those with special educational needs, will suffer greatly from the closer and a very homely and safe environment for young people will be lost.  
All teachers put in 120% and the attitude students of wilds Lodge have to learning is so remarkably better than other schools.

<b>Response Number</b>	52
<b>Date</b>	26 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

Many children, especially those with special educational needs, will suffer greatly from the closer and a very homely and safe environment for young people will be lost.  
All teachers put in 120% and the attitude students of great gidding have to learning is so remarkably better than other schools.

<b>Response Number</b>	53
<b>Date</b>	27 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly agree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

With falling pupil numbers and the majority attending living outside of the village it makes sense to close. The environmental impact must be considered, 35 people driving their children to our village each day when they live within walking distance of perfectly good schools is ridiculous. This is creating havoc and danger on a busy through road and the parking is quite laughable!

The school has also failed to retain staff over the past few years and as such has mixed age classes and standards are not maintained, the current Ofsted report confirms this!

Along with this, it is an aging building the classrooms portable units with only temporary planning permission, these will need replacing or permanent buildings being put in situ over the next four years thus making it no longer a viable operational unit.

A large amount of money would need to be spent to upgrade the classrooms, heating system etc. this is money better spent on the larger existing schools in the area and towards the new one to be built in Sawtry.

Even though the school has been in the village many years and even our family members attended, it should not be kept open for purely sentimental reasons, it must make financial sense!

Therefore we fully support and welcome closure of this school.

<b>Response Number</b>	54
<b>Date</b>	27January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly agree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

Outdated and undersubscribed it is well overdue for closure.

<b>Response Number</b>	55
<b>Date</b>	27 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I neither agree nor disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

[redacted]

As it is a small school, Great Gidding CE VC Primary School has attracted a lot of families from beyond catchment area, including a number of children with SEND or who benefit from being in with a smaller number of children.

1) Predictions of children in school based on numbers in catchment and also other provision to be offered do not take account of the families who find the provision where they live is not suitable for their children. The new schools planned will be large schools. Those children who thrive in a small school environment will have that provision removed from them, and may well end up costing the LA even more money in the future as they need additional support.

Should there not be different predictions, looking at expected levels of pupils with SEND in the area? Currently ADHD aware recognises that levels of ADHD are about 8% across the country. It must be possible to look at other national averages, and to predict where some children of the expected influx in either Sawtry or the edge of Peterborough will find a small mainstream school a more positive experience than a large school where they may be overwhelmed and fail.

So - I would ask that, as part of the consultation, a different set of predictions are also considered.

2) The funding formula adopted since 2010 has been particularly harsh for small schools. To deliver an effective curriculum, children need to be taught in limited age groups. Most schools, even the largest, have to manage their budgets by having some combined year group classes. Small schools cannot function within the funding formula without combining year groups. So, a large school may have 30 pupils in class, with a teacher and ancillary staff. A small school has the same staffing level, even if there are 15 children in a two school year class. For each subject, the teacher has to set a range of work to include both the different year group expectations and also to differentiate between pupils' abilities. This is demanding work and needs teachers of some experience who need paying appropriately. However the budget has less money in it.

Is there any way that there can be equality of funding, rather than equal funding? If

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

not, can I ask how the councillors are not lobbying the government to get this. We may not be able to save this particular school, but a more equitable funding may save the next small school.

3) As a small school, the percentages of 'expected levels' for year groups etc are nonsense, and it is ridiculous that small schools are compared to larger school. In a school with 100 pupils per year group, each pupil counts for 1%. In a school where there are usually no more than 10 pupils per year group, each pupil counts for 10%. Some year groups are smaller than this. I think each pupil in the previous year 6 counted for 25%. That's a heavy burden to put on a single pupil to 'achieve' in a SAT.

4) The governors have explored a number of options in the past - joining an academy, federating with another school. Please can these options be explored once more, without delay. I understand that funding is a serious issue when an academy is considering a school. Distance is an issue when federating with another school - and Great Gidding is a long way from any school that it might join in a federation. However, Zoom and Teams have come a long way since these were last considered. With some creative organisation, it shouldn't be impossible to organise a timetable where staff are in one school for a day and in another for a different day. None of the distances involved are so far that it wouldn't be possible to get to the other school within 30 minutes (I write this as someone whose benefice is 25 miles from one end to the other, and I have to move around on a regular basis, and move quickly from place to place in emergencies).

5) As part of the government's 'levelling up' agenda, there seems to be little incentive to 'level up' rural communities. Indeed, there are moves to make them areas of deprivation. Not everyone within our community is wealthy, or can run two cars. Families already have to make decisions about transporting children to after school provision. I understand that larger schools can provide more after school provision, but if a child is reliant on provided transport, how will the children be able to access this and get home afterwards? Can provided transport include some provision for pupils to be able to attend after school clubs and still receive the school transport home.

6) To lose the Church school, which has been part of the community since the middle of the 19th century, will be a devastating blow to the community and also to the Church. The school plays an integral part in the life of the Church. The pupils come to church for a service once a month and also with their parents for Harvest, Christmas and Easter. The church has artwork that the school has contributed, and the pupils said they would like to do some new artwork for the Church. [redacted]

7) If all the points above fail to convince the councillors that the school has an important role to play in the life of its current and future pupils (that every child matters, even if the slogan comes from a previous government), then there are additional questions to be asked.

How can the buildings and land be used for the good of the community, and to offer something to the community to help alleviate the loss that the school will bring? Can they be used for some kind of children and family provision in the community? If the school is to close, there need to be robust conversations between LA, the Diocese of Ely and Milton Estates, with the support of councillors and our MPs, to explore with the local community how that land and the buildings can be used for the good of the

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

children and families in the area.

Thank you for your consideration. *[redacted]*

<b>Response Number</b>	56
<b>Date</b>	27 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

I have concerns over alternative provision for the students. Sawtry schools are a logical choice however they are oversubscribed, indeed I believe some pupils attending Gidding are there because no space was available in Sawtry. As a second Sawtry school is scheduled to be built, surely it would be sensible to wait until it is accepting pupils before closing Gidding?

<b>Response Number</b>	57
<b>Date</b>	27 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

This is a very important part of our community. The school is excellent, has very hard working staff, the new Head has done a great job in a short space of time. Closing it won't help the children, who love the school and love attending it.

<b>Response Number</b>	58
<b>Date</b>	27 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who currently attends the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*[redacted]*

<b>Response Number</b>	59
<b>Date</b>	27 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

Wonderful little school serving the local community. I feel it would have a detrimental impact on the already oversubscribed local schools in Sawtry.

<b>Response Number</b>	60
<b>Date</b>	27 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

If this school closes, it will leave a very large area with no active school. Whilst there are lower numbers of school age children than previously, this will leave parents/grandparents facing twice daily round trips of about 20 miles to deliver/collect small children, or additional school buses/taxis - there are no public bus services available at school times anywhere in this area. This runs contrary to the Council's drive for Net Zero. Inevitably, younger families will be discouraged from living in the area because of the inconvenience and extra expense. This will exacerbate the current problems of ageing countryside populations increasingly dependent on shrinking resources. There was once a proposal to build a replacement school in Great Gidding. I suggest that this should be properly evaluated including the extra costs to inhabitants of not having the school here

<b>Response Number</b>	61
<b>Date</b>	27 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*No Response*

<b>Response Number</b>	62
<b>Date</b>	27 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly agree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

The school is too small to be viable. Therefore it is expensive to run and takes a disproportionate amount of funding disadvantaging other schools. The size also means that the school is unlikely to be able to provide the range of opportunities that children deserve.

<b>Response Number</b>	63
<b>Date</b>	27 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

Although they do not have a huge number of students, the role that schools like Gt Gidding serve the outlying rural community is vital. The closure of this school will be a huge kick in the teeth to the village of Gt Gidding and the wider rural community.

<b>Response Number</b>	64
<b>Date</b>	27 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

Incomprehensible decision to close a good school whilst there is no alternative provision within 5 to 10 miles. Do better forward planning please.

<b>Response Number</b>	65
<b>Date</b>	27 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I agree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

*No Response*

<b>Response Number</b>	66
<b>Date</b>	27 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

The village will die without a school. Fund it properly.

<b>Response Number</b>	67
<b>Date</b>	28 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*No Response*

<b>Response Number</b>	68
<b>Date</b>	28 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who previously attended the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*[redacted]*

<b>Response Number</b>	69
<b>Date</b>	28 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who previously attended the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*[redacted]*

<b>Response Number</b>	70
<b>Date</b>	28 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

Without a school, the area will not attract young families. Villages around here are aging communities and we need to welcome younger people not just 50 + couples who children have flown the nest. We need to be communities not just dormitory and retirement villages.

<b>Response Number</b>	71
<b>Date</b>	28 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

Without a school, the area will not attract young families. Villages around here are aging communities and we need to welcome younger people not just 50 + couples who children have flown the nest. We need to be communities not just dormitory and retirement villages.

<b>Response Number</b>	72
<b>Date</b>	28 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*No Response*

<b>Response Number</b>	73
<b>Date</b>	28 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

*No Response*

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

The school is the hub of the community. SAVE OUR SCHOOL.

<b>Response Number</b>	74
<b>Date</b>	28 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

*No Response*

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

The school is the hub of the community. SAVE OUR SCHOOL.

<b>Response Number</b>	75
<b>Date</b>	28 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

*No Response*

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*No Response*

<b>Response Number</b>	76
<b>Date</b>	28 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

Great Gidding has always been a unique school. It has done wonders for children boosting confidence and inspiring them to achieve. [redacted]. It received Good on its last ofsted. Children from all backgrounds that have been through Great Gidding have achieved great things. Children with behavioural needs have had so much support that they though they could not achieve what they had. It is a school that prides itself on the well being of pupils and staff it is like one big family. A private school with no fees. It is a church school which still uses the church for lots of celebrations. It would be a great injustice to Close the school and deprive pupils of a good sound education let alone disruptions. Covid has disrupted enough of their lives. Let Great Gidding live on.

<b>Response Number</b>	77
<b>Date</b>	29 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

Why close a great school that nurtures every student & gives them a great start in life? Gt Gidding is an amazing school & one which mixes the modern with the traditional; a parent's dream. In a country and indeed a county where there are parents who can't get their children into their school of choice, why seek to close a hood quality school in an area that will see further development & numbers growth in future? Scaling down 'operations' is potentially permissible, closure won't be.

<b>Response Number</b>	78
<b>Date</b>	29 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

Thank you for spelling out the reasons for considering closure as one of the options for the future of the school. I am concerned about the quality of education offered to the pupils who attend the school and especially that the SEND offer is adequately identified to meet the needs of these specific children. A smaller school has been seen to offer a more targeted approach for children identified as having SEND, but your information does not support that. As a church school, Gt Gidding does offer a closer relationship with the local church and Christian teaching as part of its remit. For families for whom this is part of their faith background, the closure of this school offers less choice for primary schools that incorporate this as part of their culture and learning within the school.

I do appreciate that resources are limited and that the LA has a responsibility to provide value and quality. It is a sadness for our community and reflects the loss of traditional links between the school, village and the church.

<b>Response Number</b>	79
<b>Date</b>	29 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

The closure will impact surrounding schools as the children still in Primary education at time of closure will need to be placed elsewhere which may impact spaces available in other local schools in surrounding areas, it may also impact surrounding roads if people are having to leave the village to get children to schools outside the village given the age of children that attend.

<b>Response Number</b>	80
<b>Date</b>	30 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who previously attended the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*[redacted]*

<b>Response Number</b>	81
<b>Date</b>	30 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly agree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

Whilst it is sad that a school is facing closure, I feel that many of the comments I have seen in the press and petitions are focussed more for others benefits than for the children at the school. For those children in the lower year groups they will slowly see their school decline in numbers, flexibility, and opportunities as they transition through the school. For the 1 or 2 children due to join in Reception, what will be left of the school by the time they reach y6. It is a loss but over the medium and longer term it is in the best interests of the children to be educated in a larger, more sustainable school.

<b>Response Number</b>	82
<b>ID</b>	209673554
<b>Date</b>	30 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Parent of a child who currently attends the school

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

Rural schools are essential for rural communities, not just that but for children who require smaller, quieter schools with a family feel they provide a unique schooling experience.

*[redacted]*

The school has been let down by Cambridgeshire county council, it has not been supported with investments and therefore the 'problems' you see make a wonderful case for you to close the school. With the right investment and advertisement this school would have a higher intake and ccc would be satisfied that it is viable.

You can not close a school when there are simply no where for the children to go without having huge detriment to their well being.

<b>Response Number</b>	83
<b>Date</b>	30 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who currently attends the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*No Response*

<b>Response Number</b>	84
<b>Date</b>	31 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly agree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

Pupil numbers have been in decline for several years with nearly all the children coming from areas such as Sawtry and Holme, this school can no longer be financially viable!

You should also take time to consider the environmental impact on our village with so many children being driven to and from school each day when most could walk to school in their home village.

This was a lovely little local school but it is time it was closed and the money and staff relocated to larger, more modern schools that have the ability to prepare children for their further journey in education.

<b>Response Number</b>	85
<b>Date</b>	31 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who previously attended the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*No Response*

<b>Response Number</b>	86
<b>Date</b>	31 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who currently attends the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

Rural schools are essential for rural communities, not just that but for children who require smaller, quieter schools with a family feel they provide a unique schooling experience.

*[redacted]*

The school has been let down by Cambridgeshire county council, it has not been supported with investments and therefore the 'problems' you see make a wonderful case for you to close the school. With the right investment and advertisement this school would have a higher intake and ccc would be satisfied that it is viable.

You can not close a school when there are simply no where for the children to go without having huge detriment to their well being.

<b>Response Number</b>	87
<b>Date</b>	31 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

I am still unclear on the rationale as to why this recommendation has been made and how this differs from other schools in similar circumstances. If there are schools that are in a similar situation then I would expect the council to outline a rationale as to why this school has been singled out.

So far the arguments for or against haven't been made which means the community cannot come to a considered view which is very poor.

<b>Response Number</b>	88
<b>Date</b>	31 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

With all the projected new building in Glatton and Sawtry, children may have to attend GG school, as I don't think there will be enough places at the new Sawtry School, that is if it even gets built!

<b>Response Number</b>	89
<b>Date</b>	31 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

Great Gidding is a working village with a church, school, shop, pub, several businesses and working farms. The school attracts residents to the village and contributes to the commercial viability of the village. Geographically the school is poorly positioned being very close to the Northamptonshire boarder with very few villages in its catchment area....Great Gidding, Little Gidding, Steeple Gidding, Winwick and Hamerton. From what I can understand it offers a good level of education with small classrooms and is especially suited to children who thrive in a small homely environment rather than a large 400+ pupil school. I also understand that schools in Sawtry are over subscribed and would be unable to take the children without opening redundant classrooms.....which will cost. The catchment area should be extended to include Glatton and Sawtry thus enabling children to travel into the area if the parents wanted their children to benefit from a village school.

<b>Response Number</b>	90
<b>Date</b>	31 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

I listened to the eloquent Jonathan Lewis today at school and thought he fielded the questions very well. However points to note:

- a. He stated he has been thinking at Great Gidding School for the last 5 years
- b. He has tried to get it to closure consultation for at least 3 of those years according to the previous administration
- c. Only now the county council majority has become the Rainbow alliance that he has got it to the stage of closure consultation
- d. Based on projected children in the catchment area then the argument is almost certain that it should close but most children are outside of catchment
- e. All the analysis of options was done prior to any announcement of closure consultation ie the decision has already been made - possibly as long ago as 2018

1. Every year the school gets more children applying from outside the official catchment area because it is small. Sawtry is having a further 385 homes and its current primary school was full last year. The new school at Sawtry will have initially 210 and then eventually 420 pupils ie it will be huge.
2. This new school at Sawtry will not be fully up and running for 5 years. Until then the children at the school will be scattered to Brington, Folksworth, Holme, Polebrook and Sawtry pushing their education back and leading to more disrupted education
3. The school has turned away children outside the catchment area every year primarily because there is no funded transport. If Sawtry was in the catchment area giving parents choice then numbers would increase
4. There is an empty bus that comes from Sawtry every day to pick up children in the villages - it could pick up children from Sawtry
5. Two people at the school meeting had asked to be school governors but their requests did not get a response
6. The school use to have 2 classes - this has not been considered. It ran as 2 classes 10 years ago
7. It is interesting to note that the air-source heat pumps were never connected as an example of a deliberate act to run down the school
8. No consideration has been given to the quality of education for SEND children

What should happen is that the school should be given a 2 year stay of execution

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

giving it time to boost pupil numbers and give the new school at Sawtry the chance to get established. The Education Dept also needs to publish the criteria for closure so that all schools explicitly know they are under threat.

[redacted]

<b>Response Number</b>	91
<b>Date</b>	31 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

A school is an integral part of a community. To close Gt Gidding primary school would be of huge detriment to the local community, in that a village without primary school will not attract young families to the village. Thus the village will be one with an ageing community which may in the future be unsustainable in terms of community life.

[redacted]

<b>Response Number</b>	92
<b>Date</b>	31 January 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

A school is an integral part of a community. To close Gt Gidding primary school would be of huge detriment to the local community, in that a village without primary school will not attract young families to the village. Thus the village will be one with an ageing community which may in the future be unsustainable in terms of community life.

*[redacted]*

<b>Response Number</b>	93
<b>Date</b>	31 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who previously attended the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*[redacted]*

<b>Response Number</b>	94
<b>Date</b>	31 January 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who previously attended the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*[redacted]*

<b>Response Number</b>	95
<b>Date</b>	1 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who previously attended the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

I have listened to the case given by the CCC and other bodies but in my opinion the school should remain open. The case to close the school is mainly based on future projections of children's numbers of attendees from the catchment area and the impending new school provision in Sawtry said to be 2024 which i personally cannot see happening until at least 2026 in the current fiscal climate. There is supposedly two classrooms available for pupils in Sawtry primary school to take children if parents so wish them to be displaced there, this i also dispute. I believe this is a short-sighted and financially driven exercise by CCC and the diocese of Ely whom are committed now by the Church of England to prune their portfolio of commitments.

<b>Response Number</b>	96
<b>Date</b>	1 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who previously attended the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*[redacted]*

<b>Response Number</b>	97
<b>Date</b>	1 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I agree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*No Response*

<b>Response Number</b>	98
<b>Date</b>	1 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Other (please specify):

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*No Response*

<b>Response Number</b>	99
<b>Date</b>	1 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

This closure will clearly impact not just the children currently at the school but also future children who expected to attend there and now also children at the schools in the surrounding areas as their class sizes will now increase as they will need to take the children in at these schools. If there was an issue with the quality of the results the school was producing it would be understandable but only after special measures etc. This is going straight to a closure when it has previously been run with two classes.

The village is also rural. How will children get to another school if they do not have transport? How will working parents manage with getting to work after doing a school drop off in another village which may be in a completely different direction?

<b>Response Number</b>	100
<b>Date</b>	2 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly agree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

Funding is very limited for education. To continue to fund a very small primary school with a falling roll, means that other schools cannot benefit from that funding, especially as many pupils come from outside of catchment. The cost per pupil to upkeep the building and services would be better used elsewhere. The LA needs to get best value for money and these costs for so few pupils does not meet this. Covering the curriculum for such a mix in ages together in each class is a struggle for teachers with this not ensuring the best outcomes for children. The experience the teachers have gained though would be welcomed in other local primaries where there are teacher shortages. If money was no object, tiny primary schools would be lovely but with resources so limited, this is a luxury that the LA cannot afford.

<b>Response Number</b>	101
<b>Date</b>	2 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who currently attends the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*[redacted]*

<b>Response Number</b>	102
<b>Date</b>	3 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who currently attends the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*[redacted]*

The stress this is causing on all parents, pupils and staff is unbelievable. Great Gidding school has always had a family feel to it and that is why we love this school and saddened it has come to this!

<b>Response Number</b>	103
<b>Date</b>	4 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who previously attended the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

I strongly disagree with the closure of this school. There are other steps I believe could be taken for example It has had only two classes previously. There are many out lying villages who should not have to have their children transported to large village primaries because of funding. We should be prioritising education funding not closing schools. The family feel and standard of teaching has had a profound affect on my children. I hope others have the opportunity to receive the same. Please reconsider your proposals.

<b>Response Number</b>	104
<b>Date</b>	5 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

There has been no efforts by school leadership or CCC to promote the school and increase the numbers of children.

Projected numbers are flawed when no efforts have been made to increase the numbers of children.

No impact assessment on children in the school including vulnerable children within the school community has been completed for the proposed closure.

No impact assessment on the local community including amenities essential for elderly, disabled and young families has been completed for the proposed closure. It is known in the community that children due to start in reception 2022 were discouraged, their parents told the school will be closing.

The nearest school is 6 miles away and is not a faith school. Young families will be forced to move out of the community.

Work instead could have been done of attracting young families into the community.

All publicity around this consultation has been bias towards closure. It is a sham.

<b>Response Number</b>	105
<b>Date</b>	5 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

[redacted]

As I am sure you are aware, there are number of key facilities which indicate a thriving community; a school, a shop, a pub, a church and a village hall. At the moment Great Gidding has all of these but take one away, especially one which has an impact on a wide range of people and the others become less viable. To be specific, take away Gidding school and the Fox & Hounds, St Michael's Parish Church, the village hall and Great Gidding Stores are all put at risk.

I ask members of the CYP Committee to look at the impact the closure of Gidding School will have on the pupils, their families and the community as a whole and vote to keep it open.

Yours faithfully,

[redacted]

<b>Response Number</b>	106
<b>Date</b>	5 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*No Response*

<b>Response Number</b>	107
<b>Date</b>	6 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

I strongly believe that the school has been mis managed by the previous & out going head teachers. It would surely benefit from academy inclusion and more input from the council to buffer the shortcomings of those who have held the purse in this school. It is a small school and very much more equipped to nurture tender children and give them a safe learning environment. [redcated]. These were sad leadership times indeed but I believe that it is a good school and should be allowed to continue as such.

<b>Response Number</b>	108
<b>Date</b>	7 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who currently attends the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

If you wish to close the school then given these exceptional circumstances transport should be provided to children not attending their local catchment school. For some Great Gidding works for their children as it's a small, personal & a rural school.  
[redacted]

We haven't chosen to be part of this process, it's been forced upon us, so given this I strongly urge for you to please look at transport options for us.

<b>Response Number</b>	109
<b>Date</b>	7 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*No Response*

<b>Response Number</b>	110
<b>Date</b>	7 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

The houses planned in the vicinity of Sawtry will require more school spaces and the new school planned is over two years away. In addition, the new school planned will become inadequate within five years due to growth in the area. We cannot afford to lose such a valuable asset as GG school.

<b>Response Number</b>	111
<b>Date</b>	7 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who previously attended the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

School local to Great Gidding are over subscribed and have large classes . Parents will not have the choice of a smaller school.

The council should work at improving numbers and advertising the school on its excellent qualities.

Many children come from Sawtry where I believe they are going to increase the class sizes to accommodate more children in the same crowded space .

I also believe there are 'plans' to build a school in Sawtry promised by developers in exchange for planning permission for ' rabbit Warren style ' housing estate . Overcrowded areas which historically breed antisocial behaviour .

<b>Response Number</b>	112
<b>Date</b>	7 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who previously attended the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

- the school is a faith school and should not be lost as an option
- the school has a fundamental role in the village and supports the village and its businesses in many ways
- the village shop will struggle without the additional income it gets from parents and children attending school
- many of us chose the school as the right school for our children allowing parental choice
- children have already had to cope with so much change following the pandemic and this cannot be allowed to add to that
- the school proposed for Sawtry will not be available for all children for some time and then not even guaranteed with the increase in size in Sawtry
- the developer building in Sawtry has not even started yet in Sawtry
- the statistics do not show this school is not performing. In deed the County appears to have given up on the school for some time.

<b>Response Number</b>	113
<b>Date</b>	7 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who currently attends the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*[[redacted]]*

<b>Response Number</b>	114
<b>Date</b>	8 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who currently attends the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

[redacted]

Educational opportunities should reflect the needs of the area and consideration should be given to supporting rural settings. Not everybody wants to live on a new build estate with a Co-op and Costa Coffee and send their children to a massive school where they're encouraged to be just like everybody else. Children should be allowed to breathe, to embrace their diversity.

In your role as Chair of the CYP, I know that you must hold dearly the children in Cambridgeshire. I urge you to consider what else can be done to keep Great Gidding school open. I have read examples of similar sized schools in similar positions who have fought the consultation to close process and gone on to exceed. Great Gidding school has had a tough time, but with a strong Head Teacher and renewed support from a Board of Governors (including support from parent governors, of which I know of at least two parents who have applied) along with other support, this is an opportunity for the CYP to do something extraordinary and show the children at this school that they are worth the investment; that there is hope.

Other support ideas I have researched and pose to you for consideration area:

Advertising the school locally to encourage applications (Folkesworth advertised they have places available in this month's copy of Sawtry Eye, so I know it's possible).

[redacted] Form a PTA and allow parents to push for fund raising opportunities to purchase equipment for the school and take a bit of pressure off of the budget. The consultation process has raised the local awareness of the school massively and I know there are hundreds of people (as well as local businesses) who would be willing to support fundraising.

Access grants such as the ones here: <https://www.forestschools.com/pages/getting-funding>

I understand that, on the surface, if you base the numbers just on the catchment area and look at viability purely from a cost per pupil perspective, that there is a strong argument (financially) to close the school. However, I really hope that you look beyond that. The previous Chair of Governors has shown that 'forecast' and 'actual' student numbers have always been different and the school has not run at a deficit. I also

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

urge you to consider that there needs to be consideration given to the fact that GG is a rural school; it's numbers will always be lower than those of non-rural schools. However, that does not mean that the needs of those that attend them are any less important.

*[redacted]*

<b>Response Number</b>	115
<b>Date</b>	8 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I neither agree nor disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*No Response*

<b>Response Number</b>	116
<b>Date</b>	9 February 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

My principal concern with this decision is the use of demographic data; the only available source of which appears to be 4-11 year olds within the catchment area. I understand the practical implications of this source but it doesn't entertain the rich context that a more diligent demographic study would no doubt offer.

Is the committee aware that a development of 9 houses is being developed at the top of Main Street (c. No.85)? What type of audience will be attracted to these houses in a village with a school, shop, pub, gorgeous countryside and good access to cities and towns? Families will be. Indeed all the houses in Great Gidding are of a good size and offer farm views in their back gardens, it is a hot spot for families, and there is very much a future for the villages ability to support a school.

*[redacted]*

I ask that the committee throws out the application to close the school and conducts a wider demographic review of the schools setting as Great Gidding is a village in flux and it just cannot be decided as unviable for more than the short term. It is a wonderful school building and a nod to our heritage, please do not close the school.

<b>Response Number</b>	117
<b>Date</b>	10 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I agree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

I accept that the number of children living within the Giddings is not sufficient to maintain a village school, with the majority of children currently in school coming from Sawtry, it makes logical sense to open up additional space in Sawtry and close Great Gidding. However, this does reduce parental choice, not only in terms of school size but also faith, although i have my doubts if anyone sends their child to a C of E school, because of their faith. If the school does close then I think the Council should donate to school playground to the Village so that we can maintain the playground as a facility for the village

<b>Response Number</b>	118
<b>Date</b>	11 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who currently attends the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*No Response*

<b>Response Number</b>	119
<b>Date</b>	14 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly agree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

If a business ran with such a loss then it would close and as most pupils attend from outside the catchment area we are sure there are bigger schools with better facilities and more to give the children for a brighter future.

<b>Response Number</b>	120
<b>Date</b>	15 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly agree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

If the school is not full, the cost to keep it open is still the same, and any business running in the red would close, this is backed by tax payers money and it is right it should not carry on when there are bigger schools near-by for these few children to be able to gain more educational needs.

<b>Response Number</b>	121
<b>Date</b>	15 February 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

*[redacted]*

This is an example of the self-fulfilling cycle of school closure that the council is accountable for - take away the long-term promise of a local school and you deter the arrival of parents with children that need that school.

parents are nervous to send their children to the school due to the risk of disruption for the children later should it close, which would result in a fall in numbers without it being the schools fault.

Furthermore the school closure will affect the dynamics of the entire village community and will see a decline in the arrival of new families to the village and an aging village population overall. The shop and post office will not be used, therefore there will be an impact on local business.

Parents in the local area such as Sawtry are not aware of the school. Parents value small intimate and inclusive school settings, and with greater awareness I think this school could be more popular.

There are other schools in the UK with fewer numbers of students than this school, why can't it be given a chance?

The population of young people across the local area is falling, the problem is not unique to the village, so why is the village being targeted?

<b>Response Number</b>	122
<b>Date</b>	15 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I agree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

I do not think it is fair or reasonable to criticise the council for decisions that are essentially out of their hands. Government funding formula does not support schools of this size and with no option for federation or academisation coming to fruition, it is hard to understand what else people are expecting the council to do. Cambridgeshire County Council have not closed a school in the area since the early 90's which is most unusual and serves to demonstrate the support which they afford small schools in our county. I empathise hugely with the community, but I consider it important for all stakeholders to recognise that decisions like this are not made lightly by individuals who work for the council. All potential avenues will have been explored before opening this consultation. A 'done to' narrative is unfair and inaccurate. School leaders across the nation working in schools of all sizes are acutely aware of current budgeting challenges and it is known fact that smaller schools face more challenges in this respect. There are thousands of schools across the nation where falling pupil numbers have meant restructures, redundancies, a reduction in classes, academisation or closure. This is a national issue that spreads far further than Cambridgeshire and I feel this fact needs to be recognised before blame is wrongly placed on the council. If the council are expected to subsidise the school, that would mean using tax payers money from other schools or other council services and I think it is vital for everyone to take a moment to consider the wider implications of this.

<b>Response Number</b>	123
<b>Date</b>	16 February 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

Closure would affect the children and community as a whole. The civic life of the village would be compromised and reduced. How are we to teach our children the value of their community and local amenities if their school is precipitously shut down to save, frankly, a fairly small sum of money?

The school has been under threat of closure for a while which has resulted in little investment making it less attractive to prospective parents. Parents have also moved their children prematurely in order to avoid placement disappointment later. This lingering threat has exacerbated the situation.

The catchment area does not seem to encompass areas where populations are growing. Why not change the catchment area? if the school closes, the catchment area for Great Gidding children would change so why can't the change be made earlier to take in areas with more population? Many parents are unaware of the existence of this school because it is currently "out of catchment".

The council finds larger schools in cities more cost effective and would prefer to have more of these large schools. However, large schools do not suit everyone and the council should support true diversity in parental choice.

It would seem that parents accept that if pupil numbers are falling, the school may need to reduce its class number to 2. That is still preferable, many parents say, rather than the alternative of their children being removed from their school and potentially put into large classes elsewhere. Teaching many age groups within a classroom is not necessarily a negative. Class sizes are smaller and children can benefit from exposure to topics in various ways. Teachers are professionals and work with each child to help them maximise their potential.

Children have had a lot of disruption to their schooling and school lives due to COVID. Just as things are settling down, children from Great Gidding School face avoidable disruption and destabilisation again. This is inexcusable and punitive.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

I strongly oppose the closing of Great Gidding school. I hope the council supports the school at this time and begins investing in it to make a flourishing place of education.

<b>Response Number</b>	124
<b>Date</b>	19 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Member of staff

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*[redacted]*

<b>Response Number</b>	125
<b>Date</b>	19 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

I am really upset and disappointed to hear of the school closure. [redacted]

I don't believe the level of education is worse in Great Gidding in comparison with the school in Sawtry that we will be directed to, which both have the same Ofsted rating. I would urge a trial of combining year groups sooner than closing the school permanently.

I really feel that a rural more personal school is beneficial for young children as well as the link with the church. I don't think that existing or future children should be directed to Sawtry and be expected to get on a bus at a young age.

In your meeting you said that there are not enough 4-11 year olds in the catchment but the catchment area is so small and also right on the border of Cambridgeshire so many children attend cross-catchment from Northamptonshire. I believe that the historic data of this being the case for numbers should be factored in as numbers attending the school are always higher than predicted. Can the catchment area not be reassessed?? You say that our children should attend primary school in Sawtry, however they are always over-subscribed and cannot support their current population so how do you expect that our children will be accommodated and children nurtured they way they would in Great Gidding. I am aware that a new school is being built in Sawtry but why can we not make use of a rural village school that currently stands and has a long history behind it instead of closing one just to open another? Surely this has more of a financial impact too.

I would urge you to consider the significant impact that closing the school will have on the local community. There will be less trade for our local shops (Great Gidding stores and The Den), less use of the village hall and houses here will become less desirable to families with young children. Closing the school is the start of killing this village community as this brings people from outside of the village to use these facilities too and keep them open for all to access.

The population of Great Gidding is primarily an older generation but over these next few years things will change, a lot of these houses are large family homes waiting to

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

be occupied by young families which will pass through the village school.  
PLEASE DON'T CLOSE OUR SCHOOL

<b>Response Number</b>	126
<b>Date</b>	20 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

[redacted]

It is true that many rural schools face financial challenges - Great Gidding is not unique in this. However, the school has never set a negative budget. Sparsity funding changes meant the school received more funding for Yr22 / 23 and in the previous year, the school purchased additional iPads and PC's which is a considerable spend but the finances were managed and planned to enable this.

[redacted]

I, hand on heart, believe the LA need to review their decision. Please see GG as a school that can provide so much to children, both learning and pastoral. Some children need a different environment to build a strong foundation and to thrive. GG provides this and it would be a travesty to lose a school that means so much to so many people and has done since 1845.

<b>Response Number</b>	127
<b>Date</b>	20 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who currently attends the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

Financial help would go a long way to help pay for additional school uniforms. Non of us expected to be paying out more money on uniforms this year, and given we've all be thrown into this awful situation without a choice please consider the financial burden this will have/having on families.

<b>Response Number</b>	128
<b>Date</b>	20 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*[redacted]*

<b>Response Number</b>	129
<b>Date</b>	20 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who currently attends the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*[redacted]*

<b>Response Number</b>	130
<b>Date</b>	20 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

**Other (please specify):**

Headteacher, Folksworth C of E Primary School

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I neither agree nor disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

I fully understand the difficulties faced by Great Gidding and the reasons for closure put forward in the consultation document based upon finances, pupil forecasts and the implications for teaching a broad and balanced curriculum within two classes. I could also see the difficulties of recruiting a school leader for such a small school, especially if there was a significant teaching commitment, as the workload would be unsustainable. I also empathise with the children and families who are now faced with this uncertainty. I am therefore not replying to this consultation to give my personal opinion around whether Great Gidding School should remain open or be closed. I do, however, wish to express my concern that Folksworth C of E Primary School was raised as one of the reasons not to consult at the initial committee meeting. Having watched the live feed of the meeting I observed one of the councilors naming Folksworth as a reason to keep Great Gidding School open. I would like to be clear that I have never met the councilor or discussed Folksworth's current position with them and although I don't dispute that we are currently a successful school our sustainability is often a topic discussed at Governor meetings and an ongoing concern for us.

Whilst Folksworth does have 95 children on roll I feel it necessary to point out that only 37 (39%) of these children are from our catchment area, the previous building development within the village was not enough to sustain the school and we are reliant on children coming in from outside of the village. Children attend from Hampton, Yaxley, Stilton and Holme. In this year's reception intake only 4 out of 13 children were from within our catchment area. Without the additional children from out of catchment we too would be in a very similar position to Great Gidding.

I would be happy to discuss this in further detail if required but do not feel that Folksworth should not be used as an example of why Great Gidding School should remain open.

*NB: The individual submitting this response gave permission that it be provided in full, and not redacted.*

<b>Response Number</b>	131
<b>Date</b>	20 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who currently attends the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*[redacted]*

Closing a school without good provision in other schools, obviously in terms of teacher/student ratios but also in the physical capacity of the schools seems foolhardy.

This will affect the education of not only our children leaving Great Gidding, but the children at the schools who will be expected to host the Great Gidding children soon.

*[redacted]*

NB: This response was received by email on 27/01/2023 and entered onto Smart Survey by officers to ensure data analysis is accurate.

<b>Response Number</b>	132
<b>Date</b>	20 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Member of staff

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*[redacted]*

I strongly feel Great Gidding Primary should be kept open because it offers a valuable and unique educational service for the village but also for the wider local communities and especially for the more vulnerable children who have trouble settling in larger primary schools or have had a bad experience in their own catchment school. Closing the school would cut down choice for future families with those needs, those who may need to seek a school to help with their child's well being which in turn will help with their education and confidence. A happy child in school is so important whereas an unhappy child can have serious damaging consequences for their attendance and their entire education.

I believe the current staff have dedicated and committed their time, tirelessly working hard through all the extreme challenges that they have had to face recently. This is because they care deeply about all the children and for all the values a small rural school stands for, the feeling of being part of a family which can't always be easily emulated in the larger schools. I believe the 177 year old rural school should be owed a life line and feel it can continue as a two class system which it has proven to have done successfully in recent history and then if over a considered amount of time with proper continued support from the Local Authority it is deemed unsuccessful, then and only then should closure be considered.

<b>Response Number</b>	133
<b>Date</b>	20 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who currently attends the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

[redacted]

Therefore, in principle I am against the closure of Great Gidding C of E Primary School (and other rural schools) for the following reasons;

#### 1. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

There will be a reduction in equality, diversity and inclusion provision through removal of a rural education system. It is imperative at a local and national level that society embraces, embodies and promotes Equality, Diversity and Inclusion to avoid racism, sexism and other protected characteristics and the knock on social negative impacts. To achieve this in society, it has to be driven through early years education provision to ensure that the fundamental principles are adopted by everyone. This includes education and acceptance around rural and urban societies, careers and values, so without a choice of schools of differing offerings, how is education adaptive to acceptance and the needs of individual children?

#### 2. Community

Similarly, and akin to the values of Point 1, there will be immediate and long term impacts on the village and surroundings rural services such as;

Aging population- Without a school this will discourage young people and families moving to the village, altering the economy of house prices and causing a purely commuter/retired village. For example, in times like the Covid pandemic this will put significantly more pressure on public services as there will be fewer young residents to care for the older residents. There will be a loss of young people to feed through to support local public services such as the Parish Council, Church and other voluntary groups, causing a decline in all areas for provision to the community e.g., maintenance and improvement of public community spaces.

Loss of the school is likely to reduce footfall to the village shop (and potentially Gidding Den shop and pub), putting into question its financial viability. If we lose this service as a community, it will mean everyone will have to travel to Sawtry or beyond for basic essential provisions. This in turn will increase carbon emissions (there is an ineffective public transport system to the village to be an alternative). Again, this will also put additional pressure on public services to support residents unable to

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

drive/immobile. [redacted].

It is also likely that closure of the school will impact the viability of the village hall, through lost school and parent bookings e.g., kids parties. There may well be other long-term impacts from lack of young families i.e., attendance of community events. There will be an impact on how the neighbourhood plan can be developed and the overall sustainability and growth of the community, if there is no school to incorporate into the services provisions. Are we as a community to be forgotten and prohibited from sustainable growth provision? If so, this is contrary to the principles of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and the national policy of Levelling Up.

### 3. Religious provision

It is noted that the re-allocated catchment for the school will be Sawtry. Neither Sawtry infants nor juniors are a Church of England school so there is a direct loss of religious provision. This can create societal impacts on personal values and long-term sustainability of the church provision within the village, through loss of attendance and bringing new families to the village. [redacted]

### 4. Impact on the children

I am very upset and worried about the mental wellbeing of all the children at the school [[redacted]]

Therefore I conclude that the proposal is contrary to the national policy for rural schools and the presumption to keep rural schools open. I do not consider that the consultation document provides sufficient evidence in regards to;

- the likely effect of the discontinuance of the school on the local community (point 2 and 3 above);
- the availability, and likely cost to the local authority, of transport to other schools (also point 2 above and my personal question 1 below);
- any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the discontinuance of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase (see point 1 above which covers transport within the community, beyond just the school children); and
- any alternatives to the discontinuance of the school (see suggestion 2 below).

### Suggestions

1. The school operates on a two-class system, which has done on numerous previous occasions.
2. Great Gidding has always been a small school (42 back in 1960), but there are current examples of schools that operate with numbers below 30 such as North Clifton Primary School in Newark, operated by Nottinghamshire County Council. Has Cambridgeshire County Council approached NCC to see what can be learned from this and transposed to Great Gidding. This surely must be included in the process to ensure that all options to keep the school open have been explored, aligned to the policy presumption that rural schools should be kept open.

[redacted]

<b>Response Number</b>	134
<b>Date</b>	20 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who previously attended the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

Great Gidding school, though small, can offer an education far superior to larger schools. They have a warm, caring approach; take time to notice each child's talents and weaknesses. They create an air of family, and send well adjusted children out to complete their educational journey. It would be an outrage to close such a superb jewel in the Cambs schools crown.

<b>Response Number</b>	135
<b>Date</b>	21 February 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Resident within the school community but not a parent or member of staff (including Governors)

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

*[redacted]*

Although there are new schools scheduled to be built, including at Sawtry, but I feel that with the way Sawtry is growing, the sheer volume of pupils will exceed the size of building very quickly, also those pupils that will need more specialist teacher assistance type schooling, will lose out as there will be no option or personal touch offered as there is with the Gidding school. Should the school close, I worry about its next usage, the location of it doesn't really suit Residential or business as there is no vehicle access, unless the Fitzwilliam estate are planning to build in the adjacent field, which has been rumoured for years, my suspicions are wondering if there are more anterior motives behind this scheduled closure to which the community and pupils have to suffer for.

<b>Response Number</b>	136
<b>Date</b>	21 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who currently attends the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*[redacted]*

I feel given the strength of community support for the much loved school, from the current and previous parents, school staff, Great Gidding residents and the wider local community all of which can see how small schools provide more than education to children, but also how it is a central landmark in a community. I also strongly believe the schools heritage is highly important for the locals identity and should not be lost but preserved, the fact that it has survived for over 170 years should count for something and now to be faced with the threat of closure, it's truly heartbreaking.

At the public meetings a lot of forecasts were made and presented regarding catchment admissions but the actual figures and those more importantly from outer catchment which most rural schools heavily rely on, seemed to not be carefully considered. Plus the other negative presented against the school regarding going down to two classes with mixed year groups was not fully proven with no supporting evidence given whereas during the meeting a local mentioned how their son joined the school while it was down to two classes and it wasn't a problem and later numbers in school increased.

I do not believe careful consideration has been given to all the other potential housing developments/planning in other local villages have been looked at for example Stilton and at Holme, Pingle Bank. This will affect spaces in their catchment schools and restrict spaces for outer catchment like Sawtry. The decision makers need to be satisfied that there will be sufficient capacity elsewhere to accommodate displaced children that are impacted not only now but for future children of all ages in the short and medium term. The new proposed primary is not guaranteed to be built in time for September 2024 and has already met delays, therefore careful consideration needs to be taken into account for the overall quality of other schools regarding oversized classes which will have a negative impact on children's education and their teaching staff.

From the very beginning this whole consultation seems to be unashamedly orchestrated and even used as a political playground at the expense of our children which are said to be the important factor of all this and also at the expense of our

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

vulnerable beautiful village school which has now been pushed into irreversible crisis. It is owed support it so desperately now needs from those who should be protecting it, for Great Gidding Primary School deserves the right for a future, it needs to be given a chance.

<b>Response Number</b>	137
<b>Date</b>	21 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Member of staff

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*No Response*

<b>Response Number</b>	138
<b>Date</b>	21 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

**Other (please specify):**

[redacted]

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

[redacted]

<b>Response Number</b>	139
<b>Date</b>	21 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who currently attends the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*[redacted]*

<b>Response Number</b>	140
<b>Date</b>	21 February 2023

**Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?**

Parent of a child who currently attends the school

**Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.**

I strongly disagree with the potential closure.

**Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.**

The closure of Great Gidding School would be contrary to the Governments educational policy. The Department for Educations' Statutory Guidance 'Opening and Closing Maintained Schools' sets out clearly the governments presumption against the closure of rural schools. It states;

'Proposers should be aware that the department expects all decision makers to adopt a presumption against the closure of rural schools. This does not mean that a rural school will never close, but that the case for closure should be strong and clearly in the best interests of educational provision in the area'.

In the case of Great Gidding School, the case for closure is neither strong nor in the best interests of educational provision in the area, for the following reasons:

1. The school has achieved 'Good' in its last two Ofsted inspections, despite both having been undertaken at times when the school was in the midst of considerable change. In both cases the incumbent head teachers had only been in post a matter of weeks. Had the inspections been undertaken mid-year they would likely have observed an even stronger performance. The local authorities reasons for concern regarding the standard of educational provision are mis-guided.

2. The consultation documentation forecast for future pupil numbers is misleading. Whilst it quotes a drop of pupils on roll in the last 10 years from 75 to 47, it does not show the annual figures, nor those that pre-date this period. The story that information would show is that pupil numbers have fluctuated throughout the life of the school, going up and down in that period and before it. The relationship between children in catchment and out of catchment has also varied, and the number on roll has not shown a clear relationship with the projected admissions. The case presented by the Local Authority on projected number is flawed and not reliable. The consultation document states that no development is planned for Great Gidding. This is not true. Two sites are allocated in the Local plan for development and children from families in this future housing have not been accounted for. The projected number on roll cannot be relied upon sufficiently to recommend school closure.

3. The alternatives to closure that have been explored have been prematurely dismissed and other alternatives have not been explored. A combination of measures

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

would make the school financially viable. This combination could include:

- Amendment of catchment boundaries to bring Glatton into catchment. This would add a small increase to admissions. Glatton currently feeds Sawtry which is over subscribed. The new development in the Glatton end of Sawtry could also potentially feed Gidding until a new school is provided there and Gidding could federate with this new school or provide a forest school site in the future for that new school, that prevents Gidding's complete closure.
- A reduction to two classes. This is summarily dismissed in the consultation document. The LEA has maintained in public meetings that this would unacceptable adversely affect the standard of education. This is not evidenced anywhere. The school has reduced to two classes in the past and provided excellent education.
- Federation. Support for Federation has not been sufficient. The schools approached to Federate with GG have decided not to and this has been the end of this avenue. The LEA can and should do more to uphold the presumption against closure. the previous governing board supported Federation and shared headship to reduce costs and this is viable if the will exists to see it happen.
- Academisation. Academisation has also been summarily dismissed without due consideration. As with Federation, shared headship, shared administrative services, shared lunch and sports provision and class structure adjustment would make the school financially viable in an academy. This would also support the school's ability to provide Special Educational Needs and Development (SEND) provision, an item identified by Ofsted and the LEA as requiring some improvement. The diocese of Ely and DEMAT have done insufficient work on this option and not discharged their duties both legislative (under the presumption against closure), moral (the closure of rural services should not be based on flawed accountancy) or spiritual (maintenance of CofE schools should be their highest priority)

Great Gidding School has been around since the 1850s. It is a cornerstone of the local community, providing a service that attracts new residents and forms part of the fabric of Great Gidding's community. The local shop is reliant on business provided by the families of pupils at drop off and collection times. The church relies on the religious education of the school, ensuring the pupils grow up to be church-going parishioners and the village relies on school children to provide part of the identity of the community.

If the school were to close, there would be a significant adverse impact on the village, destroying part of its character for ever. A decision to close should not be made based on flawed projected admissions data and accountancy that has not properly explored all options when such a significant impact is likely as a consequence.

<b>Response Number</b>	141
<b>Date</b>	21 February 2023

Q1. What is your relationship to Great Gidding CE VC Primary School?

Parent of a child who currently attends the school

Q2. What are your views regarding the potential closure of Great Gidding CE VC Primary School? Please select the most relevant statement from the options provided below.

I disagree with the potential closure.

Q3. Please use the box below to make any comments in relation to the potential closure of Gt Gidding CE VC Primary School.

*[redacted]*