**MINUTES OF PARENT AND COMMUNITY ACADEMY CONSULTATION MEETING AT**

**KENN 23.01.18**

Present – Parents, Executive Headteacher, Chair of Governors, ATL Union Official, Playbox Leader, Vicar of Kenton, Parish Council Rep with accompanying Education Lawyer, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Teignmouth Learning Trust (TLT) and Primary Principal

1. Why academies when there are lots of stories about asset stripping and running down of schools giving perception of huge damage and disadvantage? The good news does not make the news and some, usually very large, sponsor Multi Academy Trusts (MATs), have failed spectacularly. We are remaining small. We would not sponsor schools in difficulties and TLT has a 6yr record of being a successful academy. We want to protect these 2 small schools in their communities, with their own identities and expand the opportunities for the children and staff. We want to be able choose our path, not have it forced on us. Any school is only 1 Ofsted inspection away from losing control of its destiny.
2. Why not look towards Exeter and/or Church MATS. These have been investigated and did not respond favourably for their own reasons
3. The Union Rep stated that all Unions are in principle opposed to Academies as not being necessary. He was also keen on the MAT buying back into the Unions’ facilities fund as some academies do to protect their availability to staff. This will be a matter for discussion with TLT
4. What about the Dawlish Learning Partnership (DLP)? This has provided a lot of mutual support, training and opportunities in the past on an informal level. Unfortunately it is now a struggling organisation.
5. What about Teignmouth Secondary School results which seem to show a slight dip recently? Why and how does that speak to the claims that MAT support will help standards? The school has greatly helped Mill Lane Primary over several years to raise standards from Ofsted level 4 to level 2 Good (now attained twice). We are looking at mutual support in many areas. All school results dip from time to time, for all sorts of reasons. It is also important to consider Value Added as different cohorts come in to schools at different levels
6. How does joining TLT affect where our children transfer to for secondary stage? This will still be down to parental choice and Dawlish will remain the designated school, being the nearest. The children at both schools scatter to many different choices. This is something that may/may not be affected by greater contact with Teignmouth, but the admissions policy will not change
7. Union rep asked about curriculum variations and National Pay and Conditions for Teachers – what is TLT’s approach? Teachers’ Pay and Conditions will not change and the National Curriculum will stay, but delivered as best suits each individual school
8. Where does the money for redundancies come from in a MAT? There is no change here either
9. The 3 new schools will not have the same link through that Mill Lane has. Will this disadvantage us? We are looking more at the advantages which we hope will result from working with 4 good primaries together. In addition, we already have some secondary pupils coming to help with e.g. Kenn school allotment area and an Art teacher has offered to provide project work and opportunities after Yr 11 have left
10. Why is TLT looking outwards after 6 years as a very close pairing? It was felt that with the Trust well established, it is a good time to find a small number of partners to further that partnership working, extend the collaboration with like-minded schools and broaden the primary phase
11. Should governors be looking at pushing the through-put from primary to secondary to be within the MAT? See 6 above. Admissions policy may not be changed
12. Will pastoral issues be helped by a larger scale? These will still be the responsibility of each school, but specific expertise will be more available thanks to the greater numbers. Staff support and training should be easier
13. What about the top slice? The current suggestion is 5.5% off general funding including insurances, but specialist monies such as SEN will go to the schools, so overall there will be a slight benefit to schools compared to what the LA have to take
14. The school field at Kenn is the ‘only safe option’ for children in the Kennford community. Will open access be restored? This is currently under negotiation and discussion with parents, parish councillors and governors with a meeting later this month. TLT has outdoor facilities which have plenty of community use and will be part of the discussions if academisation goes ahead