

Cllr Richard Kellaway
Somerley
Startins Lane
Cookham Dean
SL6 9TS

29th June 2017

Dear Cllr Kellaway,

I am writing to express my disappointment in your lack of commitment to support Lowbrook Academy at the public RBWM Council Meeting on Tuesday 27th June whereby the additional capital for the Academy was debated and voted for.

It was to our great disappointment to witness you speak against the expansion of Lowbrook Academy, particularly in light of the close relationship we have with Holy Trinity C of E Primary School - a school in your ward - for which we have worked tirelessly with to achieve its recognition as an 'Outstanding' school.

More alarmingly, when another Councillor intimated that Lowbrook Academy did not support other schools in the Local Authority, you failed to rebut this inaccuracy nor defend our position by citing the partnership we have formed with Holy Trinity over the last three years.

Furthermore, during the entire debate, there were many inaccuracies and you did not call in a point of order for any of them. Nor did you highlight the relationship, outstanding work and goodwill that has been given to your ward over the past three years by Lowbrook Academy. It is important to note that you were provided with all the facts via a letter sent to you by Cllr Paul Brimacombe in advance of the debate. The officers accepted his letter as fact and you did not challenge this until the Council Meeting, where you voted against the much needed expansion.

It is important to note that the school did not have the opportunity to have any input into the paper (which was inaccurate); were refused the right to speak freely at the meeting; were unable to correct the inaccuracies during this public meeting; and were marginalised by the Council since their election. In short, the process was not democratic and a complaint will be made outlining our concerns to the Monitoring Officer in due course. It was even more astonishing that the Leader of the Council abstained and it quite frankly beggars belief that the Sponsoring Councillor, Natasha Airey, after promoting her paper also abstained. We question the constitutional integrity of these actions.

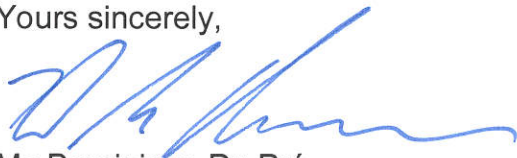
It has become apparent by your actions and words at the Council Meeting that there is no recognition or appreciation of the work Lowbrook Academy has undertaken to improve Holy Trinity from a school that required improvement to 'Outstanding'.



As you know, the vote was increasingly tight with 23 votes 'for' and 23 votes 'against', with the casting vote going to the Mayor. A vote of support by yourself would therefore have made all the difference in facilitating the school to move forward with the expansion.

As a consequence, the Governing Body of Lowbrook Academy has had no alternative but to suspend all its obligations to Holy Trinity, including Mr Rooney's capacity as Executive Principal of the school, until this issue is resolved.

Yours sincerely,

P.P 

Ms Dominique Du Pré
Chair of Governors

CC

Cllr Brimacombe

Cllr McWilliams

Cllr Airey

Cllr Saunders

Cllr Clark

Yasmin Thorn-Davis, Chair of Governors, Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

Mary Kilner, Monitoring Officer, RBWM

Kevin McDaniel, Director of Children's Services, RBWM