

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**ISSUED 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015 - TWO PAGES**

### **The Queen Elizabeth Academy – Rebuild Project Public Meeting**

Amid growing concern for safety of children, local people need answers and it was resolved at an extraordinary meeting of Atherstone Town Council to facilitate a public meeting to discuss the building of a new school for the Queen Elizabeth Academy. A party of concerned local residents attended the meeting to voice concerns with what they described as inaccuracies in the design and access statement.

Their major concern was the positioning and the safety of the access, on one of the busiest roads in Atherstone for the children, along with the adequacy of the size and design. The public felt that they had not been consulted sufficiently and that their questioning of the scheme had been dismissed.

It is hoped that all interested parties such as the Headmaster, the Education Funding Agency, Councillors and others concerned with the scheme will attend the meeting. It is hoped that the Regulatory Board of Warwickshire County Council will be there to explain to the residents and Town Council why the normal planning authority of North Warwickshire Borough Council will only have a consultative part and not be the deciding body as is normal in planning applications.

At the same time residents asked why, when we have two functioning schools which surround the proposed site, no effort has apparently been made to utilise these within the new scheme in any way, other than by their sale and/or

demolition. It is hoped, further to suggestions made at the meeting, and by Town Councillors in a recent letter to the County Council, to ask why other unused areas of school properties have not been considered as sites for a larger more adequate development incorporating much needed safety features with regard to children coming to and from school.

You are invited to the meeting which has been arranged at St Mary's Church, Atherstone, on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>. May 2015, starting at 7.00pm and is open to all members of the public and any interested parties.

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#### **NOTES FOR EDITORS**

For more information contact:  
Town Clerk Mr Graham Day

Atherstone Town Council  
POBOX 2000  
Atherstone  
Warwickshire  
CV9 1YN

[clerk@atherstone-tc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@atherstone-tc.gov.uk)

Phone: 01827 720829

Fax: 01827 720829