



What should happen to Tipton St John Primary School?

The Town Council Tipton St John Working Group are hosting a “drop in” at Tipton St John Village Hall on 13 October 2021 between 6.00pm – 7.30pm

Cllr’s Green, Lucas and Pang will be present to hear your views about the future for the school.

If you are unable to attend or prefer not to come to a public gathering, you can let us have your say:

By Post:

Send letters to Ottery Town Council, The Old Convent, 8 Broad Street, Ottery St Mary, EX11 1BZ.

By Email:

To admin@otterystmary-tc.gov.uk In the subject line, please write “Tipton St John Primary School”.

In late 2020, Devon County Council submitted a controversial planning application to build a new primary school along with 160 new homes on a site on the outskirts of Ottery St Mary. Following careful consideration by EDDC's planning committee (which included Cllr Geoff Pratt) the application was rejected.

Following EDDC's decision, the Town Council agreed to create a working group to explore whether the Council could help find a viable alternative for the school.

Progress to date

The working group held an initial meeting on Zoom with the Colin Butler (Federation Head), the late John Sherwood (lead Governor) and Richard Power (Diocese representative). The initial meeting was an opportunity to set the scene and understand how things had progressed to that point.

After the initial meeting, the working party agreed that they should go to the site to see for themselves the challenge of the site. The site meeting took place as soon as Covid restrictions allowed.

Following the meeting on site, the working group reflected on the possible next steps. We did not feel the opportunity to re-develop the current site had been adequately evaluated. Engineering solutions and building construction to mitigate the impact of flooding events have greatly advanced over the past 10 years.

On the 16 July 2021, the school issued an update for all parents on the position of the school relocation. This followed the decision by Devon County Council not to appeal the decision to reject the planning application for the new school and associated housing. In the school communication, they appear to have ruled out investigating redevelopment of the current site.

Next Steps

The working group recognise that any solution will need the broad agreement of all parties involved in order for it to be successful. The working group want to hear from residents in the Parish about their thoughts on the way forward for the school.