



Joint statement agreed between the Board of TCLT and the Headmaster of Thorverton Primary School

One of the most often heard comments made to the CLT Board is about the impact this project will have on the village school. The Board decided that the most sensible thing to do was to ask the one person who is best placed to give an accurate answer, and went to meet the headmaster, Chris Holding. We talked about the project and the potential effect it would have on the school, and agreed to this joint statement:

“The Board of Thorverton CLT met Chris Holding on 3rd Nov. The Affordable Housing plans were discussed and the potential impact on the number of pupils attending Thorverton Primary School was considered; at the end of the meeting this joint statement was agreed.

*When considering the impact on the school several important items need to be taken into consideration; the first is that some of the families who will be eligible for the Affordable Housing will already be living in the village and may therefore already have children at the School. The second is that the building of the housing will take several years, giving time for the School to prepare for the additional children. It is not possible to assess exactly how many children will be applying for places once the building work is finished, but given that not all of the homes will house primary school children Chris Holding **does not anticipate any difficulties** in absorbing them, especially as they will have priority over children living outside Thorverton and the catchment area.*

The informed opinion is that the slowing of the birth rate in the UK will also have an impact on the number of pupils in due course, but evidence of this is only beginning to emerge.”

In a subsequent email Chris Holding sent some additional information in regard to a child that had recently arrived in the village and is on the waiting list to join the school. We won't go into detail about this individual child in an open forum like this website, but he went onto say:

This situation does not change the accuracy of the joint statement - if there were more children applying to join the school from within the catchment area in Reception, then we would simply take fewer children from outside of the catchment area.

He also noted that nearly 25% of the children in the school come from outside the catchment area, some driving nearly ten miles to attend the school.