

Kell Bank CE Responses to Consultation

		Agree with closure proposal	Agree that in the event of closure Masham CE be the local school	Comments received
1	Headteacher of neighbouring school	Yes	Yes	No comments submitted.
2	Parent of a child at a Federated School	No	N/A	Interesting how there is a large proportion of children outside of catchment at Masham with a good Ofsted rating. I would have thought Kell bank would have attracted children out of catchment given its outstanding Ofsted. When is NYCC going to recognise that federations and collaborations are not of benefit to the children. It seems to me that parents are moving their children out of these schools to schools which are not federated or collaborated playing straight into your hands to amalgamate schools. I have children in a federated school and the school community is much less nurturing with more of a business mindset. These rural schools expect the children to travel between schools eating into the school day as by their very nature they can be remote and travelling times are long. School leaders are not transparent and often secretive which leads to a feeling of mistrust between stakeholders and the community deteriorates and parents move their children out. Sharing of catering facilities results in a deterioration of food quality for those meals that have to travel. Our school is also promoting reception children to be enrolled at the larger school which is reducing the number on roll and is a nail in the coffin for the smaller school in the federation. We have experienced all of this at our school. The parish council blaming the fall in numbers on houses being unaffordable in the catchment I think is not necessarily true. I know of other village schools with excessive house prices locally who have large numbers of children shipped in from outside catchment.
3	Local Community Member	No	Yes	Kell Bank School should be amalgamated with Masham Primary School and used to accommodate Year 1 and Year 2 pupils. This would give Masham School increased capacity to accommodate children from proposed new housing developments in Masham. Year 1 and 2 pupils would have more space to play and enjoy more opportunities to be outside in nature.

4	Local Community Member	Yes	Yes	6 pupils in a school for 50 is a monumental waste of money. Close it.
5	Masham Parish Councillor	Yes	Yes	Bearing in mind the low pupil numbers at Kell Bank there appears to be no alternative to closure.
6	Community member, former pupil and parent of Kell Bank	No	Yes	It is very sad to see it due to close. It shows a wide problem that families cannot afford to buy properties in the area hence retired or holiday lets properties seem to be what happens. Aside from the pending new builds due there are a number of empty properties owned by the local large landowning estate whom are not rented out at present which may be a possible for families to rent if up to standard. Have potentially rented properties been taken into account of the figures? Another wider issue is that as a school closes then it discourages families to move there and then other services also struggle to survive..pub and village hall. A viscous circle of decline. Given the covid pandemic there is an upsurge of people looking for a more rural community lifestyle...has this been considered too? As Masham school already over quota and uses temporary classrooms has Kell Bank site not been considered as being used as part of site to be used. Some of the schools you list as alternatives are not practical when the weather is bad...snow, ice and flooding. As council cut backs in rural areas means roads are not gritted, or kept clear enabling safe passage to over school ie over Trapping hill to Middlesmoor, or Start Bank to Middlesmoor, or flooding to Masham...the Swinny or Thornton Watlass via Masham Bridge, Kilgram bridge etc. Extreme weather will be more the norm so interrupt travel . The wider picture must be weighed up!
7	Former pupil	No	Yes	Such a waste of a excellent school grounds. Masham primary is bursting at the seam, surely Kell Bank can be used to help ease Masham's overflow, instead of going to waste.
8	Local Community Member	N/A	Yes	Will it reopen when the new houses to be built in Masham are occupied with young families anxious to find school places for their children and the small school in Masham is unable to accommodate them? Is it possible to use Kell Bank as an annex? Will there be a free school bus?
9	Chair of Governors Masham School	Yes	Yes	The GB of Masham School considered the proposal at meetings on 16 November and on 7 December, to take account of feedback from the consultation meetings. This response is from the GB.
10	Local Community Member	No	Yes	As an ex teacher, a member of the community and the parent of a former Kell Bank pupil, I feel that the closing of the school would have a very negative effect on the Fearby and Healey community. In the current climate, I appreciate that schools must be financially viable, however I feel very strongly that all the supporting information that has been given focuses on the barriers to keeping the school open, rather than looking at the

				<p>possibilities that may be considered. Having been involved in the last consultation process many years ago when Kell Bank was threatened with closure, one of difficulties was that Masham school would struggle to accommodate the Kell Bank children .That may not be the case at this time, but Masham School has a limited capacity, offering little room for growth. If Kell Bank and Masham were to function as a split site school, using the strengths of both sites, not only would it offer room for growth in numbers but also in curriculum development. Due to the nature of the building and grounds at Masham, meeting the requirements of a free-flow system for the Early Years always been a challenge, however the accommodation at Kell Bank, given its layout and it's available outdoor space, has potential to become a centre of excellence! Could it be possible to have Reception and KS1 at Kell Bank, and KS2 at Masham? This could not only 'future- proof' both schools, but would help to make connections with both communities.</p>
11	Local Community Member			<p>1. As ex chair of governors of Kell Bank school in the 1990's I would like to register a very strong protest at the lack of any notice to everyone concerned re the meeting tonight! It is shockingly unprofessional and gives no time for all interested parties to be informed.</p> <p>2. Yes I have the Teams information, but as an ancient technophobe I am highly unlikely to manage accessing the meeting, I will do my best. To the best of my knowledge no one from the Parish council has informed us of tonight's consultation. I MAY have to rely on other contacts to find out what is said tonight. This is discrimination of the worst kind, through lack of ensuring everyone was informed in every way possible, not just by technology and parish councils. Covid is a good excuse for you not to deal with this face to face. A public announcement in a local newspaper at least 2 weeks ago would have informed everyone living in the area, and a message to publicise it through Masham community office would have reached a very large majority of people. Kell Bank school now 200 years old is an integral part of the history of Colsterdale, and matters to the whole community! It seems to me the Covid rules are a very convenient way to avoid a very packed village hall full of people who care and value Colsterdale and its history</p> <p>3. After the disappointing Team meeting last night, I hope you will consider delaying the date the consultation closes. The notice of the meeting which was NOT relayed by the Parish Council gave the many supporters of Kell Bank no chance of getting together to make a plan. I only managed to get in for the last 20 minutes and only to listen in – it seemed like a total waste of time. I request a delay till after this lock down, - a chance for as many as is safely possible to meet you socially</p>

				<p>distancing at County Hall or even an open space somewhere outside. The technology didn't work properly for everyone to hear or have their say. As a member of the group who saved the school in 1990's when it went on to be a Beacon School for the Country, and won many accolades for the quality and depth of its education, I ask that you delay the Consultation closure until the matter has been discussed by both sides in a proper and organised meeting, with everyone informed well before hand. Otherwise this will, and does appear to be closure by stealth using Covid to prevent a true discussion from all concerned parties.</p>
12.	Local Community Member			<p>As highlighted before, my daughter & son in law are in the process of visiting & evaluating local primary schools for their daughter. As mentioned, they are due to have their second child in Feb 2021. They have visited Snape and are planning to visit Masham & Grewelthorpe. The teacher teams at these schools are keen to point out the potential closure of Kell Bank. Probably to increase their numbers.</p> <p>I mentioned before that it sounds like you are following a Beeching type plan for education. This as Kell Bank school appears to be of high quality and has a good Ofsted report but has low student numbers. As with Beeching this might well be regretted in future years.</p> <p>I think you are at risk of falling into a self-fulfilling prophecy relative to low school numbers. Firstly you announce the school might/will close. This concerns parents regarding longevity & consistency and they look elsewhere to place their offspring. You then say student numbers are low at Kell Bank. Could, to the neurotic, sound like a conspiracy! I'm sure its not but it does sound a little like a vicious circle versus a virtuous circle.</p> <p>I notice comments in your background information relative to Fearby/Healey becoming retirement villages for people with index linked pensions. This, demographically, might be trueish but most of those people have children & grandchildren living locally. There would be a large benefit in these people helping their children blend their jobs & education of their children by delivering/collecting them etc.</p> <p>The only thing you need to do is market Kell Bank fairly. This means stop all the noise about potential closure and emphasise to local parents/grandparents the benefits of sending their children for a long term, high quality primary education to Kell Bank, Snape, Grewelthorpe or Masham. This, let alone easing the pressure on oversubscribed local primary schools due to the closure noise ... what do you think?</p>

