



Development Panel  
Allerdale Borough Council  
Allerdale House  
Workington  
CA14 3YJ

16<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Panel Members,

**Application: 2/2018/0493**

I was as disappointed as you will be, to learn that the education contribution agreed for the junior school for the previous iteration of this application has been removed.

We know that the school places calculations are flawed in respect of West Cumbria, and that a four-bedroomed house on this estate will yield more than 0.5 children. It is folly to think that the pupil yield will be evenly spread across the school years. Seaton Junior School has suffered with peaks and troughs of pupil numbers over many years now, and those peaks will only grow larger. It is incredibly short sighted to look only the next four years, or indeed to only consider overall capacity of the school. In the very recent past, year groups have had to be mixed to accommodate pupil numbers.

As an aside, the County Council report references spaces in Workington Academy – yet as a relatively new, growing school the expected yield would see the school at capacity – and they were oversubscribed by 40 pupils in this year's Year 7. We cannot keep doing this.

Some of you will remember from that previous application that we stood together, and fought the ridiculous notion that you could build half a classroom to accommodate the pupil yield from this development. **Against officers advice** we requested double the contribution that the County Council had asked for. We passed that development with the increased contribution – and I'm asking you to do the same again.

We often complain that infrastructure should come first – and the Government will seek to address that in our reforms of a planning system that is decades out of date. I will be happy to discuss these reforms with members of the panel, as a collective or individually. **But today**, I'm asking you to play your part in making that infrastructure come first – to use the tools at your disposal and to stand firm and ensure that the s106 again requests the full amount of a classroom that will inevitably be required.

Yours sincerely

**Mark Jenkinson MP**



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