

Report Written: October 2015

Author(s): Jane Colville (Parish Council), Matt Hover (Head Teacher)

## **Ashton Hayes School – Issues Arising**

The local school, which is situated within the village, is currently judged to be “good” by Ofsted and is very popular amongst the local families but also among those who come from afar to make use of the local private nursery facility which is rated as “outstanding” by Ofsted. Many children living out of the area attend the nursery as babies and toddlers and there is sometimes then the inclination on the part of parents to seek to have their child admitted to the local school so that friendships that have been built up can be continued. This trend has also been reinforced by the fact that the nursery provides an after school club for children whose parents are working.

These factors have contributed to there being more demand for places in the school than there would have been normally so the school has seen a rise in numbers over the last few years. It now faces a significant issue in that it will not be able to sustain a further increase in demand unless the provision, in terms of classroom space, is increased. It is estimated that unless in the next two years at least one additional classroom is provided and assuming demand increases as it has been then the school will be full and unable to accept all the children from the local catchment area who are seeking places. To date the Local Authority have been unable to reassure the Head teacher that this additional space will be commissioned in time. The advent of new housing developments in Kelsall, Tarvin and the new development approved in Ashton Hayes itself and more recently in Delamere will all intensify this situation.