

During May the group has been busy with a number of activities, including attending the sponsor's consultation meeting on the 11th May and also responding to the final stage of the LCC ran consultation. We still believe that the original consultation is flawed, and that their independent study regarding the future viability of St Guthlacs is one sided.

Unfortunately the second part of the consultation closes at the beginning of June, but we would urge as many people as possible to continue to highlight their concerns by writing to those involved the proposals and decision making, namely Cllr Bradwell (of LCC), Steve Baragwanath (proposed Head of the Academy or Chris Penney (chair of the governing body). But we now play the waiting game as the final decision is not made until July.

Of the original LCC consultation that closed in March, of the 439 that responded 196 were against, 165 were in favour and 78 were neither for nor against the proposals. Of the responses where there were clear reasons expressed, 80 were concerned about the effects to the economy, 89 were concerned about travel and the increase in time to the school day and 37 said it would be bad for local children, with education suffering due to the size of the new Academy.

In a summary of some of the key comments, people said "win win for Holbeach, lose lose for Crowland", "not against academy, but against closure of St Guthlacs", "a local school is essential for the wellbeing of the community" and finally "the consultation is a shameful tick box exercise"

The group now has a new website www.education4crowland.co.uk, which contains up to date information on our activities, a full breakdown of the consultation results (summarised above) plus all of the legacy information from the Save St Guthlacs campaign.

We urge as many people as possible to complete our "**Crowland Free School Community Support Survey**" that appeared in the May edition of the magazine. These should be returned to one of the following locations: **Spar, Co-op, Newsagents, Library or the Parish Rooms**. Or you can now complete the survey on-line at our website.

w: www.education4crowland.co.uk e: contact@education4crowland.co.uk