

Comments from the Former Directors of DVST for DPC meeting 2nd September 2025

“The previous directors of Dunsfold Village School Trust (DVST) have said that:-

- Thanks to generous benefactions the village has had in its centre for 170 years a small educational site comprising a listed school building held on educational trusts and since 1967 a field held under covenant to be used only as a playing field for the adjacent school.

- The owners of the school and field together brought about the closure of the school in 2004 by promoting the transfer of Dunsfold infant places to Cranleigh. The transfer was never implemented but the site has remained empty for the last 21 years. During that time requests of the Secretary of State for Education, and the Charity Tribunal to restore use of the site for the original endowment purposes for the benefit of Dunsfold residents, have been resisted by the Trustee.
- The site could still benefit the village, which has grown and will continue to grow in numbers, by becoming an Early Years Learning Centre including a Nursery School, a suggestion originally made to the trustee in 2004 by the then Dunsfold Rector and Chairman of the Parish Council.
- The former Directors of DVST:-
 - see no grounds on which the Trustee of the former infant school could seek to benefit from development of the site away from its endowment purposes;
 - suggest the village coming together to consider either reincorporation of DVST or the formation of a village Community company open to all who supports its aims on the lines of the Community Shop Association;
 - envisage the use of the community company to acquire the freehold of the school site and the playing field;
 - will seek the help of the new Diocesan Registrar to recognise the untenable position of the trustee in retaining the site and restricting its use;
 - envisage raising charitable and other funds to restore the building to condition after being abandoned for 21 years;
 - will act if necessary with authority support of the Charity Commission, the Secretary of State for Education and the Attorney General but with no intention of taking legal proceedings.”