

Education & Trends in the Parish

- Between 2001 and 2011 the Parish population rose from 6,821 to 7667 (12.4%)
- There was a rise in households of 287
- There was a 26% rise in numbers of children of 15 and under.
- We might expect a proportionate rise in school age children from any future household changes



Pressure on school places

- The Infant and Junior schools seek to **educate children of Hassocks in Hassocks**
- Increasing numbers put **severe pressure on the schools**
- Recent housing developments have meant that children have had to be **educated in temporary classrooms**
- The **current building work** at the Infant and Junior schools is catch-up work to deal with this existing pressure – so that children can be taught in proper classrooms with proper facilities
- That pressure will soon start reaching Downlands, so that it will have to consider its own catchment area and admissions



Who controls and pays for school places?

- Education is **outside the control of the Parish Council**, being run by West Sussex County Council
- Housing developers are required to make a **financial contribution** to education which is calculated by a set formula and paid to County central funds
- The formula provides for additional places in current schools and would **not meet major new infrastructure costs** i.e. a new school (unless a very large number of houses are built)



What are the options for our schools?

- **What are your views** on how schools should react to and accommodate increased numbers from further housing development?
- Should the schools **further expand their buildings** (upwards in the case of the Infants)?
- Are you happy for Hassocks children to be **educated in neighbouring towns/villages** where there might be places?
- Do you think the community should try to build a new **Free School** (if this continues as government policy)?

