

Save Anglia Ruskin Nursery

06 January 2016



Dear Professor Thorne

We the undersigned, oppose the closure of the Anglia Ruskin's Cambridge Campus Nursery Facility, and the timeline in which it is being undertaken.

Our opposition rests on the following issues:

1. As an education establishment and a nursery provider the university has a duty of care to those that it serves, be they students, staff or community. When divesting itself of this duty of care the university must act in a responsible manner that takes into account the welfare of the children and the prevailing conditions in the community – namely an acute shortage of nursery provision
2. In closing the nursery within the stated timeframe the nursery is forcing many of the student parents to abandon their studies, and staff and community parents to stop working if they are unable to find alternative provision of a comparable nature. This is economically damaging to individuals, families and the city as a whole.
3. The nursery occupies a specially designed space that is uniquely fit for purpose, and is a valuable resource to students, staff and community. Nursery premises are expensive to create and cannot be quickly replaced once lost. We are not satisfied that the options for maintaining the space – such as leasing it to another nursery provider - have been adequately explored or seriously considered.
4. Community parents have played a vital role in allowing the university to keep the nursery provision in place as student and staff numbers fluctuated, and the manner of the closure does not adequately reflect the contribution the community made has in enabling ARU to provide this facility. Anglia Ruskin University needs to act in a constructive manner that respects the wider Cambridge community of which it is an important part, and the closure of this facility in the stated timescale does not demonstrate a genuine willingness to do this.

Furthermore, we do not feel that the agreement reached with the Student Union and announced on 30th November adequately responds to the above points, and thus we call on you to urgently;

- a) Reconsider this decision from a long term perspective
- b) Enter into meaningful and honest discussions to reach a viable solution with students, staff and the community.

Sincerely

Save ARU Nursery Campaign

We include 31 parents of children at the nursery

Save Anglia Ruskin Nursery



- Daniel Zeichner MP for Cambridge
- Robert Dryden Mayor of Cambridge.
- Sophie Walker National Leader of the Women's Equality Party
- Piero D'Angelico Chair of Mill Rd Traders Association representing 260 businesses
- John Franks and trustees Petersfield Area Community Trust & "Save Our Space" Campaign"
- Chad Allen University Cambridge Graduate Union, President
- Poppy Ellis Logan University Cambridge Graduate Union, Welfare and Rights Officer
- Abdul Arain Muslim Chaplain for ARU
- Anna Matthews Vicar of St Bene't's Church Cambridge
- Nicky Wrigley Chief Executive, Cambridge Women's Resources Centre Ltd
- Anna Smith City Councillor
- Catherine Smart City Councillor
- Damien Tunnacliffe City Councillor
- Dave Baigent City Councillor
- Dr Jocelynne A. Scutt City Councillor
- George Owers City Councillor
- Kevin Benclowe City Councillor
- Lewis Herbert City Councillor
- Mike Todd-Jones City Councillor
- Nigel Gawthrop City Councillor
- Oscar Gillespie City Councillor
- Peter Roberts City Councillor
- Richard Johnson City Councillor
- Richard Robertson City Councillor
- Tim Moore City Councillor
- Viki Sanders City Councillor
- Ysanne Austin City Councillor
- Zoe Moghadas County Councillor
- Ashley Walsh County Councillor
- Ian Manning County Councillor
- Noel Kavanagh County Councillor
- Killian Bourke Former councillor for Romsey
- Stuart Tuckwood On behalf of the Green Party
- Ed Goodman Cambridge & St Ives Business Lounge