

# Consultation on the proposed closure of Fletching CE Primary School



**Consultation meeting  
Tuesday 16 July 2019**

# Introducing ourselves

## East Sussex County Council Officers:

- **Stuart Gallimore** Director of Children's Services
- **Fiona Wright** Assistant Director, Education and ISEND
- **Jessica Stubbings** Senior Manager, Partnerships and Governance
- **Gary Langford** Place Planning Manager

## Diocese of Chichester Officers:

- **Trevor Cristin** Director of Education
- **Lesley Hurst** Assistant Director of Education

## Note taker:

- **Sarah Greed** Locum Clerk

# Agenda for meeting

Meeting scheduled to run from 7.00 to 8.30pm

- Background to the proposal
- Why we are consulting on the proposed closure of Fletching CE Primary School
- What this would mean for pupils
- Timetable for the consultation process
- How you can have your say
- Questions

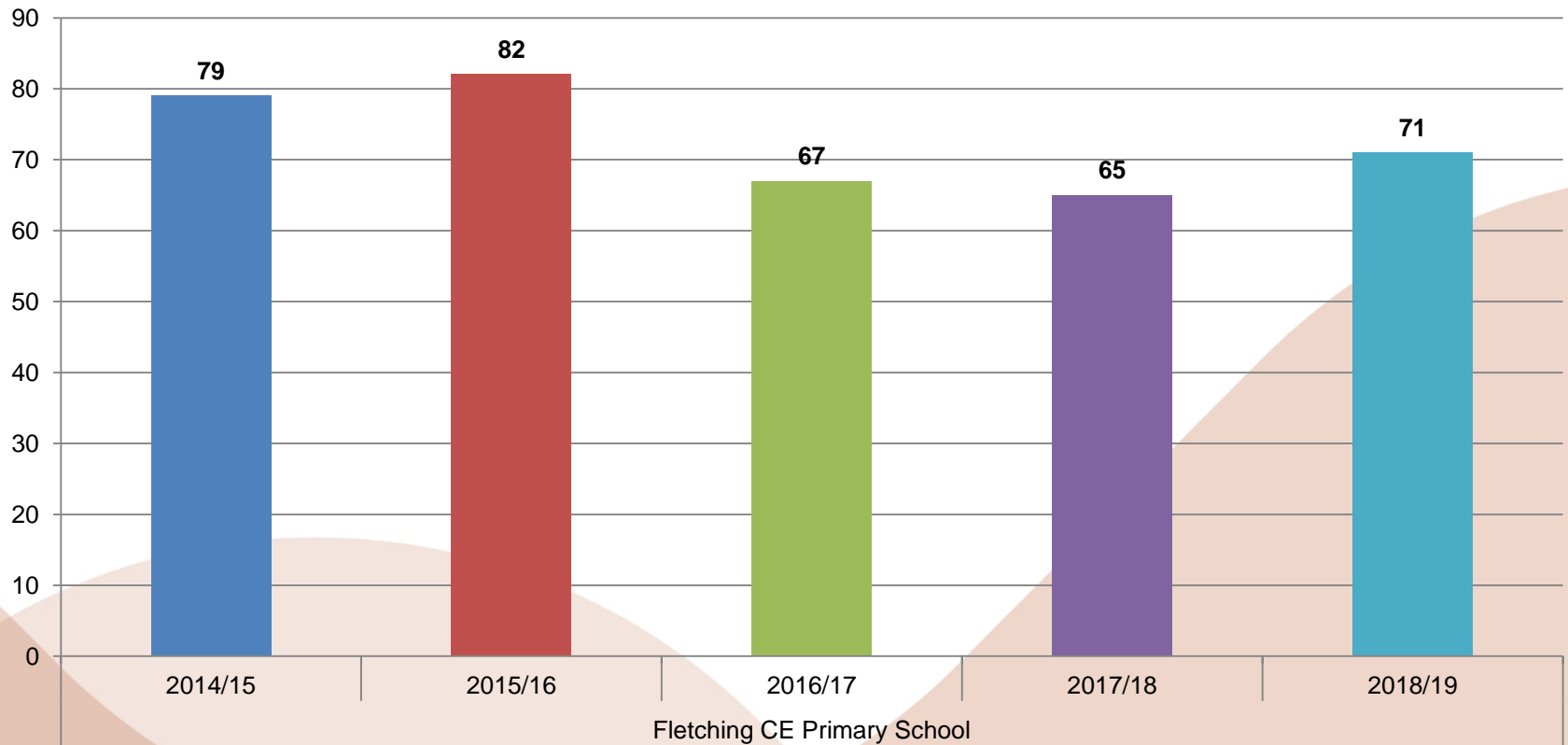
# Background to the proposal

- Statutory duty of the local authority
- Review of rural primary school provision in East Sussex
- Lead Member decision to consult on the proposed closure of the school

# Why we are consulting

## Pupil numbers over time

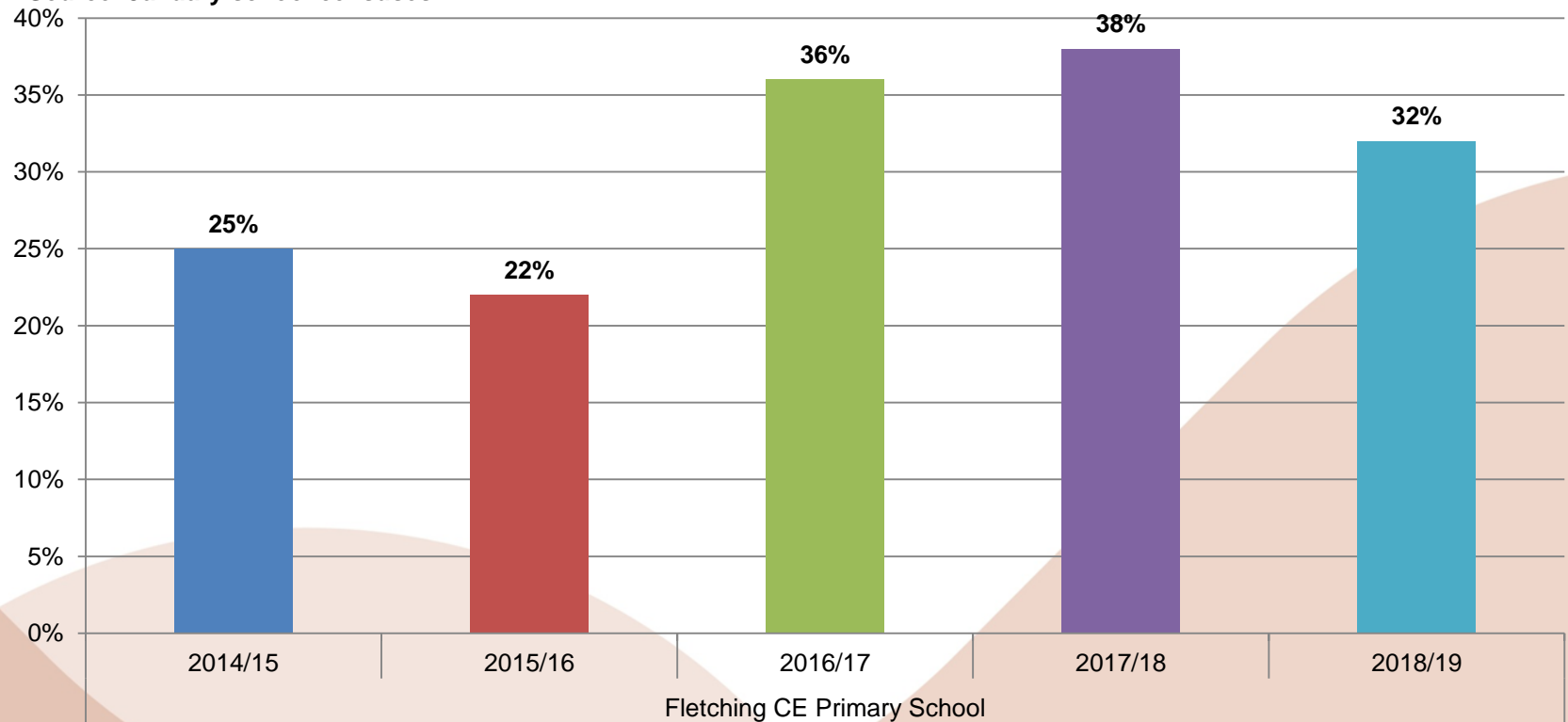
Source: January school censuses



# Why we are consulting

## Surplus places

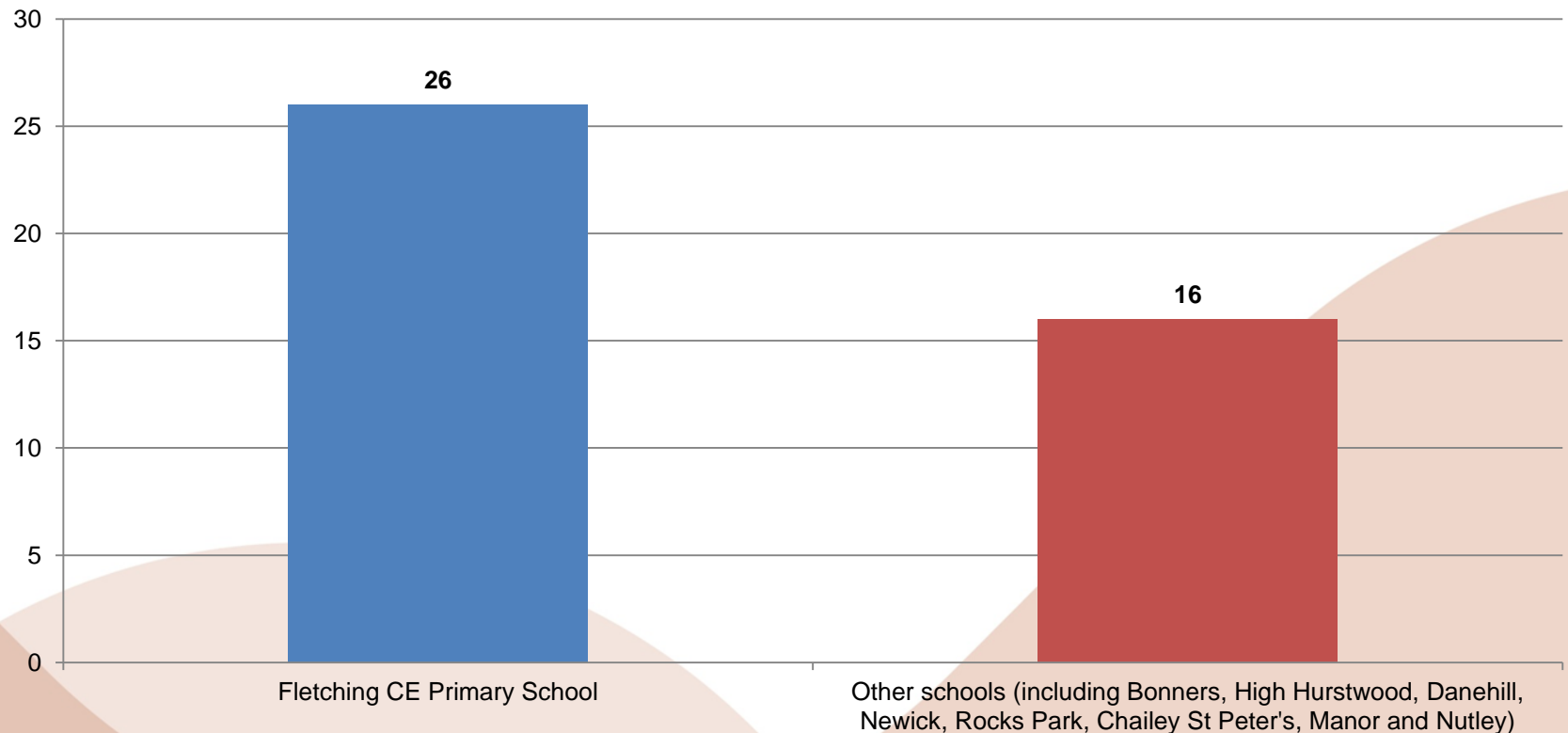
Source: January school censuses



# Why we are consulting

## Destination of children living in the Fletching community area

Source: January 2019 School Census

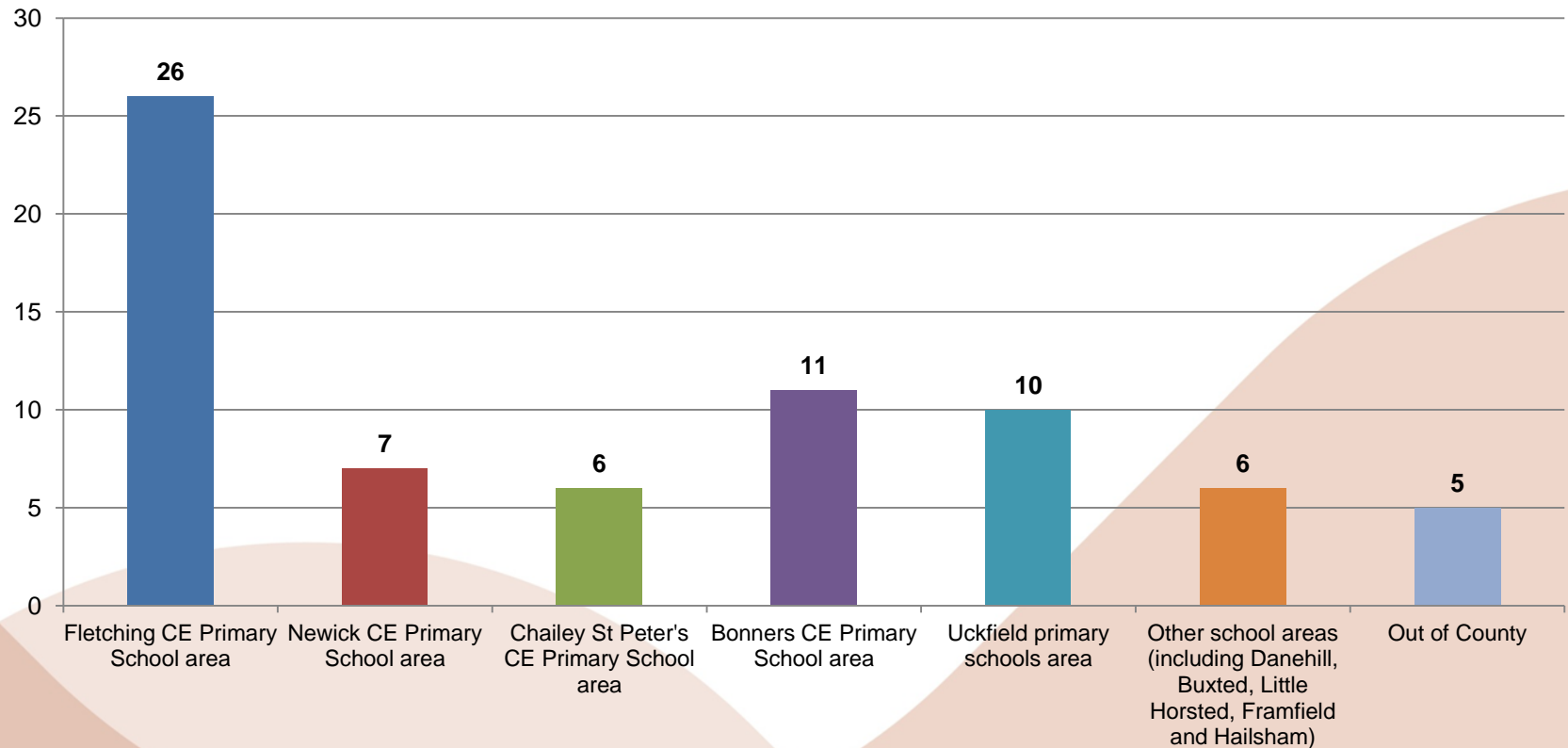




# Why we are consulting

## Home location of pupils attending Fletching CE Primary School

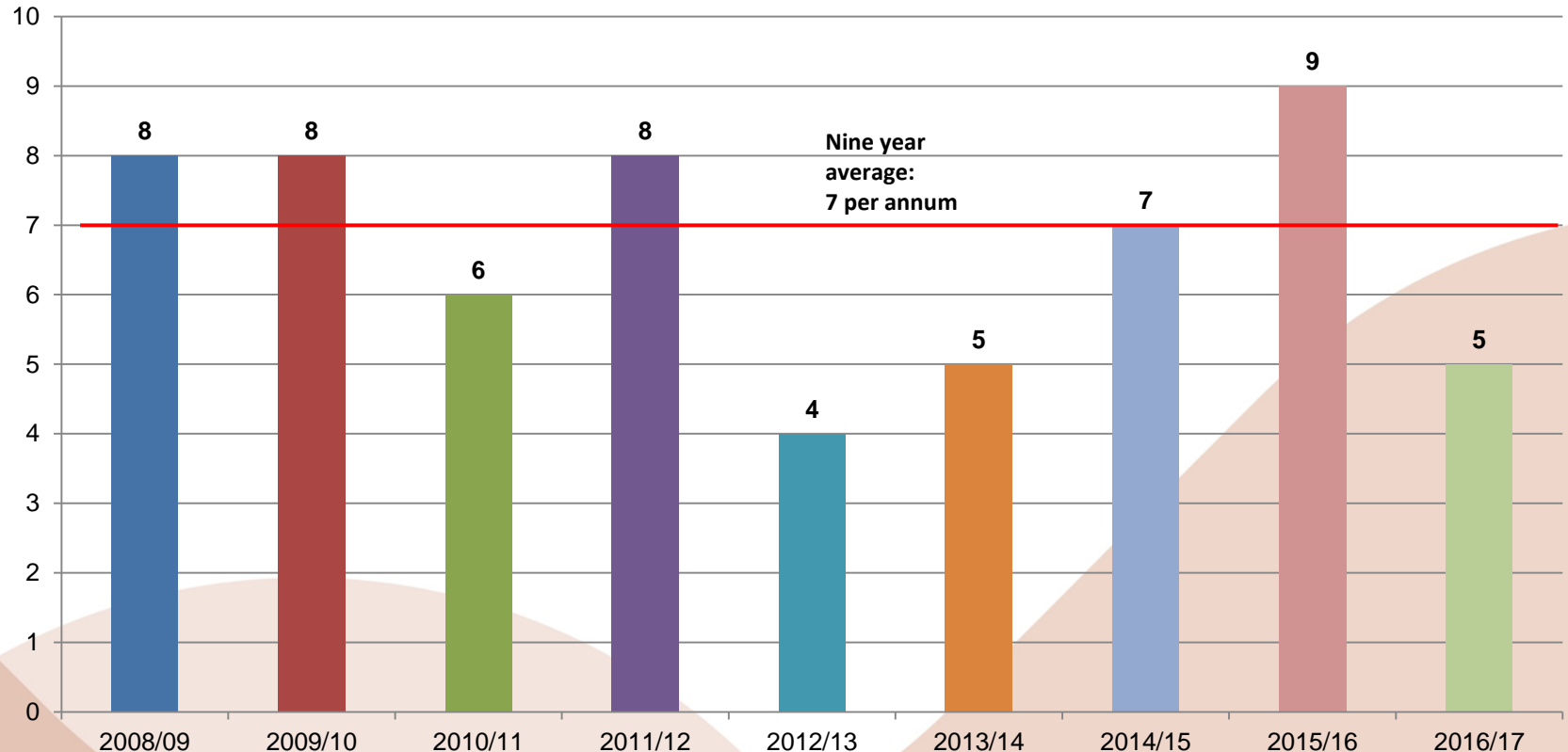
Source: January 2019 School Census





# Why we are consulting

## Birth rate 2008/09 to 2016/17 in the Fletching community area



# Why we are consulting

## Housing

- Only 8 new homes are planned in Fletching Parish during the Wealden Local Plan period between 2018/19 and 2027/28

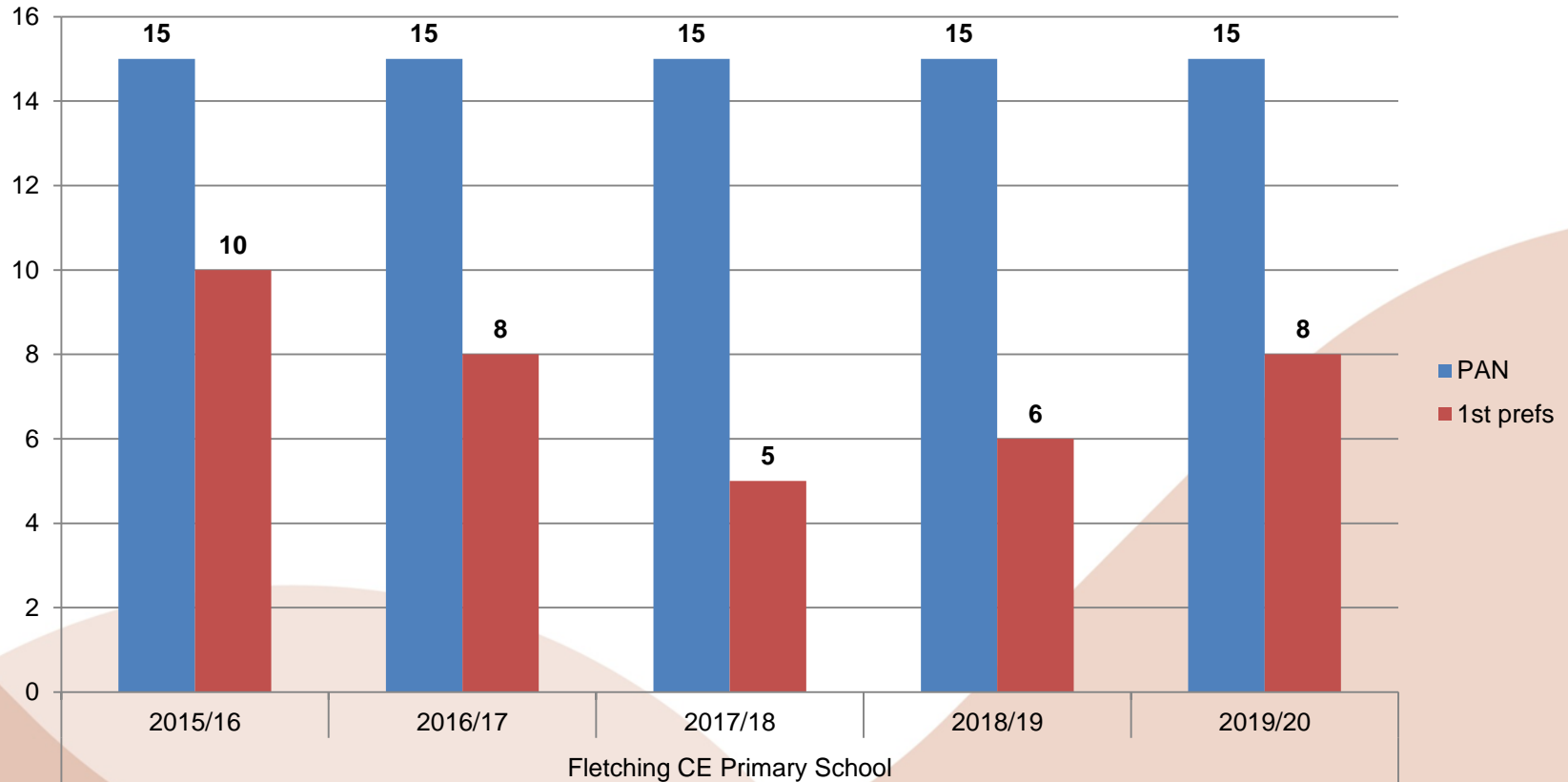
### Pupil yields from new homes

Pupil yield per new dwelling by property type and size	Houses 2 bed+	Flats 2 bed+	Houses / flats 1 bed
Primary schools	0.25	0.0375	0.00

- Estimated pupil product = 2 primary age children over a ten year period

# Why we are consulting

## Parental preference



# Why we are consulting

## Financial viability

Fletching CE Primary School budget plan	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022
Budget Share	353,591	342,551	372,507	363,595	349,092
Carry Forward	44,822	59,754	31,012	-5,457	-62,138
<b>Available Budget</b>	<b>398,413</b>	<b>402,305</b>	<b>403,519</b>	<b>358,138</b>	<b>286,954</b>
Other Income	125,748	87,939	63,228	63,497	64,359
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>524,161</b>	<b>490,244</b>	<b>466,747</b>	<b>421,635</b>	<b>351,313</b>
<b>Staffing</b>	<b>309,029</b>	<b>319,227</b>	<b>336,200</b>	<b>355,766</b>	<b>369,170</b>
<i>% of budget share (exc. carry forward)</i>	<i>87%</i>	<i>93%</i>	<i>90%</i>	<i>98%</i>	<i>106%</i>
<b>Premises</b>	<b>54,382</b>	<b>37,135</b>	<b>40,302</b>	<b>40,302</b>	<b>40,302</b>
<i>% of budget share (exc. carry forward)</i>	<i>15%</i>	<i>11%</i>	<i>11%</i>	<i>11%</i>	<i>12%</i>
<b>Supplies &amp; Services</b>	<b>100,995</b>	<b>100,259</b>	<b>88,445</b>	<b>84,350</b>	<b>84,350</b>
<i>% of budget share (exc. carry forward)</i>	<i>29%</i>	<i>29%</i>	<i>24%</i>	<i>23%</i>	<i>24%</i>
<b>Capital Contribution</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,610</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<i>% of budget share (exc. carry forward)</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>464,407</b>	<b>459,232</b>	<b>464,947</b>	<b>480,418</b>	<b>493,822</b>
Short Term Contingency	0	0	7,258	3,354	3,354
Long Term Contingency	0	0	0	0	0
<b>C/FWD</b>	<b>59,754</b>	<b>31,012</b>	<b>-5,457</b>	<b>-62,138</b>	<b>-145,863</b>
<i>% of budget share</i>	<i>16.9%</i>	<i>9.1%</i>	<i>-1%</i>	<i>-17%</i>	<i>-42%</i>

# Why we are consulting

## Quality of education

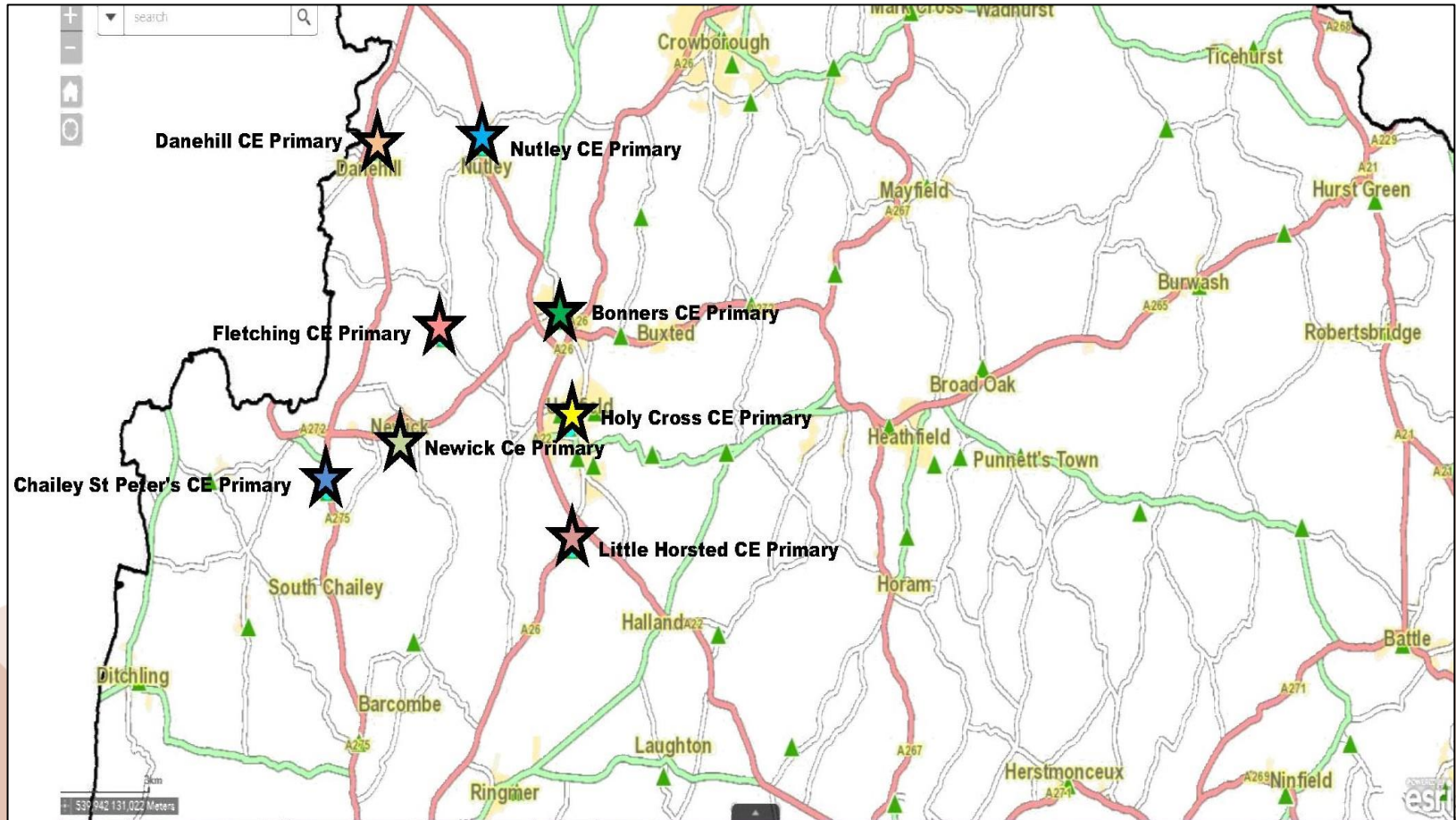
- Fletching CE Primary School was rated good at its last Ofsted inspection in 2017
- All primary schools in the area surrounding Fletching CE Primary School are rated good or outstanding by Ofsted
- Attainment at the end of Key Stage 2 has been consistently below East Sussex and national averages for the last four years

2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Reading, Writing and Maths % EXS+	Reading, Writing and Maths % EXS+	Reading, Writing and Maths % EXS+	Reading, Writing and Maths % EXS+
22.2%	33.3%	50%	↓

- 2018/19 data is currently unvalidated but is below last year's figure of 50%

# Why we are consulting

## Balance of denominational provision



# Why we are consulting

## Alternative options to closure

- Federation
- Amalgamation
- Academisation
- No change



# What this would mean for pupils

## Admissions arrangements

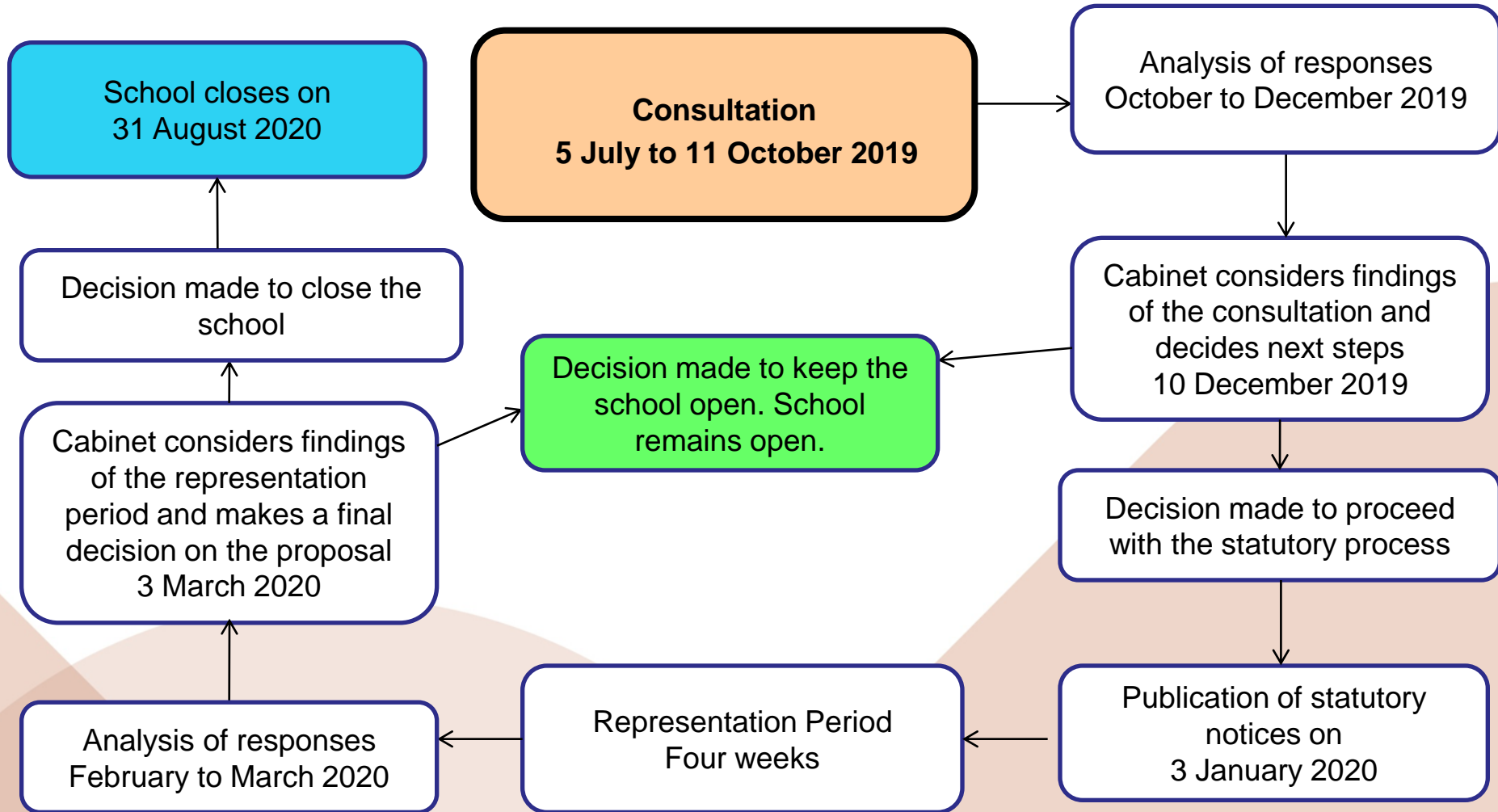
- It is proposed that, for admissions purposes, the Fletching community area would be merged with the Chailey St Peter's CE Primary School community area
- Parents/carers would be invited to express a preference for a place at Chailey St Peter's or an alternative school
- Parents/carers would be able to name up to three schools they would prefer their child/ren to attend
- Parents would be offered a school place for their child, either at one of their preferred schools, or if this is not possible, at the nearest school to the child's home where a place is available

# What this would mean for pupils

## Transport arrangements

- Free home to school transport would only be provided for eligible pupils who meet the criteria
- From our initial analysis we believe the majority of children on roll at Fletching CE Primary School would have a shorter distance to travel to their nearest alternative school and would therefore not be eligible
- At this stage the data tells us that fewer than ten children might qualify for free home to school transport
- For information about which schools have spare places and whether your child/ren would qualify for free home to school transport please contact the admissions team on 0300 330 9472

# Timetable for the consultation process



# How you can have your say

- Complete the online questionnaire
- Print and complete a hard copy of the questionnaire and post it to: **School Consultations, Standards and Learning Effectiveness Service, Children's Services Department, East Sussex County Council, East G, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes BN7 1UE**
- Email the Council at:  
[school.consultations@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:school.consultations@eastsussex.gov.uk)

# Your questions