Communication must improve, say parents

THETFORD Academy is not communicating with parents well enough, according to a meeting last Friday.

Worried parents met to discuss the school's future at the Guildhall, with many concerned that dialogue between parents and the academy was insufficient.

Mark Adams, who organised the meeting, also runs www.thetford-academy.com, a site set up as a focal point for parent dissent to the academy's plans.

He said: "My main argument is that throughout all of the latter planning stage, it was always agreed that there would be one academy trust governing two high schools and a new forum.

"This is what the parents were voting on. I didn't vote because I was happy with that."

"Nobody has voted against this single site, but nobody has voted for it either."

The school plans to knock down the current South Campus and either expand the current North Campus or move to another new site by 2013.

Headteacher Christine Carey told parents of the decision at a meeting in November but only one letter has been sent home so far on the matter. Some parents of children at the South Campus site said they had not received any letters at all.

The school has funding of £18.2 million for the move but parents fear that adequate transport will not be provided.

Plans to separate year groups between the existing two sites until the move have also been met with resistance.

The school insists that transport will be provided between the sites, but parents at the meeting said they were worried about what would happen if their child missed the bus for legitimate reasons, such as dental appointments.

Ms Carey said a statement on the school's future would be released in the near future.