

DEPUTATION TO COUNCIL- DRIGHLINGTON CONSERVATION GROUP, LACK OF CONSULTATION RE DISPOSAL OF DRIGHLINGTON OLD SCHOOL AND LAND.

The site of the old school Drighlington is of great historical importance to the residents of Drighlington. In the 1600's the famous son of Drighlington, James Margetson left his home and journeyed south to Cambridge where he was befriended by a wealthy merchant who paid for his education at college. He took holy orders and eventually was elected Archbishop of Armagh, primate of all Ireland.

He did not forget his roots however and having purchased an area of land in the centre of the village he had a school built which he called it the Free School of James Margetson and also set up the Margetson Trust Fund where moneys were paid annually from his estates into the fund which is still in operation today.

When the fund was run by the West Riding and after that by Morley Borough Council, many pupils benefited by grants from the fund to go to higher education but we have not discovered any applicants who have been successful since Leeds City Council administered the fund.

The Parish Council have applied to LCC to be trustees of the fund in order that the pupils of the new school can derive benefit. We trust this can be achieved.

In the will of James Margetson he left the land and School to the people of Drighlington and in 1904 records show that the trustees handed the administration of the School to the West Riding Education Dep't.

No mention of any Deeds, title or Freehold being passed to the West Riding has been found in any of the records.

The land has never been registered at the Land Registry.

The people of Drighlington feel that now the old school and land are no longer used for Educational purposes, possession should be returned to them as the original owners.

This building is the only monument Drighlington has to the memory of its famous son and we should not allow it to be demolished.

The building is a stone Victorian building of architectural merit with a central clock tower with a clock recently installed by public subscription as a memorial to a previous headmaster.

Over a year ago a petition was raised bearing 1500 signatures by Drighlington residents to save our school from sale and possible demolition, however the officers concerned appear to have ignored this.

In a recent report to the Director of Development recommending the sale of the school and land to the highest bidder, Shaun Smith of the Development Dep't Leeds says his report was delayed to enable consultations with Drighlington Parish Council and Drighlington Conservation Group. Neither of these groups have been invited to sit round a table and put forward the views and needs of the villagers and suggestions for the use of

our land and property for the benefit of our community.

Moves are afoot to raise funding to finance a legal challenge on ownership grounds and in the Governments directive with openness and transparency, we suggest that the officers concerned inform the prospective purchaser of this.

We believe in not seeking consultation with the representatives of the residents of Drighlington we believe these officers of LCC have failed in their duty .