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School governor steps aside

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AN architect says he has stepped aside from his role as a school governor to draw up plans for a housing development adjacent to the school.

Chris Harvey, company director of HAP Chartered Architects, in Amersham Hill, High Wycombe is working with developer Henry Homes on an application to build 13 homes near Hamilton Primary School. Mr Harvey, a governor at the Priory Avenue school, whose daughters were both pupils there, says there is no conflict of interest between his two roles because he has temporarily stepped down from the board.

His role as architect was raised through a comment on the Free Press website.

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But he told the Free Press the land agents approached him to come up with a feasible way of developing the 0.48 hectare plot and he suggested an entrance to the site through the school.

Mr Harvey, who has been a governor at the school for 12 years, took the idea to Hamilton. The school agreed to talk to the agents about the scheme and once they settled on a decision, a developer was found.

But when Henry Homes, one of Mr Harvey's clients, came forward to take on the project he left his governing role on a back burner.

He said: "I can't have an interest in two camps. Right from the moment that might be any possibility I stepped down and said I have to declare an interest."

The school has agreed to a land swap with Henry Homes. They will lose some of the playground but will gain extra land and a "significant" sum of money.

9:38am today

[Print](#) [Email this](#) [Comment](#)

Posted by: Obvious, High Wycombe on [11:37am today](#)

More evidence of how backhanders work...
Vote these idiots out next week.

[Quote](#) | [Report this post](#)

Posted by: Woody, Dorchester on [12:40pm today](#)

Looks like an admission of guilt. Would not surprise me if he has worked with Henry Homes before. I guess he is getting a nice fee for his work and will be back as governor when this fiasco is over.

[Quote](#) | [Report this post](#)

Posted by: Old Hamiltonian, HW on [12:49pm today](#)



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This sort of thing would never have happened in Tom Evans or Eileen Dyer's day. They knew how to run a school and would never let the governors have such control or influence.

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Posted by: More to come, wycombe on [2:49pm today](#)

HH's surveyor is a governor too - is he going to resign as well?

Quote | Report this post

Posted by: Red Cross Knight, Downley on [3:00pm today](#)

If the HH surveyor is a governor too then officials of the council need to look into this matter and the school headmistress has to answer to these allegations. This is very worrying and without casting dispersions is pointing towards secret dealings between HH and Hamilton school governors .

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Posted by: Henry on [3:14pm today](#)

Surely all governors have to declare their interests by law? It's presumably a matter of public record who they work for and which organisations (masons, political parties etc) they belong to?

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Posted by: Brian and Buxton, Up North on [4:17pm today](#)

Is there a document which governors have to sign stating that they must declare their interests if a situation ever arose ? If not I think such a document should be in place as this is an area which could be open to abuse.

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Posted by: Jair1970 on [4:56pm today](#)

In this day and age schools do have to raise substantial funds for projects. The methods they use can be very imaginative but alas not all follow the rule book.

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Posted by: Ivor Bigun on [6:05pm today](#)

AN architect says he has stepped aside from his role as a school governor to draw up plans for a housing development adjacent to the school.

So the work/profit from the housing development was more important than being a governor of the school?

Our town is being ruined by such developments and people are making a good living out of it. It's about time developments like this were stopped.

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