

**Presentation of Petition to  
Hertfordshire County Council  
on provision of primary school  
education in St Albans**

# Primary school 'catchment areas'- central St Albans 2016



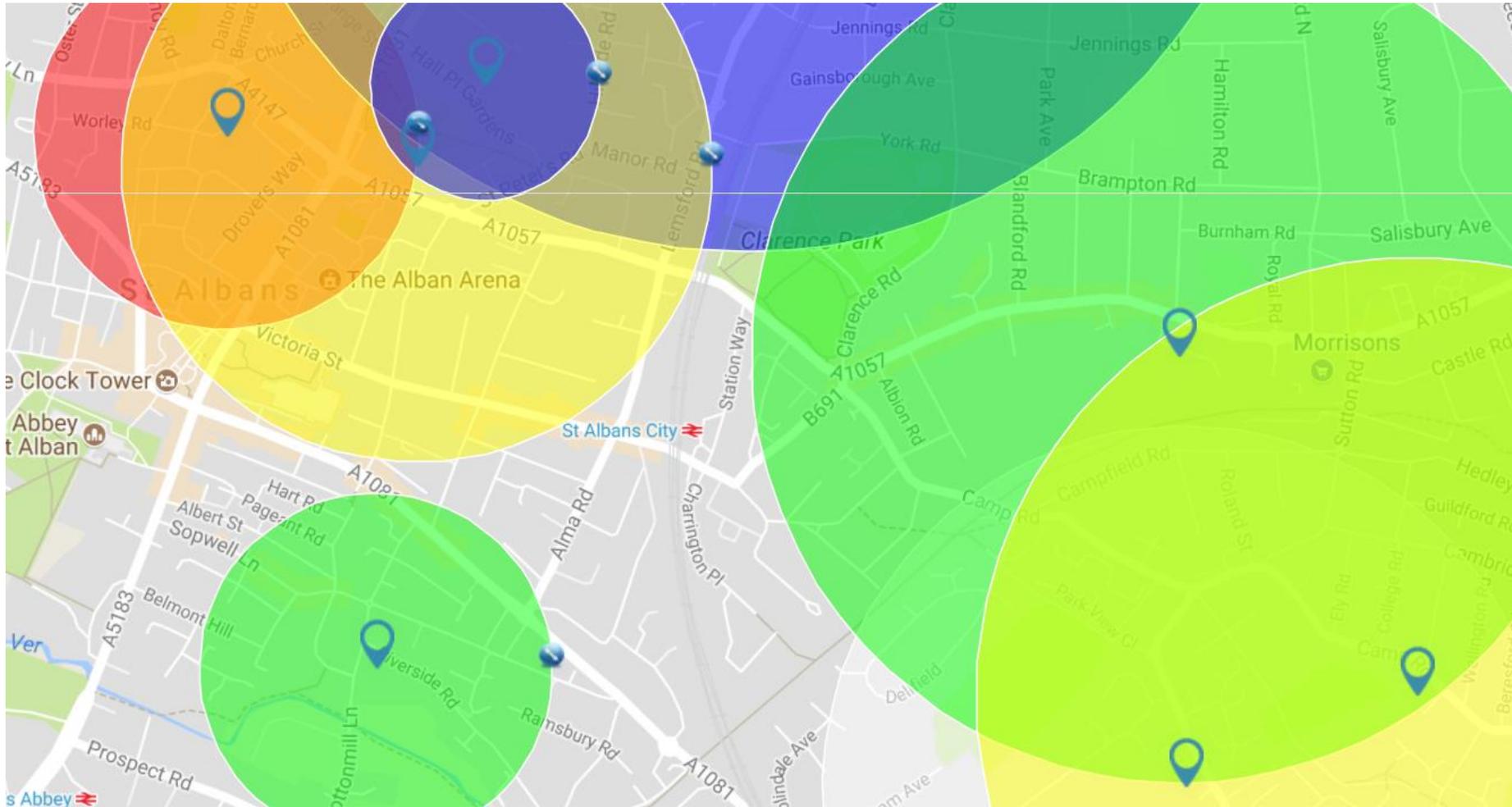
None of the 20 closest schools accepted children living in this central area in 2016.

- Nearest school (Margaret Wix):
- 2.4 mile drive away
  - 45 minute round trip by car
  - 70 minute round trip by bus

■ Faith school

Based on data from Herts CC school directory website – distance of furthest child admitted

# Primary school 'catchment areas'- central St Albans 2017



None of the 10 closest schools accepted children living in this central area in 2017.

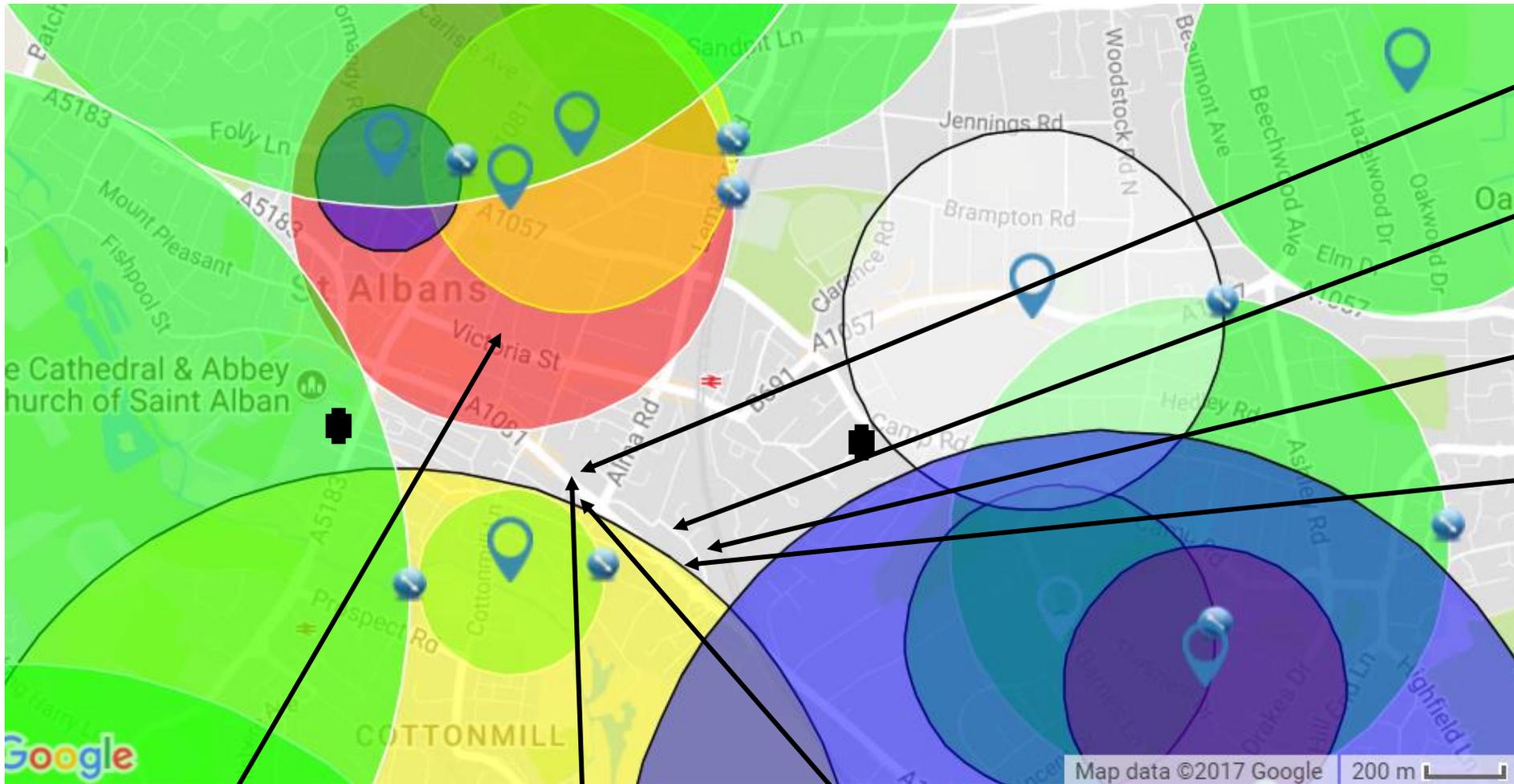
**St Peter's School, Cottonmill Lane is the nearest school to the "black hole"**

Distance of furthest child admitted  
to St Peter's:

- 2017 – 307m
- 2016 – 242m
- 2015 – 348m
- 2014 – 485m
- 2013 – 409m
- 2012 – 321m



# Major new developments in central St Albans



Gabriel Square: 80 units  
(2018)

Beaufort House: 45 units  
(2018)

Ziggurat: 125 units  
(2019 estimated)

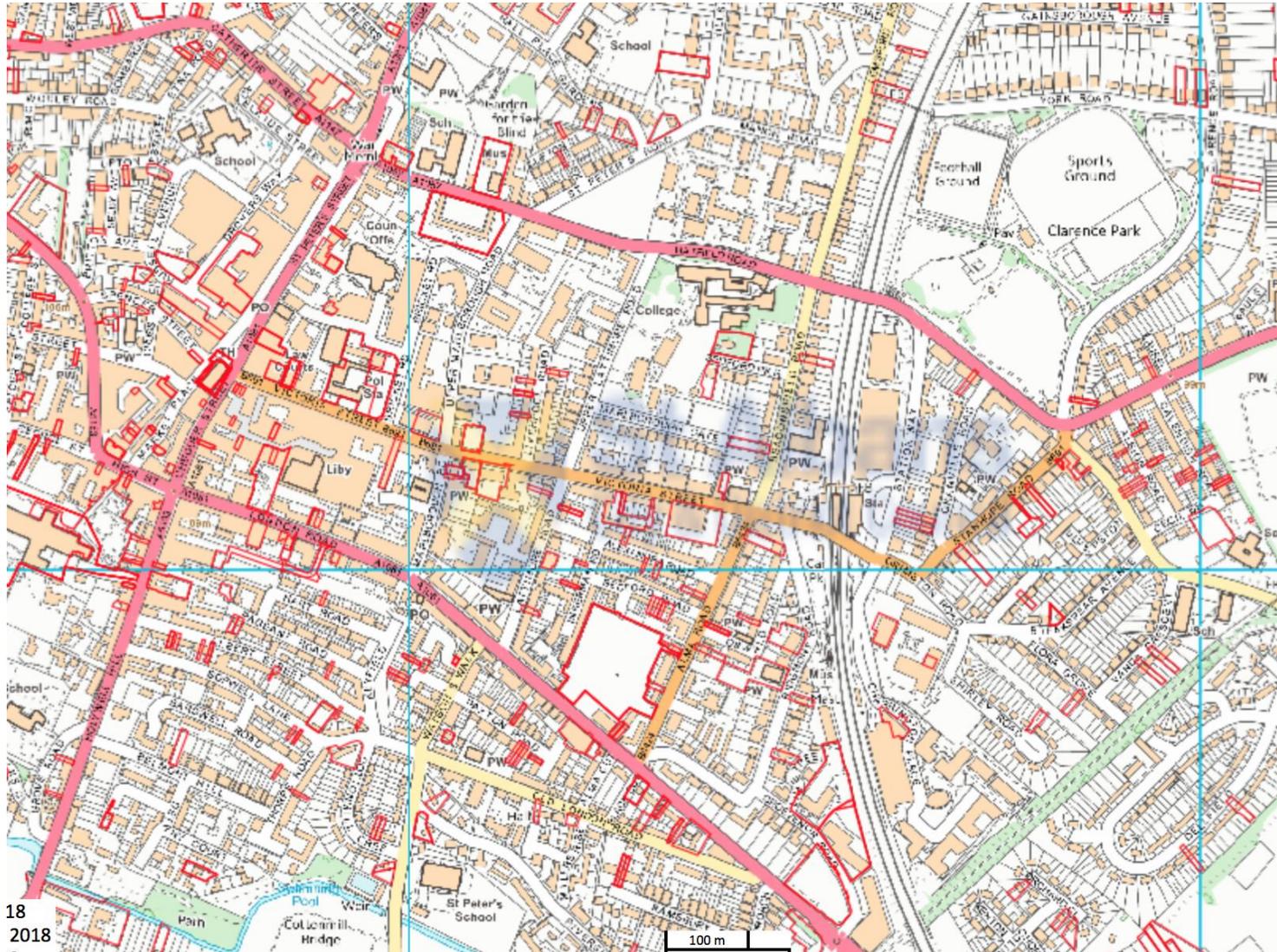
Ziggurat car park: 74 units  
(proposed)

Victoria Street:  
14 units (2018)

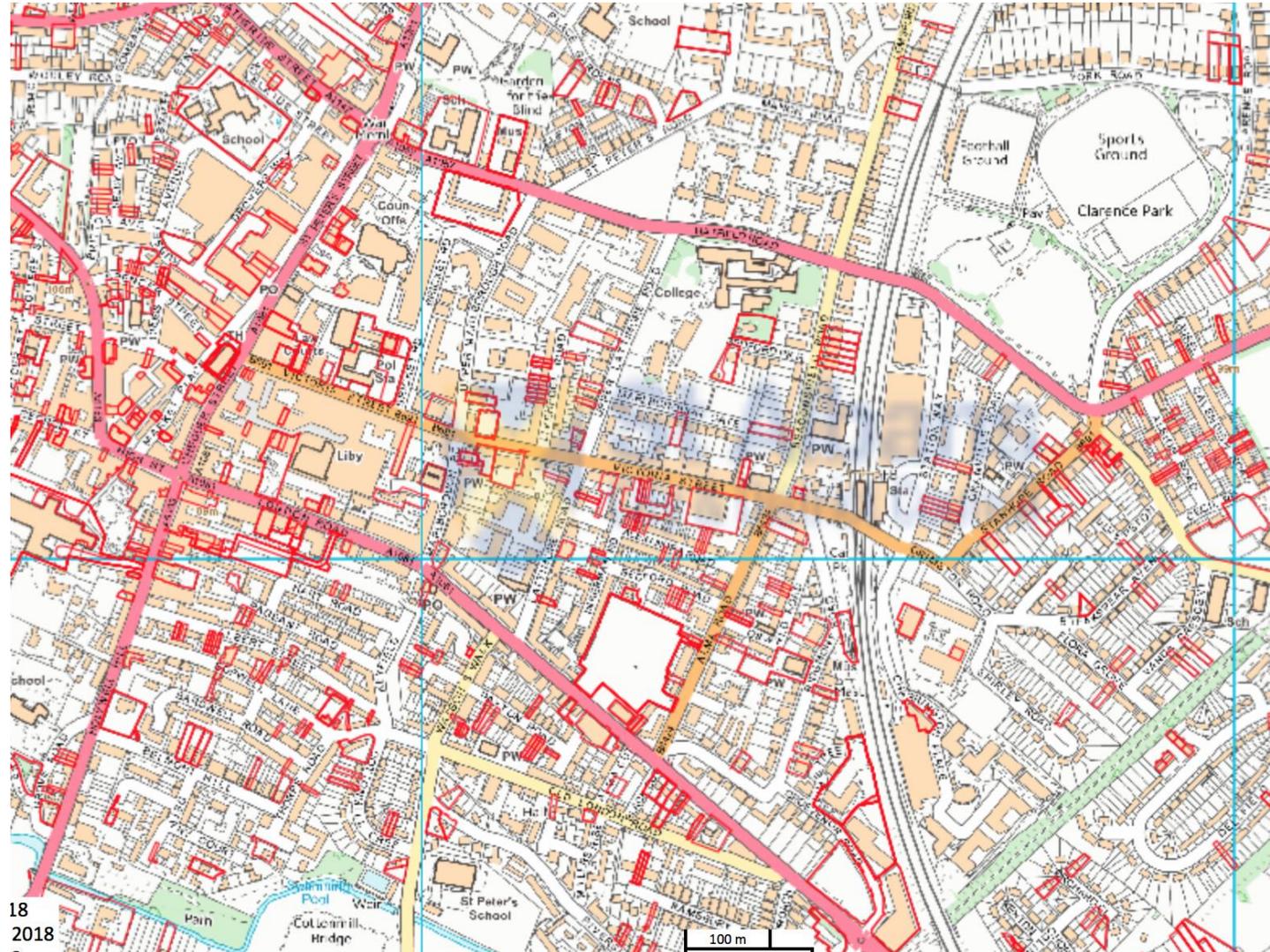
113 and 115 London Road:  
10 units (proposed)

Garden of Great Northern Pub:  
8 units (proposed)

# Map of Planning Applications in Central St Albans in 2017



# Map of Planning Applications in Central St Albans in 2016 and 2017



St Albans and City District Plan states that Central Government is expecting 913 houses to be built per year and that they have “already planned” for brownfield sites to be developed.

# Impact on families

## Impact on children

- Long travel distance.
- Don't get to walk to school with friends.
- Lose contact with friends made at nursery.
- Not part of local community.

## Impact on parents

- Long school journey and then commute to/from work.
- What about those without access to car.
- Perception of no choice.
- Facilities, e.g. after school activities limited at some school.

## Impact on St Albans

- More congestion and more air pollution.
- Damages community cohesion.

# Report of Dan Hardy and Vicki Roberts on the provision of Primary School places in St Albans (undated)

- It is recognised that there is a **concentration of demand in and around the city centre**. However, identified expansion capacity is extremely limited, with town planning and/or highways issues making permanent expansion undeliverable on many sites.
- In 2016 St Albans City and District Council (SADC) submitted a draft Strategic Local Plan (SLP) to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) that proposed over 9,000 dwellings across its plan period to 2031, of which over 5,000 were expected to be in St Albans. The plan **recognised the need for additional primary school capacity in St Albans, to be delivered in the form of new primary schools**. As part of the SADC local plan process, the county council commissioned external consultants to provide detailed technical information to SADC to help it identify and allocate suitable schools sites, particularly to serve the city centre, to help ensure that every child can be offered a local place.
- The forecast indicates that there should be surplus places across the period, with lower levels of demand forecast in 2018/19 and 2019/20. It is recognised, however, that there continue to be areas that have **a high concentration of demand within the city centre, particularly in light of housing development in the city centre and around London Road**.
- While in the shorter term there are sufficient places available across the city as a whole, longer term **Office for National Statistics (ONS) projections suggest primary pupil numbers will continue to rise**.
- In the longer term, **given the limitations on existing school sites and the anticipated level of new housing, further growth in pupil numbers in St Albans is likely to need to be supported through the provision of new primary schools**.
- Therefore, the County Council will continue to work with SADC and make formal representations asking for appropriate provision to be made within its Local Plan to support growing pupil numbers and new housing development in the City. **This includes identifying new primary school sites, especially in areas where there is little or no potential to expand existing schools such as in and around the city centre**.

## Identified sites for new Primary Schools in Central St Albans

**Verulam Golf Club, London Road.**

**Jubilee Centre, Catherine Street** – owned by St Albans City and District Council. Currently used as a community hub, which would have to be relocated or run in conjunction with a school. The site was previously a school.