

**NOTE OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 08 NOVEMBER 2016 AT ANNANHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL**

In Attendance

Alan Ward, Head of Education
Donald McLeod, HMIE Link Inspector Education Scotland
Emma Johnstone, Head Teacher Annanhill Primary School
Aileen Hollywood, Education Programme Manager
Anne Richardson, Education Programme Co-Ordinator
Councillor Tom Cook
Councillor Maureen McKay
Jane Frost, Annanhill Primary Parent Council Chair
Jackie Livingstone, Parent Council Representative for Cabinet.
8 Annanhill Primary parents in attendance

Alan Ward welcomed everyone to the meeting and delivered a PowerPoint presentation which provided an overview of the consultation process. Alan Ward then invited questions from those in attendance and explained that elected members will have the opportunity to view questions asked this evening and the responses given. A note of this meeting will also be posted on the Consultation section of East Ayrshire Council's website. Maps of the current and proposed catchment areas were available for the group to view.

The following points were raised:

Point raised – When will the decision be made or is it already decided?

Response – Decision has not already been made and will be decided at Cabinet following publication of the Consultation Report.

Point raised – Parent has a child in P3 and another pre-school aged child. He explained logistical implications of potentially having children at 2 different primary schools. His child in P3 is very happy at Annanhill and he does not want to disrupt his education by moving school. Siblings should be given access to the same school.

Response – East Ayrshire Council's placing request policy prioritises siblings.

Point raised – Parent also has a child in P3. As placing requests cannot be guaranteed, she feels she will have to choose which child's education is disrupted.

Response – Point noted as above.

Point raised – Parents purchased house in Moorfield to guarantee their children places at Annanhill Primary. Currently their child attends Gargieston ECC and their preference would be to send their child to Annanhill Primary. Parents commented that having viewed Gargieston Primary when operational, they don't like the open plan layout and are concerned that at 90% occupancy there will be no space for learning through play.

Response – Gargieston Primary will continue to deliver the same high quality of education at 90% capacity as it currently does. Supplementary dining will not be affected.

Point raised – Parent of a P2 child and a pre-school child of 21 months. Discussed lack of equality as she carried out research before purchasing a house in Moorfield so that her children could attend Annanhill Primary.

Response – Point noted.

Point raised – When will these changes come into effect?

Response – It is anticipated that changes will be effective for session 2017/2018.

Point raised – Parent of child attending Annanhill Primary commented that she is aware that other parents have elected for their children to attend Gargieston Primary. Not a huge number of parents from Moorfield actually want their child to attend Annanhill Primary. Is it possible to have a 5 year grace period for those families who have already purchased houses in Moorfield?

Response – Alan Ward advised that he is not in a position to offer any guarantees. Parents should return their comments on the response form for noting to ensure that concerns are recognised.

Point raised – Will 2017/2018 P1 enrolment places be limited to 60?

Response – Yes as per Cabinet decision in January 2015.

Point raised – Parent of 2 children attending Annanhill from Craigie Village enquired if her children would now be zoned for the new Whattriggs Primary?

Response – Parent was advised that a decision was made not include Craigie Village from the consultation as numbers were so small, only 4 children. The proposal doesn't affect children from Craigie Village.

Point raised – Previous re-zoning of Kilmaurs Primary, Hillhead Primary and Onthank Primary allowed younger siblings to attend same school as their older siblings. The same should apply in this case as it is upsetting for children to be uprooted from their current schools.

Response – Previous response was reiterated and parents were advised to respond in writing for elected members to consider.

Point raised – Parent looking for figures of those who have younger siblings in the Moorfield area. How many children are due to start P1 based on projections?

Response – There are no catchment areas for Early Childhood Centres so P1 intake cannot be accurately predicted.

Point raised – It is unfair that younger child cannot attend Annanhill Primary as the family has lived in Moorfield since the houses were built. Would like condition written into proposal document that within a set timescale, younger siblings can still enrol at Annanhill Primary.

Response – The proposal document cannot be changed. However, feedback from parents will be taken into account with the final report is written. Alan Ward advised he will look into the legislation on placing requests. Aileen Hollywood added that 3 criteria are applied when granting placing requests:

- A child/young person who has a medical condition who requires facilities or support available only in the requested school.
- If the child/young person has a sibling already in the chosen school and a brother or sister will be attending the same school for the session the application is being made.
- The child is from an adult household, where one or more of the parents are a serving or former member of the Armed Forces.

Point raised – Is it only Moorfield that is affected? Why Moorfield?

Response – There is an existing trend for children from Moorfield going to Gargieston Primary.

Point raised – Parent discussed the two P7 classes currently using space in Grange Academy and how this is beneficial for their transition to secondary. He feels that the authority use this as an example of good practice when it suits and an example of bad practice when it doesn't suit e.g. in this case when the authority wants to free up space. Another parent commented that HMIE inspectors noted that this was an example of good practice for transition.

Response – The campus would continue to be an example of good practice. The issue is management of space and the roll of all schools. The transition arrangements will not be affected by this.

Point raised – Does Grange Academy have the capacity to cope?

Response – School roll is increasing and there have been a number of placing requests. If Annanhill Primary only utilises space originally assigned to them, this would free up space for Grange Academy. Fardalehill development has been included in the projected roll numbers until 2020. A standard formula is used for projecting school rolls which rely on figures received from NHS Scotland and local development planners.

Point raised – How long have plans been available for the Fardalehill development? They may not build all the houses planned.

Response – A planning application can remain valid for a number of years. The Authority can only manage the capacity of schools based on the most up-to-date information at the time.

Point raised – What is the predicted P1 intake for 2017/2018?

Response – Without exact enrolment figures it is only possible to estimate. Predictions are based on the birth rate for the area and a formula of 0.3 children per new house built.

Point raised – If predictions are correct and re-zoning is approved, 37 children will automatically go to Annanhill Primary, leaving 23 placing requests for siblings?

Response – We have no exact figures as yet.

Point raised – Can the full Fardalehill development be zoned for Crosshouse Primary?

Response – Top corner of Fardalehill was originally zoned for Crosshouse Primary but the majority of the development was zoned for Annanhill Primary. The entire Fardalehill development should be zoned for Annanhill Primary to ensure all children from the estate go to the same school. *Following the meeting the occupancy at Crosshouse Primary was checked and the school could not accommodate the projected numbers from Fardalehill development.*

Point raised – Once enrolment takes place in January does that mean P1 children will remain at Annanhill Primary?

Response – Yes if Cabinet has not approved the proposal by the enrolment date.

Point raised – Annanhill Primary can't have been capped at 60 in 2015 as 74 children were enrolled in 2016/2017?

Response – Places were capped at 60, 14 additional children came from placing requests granted by appeal.

Point raised – Can so many placing requests be granted every year after the capped figure of 60 is reached?

Response – Every case is assessed individually.

Point raised – Is your advice to put responses in writing for Education Scotland and Elected Members' consideration?

Response – Yes. All correspondence is monitored daily. Elected Members have access to copies of all responses which are located in a folder available to view at any time. Comments from response forms submitted will be included in the final report for Cabinet.

Point raised – After consultation period has ended can anything be amended before Cabinet?

Response – Once the consultation closes, the report will be completed and will be available to view on the website for a period of 3 weeks before any decision is made. Education Scotland will ensure that the correct process has been followed.

Point raised – Can Elected Members amend the report?

Response – No the report cannot be amended. Elected Members will look closely at the report and can make the decision not to progress with the proposal.

Point raised – So the proposal is all or nothing? Pass or fail? What is the point in having the consultation?

Response – The Proposal Document cannot be changed. Throughout the consultation period, feedback will be collated and this will be used to inform the final report. Therefore, all contributions are welcome and will be considered.

Point raised – When will I hear if my child gets a guaranteed place for the catchment area?

Response – No guarantees for a place can be given until the end of the enrolment process.

Point raised – No way will the proposal be approved by Cabinet before the end of January so the changes to the catchment area can't be implemented for the 2017/2018 intake. As a Moorfield resident, with a child due to start P1 in 2017/2018, will he be guaranteed a place if the proposal hasn't been approved?

Response – No guarantees for a place can be given until the end of the enrolment process.

Point raised – What is the enrolment date for 2017/2018 intake?

Response – This has yet to be confirmed.

Point raised – Will there be a ballot for places if numbers are more than can be accommodated?

Response – Yes.

Point raised – Parent advised that he is disappointed that no changes can be made to the proposal.

Response – The process is set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended.

Point raised – As numbers cannot be accurately predicted, the numbers from Moorfield could be as small as two children per year. All this upset, worry and upheaval could be for such a small number of children. Financial costs and childcare also have to be considered.

Response – Cabinet will consider all of the feedback from the consultation process and make a decision once the final report is produced.

Alan Ward advised those in attendance to encourage other parents to complete the response form.