

**NOTE OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 09 NOVEMBER 2016 AT GARGIESTON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

In Attendance

Alan Ward, Head of Education
Aileen Hollywood, Education Programme Manager
Anne Richardson, Education Programme Co-Ordinator
Alison Wright, Head Teacher Gargieston Primary
Councillor Lillian Jones
Jackie Livingstone, Parent Council Representative for Cabinet
3 parents from Gargieston Primary 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 – Parent of ECC child asked what the current occupancy of Gargieston Primary is. Although she is not directly affected she has concerns around associated facilities, especially car parking as she feels it is currently inadequate and unsafe. An increase in capacity will cause increased traffic which she feels will be very dangerous.

Response – Current occupancy at Gargieston Primary is 78%, however, the transport arrangements for the school have been designed to accommodate 100% occupancy. It was acknowledged that there may be a situation with traffic management which could be addressed with Elected Members. Alison Wright added that traffic is a standing item on their parent council meeting agenda.

Point raised – Same parent commented that her personal feeling why Annanhill Primary's roll is so high is the perception that it is a better school. She believes this is not the case due to the quality of leadership at Gargieston. She raised a concern that with an increased school roll and a short-term change in leadership that the school will continue to provide the same high quality teaching and learning.

Response – Alison Wright commented that the success of a good school depends on parents, children and staff. Alan Ward does not foresee a change in the quality of teaching and learning provided at Gargieston Primary. He stated that he would expect a better quality experience for children as the population of the school rises as teacher numbers will also rise.

Point raised – Parent of a child attending Gargieston ECC asked if it is expected that there will be an upturn in placing requests?

Response – Alan Ward advised that the placing request situation will be closely monitored.

Point raised – Parent of a child attending Gargieston ECC also has a 2 year old, lives in Moorfield and wants both her children to attend Gargieston Primary. She is concerned that with current zoning, her oldest child will be zoned for Annanhill Primary and if the proposal is agreed, her youngest child will be zoned for Gargieston Primary. Logistically she feels it would be impossible to have her children in different schools.

Response – Alan Ward commented that a placing request could be submitted for her oldest child to attend Gargieston Primary at the January enrolment.

Point raised – Parent of Gargieston ECC child asked if there are any plans to have ECCs zoned.

Response – Not at the present time.

Alan Ward advised that all correspondence is monitored daily and Elected Members have access to copies of all responses which are located in a folder available for them to view at any time. Comments from this meeting and from all response forms submitted will be included in the final report for Cabinet and a final decision will then be made by Elected Members.

Alan Ward advised those in attendance to encourage other parents to complete the response form. He invited parents to contact him at his office if they wish to discuss any further issues. The full consultation document can be downloaded from East Ayrshire Council's website.