

Meeting at Netherthird Primary School

Monday 9th March at 7pm

Present A Ward, Head of Service (Schools)
 C McNally, Curriculum Manager (acting)
 Cllr McColl
 Cllr Menzies

3 staff were present along with 5 parents/members of the public

1. Will travel plans and traffic impact assessments be completed prior to plans are submitted?

Yes, all will be completed before firm plans are submitted. Money has been set aside for safe walking routes should adjustments need to be made to ensure pupil safety.

2. Will the design be a reflection of the location at Knockroon or will it simply be a carbon copy of the new Kilmarnock school?

The design will be sympathetic of its surroundings, the shape of the site, the setting. The Great Steward of Scotland's office (AW to check???) will be involved.

3. Why was the site at Broomfield chosen?

EAC had a list of criteria including that the land had to be of sufficient size and that it had to already be owned by EAC. Costings were made for creating three separate buildings as opposed to the one building/shared campus model being proposed and this represented best value. This was the only site big enough in the area to meet the requirements.

4. Will sports amenities provided with the build satisfy what is being lost by building on that site?

Sport Scotland oversee the local authority to ensure that communities don't lose out. EAC have already had numerous discussions with local groups to hear their plans and any concerns they may have about the proposal. EAC is keen not to prevent local groups progressing with plans they already have in place. Undertaking has been made that any facilities that are lost due to the build will be replaced or relocated. The Council looks at the usage figures. The track, for example, is used casually but frequently. It is only 4 lanes so can't be used for official meets. Local harriers use it. Their needs will be addressed and provision made.

5. What about the people who stay in those houses that they paid a lot of money for?

They have already raised their concerns separately.

6. What about kids who can't cope with being at a school of that size? Some prefer smaller schools.
Start and finish times will be staggered so the ECC children will arrive first, then the academy pupils will arrive and finally the primary school bell will ring. Breaks and lunches will also be staggered. The site offers enough space to ensure that there are separate play areas for pupils in each establishment. Schools will be aware of their pupils who they feel may struggle with transition and enhanced procedures will be put in place – as is the case now – to ensure their smooth transition.
7. How will you guarantee pupil safety throughout the course of the build?
The current Cumnock Academy will be utilised as part of the site only once the school is up. Contractors are responsible for all phases and they will look at the best time to demolish the old Cumnock Academy building. Builders will come and speak to parent groups and pupils. All Health and Safety requirements will be met. AW cited his experience of moving from old to new building at St Joseph's Academy.
8. Will it be possible for parents to visit similar campus sites like Grange Academy and St Joseph's Academy?
AW is keen to conduct such visits prior to the close of the consultation period so anyone interested should contact Mrs Crombie who will liaise with AW about visits possibly early next week.
9. How many people are on grange Campus?
1500/1600 people. There are safety features built in to all new builds such as secure entry across the whole building and cashless catering system which ensures that all pupils are served more efficiently and all have time for a proper lunch rather than standing in a queue for the whole of lunchtime.
10. What does state of the art mean?
There are features of the modern built schools which set them apart such as how light is used; overall style and feel of the building; top quality furniture; good quality flooring; use of social seating for pupils and young people; classroom structures are not as rigid and formal; sound systems; up to date ICT provision and network speeds.
11. What about teacher unemployment?
Redeployment is the standard EAC policy. No teacher will be made redundant. There are Human Resources systems in place to deal with that.

Cllr Menzies stated that one of the things that strikes a person entering one of the new builds is the light but also the use of corridor space. There is not a sense that you are in part of a massive campus. There are break out spaces for pupils to study, etc.

12. Under occupancy figures of buildings and falling rolls means falling teacher numbers and that means that some young people will have to travel to other establishments for more choice, especially in AH subjects. Can you give a guarantee that won't happen?
As cast iron a guarantee as possible. Bigger classes makes for more choice and a better service.

13. Money has been spent on New Cumnock PS and money will be spent on the new build if it goes ahead. How can you guarantee money which will make a significant difference to Netherthird PS?
Netherthird is first on the list for capital investment for refurbishment and upgrade. You should be able to see a significant difference. These proposals went to cabinet in December 2014 and Netherthird was specifically mentioned for refurbishment at that point.

14. How will the new build impact on residents' Council Tax?
It won't.

15. What input will parents have in the design of the new build? The situation at Auchinleck PD must be avoided.
Architects will be sympathetic to learning and consult much better to get a sense of the desire of all stake holders. Process will be wide and detailed. EAC has set aside extra money to ensure that any new builds represent best value. 4 new education posts have been created to manage the process from inception to completion.

16. Cllr Menzies asked for clarification about free and subsidised transport.
Slides were shown about thresholds but AW will contact Ms Crombie to provide full information (via Andrew Kennedy).

17. How will primary pupils access subject specialist time/space?
Primary pupils will have dedicated changing space. EAC is committed to two high quality PE sessions per week. Subjects such as Science, Art, Music, etc can coincide access to secondary space with their non-contact time. This will work best when the heads of all establishments work closely together.

18. How will pupils from Netherthird get equal access to the new facilities to the pupils who attend the primary school on the new campus?
The space will be timetabled. There will also be sessions when subject specialists will visit other partner primary schools with resources such as a 'pop up lab' to deliver science in the primary setting. Initiatives such as the 1+2 languages model and EAC's commitment to STEM education will ensure that primary pupils get much more access to subject specialists.

Other schools in the authority have already faced this issue and have worked hard to ensure that the pupils from partnership primaries that are not on campus still get equal access to any transition activities. This model will be shared with HTs in the new establishment.

19. Will pupils and parents have a say in how any funding for the refurbishment of Netherthird is spent?

Absolutely. EAC will work with Mrs Crombie and Pupil Council, Parent Council and any other interested parties to identify priorities for spending.

20. How will EAC ensure child protection measures are put in place given the introduction of a college and the business units on campus?

It is incumbent upon EAC to ensure the safety of all young people. It is highly likely that the college space will be very separate in terms of entrance and exits from the rest of the campus. Young people attending college courses will be pupils who are transitioning from the Academy on campus.

All appropriate security measures will be taken including secure entry systems and the capability to 'lock down' particular areas so that only someone with an appropriately set security pass can gain entry. Young people cannot move freely throughout the entire campus so, when primary pupils are moving into the secondary space for an activity, they have to be accompanied and supervised by staff.

21. What about work experience opportunities with the business partners on site? Will they be PVGd?

Not necessarily. Current work experience providers do not need to be PVGd although there are a number of safety checks which are completed. Checks will remain as tight for on-site businesses as they would for external providers.

22. Would any business be able to get premises on campus or will there be some sort of checks completed?

This has not been fully thought through as this is just at the concept stage. There will be more detail about such plans if and when the project reaches the planning stage.