

## Ochiltree Consultation

### Ochiltree Primary School

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 7pm

**Present:** 19 people

Graham Short: Executive Director, Educational and Social Services

Fiona Taylor: Senior Education Manager

Fiona Black: Head Teacher

Graham Short outlined the consultation process for the proposed campus which will incorporate the existing establishments: Barshare Primary School, Early Childhood Centre and Supported Learning Centre., Hillside School, Auchinleck Academy and Cumnock Academy.

**Question:** Was Grange campus a merger of different schools?

**Response:** *No it was single schools which moved to the new campus. Each school has a separate HT. Grange has about 1200 pupils, Annanhill has around 450 pupils and Park School has about 100.*

**Comment:** There is concern about transport arrangements and congestion given the number of pupils. There is also concern about the school being near a river and, as the bridge is small, it would become congested with pupils.

**Response:** *In relation to the school being near a river, the Council will talk to SEPA. People should be assured that there is a genuine concern about safety. The bridge is small but elected members are open to having a wide bridge.*

*Pre consultation was undertaken based on the projected school roll and pupil numbers. There are no designs at this stage. Grange campus goes in one side of campus and the others go in at the other side. There is pedestrian access from both sides. There will be consideration given to safe walking routes to school and traffic management.*

*If the proposal goes ahead then we will move to developing a design. The more people who are involved the better. We will involve the community, parents and pupils. For example, there was an open day at New Farm Community Centre to consult the community. When that stage is complete everything goes through planning. In relation to St Joseph's, there have been concern about queues in the car parks however, it's mainly parents who cause the problems.*

**Question:** How safe will the children be?

**Response:** *The police are involved in all discussions. The children will be as safe as children can be.*

**Question:** What about issues between the two communities?

**Response:** HTs have no problem with this. The vast majority of children come together anyway. There are good links through BECS, some go to one another's events. We want inward investment to Cumnock and Auchinleck. The recent headline in the Chronicle was very disrespectful. Headlines such as these are threatening to jobs.

Q. Relating to Cumnock Rugby club. Will there be a loss of sporting facilities?

**Response:** *Discussions are taking place with the Rugby Club, Visions, and Cumnock Juniors. Sports Scotland is a statutory consultee. The Council would have to make good any sports facility and provision affected by the proposal. The Leisure Centre will still be maintained. The swimming pool and 5 aside pitches will remain. There is no point installing the council's own pitches so this will not impinge on the club's facility to generate income.*

**Comment:** There is Concern about the flooding area.

**Response:** *The majority of Cumnock Academy is situated on a 200 year flood area and to our knowledge has not flooded yet. This is a one off opportunity. Money cannot be spent on other schools or upgrading. If a different site was proposed then it would have to go through another consultation.*

**Question:** What about the pitches?

**Response:** *Broomfield a big site so it wouldn't take all of the pitches. It would take out the running track but we would have to relocate.*

**Question:** What about the swimming pools?

**Response:** *Visions has a swimming pool. Hillside would require a hydrotherapy pool scope for its pupils.*

**Questions:** Is it one building?

**Response:** *It would be one building but 3 separate schools, although there might be a shared entrance there will be separate areas. We want children from the primary and special school to access specialist areas.*

**Question:** Who would own the building?

**Response:** *It will be a council owned and commissioned building.*

**Question:** Would the new campus include college students?

**Response:** *It is a possibility, however it would depend on Ayrshire College raising funds and particular conditions would be specified. If so, the college would be separate and have different security arrangements. Irvine Royal and the former James Watt College are examples of sharing a campus.*

**Question:** Would there be access to the college from over the bridge?

**Response:** *This would depend on which side of the building it was located.*

**Question:** This question is about transition as the school would open in my son's first year.

**Response:** *In general, we involve young people in the building and design phase. We can provide photographs for discussion and arrange visits as soon as possible. The schools try to get one another to meet new class mates for joint activities. Interestingly, it has been shown that the attainment of children rises during these phases e.g. Mauchline being decanted.*

**Question:** About the fabric of the building, is there a single driver?

**Response:** There are a multitude of drivers. The Scottish Futures Trust has a building design data base and we have experience of other campuses. There is the availability of Scottish Government money and the conditions of the existing buildings and their suitability. The new facilities are suitable for young people with additional support needs and they have Wi-Fi with a micro set up for restaurant facilities. In Home Economics, lessons can be taught with a camera looking in the pan on the hob shown on a screen.

**Question:** What is the greatest concern?

**Response:** *From experience, being delivered on timescale. However, from Grange opening 2008 school designs have moved on.*

**Question:** How would lunchtime work?

**Response:** *There would be a staggered lunch. Head Teachers work out amongst themselves how to phase lunchtimes. The campus arrangement can have a benefit for vulnerable children. Secondary pupils often act as friends to youngster. Other times children who have behaviour problems exhibit a caring side. The Senior Management Teams of the schools all work closely together.*

**Question:** Ochiltree's lunches come from Auchinleck. Would this still continue?

**Response:** *We would envisage no change to this arrangement.*

Parents were invited to visit one of the new campuses and, if they wished to do so, should speak to Mrs Black, Head Teacher.

The meeting closed at 8.45am.