

Proposed Knockroon Learning Campus
Consultation Meeting: Mauchline Primary School

11th March 2015 at 7pm

Attendees: 34 people present

Councillor Primrose

Lyn MacLean; Head Teacher

Fiona Taylor: Senior Education Manager

John Wilson: Senior Education Manager

Fiona Taylor and John Wilson introduced themselves, Councillor Primrose and Mrs MacLean and welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the purpose of the evening was to outline proposals for the Knockroon Learning Campus. The meeting formed part of the consultation process as Auchinleck Academy is currently the associated secondary school for Mauchline Primary School. The format of the evening would take the format of a presentation on the proposals for the Knockroon Campus followed by an opportunity to ask questions.

Question: How would continuity of education be assured for young people who are sitting exams during the period of change.

Response: *Every effort will be made to ensure continuity of education for the young people involved. Staff would be coming from the two establishments and this would be taken into account when structuring classes. The plan is to have a much of the change taking place over the summer period to minimise disruption.*

Question: What happens if timescales slip?

Response: *Careful planning and liaison are taking place between the two Head Teachers already and any foreseeable delays would be accounted for in the planning.*

Question: Would youngsters be in the same class or mixed classes of Auchinleck or Cumnock pupils?

Response: *it is likely that classes would be mixed. Staff and pupils from both school already do a lot of 'pre-coming together' work and have lots of events planned. An example of this would be the joint Cumnock and Auchinleck Band. There have also been opportunities for young people to work on different projects at Hope Homes and Dumfries House.*

Question: Much has made of the advantages of the new campus but what are the disadvantages as referred to in the presentation?

Response: *Perceived disadvantages might be the Community losing the school as a focal point, resentment between the Communities. Again, there are initiatives such as the joint band which bring the young people together.*

Concern was expressed that there is considerable history between the two communities but it was acknowledged that circumstances and the communities are changing.

Question: What happens to the money if the proposal doesn't go ahead? Would it be spent upgrading the two schools?

Response: *Although there is a considerable sum of money available for this project it would likely cost more to upgrade the two academies. By design, they are not suitable for present day education and want our young people to have the best experiences possible. If the proposal was rejected then the money would likely be directed towards another project?*

Question: Would the Rugby Club have full access to the new facilities?

Response: *It was explained that discussion and negotiations are currently taking place with Cumnock Rugby Club. Vibrant Communities would have a key role in developing links between the schools and community groups including sport organisations. Sports Scotland is keen to be involved in this project. Sports and physical activity are good ways for bringing young people together and we are keen to promote it.*

Considerable support was expressed for the Rugby Club by those present.

Question: Would there be swimming pool as part of the new campus?

Response: *It is proposed that the new schools use Visions pool which is on the same site. Discussions are taking place between the Executive Director and Visions regarding use of the facilities. The existing pool in Auchinleck would remain open for public use and for use by schools where appropriate.*

Question: Would there be consultation about staggering stopping times as there will be a great number of pupils on the campus?

Response: *There would be staggered stopping times. Safety is a valid point which the Council takes very seriously. Head Teachers will manage starting and finishing times as part of the planning process. Police will be represented in the planning process and with the presence of the 'Campus Cop' on the campus. He/she is always included part in such aspects of planning.*

Question: Would pupils who start First Year have to move again if there was slippage in timescales?

Response: *Transition arrangements will still take place and should the Primary school opens the year before the secondary there shouldn't be any slippage in transition*

Question: With regard to architecture, would the project be educationally led or architecturally led?

Response: *The project will be educationally led. There will be input from all stakeholders including young people.*

Question: Is the project PPP and how would the architects be identified?

Response: *The project is not PPP and will be subject to the Council's procurement procedures.*

Questions: What happens to the existing buildings in Auchinleck and Cumnock in the future?

Response: *The buildings would be flattened and the ground cleared. Empty buildings attract vandalism and have safety and security issues.*

Question: Will there be separate play areas?

Response: *Yes.*

Comment from parent: While in favour of the new school, it's hard to balance that with losing staff e.g. classroom assistants as savings.

Response: *The money for the school is a separate budget from staffing budgets.*

Question: Could we improve Cumnock and Auchinleck Academies instead?

Response: *A refurbishment of each building would be considerable and not cost effective. The building have stood for a long time and need refurbished to bring them into a suitable condition for modern day education.*

Question: Why was this site chosen?

Question: Would all the other primaries get access to the new school for transition?

Response (L McLean): *Children already travel by bus for transition events. All schools would have the opportunity to come together. Her personal feeling was that pupils would have access to better facilities, particularly those who have a disability. Mauchline children are used to travelling for events.*

Comment from parent: They had been to a new school in South Ayrshire and Grange Academy. They felt disheartened when they went back to Auchinleck.

Question: What about traffic management? Will traffic from Visions users be taken into account?

Response: *Money is included in the budget to address traffic management issues and to review walking routes to school. Safe walking routes to school are considered to be of high importance and the impact of traffic to and from Visions will be taken into account.*

Question: Will the new school's use of Visions impact on the general public during the day?

Response: *This will form part of the discussions with the Visions management. Mrs McLean, Head Teacher, pointed out that schools such as Mauchline and Sorn would still be able to use Auchinleck pool. It would be the schools on the new campus which would use Visions.*

Question: Would Hillside lose its pool?

Response: *No. The pupils from Hillside will have their own hydrotherapy pool.*

Question: Visions has a communal changing room. Is this appropriate for pupils?

Response: *Communal changing rooms are common now in many pools and leisure centres such as The Citadel. Pupils would be used to using these anyway.*

Question: Would Auchinleck pool still be maintained.

Response: *Yes. It will still be maintained for community use.*

Question: Cumnock Academy has the school of Rugby. Would still be enhanced and maintained?

Response: *Yes. Sports Scotland would be key in discussions relating to this.*

Comment: Large numbers are scary for a social aspect. Health and Safety are of paramount importance.

Response: Schools do come together and there is a developing ethos and pupils have respect for others.

Question: *Is there possibility of parent councils getting together?*

Response: **Yes.**

Question: What is the square footage?

Response: *The footage is 1.7m per pupil population. This depends on the layout. There are areas in older schools which are not used to the maximum.*

Fiona Taylor and John Wilson asked their Head Teacher know if they wished to visit a new school and this would be arranged.