

**WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

**Notes of formal consultation meeting for the co-location of Edinbarnet Primary School with St Joseph's Primary Schools
Held on Wednesday 18 November 2009 at 7.00 pm in Edinbarnet Primary School**

Front table members: Councillor May Smillie, Terry Lanagan, Dave Clarke, Craig Jardine

Attendance at the meeting including teaching staff, Elected Members and members of the Member/Officer Working Group: 30 – 35.

Terry Lanagan introduced the meeting, giving background regarding consultations, reports, the Member/Officer Working Group and the Council decision that we carry out formal consultations with relevant parties in Faifley on the provision of a collocated school and pre-5 Centre. It should be noted that the proposal for the Faifley schools was not rejected at Council but rather that we should re-consult to gather more public opinion. He then delivered a presentation showing the various locations of Edinbarnet Primary, St Joseph's Primary and Skypoint and outlined the pros and the cons of separate and co-located schools. The status of a co-located school was explained at some length and it was pointed out that a meeting of St Joseph's Primary parents would take place on 30 November 2009. A report to Council would be given in due course on the responses from the formal consultations as well as the Officers' recommendations.

Question: Where would the co-location be? If it's not going to be in Edinbarnet Primary the school may lose pupils to Goldenhill Primary and this is a major concern. Edinbarnet Primary is off the main road and therefore much safer than the St Joseph's Primary or Skypoint location. Edinbarnet Primary is a bigger site.

Answer: Any new build school would be completely safe with regard to public access and surrounding traffic infrastructure. With regard to Edinbarnet Primary being a bigger site if that footprint is not completely required then we may consider selling some part of that site as well as the other site in order to aid the funding of the project.

Question: What are the design features of a new school?

Answer: It would be architecturally attractive, the adjacencies and breakouts would make it much more suitable for current learning and teaching practices. There would be better sustainability built into the schools ie low maintenance and low energy costs. The design would be bespoke and sufficient and appropriate for a co-located school and could also include provision out of school clubs and community activities. Shared spaces could be dining room, games halls, kitchen and staff areas; however, this would be a matter for consultation with the Catholic Church. All of this would result in design cost savings arising from the fact that 2 separate schools would share a single building and receipts could be realised for the sale of land.

- Question: St Peter the Apostle High dining area is too small and pupils need to go home at lunch time, will this be repeated in a new primary school?
- Answer: (From a member of the public) I work in the school and there is no problem with the dining space or with the supply of dinners.
- Question: Why are you considering the Skypoint site? The road into it is too narrow, there is only 1 entrance and there would be traffic issues? More people should have been invited to this meeting.
- Answer: We will take on board the views of the response to the Skypoint site and that of course is noted. The invitations for this meeting were sent via children's bag drops and posters which were put up in all local public halls. It is a public meeting open to all.
- Question: If there were to be a refurbishment of the school how long would it take?
- Answer: This would depend on the extent of the refurbishment. A comprehensive refurbishment could be carried out in the course of a single school year.
- Question: Is there a Council preferred site?
- Answer: No
- Question: People send kids to the nearest school; that means they will send them to Goldenhill if you move Edinbarnet Primary to the St Joseph's site.
- Answer: Noted
- Question: Why are we having 2 separate meetings?
- Answer: This is so we can focus on each school's individual concerns; however parties are at liberty to attend both meetings.
- Question: If Skypoint were to be the favoured site 3 schools would be moving ie Edinbarnet Primary, St Joseph's Primary and Choices?
- Answer: Noted
- Question: There isn't a large turnout tonight but we want it on record that we and the rest of the public insist that the safety of the children be paramount whatever option is chosen. We are concerned that there are real vehicle build ups at certain times all around Skypoint and St Joseph's Primary.
- Answer: Noted. New schools will incorporate traffic management in and around the site in order to accommodate the build up of traffic at the start and end of the school day.
- Question: What does a nursery cost?
- Answer: Just under £3m.

Question: It is true that no planning would be required at Skypoint because it was previously a school?

Answer: No we would need to go through the planning process in any case.

Question: Is it not the case that the co-location will go ahead - the only question is where?

Answer: No decision has yet been made on whether the schools will be co-located or indeed where that co-location could be.

Question: If there remain several options should we not get further opportunity for input?

Answer: Yes there will be ongoing consultation throughout the process.

Question: How is the cost calculated for co-located schools?

Answer: The cost is approximately 80% of the cost of 2 schools. However, we can be no more precise than that since the shared areas and the final design have not been developed.

Question: Would Council not prefer the co-located to be at St Joseph's Primary because Edinbarnet Primary being a bigger site could attract a larger receipt?

Answer: Not necessarily: as previously stated, if there is spare ground following a colocated build on Edinbarnet Primary we could sell it.

There being no further questions Councillor Smillie advised that no decision had yet been made on the future of Edinbarnet Primary and St Joseph's Schools and that the Member Officer Working Group and Council would consider the points of view raised tonight as well as any comments made on the questionnaire which should be filled up and submitted tonight or within 1 week. TL confirmed that if there are people absent from this meeting but who wish to comment they are at liberty to write in with the next week or so.

Dave Clarke
Head of Service (Resources)
23 November 2009