

**Appendix to Children's Services Committee paper on proposed relocation
of Bonhill Primary School**

THIS IS A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES

THE PROPOSED RELOCATION OF BONHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Director of Education and Cultural Services

This document has been issued by the Department of Education and Cultural Services of West Dunbartonshire Council for consultation in terms of the Education (Publications and Consultation etc) (Scotland) Regulations 1981 and amendment Regulations 1987, 1988 and 1989.

Statutory Consultation on the relocation of Bonhill Primary School

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To consult with all statutory consultees on a proposal to construct a new Bonhill Primary School on a Council owned, green field site on Main Street Bonhill opposite the site of the existing Bonhill Primary School (see map at end of consultation paper).

2. Background

- 2.1** At the meeting of Council on 22 February 2006, the allocation of Schools Fund monies to a number of capital projects was approved. Among these projects was the construction of a new Bonhill Primary School as a direct replacement for the present school building.
- 2.2** Although there is no proposal to alter the catchment area of Bonhill Primary School, current legislation requires that stakeholders be consulted if there is a proposal to rebuild a school outwith the curtilage of its existing campus.
- 2.3** Since the existing campus of Bonhill Primary School is too small to accommodate a new school building unless the present school were to be demolished first, and since this would necessitate the decanting of the school population to another site for the duration of the construction process, it is proposed that the new Bonhill Primary School be constructed on the Council-owned, green field site on Main Street Bonhill opposite the school's existing site.

3. Main Issues

3.1 The present School

- 3.1.1** Bonhill Primary School is a single stream non-denominational Primary School serving the Riverside area of Bonhill. Its current roll is around 200 pupils, but it is anticipated that this figure will rise over the coming years to around 230 pupils as a result of a significant amount of house building in the area.
- 3.1.2** The present Bonhill Primary School was constructed in 1874 and is the second oldest school building in West Dunbartonshire. It is in a poor state of repair and is expensive to heat, light and maintain. Two classes are housed in temporary hatted accommodation which has actually been in use for over 10 years.

3.1.3 Although the theoretical capacity of the building is 330 pupils, in reality the school feels overcrowded and there is very little room for flexibility in the use of space. Office space is inadequate; the Depute Head's office, for instance, is a windowless former bookstore. External play space is also limited in size and inadequate in nature.

3.1.4 In short, the present school building is no longer fit for purpose for the delivery of modern primary school education.

3.2 The proposed new building

3.2.1 It is estimated that the cost of the new building will be approximately £3.99 million at July 2006 prices.

3.2.2 It is proposed that the new Bonhill Primary School be constructed on the Council-owned, green field site on Main Street Bonhill opposite the school's existing site (see Annex to this consultation paper).

3.2.3 The new school will be built to the highest standards. Design and space standards will be similar to those which will apply to the new primary schools planned as part of West Dunbartonshire's Public Private Partnership (PPP) programme. In line with the wishes expressed by the School Board and the Head Teacher of Bonhill Primary School, the new school will not be open plan in design.

3.2.4 The Department of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services estimates that the planning, design and construction phases of the project to construct a new Bonhill Primary School can be completed to allow the new school to open late in 2009 or early in 2010.

4 Conclusion

4.1 Stakeholders are asked to submit in writing comments on the following proposal:

“that a new Bonhill Primary School be constructed on the Council-owned, green field site on Main Street Bonhill opposite the school's existing site.”

4.2 All written submissions should be sent to the following address:

Mrs Liz McGinlay
Director of Education and Cultural Services
c/o Schools Estate Unit
Braidfield High School
Queen Mary Avenue
Clydebank G81 2LR

- 4.3** Alternatively, submissions may be made electronically to the following e-mail address:

lesley.macneil@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

All submissions made by e-mail should be clearly marked "Bonhill Primary School Consultation – for the attention of the Director of Education and Cultural Services".

- 4.4** Submissions should be made to arrive at the above postal address or e-mail address **by noon on Tuesday 26 September 2006.**
- 4.5** A public meeting will be held before 26 September on a date yet to be determined to discuss the proposal.
- 4.6** A paper outlining the results of this consultation process will be presented to the meeting of the Children's Services Committee on Wednesday 11 October 2006.



Liz McGinlay
Director of Education and Cultural Services

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Background Papers: Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 22
February 2006

Wards Affected: Riverside