

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING (ONLINE)

Wednesday 5 October 2021 – 4.00 p.m.

ATTENDING:

Laura Mason (LM), Chief Education Officer
Andrew Brown (AB), Senior Education Officer
Sharon Jump (SJ), Project Manager
Linda McAlister (LMcA), Education Support Officer
Lyn Pennycook (LP)– Business Support Officer
Mary Ann Hagan (MAH) – HMI Education Scotland

2 parents were in attendance

Welcome and Introduction

Laura Mason introduced herself and welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Council Officers in attendance and outlined the format of the meeting. Mary Ann Hagan is attending from Education Scotland and is a silent observer to ensure we are following the statutory process.

Purpose of Meeting

The purpose of the meeting is to consider the proposal to construct co-located replacements for St. Joseph's Primary School, St. Joseph's Rainbow Base, Edinbarnet Primary School, together with a new ELCC to replace Auchnacraig and Lennox ELCCs, and also to provide a Community Library and Community space within a new campus to be located on the site of the current St. Joseph's school.

This is the this is the start of the formal statutory consultation for the new Faifley Campus As a Council we are committed to improving the learning estate and over the past 5 years have spent in the region of £86m upgrading and renewing schools and early learning centres. The latest development was the completion of the new Renton Campus and this has been completed and is truly inspirational. As part of our improvement programme it has been identified that the replacement of the existing Primary Schools and ELCC buildings in Faifley as the next area for development. An allocation of £29m has been approved for the project and we want to involve parents, children, staff and the community in this exciting project.

Informal engagement has been conducted about the different sites and comments was taken into consideration and a report went to Educational Services Committee and Elected Members agreed that the St. Joseph's Primary site be taken forward as the proposed site for the Faifley Campus.

As the proposal is altering the education within the Faifley area we are commencing the statutory consultation process and this provides an opportunity for interested parties to feed in their views.

Format of the Meeting

Laura Mason confirmed that Andrew Brown would give a presentation outlining further details on the proposal, the consultation timeline and the next steps. At the end of the presentation there would be an opportunity for those attending to ask questions.

Presentation

Andrew Brown gave a presentation outlining the site selection and how the St. Joseph's site was selected following an Options Appraisal exercise, how we will work together and the wider process of engaging parents, children and community, how the building will be developed to maximise energy efficiency and make the building as efficient as possible, the education benefits the new development will bring, and our proven track records on previous builds including the Bellsmyre Campus which opened in 2016, and the Balloch Campus which opened in 2018.

Linda McAlister outlined the consultation process and timeline, and the ways in which people can take part in the statutory consultation.

Sharon Jump provided details on the next steps from the design stages to the construction stages and provided details of the indicative timescales which would mean the new Campus opening around December 2025.

Questions

Laura Mason opened the meeting for questions from those in attendance.

Question - My son is current in St. Joseph's Rainbow Base and I understand choosing the site was based on value for money and the best place, but I have concerns about the disruption the noise will cause children through the building process. Children in the Rainbow Base may struggle with the noise.

LM – This was a similar concern from parents for the Renton Campus as it also has a Base. We have strategies for this and can use the expertise gained from Renton and how they coped. We will also have discussions with parents on this and would want children to see what is happening with the build and will work with parents to reassure them and the Head Teachers will be available to talk to them about the process.

Question– The site has a lot of grass which can get very marshy/boggy. Will there need to be added budget to make the ground suitable?

SJ – Work has been ongoing since August and a site investigation has been undertaken. It was reported back that the ground condition was of a good standard.

The condition of the ground will also be factored into the overall design of the building.

Question – Will the Trim Trail be affected by the building construction and will it be incorporated in the new school?

LM – We want to maximise the use of outdoor space in the new campus, and whether that would be the Trim Trail or something better at this time we are not in the position to say.

SJ. I will take this point back to the Site Team to see whether it will be available during the construction of the new build.

Parent – If Trim Trail replaced by something better that would be good, but would like to be able to use this during the construction.

Question – Concern in relation to noise disruption for children during the built. Would have thought Cochno more beneficial for outdoor area. Marshy conditions at St. Joseph's and how does Edinbarnet compare to this. Faifley Road is quite narrow, concerns about parking on Faifley Road. Will children be in the same building but different schools?

LM - The site was chosen by Elected Members and a copy of the report which went to Educational Services Committee on 9 June 2021 will be made available on the consultation page. The information about Edinbarnet is covered in the report. Traffic questions come up at every site and there is money within the capital budget to accommodate what has to happen to improve traffic.

SJ – A full traffic management survey will be undertaken and there is funding to upgrade paths and roadworks.

Laura Mason thanked everyone for attending and encouraged everyone to make comments through survey, email letter, phone or informal chat. Representatives from Education Scotland will be having planned visits with schools and early learning childcare centres, and there will be more engagement to come. The final report and recommendations will go to Educational Committee Services in March 2022.

The record of this meeting will be made publicly available and a copy of the presentation will also be available online.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

EVENING PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING

Wednesday 5 October 2021 – 7.00 p.m.

ATTENDING:

Laura Mason (LM), Chief Education Officer
Andrew Brown (AB), Senior Education Officer
Sharon Jump (SJ), Project Manager
Linda McAlister (LMcA), Education Support Officer
Lyn Pennycook (LP) – Business Support Officer

9 members of the public and 2 staff members were in attendance

Welcome and Introduction

Laura Mason introduced herself and welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Council Officers in attendance and outlined the format of the meeting. Mary Ann Hagan is attending from Education Scotland and is a silent observer to ensure we are following the statutory process.

Purpose of Meeting

The purpose of the meeting is to consider the proposal to construct co-located replacements for St. Joseph's Primary School, St. Joseph's Rainbow Base, Edinbarnet Primary School, together with a new ELCC to replace Auchnacraig and Lennox ELCCs, and also to provide a Community Library and Community space within a new campus to be located on the site of the current St. Joseph's school.

This is the this is the start of the formal statutory consultation for the new Faifley Campus As a Council we are committed to improving the learning estate and over the past 5 years have spent in the region of £86m upgrading and renewing schools and early learning centres. The latest development was the completion of the new Renton Campus and this has been completed and is truly inspirational. As part of our improvement programme it has been identified that the replacement of the existing Primary Schools and ELCC buildings in Faifley as the next area for development. An allocation of £29m has been approved for the project and we want to involve parents, children, staff and the community in this exciting project.

Informal engagement has been conducted about the different sites and comments was taken into consideration and a report went to Educational Services Committee and Elected Members agreed that the St. Joseph's Primary site be taken forward as the proposed site for the Faifley Campus.

As the proposal is altering the education within the Faifley area we are commencing the statutory consultation process and this provides an opportunity for interested parties to feed in their views.

Format of the Meeting

Laura Mason confirmed that Andrew Brown would give a presentation outlining further details on the proposal, the consultation timeline and the next steps. At the end of the presentation there would be an opportunity for those attending to ask questions.

Presentation

Andrew Brown gave a presentation outlining the site selection and how the St. Joseph's site was selected following an Options appraisal exercise, how we will work together and the wider process of engaging parents, children and community, how the building will be developed to maximise energy efficiency and make the building as efficient as possible, the education benefits the new development will bring, and our proven track records on previous builds including the Bellsmyre Campus which opened in 2016, and the Balloch Campus which opened in 2018. Andrew Brown confirmed that this would be a tandem build meaning that the children remained within their current school and would only be moved to the new building when this was ready and then the other establishments would be demolished.

Linda McAlister outlined the consultation process and timeline, and the ways in which people can take part in the statutory consultation.

Sharon Jump provided details on the next steps from the design stages to the construction stages and provided details of the indicative timescales which would mean the new Campus opening around December 2025.

Questions

Laura Mason opened the meeting for questions from those in attendance.

Question – Where will Skypoint be located, will it be in one building for community/school use? How can you ensure security in the building as there is already a high level of vandalism in this area?

LM – Security and safety will be built into the design and there will be measures in place to keep areas separate.

Follow up Question- How will this be monitored during night use and there are groups in school. Both Skypoint and Auchnacraig were vandalised over the summer.

LM – Envisage the community element for use of the building will be separate rooms for use at night and not in the heart of the school. All schools are open to the public for booking rooms, pitches, etc. Vandalism can be an issue but hopefully the

community will be part of the solution working in partnership to stop the vandalism in schools.

SJ – There has been engagement with the Leisure Trust to understand the current use of Skypoint and this will be built into the design. The Design Team have experience from other projects and how to use spaces in a different way with community space for use at night; we are still at the early stage of consultation.

Question – Will Spark of Genius which is in Skypoint be included, would not be viable for these children to be put in with other children.

LM – Campus will include ELCC's, St. Joseph's Primary/Rainbow Base, Edinbarnet Primary and Skypoint. Spark of Genius would not be in the building.

AB – We have the huge benefit of the Design Team and Consultants to make sure we learn from other areas in the country who have introduced a Community Campus.

Question – Will the facilities in the new build be accessible for disabled if schools on different levels?

LM – Yes the campus will be fully compliant and accessible to everyone. In the new build at Renton each of the levels are accessible.

Question – Is it going to be a multi storey building?

LM – It may well be but this is still at the concept stage, but however many levels there are it will be accessible for children.

SJ – The current footprint for St. Joseph's is 3 storeys and it is possible that the new campus may be 3 storeys.

Question – During the building work will the outdoor classroom, Trim Trail and Train be used again or destroyed? Will that space need to be used as access?

LM – A question in relation to the Trim Trail was also raised at the earlier consultation meeting. Trim Trail has a 10 year expiry date. There will be further discussions and we will work with parents to see what can be put into the outdoor space to make it as exciting as possible. Health and wellbeing of the children will be part of the discussion.

Question – What is the Renton Campus like just now for outdoor play if they are going to be demolishing the old school? How will you manage if there were 500 children?

LM – During the demolition period the outdoor play area will not be as good as it will be, but every classroom has access to outdoor space.

AB – We have discussions with Headteachers on how we manage the number of children. The campus will be designed with this in mind and we will look at how to develop best use the space.

Question – How will this work in terms of staffing in the schools and nurseries if it is just one building?

LM – It is one building but the two primary schools will continue to operate as separate establishments with their own teaching and support staff and 2 separate entrances. Teaching staff for the denominational school will be approved by the church. Office staff will be in same area but schools separate from each other. There will be opportunities for staff to work on joint projects and the 2 primary schools have already engaged in joint projects.

Question – In the nursery will there still be 2 Heads or is it one?

LM - We are looking at one new Early Learning and Childcare Centre and this would have one management team. The model would be looked at as in other areas the Head Teacher is head of the ELCC. People would not be losing their jobs.

Question– Will the Rainbow Base be the same?

LM – Yes it will be bigger and better, and will continue to be part of St. Joseph's.

Question – The nursery is open 365 says will this remain the same?

LM – There is a mix across the authority of 52 week centres, term time centres, and a mix of both and the same approach will be taken.

Question – The deadline was December 2024 will this be when the schools move and the old school is demolished?

SJ – The timescales are indicative and we cannot provide further level of detail at this time. The build would have to be constructed and ready for use before we pupils can move into new build and we would aim to move over at convenient time for example October or Easter break.

Question – Trees at the side of St. Joseph's were mentioned in the presentation is this going to be a Forest School?

AB – The trees were mentioned in the context of their proximity to the site and how we can make use of outdoor space.

Question – Will the current boundary be moved?

SJ – The existing boundary and footprint is being looked at. Also looking at wider areas and greenspaces and working with Greenspace on site development.

Question – Will access be looked at as there is currently only one access of the main road?

LM – Every site has questions about traffic and there is money available within the budget to look at the road network and how that will work.

SJ – A traffic survey will be undertaken and this will look at traffic management at St. Joseph's and how this can be improved.

Question – Will it be a shared canteen/kitchen?

LM – Yes shared for everyone.

Question – Glasgow City Council has a no parking policy at schools which has helped is this something that would be put in place to alleviate traffic?

LM – There will be parking within the school. At this time there is no policy but this is something we can take into consideration if this is what people feel.

Comment – This makes a difference in Glasgow schools, and made it safer. Police were involved to make sure no-one did park.

LM – This will be taken into consideration.

Comment – St. Eunan's have a drive in/drop off point and this works.

LM – We will take these ideas into consideration. This works well when everyone adheres to this. It can cause issues when some people park rather than dropping off.

Question – How will the Rainbow Base access sporting facilities, this can be a challenge due to the weather.

LM – The new building will be designed to make a difference to all children and meet the needs of all children.

Question – A community facility is really important. At what stage will we be able to give feedback on community proposals like the Community Hub? This is the biggest opportunity Faifley has had.

LM – Elected Members support notion of Community Hub. Community team will be engaging with community councils.

SJ – We will be working with the Community Team and Design Team and will be looking to engage at an early stage with the community on views on how they would like the space to look within the budget available. In process of developing questionnaire and looking to start the process around the end of October/early November.

Question – Can you be proactive in involving the community councils. We were not involved in the early discussions as only found out about them through the local newspaper. Going forward we need to get the information before the paper as we represent the community as a whole.

LM – I am pleased to see that you were notified with other stakeholders of the consultation and the public meeting tonight, and you were in attendance. We will move forward together.

Question – Can you tell me how many people attended the earlier online consultation meeting?

LM – 2 people attended and the Inspector from Education Scotland.

Question – This may not be a relevant to this meeting but I note on the Proposal Document that it mentions if St. Joseph's area is chosen there will be approximately 250 new houses built in the Faifley area has this been decided?

AB – No this has not been decided it is just an option.

Comment – I tried to access the online survey and could not.

AB – The details of how to access the survey from the West Dunbartonshire Council Intranet site are on the slides for the presentation and the link was also on the invite email or letter you would have received. We checked the site earlier today and it is working and LMcA will check this again to ensure it is working. If you have any difficulties please contact us by phone.

Laura Mason thanked everyone for attending and encouraged everyone to make comments through survey, email letter, phone or informal chat and you have until 17 November to submit your response.

The record of this meeting will be made publicly available and a copy of the presentation will also be available online.

