

## **Secondary Catchment anomaly rezoning at Lumphanan**

### **Public Meeting**

**14 September 2023, 6.30pm at Lumphanan School**

**1. Councillor Keating opened the meeting with welcome and introductions.**

Minute being taken by Kelly Tennant.

**Officers present:** Maxine Booth (Quality Improvement Manager, Learning Estates), Rachael Goldring (Learning Estates Team Leader), Kelly Tennant (Learning Estates Officer).

*Maxine Booth introduced herself and asked the attendee their role (parent/carer, community member etc).*

The attendee replied that she was a parent of a pupil in P2 who lives in the anomaly area. She shared her thoughts that this scenario has been at the back of her mind for a while.

**2. Maxine Booth gave an overview of consultation and how we have arrived at this stage.**

The proposal currently under consultation is the rezoning of Aboyne Academy catchment to include an anomaly area within Lumphanan School catchment currently zoned to Alford Academy.

The children living within the Lumphanan School catchment are part of the Aboyne Cluster of schools and would be expected to attend Aboyne Academy for secondary provision. However, there is a historic anomaly area within the catchment area around Corse which means the children living within that area are zoned for Alford Academy instead of their cluster Academy.

There is currently an informal agreement for these children living within this area to receive school transport to Aboyne Academy as agreed by Education, Learning and Leisure senior management in 2014. In basic terms, this statutory consultation is doing what is being done informally and making it official.

In June of this year, Aberdeenshire Council carried out an informal survey for the residents of the catchment area anomaly in Lumphanan to gain their views on the current secondary school catchment areas for their address and all showed a preference for being zoned for Aboyne Academy.

This proposal will apply to all secondary aged pupils within the anomaly area of the Lumphanan School catchment area from August 2024 if the proposed changes are approved by Education & Children's Services Committee.

There are maps on the blue board which will show you where this area anomaly is with the current and proposed catchment areas for Aboyne and Alford Academies.

The consultation is taking place under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and will run until 3 November 2023.

**Rachael Goldring gave an overview of the process following the consultation period.**

After the consultation period has ended then Education Scotland is involved, all information and documentation is sent to them such as the survey, proposal document and so on. Education Scotland will visit the schools and may want to speak with people and families from Lumphanan, Aboyne Academy and Alford Academy to check everyone has been consulted with. Education Scotland will then write a report on the consultation. Their role is making sure the consultation has been done properly and looking at the educational benefits behind the proposal. This report will be passed to us then we will write a report and in February it will be presented to Marr Area Committee then around March or May time it will go to Education and Children's Services Committee. From that point if the proposal is approved the catchment areas will change from August 2024. This will mean there will be no need for placing requests and there will be transport guaranteed and put this scenario to bed.

**3. Councillor Keating opened the floor to questions.**

**Parent** - Why does the area go to Lumphanan but in zone for Alford Academy?

**Rachael Goldring**– In 1984, Corse O'Neil School closed and due to this the catchment got split in half with one side going to Craigievar School and the other half being zoned to Lumphanan School but all the area being zoned for Alford Academy and this has never been resolved. This has been on the list for a while but it is now finally getting sorted.

**Maxine Booth** – There are lots of anomalies with catchments around Aberdeenshire which our team are looking at. Sometimes this is historical but sometimes this is to do with housing developments and there are some areas which means families have to pass a school to go to another school.

**Parent** – My son is only in P2 so this is a while away for secondary but we knew Alford Academy was the zoned school, we spoke to Head Teacher who assured me not to worry and that we will go to Aboyne. In the report, I didn't realise how many primary schools fed into Aboyne Academy so I worried that if there is that many schools then we won't get in.

**Maxine Booth** - This statutory consultation guarantees a place at Aboyne Academy but you would get a place anyway due to informal agreement already

in place. If this consultation is approved and you wanted to go to Alford Academy, it would need to be through a placing request.

**Parent** – Alford is a nice modern building, but I did ask my son if he wanted to go to Alford but he said no, he wants to go to Aboyne with his friends. He did get worried about it but now I spoke to him, he is okay.

**Councillor Keating** – This consultation is to regulate and formalise this agreement.

**Parent** - How many properties are within the area?

**Kelly Tennant** - Just under 70 properties.

**Parent** – When we bought our house, I was told if we lived across the road, would have been in zone for Aboyne but looking at the map that isn't the case.

**Maxine Booth** – Are there any other families you know of in the area.

**Parent** - Only one other family we know of within that area but thought they would be here tonight but they aren't.

**Maxine Booth** - Hopefully tonight has reassured you and please use any comment slips if needed.

#### **4. Councillor Keating identified the next steps.**

The consultation period will run until 3 November 2023. Any comments you wish to make on the proposal need to be submitted by 4pm on Friday 3 November 2023.

Comments can be submitted in writing, either my email or post – full contact details are on the posters on the board. Alternatively, we would encourage you to give your opinions via the online survey. The link to this is also on the posters, along with the QR codes that will take you straight to it.

We are also involving pupils in our discussions, and we will be in touch with the Head Teachers of Lumphanan School and Aboyne and Alford Academies to work with pupils to gain their views on the proposals.

As Rachael described earlier, once the consultation is over, all written submissions, minutes of this meeting and pupil discussions will be provided to Education Scotland for their considerations. Education Scotland will produce a report on the consultation. This report along with our own report on the consultation will be presented to Marr Area Committee and then Education & Children's Services Committee for a decision. We will publish our report shortly before it goes to Committee.

#### **5. Councillor Keating closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.**