

Statutory Consultation Secondary Catchment Anomaly Rezoning at Lumphanan Pupil Consultation

Lumphanan School were asked to consult with all primary pupils and given suggested questions for pupils. Aboyne Academy and Alford Academy were asked to consult with their Pupil Councils and for them to consider the pupil questions to gain their views and comments. It was also suggested that secondary pupils may want to take part in the Engage Aberdeenshire online survey.

Lumphanan School

All pupils were asked about the catchment area. Many pupils (particularly primary 1-4's) did not really understand the concept of the rezoning, however all (47) pupils agreed that all Lumphanan School pupils should go together to the same Academy and that it should be Aboyne.

Some specific comments from pupils:

- "It is important to go to the same academy as your siblings go to."
- "You want to go to the same school as your friends."
- "Why on earth would you go to a different school from the people you have spend the whole of primary school with?"
- "Going to Aboyne Academy is a chance to meet new friends who may still live close to you. I don't know anyone who lives in Alford."
- "It is easier to go to a new school if you already know people who are going. We've been working with pupils from Kincardine O'Neil and Torphins School too so we would know them."
- "I would be worried about being on my own if I had to go to a different academy."

And one response to the question about what the Council may have to think about:

- "They will need to think about how far people are travelling. I think travelling to Alford is further than travelling to Aboyne."

Aboyne Academy

We got a group of 10 pupils who live in the area together to discuss the 4 questions.

1. Do you think that changing the catchment area to include all of the Lumphanan school zone into the Aboyne Academy catchment is a good idea? Yes (unanimous)
2. Is there anything about this change that worries you? No
3. Is there anything about this change that interests or excites you? No opinion
4. Is there anything that you think the Council needs to think about if they do this? No

Alford Academy

The Head Teacher of Alford Academy informed the team they have no children who live in the area who attend Alford Academy so therefore did not take part in the pupil questionnaire.

However, there were five pupils who took part in the online survey and the majority of those attend Alford Academy. The majority of pupils who took part in the survey agreed that the area anomaly should be zoned for Alford Academy with the other voting no preference. The comments which were received from the pupils are listed below.

- "I have no views and/or comments."
- "We believe this would reduce stress on Alford Academy's pupil roll and allow for more space in classrooms."
- 1. Do you think that changing the catchment area to include all of the Lumphanan school zone into the Aboyne Academy catchment is a good idea? "Yes, because we have enough pupils, any more would be overkill."
2. Is there anything about this change that worries you? "We could run out of classroom space if they remain at Alford academy."
3. Is there anything about this change that interests or excites you? "No"