

**Public Consultation Meeting
Relocation of Peterhead Academy
12 November 2019
7- 8.30pm
Peterhead Academy**

Aberdeenshire Council Officers present:

Craig Clement (Head of Service, ECS / Chair), Maxine Booth (Quality Improvement Manager, ECS)
Rachael Goldring (Learning Estates Team Leader, ECS), Mark Mitchell (Estates Programme Manager, ECS), Anna Zadka-Labus (Learning Estates Officer, ECS / Minutes)

Elected Members present: Gillian Owen, Norman Smith, Dianne Beagrie, Alan Fakley, Stephen Calder, Anne Simpson

In the region of 50 members of the public attended the meeting.

1	Welcome and Introductions
	Craig Clement introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced the Aberdeenshire Council Officers and outlined the format of the meeting.
2	Consultation Overview
	<p>Craig Clement indicated that Aberdeenshire Council prioritised Peterhead Academy for replacement and the new Campus is a part of the Peterhead Masterplan. Craig explained that this is a statutory consultation, and a public meeting is required in accordance with The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The purpose of the meeting is to consider the relocation of Peterhead Academy to the Kinmundy site and educational benefits. Several informal meetings and engagement events had taken place, but emphasised this meeting is a part of the formal stage in accord with The Schools (Consultation) Act.</p> <p>Maxine Booth gave a presentation outlining in detail (current and proposed site map, consultation timeline and timeline for campus slides). Max explained that the Council are looking into a potential inclusion of Dales Park, Meethill and Anna Ritchie Schools in the campus and that a brand-new Peterhead Central School would be built on the current academy site. These, and other elements of the programme, such as community and leisure facilities, will be a part of a separate consultation.</p>
3	Questions from the Floor
	<p>Maxine Booth welcomed questions from the floor and asked that participants state their name and roll of interest in school to aid the minute taking process.</p> <p>Fiona Johnston (Kinmundy Resident/Parent) said that currently pupils and teachers have access to food retailers and taking the school away from the current site will devastate the local business and town centre. She asked what are the Council's plans to keep the business running at lunch time?</p> <p>Maxine Booth replied that the Peterhead Town Centre Survey was carried out and another economic Peterhead Town Centre Impact Assessment will be completed. This assessment will also cover any social impact and possible mitigating actions and many of those elements will feed into the Equality Impact Assessment. Any negative impact on protected characteristics will have to be mitigated.</p> <p>Craig Clement stressed that the meeting is to focus on relocation of Peterhead Academy and</p>

that there is a wider Peterhead Masterplan and the current site is a part of the wider approach.

Vicki Haigh (Parent/Teacher) said that she is representing a few parents from the school. She was concerned whether, as currently most pupils are walking to the school, there is any discussion in place to have transport arranged for those pupils.

Maxine Booth said yes, it is, and it is a part of the travel plan. This has been discussed at the morning Buchan Area Committee; there will be a cycling provision and the bus companies are being liaised with.

Jackie Gray (Kinmundy Resident) wanted to know if the Kinmundy site is big enough for all the facilities e.g. car parks, playing fields, football pitches?

Maxine Booth said that the work has been undertaken to illustrate the space required for buildings and pitches, and the site is appropriate size for what is required.

Jackie Gray asked about kids' safety going to the campus, she was concerned about how all people will be able to access the site at the same time for school start/finish. What is the infrastructure going to be to allow it?

Maxine Booth replied that it would be the same as for children attending other schools. There will be several access points and routes to the campus, and it will be a part of a road traffic survey and pedestrian survey. Ways pupils walk will be identified and safe routes to the campus will be planned, following a liaison with Transport and Roads. Maxine discussed Inverurie Campus as an example.

Jackie Gray asked about safety while passing the bypass?

Maxine Booth answered that safety of pupils is important and that we will be liaising with pupils and parents. Maxine stressed that we must be solid on that to not to put anyone at risk.

Philip Buchan (Parent of 2 primary pupils) said that if things will not change there is no way 1400 pupils will be able to access the site; with no access to the new facility, only one main road to the site, no access from the bypass and with football trainings taking place on Sundays and no parking facilities provided.

Craig Clement said that the building access have not yet been designed and that we do not have that level of detail as yet. This will be a part of consultations with designers and architects. The infrastructure will be identified, how pupils travel, car parks, how pupils are dropped off and picked up. Craig emphasised that all concerns will be minuted and considered as a part of this consultation.

Margaret White (Grandmother of 6 kids/Local Resident) asked about 66 supported living units at Willowbank?

Chris White answered that it is a part of the Masterplan. There will be a separate access from the educational provision. There will be a high volume of car movement in the area and it will need to be looked at by the Roads and safe routes for everyone will have to be identified.

Margaret White was also concerned that the site facilities will be right beside old people.

Chris White explained that this is a part of the landscaping and everything will have to be looked at together. There are missing footpaths at the new developments and it will have to be linked with the West site. There will be a separate consultation about a Care Village and other facilities in Peterhead.

Margaret White asked if there is to be a swimming pool or whether it will stay within the community where it currently is?

Maxine Booth replied that it will be a part of a separate consultation. There will be hydrotherapy pool and a warm water pool at the campus as a part of Anna Ritchie School.

Margaret White asked about the theatre.

Maxine Booth said that it was not decided yet, but the informal engagement indicated that the community want to leave the theatre where it is.

Vicki Haigh said that the swimming pool at Peterhead is very good and the community do not want to lose anything that is already in the town e.g. swimming facilities.

Gillian Craighead (Burnhaven School Parent) was concerned about mixing secondary children with primary children and children with ASN. She asked how are they going to be segregated?

Maxine Booth said that Community Campuses are common across Scotland. In Alford Campus primary school part is attached to the campus and primary use the academy parts and shared facilities as required, but everything else such as classrooms and play areas are very separate. There have not been complaints from Alford Community Campus regarding mixing children and this is monitored by carrying out Post Occupation Evaluation which would identify these problems and the Council would be able to change designs.

Member of the public asked if there will be a separate access to the academy, primary and Anna Ritchie School?

Maxine Booth replied that Anna Ritchie will have their own entrance, primary and secondary children will have the same entrance, but they will be going to their own schools. There will be a generic open plan reception area.

Vicki Haigh asked if schools will have separate Head Teachers?

Maxine Booth explained that there is a different approach across Scotland, some campuses have one Campus Lead, while other have different Heads like in Alford Community Campus. For Peterhead Community Campus, if Anna Ritchie School relocates, they will keep their own Head Teacher and the final management structure for Primary/Secondary has yet to be agreed. There would be one Head Teacher if two primary schools merge.

Fiona Johnston asked where the pupils go during lunch times and what guarantee do residents have that they will not be a subject to antisocial behaviours at lunch times? What about a burger vans that will impact and litter the nice and tidy residential area?

Maxine Booth explained that there will be lots of dining and break areas at the campus.

Craig Clement stressed out that tonight all concerns will be minuted and reflected as a part of the consultation process and that the evening is about a relocation of Peterhead Academy to the new Campus and educational benefits.

Helen Brown (Volunteer) said that the main benefit is that the current building is not fit for purpose.

Ellie McVeil (Pupil) wanted to know what will happen with the existing buildings once the pupils go to the new campus?

Maxine Booth replied that once the works at Kinmundy site have been completed and the academy children move to the new campus current Peterhead Academy will be demolished and Peterhead Central School will get a brand-new facility on the site. But if Anna Ritchie, Dales Park and Meethill would be going to the new campus than they would be demolished, and possible options would need to be identified.

Caroline Hay (Dales Park area Resident) said that congestion around Dales Park School and Clerkhill School car parks is ludicrous. She wanted to know how the new campus with a secondary school and primary schools will cope with the congestion?

Maxine Booth reminded that the traffic and congestion issues have already been covered and

these will have to be looked at and assessed by the traffic assessment.

There were further comments from the public members on the traffic, walking and routes to school and congestion.

Jackie Matthew (Parent/Resident) asked what will be done in terms of making the current site safe for the next 5 years?

Maxine Booth explained that with the current Academy scored C, under condition and suitability, the building cannot be left as it is, some elements will have to be improved and the building kept maintained.

Shona Sellers reminded there was a lot of roofing works done.

Jackie Matthew was concerned about safety of younger children in terms of mixing different age groups.

Maxine Booth explained that primary school children will have their own part of the school. Pupils will be escorted by a member of staff if they use specialist facilities in secondary. It is a matter of an appropriate timetabling. Badges will also be in use. Police have not been involved in any incident at Alford Community Campus.

Fiona Johnston was concerned about car park facilities during football trainings.

Maxine Booth said that when we get to design part pupils and parents will be involved in terms of parking, pick up/drop off areas. It will be a part of the traffic assessment.

Further conversations took place about traffic congestion during football trainings.

Lynn Cooper (Parent) had heard that Ellon Academy does not have a provision for the exams to do with occupancy and kids had to sit their exams somewhere else and she asked if it would be the case for Peterhead Academy?

Craig Clement said that Ellon Academy use decent sport facilities for their English and Maths and Nat 5 exams only.

Shona Sellers mentioned that it is more prelims than finals.

Maxine Booth explained that there are strict guidelines on setting up exam spaces and thought must be given to square meters per pupil per exam, noises outside, acoustics inside etc. Maxine said that her and Mark Mitchell are a part of Space Standard Accommodation Work Team which role is to ensure current and future pupils are well accommodated.

Margaret White provided complementary feedback about Midmill School.

Maxine Booth stressed that the Council do not want to spend a fortune and leave people with congestion problems. This require a pre-work so issues can be addressed.

Parent of a pupil at Clerkhill School and living close to the community site said that a drop off was to be built at the school site but now the Council say that this is not a priority and with a current level of traffic a child may be run down.

Maxine Booth and **Craig Clement** said that this will be looked at.

Norman Smith (Councillor) said that the drop off at the school is listed as a priority.

Maxine Booth discussed Inverurie Community Campus in terms of congestion. She said that with the new design a new car park has already been built and is already in use.

Further discussion took place about walking routes, pick times etc.

Maxine Booth explained that all of those elements will also have to be covered if the new Campus will hold community facilities. With a nursery going to the site, a traffic assessment will

also have to be carried out. The community building will be open for all, all year round even after school have finished.

Members of the public were concerned that one main road will not be enough.

Gena Buchan (Community Member) asked why no thoughts have been put into the access to the campus yet?

Craig Clement explained that it is a big project that requires a staged process so a lot of preparation work has already been done and for more will have to be undertaken. This was being looked at comprehensively and the majority of responses to earlier engagement preferred Kinmundy site. There is no ideal site, so we need to work with what we have. Road and Transport colleagues have already been contacted on general approach, that is why the diagram is closed, with sufficient parking, drop off/pick up areas. Craig said that we now have to work to the high-level detail and this work will be done with members of the community. Craig stressed out that we know it is achievable because we have done it before, and we have relevant experience.

Member of the public said that the Council will build this beautiful building and leave everybody at Peterhead with the hassle of parking and traffic.

Maxine Booth replied that the Council cannot do that. Maxine said that we have good examples across Aberdeenshire, and this has not happened anywhere else. Roads people have already been involved. Maxine said that tonight we are hearing very clearly that you are concerned about parking, congestion, safe routes and these will not be ignored. Maxine discussed Inverurie as an example.

Andrew Strachan can the public have an input to the roads/traffic assessment?

Maxine Booth and **Craig Clement** replied yes.

Maxine Booth said that the community, parents and pupils will be involved in the roads and traffic assessment. The community will be given information about that with opportunity to come back to us with a feedback.

Member of the public (Peterhead Academy ex-pupil) wanted to know if the new Academy will get money to keep it fresh, up-to-date and maintained?

Craig Clement replied yes. The authority are working together towards the schools' investment programme. One of the conditions is that within 25 years the condition and suitability of the building remain A or B and the ongoing maintenance is significant.

Fiona Jackson asked why it is not possible to do a phased building works and teach at the current site?

Craig Clement reminded that there was an engagement on that and that it was one of the options, but the majority chose Kinmundy as a preferred site. **Shona Sellars** said that S4, S5 and S6 pupils would be going through exams while construction works were carrying out on the site which would cause further issues.

Helen Brown said that the main issue of phased building works would be pupils spending whole time from S1 through to exams on a building site, they would still need to walk to pitches. She reminded that four different sites had originally been looked at.

Member of the public asked about the curriculum and if there would be an opportunity to offer other subjects that currently are not on offer or if there will be certain subjects that will no longer be on offer?

Maxine Booth explained that the curriculum evolves naturally, many elements of the curriculum now take place digitally and they will evolve further, but nothing would be stopped.

	<p>Member of the public asked if the new campus is likely to have a positive impact on a teacher's recruitment level? Maxine Booth answered yes. She said that it will also have an impact on a higher retention.</p> <p>Anette Buchan (Parent of 2 primary aged children/Local Resident) said that the initial attraction to the new site was a green space and now it feels like the green space is getting smaller and smaller to the point that this site is not big enough. Maxine Booth reminded what was already said that everything is blocked in the diagram. All these spaces are required to enable to do the curriculum and they will be on the site. A new document by Scottish Government "Connecting People, Places and Learning" lists what we need to achieve, and we will be maximising an outdoor area. Maxine demonstrated on the map indicative locations of green space for secondary, primary and Anna Ritchie schools. She said that an all weather pitch will have to be timetable appropriately. There will also be a garden and social space outdoor.</p> <p>Craig Clement said that the campus design is evolving to ensure use of outdoor facilities is a key aspect of design and maximum use is made of external space. More effort has been put into it over the last years across Aberdeenshire. There is more outdoor learning and links between indoor and outdoor learning for early years, primary, secondary and beyond. Looking at the Masterplan and pitches across the town we need to make sure that everything is there.</p> <p>Anne Simpson (Councillor) said that she visited Alford Community Campus and every primary classroom has its own outdoor space. She asked Maxine to describe access to outdoor space. Maxine Booth said that it is a part of the design and all primary schools have an access straight from the classroom to the outdoor learning space. Max said that we make sure that every school has an appropriate landscape design.</p> <p>Maxine Booth asked for final comments.</p> <p>Member of the public asked when will the community find out on which primary schools will be incorporated into the campus? Maxine Booth explained that there will be formal consultations which will identify the primary schools going into the campus. Max added that we are undertaking an initial engagement and a survey monkey was out and statutory consultations will start after Christmas. Consultation regarding community and leisure facilities shall also start after Christmas.</p>
4	<p>Close</p>
	<p>Craig Clement thanked all present for attending the meeting and encouraged to make comments through the survey, email, letter, phone or informal chat. The record of the meeting will be made publicly available.</p>