

**Public Consultation Meeting
Blairs Housing Development Rezoning
07 September 2017
7-9pm Arduthie School**

Aberdeenshire Council Officers/Elected Members present:

Cllr Gillian Owen (Chair); Cllr Sarah Dickinson (Stonehaven & Lower Deeside); Cllr Colin Pike (North Kincardine); Maxine Booth (QIM); Rachael Goldring (Learning Estates Team Leader – Learning Estates); Julie Bartlet (Learning Estates Officer- Learning Estates – Minute Taker)

1	Welcome and Introductions
	<p>Councillor Owen introduced herself and outlined her role as chair of the ECS Committee at Aberdeenshire Council. Councillor Owen welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced the Aberdeenshire Council officers and elected members present, and laid out the format of the meeting.</p>
2	Consultation Overview
	<p>Maxine Booth welcomed colleagues, and explained that this Rezoning Consultation was prompted after Aberdeen City Council conducted consultation to rezone the Cults Academy school zone, which would exclude the ground to the south of the River Dee that was currently within the Cults Academy zone, impacting the Blairs housing development at South Deeside Road.</p> <p>Aberdeenshire Council requested that no changes be made to the catchment area, but that if changes were deemed essential, that provision should be made to ensure that siblings of existing pupils attending the school could continue to do so.</p> <p>On 2 June 2015, Aberdeen City Council decided that whilst existing houses within the area consulted upon would continue to be zoned to Cults Academy, any new housing developments would not be entitled to attend the school and will require to be rezoned to an Aberdeenshire Council secondary school.</p> <p>Aberdeenshire Council seeks to formalise the arrangements for the pupils living in the Blairs housing development; and that these pupils should continue to be zoned to Lairhillock School for primary education and then to the secondary school for the cluster which is Mackie Academy.</p> <p>Pupils from the Blairs Housing Development would be entitled to free school transport to and from Lairhillock School and Mackie Academy as per Council policy.</p> <p>Maxine confirmed that this consultation is being held in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and that the period of consultation runs until 29 September 2017, allowing time for comment.</p> <p>If the proposed changes were to be approved, they would be implemented from August 2018.</p>

3	<p>Questions from the Floor</p> <p>Councillor Owen welcomed questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• Cllr Sarah Dickinson What is the take up on the online survey, which was made available?</p> <p>Julie Bartlet – So far, there has been 19 responses.</p> <p>• Cllr Dickinson What has been the response?</p> <p>Julie Bartlet – 52% strongly disagree - pupils from Blairs development should not continue onto Mackie Academy.</p> <p>• Cllr Dickinson Will this data be presented as part of the process?</p> <p>Rachael Goldring – we have to give a response, taking account of all information collated.</p> <p>• Cllr Colin Pike The original planning application was for 280 houses with an additional 44. There's no children in the houses currently built, it's in the Cults catchment area and the housing market has significantly changed – will we have kids at some point?</p> <p>Maxine Booth – There's nothing showing within NHS data at present.</p> <p>• Cllr Pike What is the total capacity for Lairhillock school?</p> <p>Rachael Goldring – Approximately 150.</p> <p>• Cllr Pike What is the current capacity?</p> <p>Rachael Goldring – Approximately 120.</p> <p>• Cllr Pike I attended another meeting a while back which mentioned the Blairs development and that the school roll would only change by 1 pupil.</p> <p>Rachael Goldring – Numbers are determined through various factors such as build out rate and average number of children per household across the development. The current child/household ratio for Lairhillock is 0.3.</p> <p>Maxine Booth – There are always difficulties around the number of houses – for example, there could be a new development of 50 houses which amount to only 3 additional children across the whole development but similarly there could be a development of just 9 homes and a family of 3 could be accounted for in just one house. We closely monitor the school roll forecasts.</p> <p>• Cllr Dickinson What causes differences in roll numbers?</p>
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	<p>Rachael Goldring – The published figures are what we are anticipate for the coming year, which take into account new planning applications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Pike So there's been 19 responses and 52% strongly disagree? <p>Maxine Booth – This information must be submitted as part of the process.</p> <p>Cllr Gillian Owen – The consultation period runs until the 29th of September.</p> <p>Rachael Goldring – The information will also be sent to Education Scotland and will come back in November with their recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Pike With regards to transport for Lairhillock pupils, do children living within 2 miles of the school have to pay? <p>Maxine Booth – Yes.</p>
5	Close
	<p>Councillor Owen thanked all present for attending the meeting and re-iterated that the proposal will be open for comment until 29 September 2017. At the end of this consultation process, all documents from the consultation will be provided to Education Scotland. A report will then be taken back to the Kincardine & Mearns area committee shortly before a decision is made at ECS Committee. Then published after that.</p>