

Consultation: 22 February 2011

Options for the future provision of education in Alloa West

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Why are we discussing the future of education in Alloa West?

St John's Primary School not fit for purpose

Outcome of Independent review of education 3-12

Property Asset Management Plan

School Estate Management Plan

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Options

1. Refurbish St John's Primary School
2. Build a new St John's Primary School on the Redwell site
3. Refurbish and extend Claremont Primary School
4. Build a new merged primary school on the Redwell site

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1. Refurbishment of St John's PS

Advantages

- ✓ Status quo when complete
- ✓ Retention of identity
- ✓ Wider community used to school there
- ✓ Quality of educational experience is retained
- ✓ Building retained for original purpose

Disadvantages

- ✗ Limitations of the building
- ✗ Teaching and learning opportunities reduced
- ✗ Value for money
- ✗ Traffic management issues and pupil safety
- ✗ Pupils unable to access 21st C learning environment

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Current location of St John's PS



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2. New St John's on Redwell

Advantages

- ✓ Brand new school all space designed
- ✓ Enhanced learning opportunities
- ✓ Close to current school

Disadvantages

- ✗ Current building not retained
- ✗ Educational benefits of new school limited to St John's pupils
- ✗ Does not reduce size school estate

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Possible footprint of a new St John's (a)



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3. Extend and refurbish Claremont and merge with St John's

Advantages

- ✓ Some upgrade to facilities
- ✓ St John's pupils not disrupted during work
- ✓ Some enhanced outdoor areas
- ✓ Better accessibility than currently

Disadvantages

- ✗ Sloping site
- ✗ Poor access
- ✗ Limited parking
- ✗ Need to decant during building work
- ✗ Cost of temporary classrooms

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Probable footprint of an extended Claremont



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4. Build new merged school on Redwell

Advantages

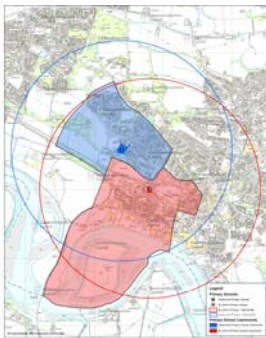
- ✓ More pupils benefit
- ✓ Brand new facilities
- ✓ Community benefits from improved playing fields
- ✓ Properly consulted and designed access
- ✓ Opportunities for independent outdoor activity

Disadvantages

- ✗ Loss of separate identity
- ✗ Current buildings not retained
- ✗ Some pupils in catchment would have further to travel to school

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Current catchment areas



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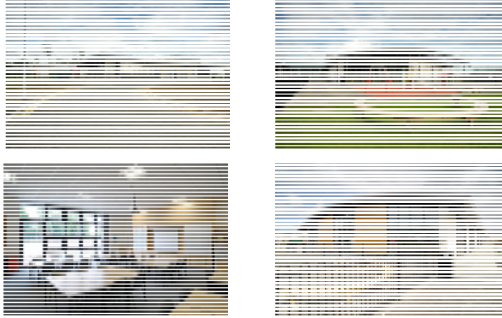
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Possible footprint of a new school on Redwell (b)



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A new building



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Educational benefits

The pupils will benefit from access to learning spaces and classrooms designed to facilitate active learning. A new building would also be fitted out with new furniture and equipment. This would include ergonomic and age sensitive furniture to support flexible approaches to learning.

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Educational benefits

Pupils would have access to specially designated areas for play both indoors and out.



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Educational benefits

A dedicated library and state of the art technology would be essential. The school would be 'hardwired' to ensure that every pupil could access a networked PC. This would enhance learning and teaching and should result in better outcomes for young people.



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Educational benefits

There would be a music room and a modern well equipped gym designed to Sport Scotland specifications. These would enhance the pupils' experiences of creativity.



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Educational benefits

Any new design could include secure, enclosed garden areas for pupils to apply their learning independently in the Eco Schools programme or to study scientific or cross curricular topics expected in the delivery of curriculum for excellence.

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Educational benefits

Pupils would have well designed and varied areas during breaks.



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Educational benefits

The school would be fully compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act. This would mean that all pupils and staff who have any form of disability would be able to access every aspect of the building with their peers. Personal care facilities would be of a high standard and will mean improved conditions for pupils who need to use them.

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Educational benefits

The location of the nursery would be central to the life of the school and would ensure the best possible learning transition for all pupils.

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Educational benefits

Staff would benefit from working together and learning with a wider range of teaching colleagues. The authority has embarked on a nationally recognised development of 'teacher learning communities'. These constitute groups of 6-8 teachers sharing best practice and agreeing programmes of CPD based on developing their individual and collective skills which will, in time, impact on the classroom experience of pupils.

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Educational benefits

Parental involvement could be enhanced through the provision of facilities which could also be used for the community. Pupils would also benefit from the use of a full sized grass pitch, a full size all weather pitch, and outdoor multi-use games area and specially designed changing facilities.

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Educational benefits

The pupils of both primary schools are in the catchment for the same secondary school so there would be no additional issues with transition to secondary education.

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Educational benefits

The likely effects of the proposals would be to create teaching groups which would sit well within Government class size guidelines.

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Educational benefits

The best possible quality of education for the greatest number of pupils in order that each pupil has every opportunity to develop as fully as possible, socially, emotionally, physically and intellectually.

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1 Challenge: 4 options

1. Refurbish St John's Primary School
2. Build a new St John's Primary School on the Redwell site
3. Refurbish and extend Claremont Primary School
4. Build a new merged primary school on the Redwell site

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Questions raised

Is the Redwell site for sale?

No. The sign is directing attention to the Alloa West Business Park



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Is there a new merged school elsewhere of similar size?

Yes. Information will be posted shortly on the web consultation page on clacksweb.

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Is the railway an issue?



"Some of our schools are adjacent to busy railway lines. Gavinburn Primary has a line running the length of the campus very close to the school building and St Andrew's High School was in a similar situation until it was amalgamated with St Columba's in August 2009. Vale of Leven Academy also has a railway line running alongside the school campus. None of these schools has ever raised this as an issue with me; nor have parents complained about it. I myself was head teacher of Vale of Leven Academy for 6 years and the proximity of the railway line was never an issue."

*Terry Lanagan, Executive Director of Educational Services
West Dunbartonshire Council*

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Has an environmental impact assessment been carried out?

Yes. Various reports published since 2004.

The detailed papers are available on clacksweb:

www.clacksweb.org.uk/transport/railways

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Rail safety issues in Redwell vicinity

1. Safety -

- Palisade fencing on the north side and steel mesh changing to palisade on the south side on the approach to Grange Road footbridge.
- The fencing was selected in line with the specifications where trespass or where juveniles could seek to gain entry to the railway infrastructure was deemed to be likely.
- The project architect will take into account the proximity of the railway when laying out the school and its associated outdoor recreation areas.

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Rail safety issues in Redwell vicinity

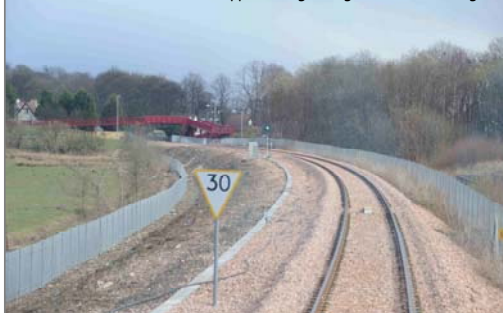
2. Train speeds -

- Eastbound passenger and freight trains:
Permanent Speed Restriction (PSR) drops down to 30 mph from 70 mph for passenger and 60 mph for freight,
- Westbound passenger and freight trains:
PSR is increasing from 30 mph to 70 mph for passenger and 60 mph for freight.
- Train speeds are lower than those experienced west of Cambus heading back towards Stirling
- The position of SK6541 signal for eastbound movements governs the speed in this area.

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View from loaded coal train approaching Grange Road foot bridge.



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Rail safety issues in Redwell vicinity

3. Track alignment -

- The railway at this location was formerly double-track. The present bi-directional line is laid on what would have been the southernmost track, furthest from the site.
- The line curves at this location but that should not be an issue.

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Rail safety issues in Redwell vicinity

4. Noise and Vibration -

- There have been studies undertaken with input from Transport Scotland and the latest vibration study was carried out by AECOM during 16th to 25th November 2010 inclusive.

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Rail safety issues in Redwell vicinity

5. Coal Dust -

- There will always be some residual coal dust on the wagons due to the loading processes.
- The freight operating companies take all reasonable steps to reduce any trainborne commodity dust.

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Rail safety issues in Redwell vicinity

5. Exhaust emissions -

- Class 66 and the new Class 70 diesel locomotives conform to the EC Directives on exhaust gas and noise emissions.
- Former BR first generation diesel locomotives occasionally traverse SAK and these retain "grandfather rights" in terms of emissions.
- SAK is a route that can be used by any operator who can also use any class of locomotive provided it meets the axle load and route availability requirements for this route.
- The SAK route also sees steam traction on charter trains several times a year and steam is currently exempt under the EC Directives.

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Rail safety issues in Redwell vicinity

5. Future use -

- There are aspirations for through traffic flows to and from Fife terminals however these are dependant on the relevant customers resolving funding issues.
- Plans for electrification during 2016 by Transport Scotland as part of the Edinburgh To Glasgow Improvements Programme (EGIP) project, subject to business case and availability of suitable funding.
- The electrification of any route in the UK always takes into consideration any schools, colleges and playing fields when at detailed design stage.

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Can the fence at Claremont be moved?

The fence at Claremont is being re-aligned this week (21-25 Feb 2011) as part of the demolition contract. The previous position marked off the demolition works' site boundary from Claremont PS.

The new fence position will mark the actual Claremont PS boundary with the former Alloa Academy site.

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Size regulations for schools' sites

420 Pupil School	Site area (acres)	Site area (hectares)
Minimum Standard	3.00	1.21
Redwell	15.75	6.37
Pavilions	3.52	1.42

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QUESTIONS

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Extract from Technical Options Appraisal Report

OPTION	Net Capital Cost of Works (£)	Net Cost/ (Saving) 30 Years (£)	Capital Receipts (£)	Total Cost/ (Saving) 30 Years (£)	Total Cost/ (Saving) Per Year (£)
B	3,018,376	4,978,376	-	4,978,376	165,946
D	4,428,620	2,689,112	(350,000)	2,339,112	77,970
F	4,682,624	1,553,363	(1,100,000)	453,363	15,112

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