

Craig Machan welcomed attendees and introduced Lesley Robertson who gave a presentation in which she talked through the current position of Park Primary and Tower Nursery and the options for merging the two, as described:

Option 1 – Move Tower Nursery into the same building as Park Primary

Option 2 – Keep Tower Nursery in a separate building, but with the same Management as Park Primary.

The meeting was then opened for questions and comments.

## QUESTIONS RAISED / AREAS OF CONCERN:

1. **Should the proposal be accepted and the children moved into one building, will any savings be ring-fenced to improve staff and facilities at Park Primary?**

*Bradley Cunninghamham, Parent - Tower Nursery*

**Lesley Roberston**

If the result of the consultation is to be re-located in the school, there would be very little savings on staff costs due to pupil:teacher ratios.

2. **Would it be possible to go beyond the minimum set requirements? If you sell the building and receive a cash injection would the revenue be used on the school or for another statue on a roundabout or potholes?**

*Bradley Cunninghamham, Parent - Tower Nursery*

**Lesley Robertson**

I cannot guarantee that any savings would be ring-fenced to Park Primary. I would expect a good proportion would be spread across education. When we consulted on the Budget Engagement Strategy with the public respondents agreed that savings could be made with fewer buildings; with more resources spent on Education.

**Eileen Turnbull**

Part of the re-location costs and adaptation costs would be off set with the first years savings, which is in excess of £180,000.

3. **Why are you changing the name from Tower Nursery to Park Nursery? Isn't this an additional cost as signs for example will have to be replaced, it has always been known as Tower Nursery, is there a need for this to change?**

*Gladys Johnstone – Parent, Park Primary and Tower Nursery*

**Lesley Roberston**

The Nursery will have to be officially closed with the Government so only one School name would be acceptable.

4. **Will there be another teacher at the nursery to help out?**

*Gladys Johnstone – Parent, Park Primary and Tower Nursery*

**Lesley Robertson**

Every nursery child will have access to a nursery teacher.

5. **You pointed out the benefit of nursery children moving onto primary school. What about the children who will not be attending Park Primary?**

*Jennifer Johnston, Parent Tower Nursery*

**Lesley Robertson**

This is why the second proposal is an option, as this was a strong view in the last consultation.

6. **So you prefer the second option?**

*Kevin McEwan, Parent*

**Lesley Robertson**

Yes. Having listened to the views and opinions from the previous consultation we now believe that option 2 is the preferred option.

7. **How often are we going to see the Head Teacher at the nursery, will she know the children?**

*Jennifer Johnston, Parent Tower Nursery*

**Lesley Robertson**

I would expect any Head Teacher to know every child in the school, whether they be in the nursery class or Primary 7.

8. **It won't be easy to be in two places at once.**

*Jennifer Johnston, Parent Tower Nursery*

**Lesley Robertson**

This is an advantage of option 1 however, the distance between the nursery and school is not far. For example

Abercromby Primary have a separate nursery class in such a situation the Head Teacher will be determined and this is the standard we would set.

**Eileen Turnbull**

11 primary schools in Clackmannanshire now have a nursery class attached to the school, for example Clackmannan Primary.

**9. If we want to see the Head Teacher, will it be the case that we have to make an appointment?**

*Jennifer Johnston, Parent Tower Nursery*

**Lesley Robertson**

I would expect the Head Teacher as much as possible to be around when the children arrive and depart from the nursery so parents will not have the need to make an appointment.

**Sharon Evenden**

Clackmannan Primary is the most recent school to have a nursery class and parents had similar anxieties, feedback since has been extremely positive and they see the Head Teacher a huge amount.

**10. A recent report by the EIS on nursery education highlighted the importance and value of having qualified teachers in nursery classes and schools. Clackmannanshire must be commended on committing and providing such, can we have an assurance that that provision will continue in the future?**

*Gordon Joyce, EIS*

**Lesley Robertson**

The children in the nursery class will have access to a qualified teacher.

**12. Will the funding for the nursery still be separate or will it be conjoined with the school funding?**

*Kevin McEwan, Parent – Park Primary and Tower Nursery*

**Lesley Robertson**

The nursery classes and primary schools have separate lines in the budget.

**13. Who decides what it will be spent on?**

*Kevin McEwan, Parent – Park Primary and Tower Nursery*

**Lesley Robertson**

The Head Teacher, in consultation with staff and parents.

**14. Will there be a full time teacher in the nursery class?**

*Kevin McEwan, Parent – Park Primary and Tower Nursery*

**Lesley Robertson**

It may not be full time, but nursery children will have access to a qualified teacher.

**15. Why not full time?**

*Kevin McEwan, Parent – Park Primary and Tower Nursery*

**Lesley Robertson**

The requirement is that we provide access, not necessarily a full time teacher. We are currently looking at the number of hours of teacher time that is provided in nursery classes across Clackmannanshire.

**16. How will the school support the nursery, who will be responsible for the nursery?**

*Kevin McEwan, Parent – Park Primary and Tower Nursery*

**Lesley Robertson**

The Head Teacher will be responsible for all the children.

**17. How often will they be there, will it be whenever she has free time?**

*Kevin McEwan, Parent – Park Primary and Tower Nursery*

**Lesley Robertson**

No, I would expect the Head Teacher to see the parents and children regularly at expected times.

**18. You cannot guarantee these times. This is unfair to the Head Teacher to split their time.**

*Jennifer Johnston, Parent Tower Nursery*

**Sharon**

We have 11 of our nurseries set like this already, and it works extremely successfully.

**19. Does Clackmannan Primary have as many children as Park Primary?**

*Jennifer Johnston, Parent Tower Nursery*

**Sharon**

Clackmannan Primary has more children than Park Primary.

**20. My child attended St Johns Nursery and I was not aware of any difference in the manner in which it was run in relation to it being a nursery class rather than a stand alone nursery. I felt I had no access issues in relation to the Head Teacher.**

*Bradley Cunningham, Parent - Tower Nursery*

**21. Will the running of the nursery be the same. For example can the groups that run currently?**

*Kevin McEwan, Parent – Park Primary and Tower Nursery*

**Lesley Robertson**

There will be no reason to change any activities that are working however, on consultation with children and

parents improvements can be made.

22. **You stated that there is no reason to change something that is working. The current set up of Mrs Dempster being the Head Teacher in the nursery is working, so why is there the need to change?**

*Jennifer Johnston, Parent Tower Nursery*

**Lesley Robertson**

Mrs Dempster is an acting Head Teacher at the nursery.

23. **What about the children with additional needs in the school?**

*Kevin McEwan, Parent – Park Primary and Tower Nursery*

**Lesley Robertson**

The Primary School Support Service would also be relocated.

24. **You have stated costings at £3,500 for a new fence and door. Will they get new windows and a new roof?**

*Kevin McEwan, Parent – Park Primary and Tower Nursery*

**Eileen Turnbull**

Council wide, there is a programme of maintenance over the next 3-5 years that looks at the condition of schools. If Tower Nursery became a condition level 'C' for example it would be moved accordingly in the priority list, this would be no different if the second option was chosen.

25. **Is Tower Nursery not in the running for new windows and a new roof before any other nursery?**

*Kevin McEwan, Parent – Park Primary and Tower Nursery*

**Eileen Turnbull**

There are other buildings sitting in a worse condition than Tower Nursery.

26. **What will happen to Mrs Dempster, will she still be in the nursery class as the full time teacher?**

*Kevin McEwan, Parent – Park Primary and Tower Nursery*

**Lesley Robertson**

Mrs Dempster would return to the post as a nursery teacher, teachers are employed by the Council, not a particular school.

27. **Why are you going to spend so much money on a gate and fence if you are trying to save on costs. Can't this money be used on something else rather than a gate?**

*Jennifer Johnston, Parent Tower Nursery*

**Lesley Robertson**

The cost is relatively low in terms of work to be done.

**Eileen Turnbull**

If parents feel that a gate is an unnecessary expense, please articulate this on the consultation form. This was looked for the ease of the Head Teacher in transition between the school building and nursery building and for the safety of children.

28. **Who gets the job as Head Teacher, if you take one of the two acting Head Teachers away from the post a new one will have to start from scratch.**

*Kevin McEwan, Parent – Park Primary and Tower Nursery*

**Lesley Robertson**

The post will be advertised. There are procedures that must be followed in the appointment of a Head Teacher. Representatives of the Parent Council will be heavily involved in the appointment of a new Head Teacher. Recently parents of Strathdevon, Alloa Academy, Clarendon and Coalsnaughton Primaries can show how heavily they played a part in the selection and recruitment of the Head Teacher.

29. **Can I clarify that the same contact hours will be adhered to in terms of teacher contact as there is currently?**

*Gordon Joyce, EIS*

**Lesley Robertson**

Not necessarily, but this is being reviewed Council wide.

30. **Can you confirm the time and location of the meeting?**

*Name Undeclared (A)*

**Lesley Robertson**

Alloa Academy at 6.30pm.

31. **Can't you make the meeting an earlier time?**

*Kevin McEwan, Parent – Park Primary and Tower Nursery*

**Lesley Robertson**

Due to the availability of buildings and timescales the time is arranged. We will be happy to try and accommodate a different time if you feel it is unsuitable.

32. **Most parents have access to the internet, can't you have the opportunity for them to comment and ask questions there?**

*Jennifer Johnston, Parent Tower Nursery*

**Lesley Robertson**

If you go onto Clackswab, the online questionnaires and documentation is available. The minute and presentation will also be available in due course.

- 33. Are we to infer that contact hours between teacher and child is to be reduced across all institutions?**

*Gordon Joyce, EIS*

**Lesley Robertson**

We are currently reviewing the deployment of teachers.

- 34. Are we looking at a reduced amount of buildings to increase the incoming revenue, and reducing the amount of outgoings in regards to teachers?**

*Gordon Joyce, EIS*

**Lesley Robertson**

You could infer such, as we must find considerable savings but still maintain the high quality of education

- 35. Will the teachers and staff currently at the nursery change?**

*Kevin McEwan, Parent – Park Primary and Tower Nursery*

**Sharon Evenden**

Staff can change, but the Council must adhere to the ratios set by the Government.

- 36. Will the support staff change in number?**

*Kevin McEwan, Parent – Park Primary and Tower Nursery*

**Sharon**

We will look at the requirements of the nursery, which is reviewed each year.

- 37. Will there still be a gym teacher for the nursery?**

*Kevin McEwan, Parent – Park Primary and Tower Nursery*

**Sharon**

The Council still has a commitment to provide an Active Start Programme.

**Lesley Robertson**

Visitors came to review the Active Start Programme and it is still a valuable programme with which they were very impressed.

Craig Machan closed the meeting on behalf of the panel, everyone was thanked for their attendance, views and opinions. Forms and proposals were available and attendees were encouraged to take copies for neighbours or other parents. Copies are also available in the nursery. Gordon Joyce will place the EIS research paper at Tower Nursery if anyone would like a copy.