

Educational Development

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Clackmannanshire Council

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Our ref:
Date: 7th June 2011

Dear Consultee

ST. JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL/CLAREMONT PRIMARY SCHOOL CONSULTATION

The consultation period in relation to the proposal to merge St. John's Primary School and Claremont Primary School in a new build on the Redwell site ended on 5th April 2011.

As the response to the consultation will be presented to Council on 30th June 2011 we are providing you with a summary of the recommendations

Please note that this summary is for information only and copies of the full statutory report can be readily accessed as follows

- At Claremont and St. John's Primary Schools
- Online at www.clacksweb.org.uk
- At Lime Tree House, Greenfield or Kilncraigs
- Alternatively if you wish a copy to be posted please call 01259 450000

If you have any questions relating to the consultation please contact either Primary School in the first instance.

WHAT DID WE DO?

We consulted with people by:

- Sending copies of the consultation document to people we thought would be interested in it
- We put a notice in the local paper
- We put information on our website
- We held a public meeting to explain what we wanted to do
- We asked people to let us know what they thought about the proposal

PROPOSAL

It is proposed that education provision is discontinued at St. John's Primary School and Claremont Primary School on the completion of a new school for Alloa West.

WHAT DID PEOPLE THINK OF THE PROPOSAL?

- 148 responses were received
- The highest number of responses (52) was in favour of the proposal.

WHAT WERE PEOPLE'S MAIN CONCERNS?

- Concern was raised about the impact on children's education in a larger school
- Concern was expressed about the safety of the Redwell site
- Some of the respondent raised the issue of what would happen to the St. John's school site
- Concern was raised about the management of the merged school
- Some of the respondents raised concern about having to travel further to school
- Several respondents suggested the school should be built on the old Alloa Academy site

The Education Service has taken these concerns into consideration when finalising the proposal. The responses are listed below:

- There is very little UK research evidence on the impact of the size of a primary school on outcomes for pupils. It is the view of officers that it is the quality of learning and teaching in classrooms which has the biggest impact on pupils.
- Actions would be taken to ensure that pupil education about and engagement with road safety was as effective as possible. Safety regarding the proximity to the railway would be addressed in the same way.
- The St John's site would be made secure if it was no longer to be used as a school. If it were declared surplus, it would be disposed of appropriately.
- The merger of the two schools would mean the removal of the post of one Headteacher. At the public meeting on 10 February 2011, the Chief Executive gave an assurance to parents that the headteacher of any new, merged school would be recruited through national advertisement.
- Pupils most affected by the move would be those who live in the Claremont catchment area close to Lornshill Academy. However, the catchment areas would still come within the acceptable statutory walking distance for primary pupils.
- At the time of the consultation, the Alloa Academy site was under offer by a purchaser and, as a result, it could not be considered as an option.

All of the concerns raised and responses to them can be found in the main statutory document.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

We have read all of the points raised and looked at the concerns of those people who contacted us.

The Education Service and the Facilities Management Service have recommended that the proposal goes ahead and that a new school for Alloa West be built on the Redwell site and St. John's and Claremont Primary Schools should be merged on its completion.

If Clackmannanshire Council approves the recommendation at its meeting on 30 June 2011, it will be passed to the Scottish Government who would have six weeks to consider the closure. You would have three weeks to bring to the attention of Scottish Ministers any matters you think they should consider. The Scottish Government would have a further three weeks to consider any points made.

If the matter is referred to Scottish Ministers, we shall advise you of the outcome of the referral at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely

Lesley Robertson
Interim Head of Education