



Outcome of the statutory consultation on the proposal to relocate Walston Primary School from its current location to the village of Elsrickle, opposite the Village Hall.

November 2016

This report has been issued by South Lanarkshire Council in response to the consultation undertaken in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. This report includes recommendations of the outcome of the consultation which will be presented to the Executive Committee of South Lanarkshire Council.

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1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise all stakeholders on the outcome of the statutory consultation exercise undertaken in respect of the proposal to relocate Walston Primary School from its current location to the village of Elsrickle, opposite the Village Hall. This includes a report from Education Scotland on the educational aspects of the proposal and Education Resources' responses to all questions and issues raised during the consultation period.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is intended that the consultation report, along with any relevant documentation, will be considered by the Executive Committee of South Lanarkshire Council on 8 February 2017.
- 2.2 It is recommended that the Executive Committee:
- note the contents of the report;
 - agree the proposal to relocate Walston Primary School from its current location to the village of Elsrickle, opposite the Village Hall.

3. Background

- 3.1 A consultation proposal document was issued as a result of a decision by the Executive Committee of South Lanarkshire Council on 8 June 2016 to consult on the proposal below:
- relocate Walston Primary School from its current location to the village of Elsrickle, opposite the Village Hall.
- 3.2 The statutory consultation, in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 was carried out over the period 15 August to 30 September 2016 which included a public meeting held on 30 August 2016 in Elsrickle Public Hall.
- 3.3 A consultation notice was placed in the Lanark Gazette during week commencing 8 August 2016. The notice included a summary of the proposal, information on availability of the proposal document, how written representations could be made and also details of the public meeting.
- 3.4 Notification of the proposal was issued on 12 August 2016 to the consultees listed in Appendix 1. The full consultation proposal document was published on the Council website and a copy made available from all libraries, Q and As and from Walston Primary School.
- 3.5 A public meeting was held on 30 August 2016 in Elsrickle Public Hall. A summary of the oral representations made at this meeting is included as Appendix 2 in this report.
- 3.6 South Lanarkshire Council sent a copy of the proposal document to Education Scotland (formerly HMle) on 12 August 2016 in their role as a statutory consultee. In addition, on 24 October 2016, Education Scotland was provided with a summary of all relevant written responses and oral representations made during the consultation period.
- 3.7 South Lanarkshire Council received a copy of Education Scotland's report on 8 November 2016. A summary of this report and Education Resources' response to the key points is included in Section 7 of this consultation report and a copy of the whole document is included as Appendix 3.

4.0 Distribution of proposal document and summary of responses

Notification of this consultation was sent directly to 45 statutory stakeholders. An advert in the Lanark Gazette during week commencing 8 August 2016 also gave the details to all interested parties of the consultation, the closing date, how to access necessary documentation and the details of the public meeting. The consultation document was accessible via the Council website, libraries and Q and As.

The total number of responses that were received was twenty seven (27).

Analysis of physical responses received – total 27

In favour of proposal 22 Not in favour of proposal 4
 Undecided 1

Table 1

Response to proposal	Total	Breakdown of responses	Parent of child at Walston PS	Parent of potential future pupil at Walston PS	Local Resident	Parent Council	Staff	Other
In favour	22		10	1	2	1	8	0
Not in favour	4		0	0	3	0	0	1
Undecided	1		1	0	0	0	0	0

For clarification, relevant statutory consultees are

- the Parent Councils of affected schools
- parents of pupils attending each affected school as well as the pupils themselves
- parents of pupils likely to attend an affected school
- staff at each affected school
- any trade union representative of those staff
- any other users whom the authority considers relevant

Comments received from 14 stakeholders that provided a response are detailed on pages 4 – 8 (13 made no comment on the response form). The written responses contained are relatively unedited, but information that would lead to the identification of individuals has been removed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Designation	In favour of Proposal?	Comments / Issues raised	Council Response to feedback
Local resident	Yes	<p>We fully agree with the general proposal to move the school to the new proposed location. There is the potential to add much to the experience of young learners and the life of the village. As local residents, we have an interest on its impact upon the immediate environment and the infrastructure of the village. We trust that we will be fully informed of progress and opportunities to comment as detail emerges through the planning process should the Council decide to go ahead with the proposal.</p> <p>We also understand that the proposed site has been made available as part of a package to include housing development. We hope that future processes will be characterised by openness and transparency.</p>	<p>These comments are in support of the Council's proposal.</p> <p>If the proposal is approved, an additional parent and resident roadshow would be held. Also, through the planning application process, statutory neighbourhood notification and publicity procedures would be carried out to allow members of the public to make their views on the proposals known.</p>
Local Resident	Yes	<p>I am in agreement with the proposal providing that the school does not affect the skyline excessively as the area is a designated area of scenic value, and the infrastructure is addressed to accommodate the new school i.e. water supply, surface water drainage and electricity supply. Also that the design and build fits in with surrounding buildings and doesn't end up looking like an alien has just dropped it there.</p> <p>Another consideration, in my opinion, would be traffic flow. Generally speed is not an issue, but maybe moving the 30 MPH sign maybe 100 metres or more out of the village will help with regard to traffic slowing down to turn into the entrance for the school. Also, should you need any help at any time, I am always available.</p>	<p>The design of the school will be in keeping with the site context. Our palette of materials for small, rural schools includes stone, timber, slate and render finishes.</p> <p>Roads and Transportation Services have agreed to carry out a speed survey. The survey results will be used to determine if it would be appropriate to move the existing 30mph speed limit signs. As with most schools that are accessed directly from an 'A' classified road, a part time 20mph mandatory speed limit will be introduced.</p>
Local Resident	No	<p>Surprising that given Dolphinton is the largest settlement in the existing catchment area, and the majority of the present pupils at the school reside in Dolphinton, that no consideration appears to have been given to relocating the school there. Within living memory, a school, now closed, has existed there. 4 concerns with the proposal.</p> <p>1. Road safety. I consulted on several occasions the SLC Roads Department and Strathclyde Police, as it was then, on traffic speeds through the village. Several monitoring exercises were carried out, notably in the region of the middle of the village, concluding that the 85 percentile speed there, in both directions, was around 40MPH. Enforcement action was denied as accident statistics did not support any. Undeniably traffic speeds have increased in recent years as Police presence in the area has diminished. The design of any access to the school from the A721 must not encourage or permit any further invitations to motorists to increase their speed further. How is it proposed to supervise child pedestrian access to and from the school premises? At the very least an automated traffic survey should be carried out in the vicinity of the proposed entrance before proceeding with this proposal.</p> <p>2. Exposed site. Elsrickle sits on a ridge below the Pentland range with an open aspect to the prevailing winds. The proposed site is particularly exposed. Local dog walkers using an adjacent field have considerable experience, over many years, of the hazards created by strong winds. The constituency MSP visited the location earlier this year in the late afternoon and considered it unsafe, due to high winds, to venture onto the site. I accept that the existing school is also located at the foot of the Pentland range. It is however, protected from the elements to some extent by many mature deciduous trees. The proposed location could not benefit in the same way for many decades. At the very least a wind monitoring exercise should be initiated before proceeding with this proposal.</p>	<p>Of the current primary pupil roll of 30 children, 53% stay in Walston/Elsrickle/Candybank/Candy Mill, 27% stay in Dolphinton, with 20% coming from out with the catchment area (Carnwath).</p> <p>Roads and Transportation Services have agreed to carry out a speed survey. Roads and Transportation Services have also requested that a part time 20mph mandatory speed limit be introduced.</p> <p>The outline design of the school shows it will be built into the slope which will afford some degree of protection, and it will be designed to suit the wind loadings experienced on the site.</p>

<p>(continued from previous page)</p>	<p>(continued from previous page)</p> <p>3. Flash flooding. There have been occasions during torrential downpours when rainwater has run down over the surface of the proposed site and adjacent land onto the service road and around the houses below. The proposed school and other infrastructure will make some of the site impermeable, which could enhance the dangers of flash flooding being more severe or more frequent. Local residents will need to be assured that their properties will be at no further risk in the event that the school is built.</p> <p>4. Car Parking. The residents, of the houses alongside the service road opposite to the proposed site, are frequently inconvenienced by the inconsiderate parking by visitors to the existing Village Hall. Representations were made some years ago to SLC to have parking bays marked out on this road to assist in controlling parking. This was refused. The consultation document invites greater use of the school facilities by the community. It is important that adequate parking provision is made within the school boundary in order to mitigate against the problem for residents getting any worse. It is understood that some parents choose to take and collect their children by car from school rather than rely on school transport. If that is the case then provision will need to be made within the proposals for such parents to park safely and considerately without impacting on the local community.</p> <p>I am concerned that the proposal document paints a picture that does not represent the reality on the ground, but rather it is intended to fit a policy narrative written in Edinburgh. It cannot be acceptable to give a false impression to those in authority who, whilst lacking any personal knowledge of the area, will determine the final outcome.</p> <p>(a) Reference is made (3.1) to the existing school being off the A721. The existing school is on an unclassified road some 0.6miles from a junction with the A721. The proposed new location is accessed directly from the A721.</p> <p>(b) There is no evidence that the “wider community” in Elsrickle was ever informed of, or invited to, a Roadshow on the 5th February [2015].</p> <p>(c) Regarding the Educational Benefits – assessment of the likely effects of the proposal on Pupils of Primary Age (4.1).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The system that pumps water to the existing school is the same system that pumps water to the village of Elsrickle. ii. Elsrickle has NO amenities and evidence of previous shops and garage are non existent. The Church building is now a private residence without public access. iii. The reference to <i>Developing the Young Workforce and Skills for Learning, Life and Work</i> cites contact with the community. If a local accessed community is of such benefit, surely the bigger the community the greater the benefit. The settlement of Dolphinton has a much greater population than the settlement of Elsrickle. Hence my observation posed at the top of this response. <p>(d) Staff (4.2) would benefit in the same way as the pupils by having a bigger adjacent community area. I say again, Dolphinton must be a preferred location when using this argument, as it is the largest settlement in the area.</p> <p>(e) Regarding school facilities (5.3) I have observed over many years that Walston School events have been staged in Elsrickle Village Hall. No one has suggested and the document does not offer any explanation as to what possible school facilities the local community may gain from the proposed school location.</p>	<p>SLC Civil Engineers have carried out desk top studies to both quantify the amount of rainwater run off and propose a drainage system incorporating attenuation storage to deal with it. It is also anticipated that a Flood Risk assessment will be prepared during the Planning Consent process.</p> <p>Comments noted.</p> <p>An invitation to the Roadshow held in February 2015 was extended to neighbouring residents of the existing Walston Primary School and to all parents / carers of pupils and those with nursery children.</p> <p>Comments noted.</p> <p>Comments noted. However, no staff or parents have suggested this.</p> <p>The accommodation within the new school would be available to let by members of the public out with school hours, particularly the Gym / Dining Hall. The external Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) would be available for informal use out with school hours.</p>
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Local resident	No	<p>Location: We are not clear as to why Elsrickle would be chosen for the site given that Dolphinton is the largest village in the area and the majority of the present pupils reside in Dolphinton. Consideration should surely be given to locating the school there?</p> <p>In addition to this, the site is very exposed to high winds and building a school on such a site could lead to increased repair bills for wind damage or indeed closure which would not be good for the pupils' education.</p> <p>Road safety: The road (A721) is a main thoroughfare and as a result vehicles pass through at great speed which would not be conducive to keeping pupils safe. In addition to this there are regularly many accidents on the A702 which lead to its closure meaning that the A721 becomes the diversion route, increasing the traffic and its speed. Finally there are a lot of heavy duty agricultural vehicles passing through the village which again would not be conducive to keeping pupils safe.</p> <p>Amenities: The planning document seems to suggest that there are amenities in Elsrickle when there are NO amenities in the village. There previously was a petrol station but this has been closed for a long time and is a proposed redevelopment site. As a result we struggle to see how the school will benefit the community.</p> <p>Electricity and Water: There are frequent power cuts in Elsrickle and again we cannot see how this would be conducive to running a school? In addition to this the water supply has very low pressure which again would need to be addressed for the purposes of a school.</p> <p>Flooding: There are often torrential downpours which lead to water running off the proposed site and on to the road etc. If the school and other associated infrastructure are built then this could lead to flash flooding issues for neighbouring houses.</p>	<p>Of the current primary pupil roll of 30 children, 53% stay in Walston/Elsrickle/Candybank/Candy Mill, 27% stay in Dolphinton, with 20% coming from out with the catchment area (Carnwath).</p> <p>Roads and Transportation Services have agreed to carry out a speed survey. Roads and Transportation Services have also requested that a part time 20mph mandatory speed limit will be introduced due to the nature of the road.</p> <p>Comments noted.</p> <p>The response from Scottish Water to the Council's Pre-Development Enquiry confirms that <i>'There is sufficient capacity in the Coulter Water Treatment Works and also the local network to service the demands from your development.'</i></p> <p>The plans for the new build school building on the proposed site will include a SUDS system (sustainable urban drainage system) to enable drain off from the site and run off from the field behind.</p>
Local resident / former pupil and parent	No	<p>I spoke to the local councillor some months ago regarding the proposal to relocate Walston Primary School from its current location to a site in Elsrickle village. I believe Walston Primary School is situated in the correct location. It was built between Elsrickle and Walston so that it was equidistant between both Walston and Elsrickle villages. Since the 1970s it has also served Weston, Dunsyre and Dolphinton villages.</p> <p>Elsrickle is a busy commuter village with the A721 running through the centre. The number of children in Elsrickle is minimal and the village also has an ageing population.</p> <p>It is understandable why a new school is required, but I am totally against relocating it. I attended Walston Primary School and my children are the 4th generation of my family to attend.</p> <p>A new primary school at Libberton was opened last year and is outwith Libberton Village. It is on a more secure and much quieter road than the one running through Libberton. Like Libberton Primary, Walston is on a secure road with houses nearby.</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p> <p>Comments noted.</p> <p>A new location for Libberton Primary School was considered. However there were no suitable, council-owned sites available within the catchment area.</p>

Member of staff / member of the community	Yes	<p>I support the relocation of Walston Primary as I feel its more central location will have positive benefits for all stakeholders.</p> <p>Pupils – more open, spacious site; part of the community.</p> <p>Parents – fewer closures due to adverse weather (snow); more central location for pick-ups; more room for parking.</p> <p>Staff / visiting staff – more central location; parking; larger site; more links with the community.</p> <p>Community – engage with school (even if own children no longer at school); opportunity to use school for meeting place / clubs.</p> <p>It would be great to see the school as the hub of this community – centrally situated, convenient and visible!!</p>	These comments are in support of the Council's proposal.
Other Interested party (former pupil who lives out with SLC)	No	<p>I am aware of SLC School Modernisation Programme and am in agreement that in this modern age, more modern buildings are more practicable for many reasons. However, I disagree with the reasons put forward in the consultation document to move the school to a different location altogether. Walston Primary is approximately a one minute drive from the A721. If the weather is inclement the school would be closed anyway in order for pupils to return home and it being a rural area most of them travel on 'B' roads.</p> <p>Walston School incorporates the villages of Weston, Dunsyre, Dolphinton, Walston and Elsrickle. Those pupils who do not use the transport provided are dropped off by parents. I do not agree that decanting to another school whilst work was taking place would be a problem – other schools have had similar circumstances.</p> <p>The A721 runs straight through the centre of Elsrickle. It is dangerous and can be a very fast road; every child would have to be collected anyway.</p> <p>Elsrickle is an ageing village; minimal children attend Walston School from the village. It has no amenities apart from a village hall. The garage and shop were knocked down and sold for housing many years ago and the site still lies empty with no houses being built. The Church was sold and is now a house and the post office is no longer there.</p> <p>Libberton has a new primary school and the Council sought land from the local farmer. I see no difference between Walston and Libberton Primary Schools.</p>	<p>The Council's strategy is to create new, modern and vibrant learning environments for children and teachers and wherever practicable, avoiding the need to decant children to another building during the construction phase. Roads and Transportation Services have requested that a part time 20mph mandatory speed limit will be introduced due to the nature of the road.</p> <p>Comments noted.</p> <p>A new location for Libberton Primary School was considered. However there were no suitable, council-owned sites available within the catchment area.</p>
Parent	Yes	<p>I think the new location in Elsrickle would be fantastic for the school. It would be great for the community. I really hope the new school goes ahead in the location of Elsrickle village.</p>	These comments are in support of the Council's proposal.
Parent	Undecided	<p>Whilst accepting that the current site has serious renovation and use issues and a new school would address these, and the proposed site has expansion space, I have serious concerns about the proximity of the proposed site to the busy A721. I'm aware that the road has a fair volume of traffic and that some of that traffic is heavy laden quarry lorries. <i>My concern is appropriate traffic calming and safety measures are required!</i> There are also limited pavements for 'safe walking to a school' so footpaths would need resolving before a school opened. But if the safety issues can be addressed the proposals are acceptable for a new school. Proposed site is on a very busy road which drivers often speed on so concerns are safety of children, parents, staff and visitors when accessing proposed site.</p>	<p>Roads and Transportation Services have agreed to carry out a speed survey. Roads and Transportation Services have also requested that a part time 20mph mandatory speed limit will be introduced due to the nature of the road.</p>

Parent	Yes	In line with Council and Government policy will this investment in the village of Elsrickle be a catalyst for the deployment of super fast broadband in the Village? The school will need to have high capacity internet access which will require fibre links to the exchange. In line with the Council's digital strategy the Council's investment should be used for the benefit of the whole community.	Currently there is no fibre ducting at or near the site which indicates that high Excess Construction Charges would be attributed to the rebuild budget – previous quotes received for similarly sized schools in a rural location have proven to be prohibitive. If the proposal to relocate is approved, once the new build is ready for connection to SLC Education's Wide Area Network, the availability of telecoms services will be followed up with providers and if there has been no technology upgrade by BT, then the school will connect with the same type of line they currently operate on (ASDL max over the copper network).
Parent	Yes	As the new school is located near a busy main road, I would like to be reassured that appropriate plans be made so that the school is set back from the road and a car park is available for parents to park and collect. Also pavements and a school crosser, traffic lights and zebra crossing.	Roads and Transportation Services would require appropriate pick up and drop off facilities and these will be developed as the project progresses. The provision of a crossing facility where there are low numbers of pedestrians can create a road safety issue. Roads and Transportation Services would not recommend such a facility.
Parent	Yes	I fully support the proposal as I see little point in rebuilding a new school on the current plot of land which thereby offers no extra space or facilities. The new proposal offers so much more for the children and community.	These comments are in support of the Council's proposal.
Parent	Yes	A new, larger site in Elsrickle will allow a larger school and playground to be built. This offers a fantastic opportunity for the pupils and staff and will undoubtedly improve their learning experience both indoors and out.	These comments are in support of the Council's proposal.
Parent and representative of Walston Parent Council	Yes	I think this is an excellent proposal to move the school from a secluded area to the heart of one of the villages it serves. We have been affected by numerous closures due to snow and siting the new school on a major artery will improve the schooling for the children. For the village, we would love to be in a village with such a facility. House prices will improve as the school has such a good reputation and it will perhaps be enhanced by new housing proposed in Elsrickle. The school prides itself in offering open days and teas which would allow some older people in Elsrickle to have days to look forward to. The children have limited outside areas in Walston and the Parent Council spend time fundraising to allow for buses to take children to other facilities to maintain their PE requirements. Elsrickle Hall is one facility used at present and placing the school across from it would allow it to be utilised within walking distance allowing fundraising activities to focus on other curriculum areas.	These comments are in support of the Council's proposal.

5. Pupil comments

Walston Primary School's Pupil Councils were asked for a representative view on the proposal. They discussed this on 7 September 2016 and their comments are below.

- Swallows nest in our building and I am concerned about where they will go – P7 pupil
- Will there be traffic calming in Elsrickle? – P6 pupil
- Will the canteen be joined to the school? – P6 pupil
- Elsrickle is on a main road – P7 pupil
- It's a good idea that some people can walk to school – P6 pupil
- I think it is a good idea because our building is old – P4 pupil
- Some people will have to travel further- P4 pupil
- Will we have the same school badge? – P6 pupil
- All of the Pupil Council (2016) think the move to Elsrickle is the better choice.

6. Summary of issues raised by Education Scotland (formerly HMIE) and Education Resources' responses

6.1 As part of the statutory consultation process, Education Scotland prepared a report on the consultation proposal by South Lanarkshire Council, addressing educational aspects of the proposal. This report is attached as Appendix 3.

6.2 Education Scotland recognised that the proposal has many educational benefits.

6.3 Education Scotland found, from its own discussions with stakeholders / statutory consultees (parents, pupils and staff), that the proposal was strongly supported. However stakeholders were keen to work with the Council to overcome some concerns over safe routes to school and the actual design of the new building.

6.4 In summary, Education Scotland acknowledged that there was a sound rationale for the proposal and that the education benefits for children have been appropriately considered and demonstrated.

6.5 Response

South Lanarkshire Council welcomes the very positive report received by Education Scotland and is committed to continuing to work with stakeholders to deliver a new school that meets the needs of pupils, parents, staff and the local community within the budget available.

The Council will share plans of the new school, including all details of suggested road safety measures, with the wider community at a Parent / Resident roadshow that will be held in the future if this proposal is approved. Usually it is only local residents directly affected by the build of a new school that are specifically invited, but on this occasion, the Council will ensure that this event is suitably publicised locally to widen community engagement and participation. All interested parties will also have the opportunity to put forward suggestions and opinions through the formal planning process.

7. Review of proposals by South Lanarkshire Council

- 7.1 The Council has reviewed the proposals having regard (in particular) to any relevant written representations received by the Council during the consultation, and representations made at the public meeting, and Education Scotland's report.
- 7.2 Feedback received through the consultation period indicates that this proposal to relocate Walston Primary School to the village of Elsrickle is generally acceptable, however there is recognition that several concerns have been expressed on road safety. The Council will give further consideration to road safety arrangements as part of the design process of the school and will seek professional advice from Road Safety advisors and the Police as part of its commitment to engage with stakeholders.
- 7.3 A positive report from Education Scotland corroborates the educational benefits of the proposal and feedback received by the community of the affected school was favourable.
- 7.4 After review, the proposal to relocate Walston Primary School from its current location to the village of Elsrickle, opposite the Village Hall is recommended.

8. Resource, risk and policy implications

8.1 Resource implications

Property costs

Costs associated with the new Walston Primary School modernisation project and proposed land purchase for the new site would be met from the Primary Schools Modernisation Programme budget.

Staffing costs

In terms of employee resources, this will continue to be provided in each school by means of existing process e.g. annual class configuration protocols and agreed management allocations.

8.2 Risk implications

The Council has a duty to conduct risk assessments under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulation 1999. Any current risk assessments at the school would be reviewed if the proposal is implemented.

8.3 Policy implications

8.3.1 Strategy

This report supports Education Resources' priorities for raising educational achievement and attainment and achieving efficient and effective use of resources.

8.3.2 Consultation

This report describes the outcome of the statutory consultation process with all key stakeholders. Further consultation with pupils, staff, parents, Trade Unions and other stakeholders would continue if the proposal is approved.

Appendix 1 Distribution of consultation proposals document

Distribution list and how to access a copy of the proposal document

Notification of the proposal was provided to the following consultees:

- The Parent Council of the affected school
- The parents of the pupils at the affected school
- Parents who have children who are expected to attend the affected school within 2 years of the publication of this proposal document.
- The pupils at the affected school and the pupil committees and council
- All South Lanarkshire Council employees at the affected school
- Trade union representatives
- Community Councils within the affected locality
- Local churches
- All relevant users of the affected school
- South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partners

A copy of this proposal document was also made available to:

- All Elected Members of South Lanarkshire Council
- South Lanarkshire Youth Council
- Education Scotland (formerly Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education, HMIE)
- The Constituency MSP of the affected school
- List MSP for the area of the affected school
- The MP of the affected school
- Police Commander for Lanarkshire Division of Police Scotland
- Chief Executive, NHS Lanarkshire
- Chief Executive, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
- Area Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Services
- Care Inspectorate

The steps listed below were also taken to ensure that the proposal document was widely available.

- Notice of the proposals and of publication of the proposal document was placed within the Lanark Gazette
- The proposal document was also published on the South Lanarkshire Council website: www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk.
- If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs. Phone: 0303 123 1015 Email: equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
- The proposal document was also available at the following locations:
 - a. Council Offices, Education Resources, Almada Street, Hamilton, ML3 0AA. Phone: 0303 123 1023.
 - b. All libraries in South Lanarkshire
 - c. All South Lanarkshire Council Q and A Offices
 - d. The school affected by the proposal

Appendix 2 Oral questions and responses at public meeting

Note of Public Meeting held on 30 August 2016 at Elsrickle Public Hall at 6pm

Panel Members

LS	Lynn Sherry	Head of Education, Schools Modernisation and Support Services
VS	Vance Sinclair	Partnership Development Manager, Schools Modernisation Team
RI	Roger Ireland	Architectural Manager, Housing and Technical Resources
JG	Judith Gibb	Change and Development Advisor, Community and Enterprise Resources
JM	Jan McLaren	Quality Improvement Officer, Biggar Learning Community

LS opened the meeting at 6.05pm. [31 stakeholders in attendance]

Introduction by LS describing the consultation process and timescales. VS explained the background to the project and the circumstances which have led us to this public meeting. VS read out the positive outcomes which could be expected from the school moving to Elsrickle.

LS opened the meeting to questions from the floor

Question from Resident

The existing water supply (Scottish Water) has issues with pressure dropping. Is there provision for an improved water main?

Answer RI

As part of the design process talks would be held with Scottish Water regarding water supply for the school and associated drainage

Another Resident endorsed the water pressure issues

Question from Resident

Were there any other sites considered for relocating the school for example in Dolphinton?

Answer VS

As there is no available Local Authority land in the catchment other areas have not been considered. Purchase of this site was offered then considered after initial roadshow last year. VS went on to explain the process for Underbank Primary to acquire private land after considering several sites. This process added two years to the school project and would not wish for this to be the case for Walston.

Resident Response. She was perfectly happy with the proposed site in Elsrickle.

Question from Resident

Is the proposed housing development to the rear of the school site part of the scheme?

Answer VS

The school proposal is a single project and has no connection with any further house building proposals.

Question from Resident

He has had many years of discussions with the roads department and Police regarding road safety in the village. Have we given consideration to this issue and the safety of the children going to and from school?

Answer VS

The safety of the children is of the utmost priority and this will be considered as part of the design process which involves discussions with the Council Roads Department. Any discussions prior to this would have looked like the decision was a 'fait accompli'. The planning process also forms part of the consultation with the local community and will give further chance to comment. Also, at the roadshow may look to invite representative from Roads and Transportation to attend.

Question from Resident

Proposed entrance to the new school is near 30mph sign. Will consideration be taken to extend 30mph sign?

Answer VS

This will be looked at as part of the design process.

Question from Parent

Proposed access of the school is a 'Death Trap'.

Answer

Appropriate access will be considered as part of the design process.

Question from Resident

Will the design of the school be sympathetic to the village and the local landscape?

Answer RI

Yes - as part of the design there will be discussions with Planning as to the external features of the school. Reference was made to other rural schools and how they have blended into the local environment.

Question from Resident

How long will the school last?

Answer from VS

The school is designed to last for 60 years.

Question from Resident

Is there a budget for the school/nursery?

Answer from VS

The budget is £4.2M.

Question from Resident

Is there any future developments planned or affordable social housing?

Answer from VS

I am not aware of the social housing policy for this area.

Question from Resident

Can a footpath connection between new development and the school be considered?

Answer from VS

Through the Planning Application process Education Resources have requested that a footpath connection from the proposed new development at the former garage site be incorporated into the layout.

Question from Resident

What are the timescales for the new school build?

Answer VS

On conclusion of the consultation the final report will be presented to Council Committee in February 2017. Thereafter if the relocation is approved the school build estimated start will be October 2017 with an estimated completion date of December 2018

Question from Resident

Will local contractors/workforce be given the opportunity to work on the school?

Answer VS

The school will be designed by South Lanarkshire Council and will be using in-house (Building Services) to build the school.

Question from Parent

In light of issues which have occurred in Edinburgh Council what safeguards are in place with SLC?

Answer from RI

Most rural schools are a timber frame construction which is different to that of the Edinburgh schools that experienced issues. In-house (Building Services) and external contractors will be used. A Clerk of Works will also be involved to oversee construction.

Question from Parent

Where is the school funded from?

Answer from VS

Council monies. The Council own and maintain the school.

Question from school teacher.

Will the old School site at Walston be sold?

Answer VS

This would be the case with the receipt being reinvested in the schools programme

Question from Resident

Does the school have a community hall?

Answer from VS

All schools are built for community use.

Question from Resident

Do community groups get favourable rates?

Answer from VS

Charges for the accommodation in the new school will be in line with the charging schedule that applies to all halls and schools within South Lanarkshire.

Question from Resident

Will local children have access to the playground?

Answer from VS

Local children will have access to 'Multi Use Games Area' but not the school playground. Security manager will look at this.

Comment from Resident – This would be extremely welcome here!

Question from local Minister

What will be the name of the new school?

Answer VS

If it was suggested that there should be a new name, this would be decided by the Parent Council, Pupil Council and the School.

Answer Head Teacher

This could also give the opportunity to make changes e.g. change of badge and uniform, school motto.

Question from Resident

What will happen to the village hall and if it goes where will the old folks Christmas dinner take place?

Answer VS

With the new School having a hall would there be a need for two halls? The Christmas lunch and other local activities could take place in the new school.

Question from Resident

Has drainage and avoidance of surface flooding been considered?

Answer VS and RI

Both described how the SUDS (sustainable drainage system) would work to avoid this problem. Drainage will have to be passed by SEPA/Scottish Water.

Comment from Parent – No objection but infrastructure and safety is important.

LS thanked all for their attendance, attention and their contribution.

Meeting closed at 7pm.

The contents of this note of the public meeting are not direct quotations but are as close a representation of what was said as the scribes were able to achieve while taking hand written notes during the meeting. These should be regarded as paraphrased comments and they have been included to indicate the feelings and expressions of contributors as closely as possible.

Appendix 3 Report by Education Scotland

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by South Lanarkshire Council to relocate Walston Primary School from its current location to the village of Elsrickle, opposite the village hall.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by HM Inspectors in accordance with the terms of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* and the amendments contained in the *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*. The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of South Lanarkshire Council's proposal to relocate Walston Primary School from its current location to the village of Elsrickle, opposite the village hall. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report.

The council's final consultation report should include a copy of this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision. Where a council is proposing to close a school, it needs to follow all legislative obligations set out in the 2010 Act, including notifying Ministers within six working days of making its final decision and explaining to consultees the opportunity they have to make representations to Ministers.

- 1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children of the school; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people in the council area;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

- 1.3 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- attendance at the public meeting held on 30 August 2016 in connection with the council's proposals;
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and
- visits to the site of Walston Primary School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation Process

- 2.1 South Lanarkshire Council undertook the consultation on its proposal with reference to the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* and the amendments in the *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*.
- 2.2 The consultation process ran from 15 August 2016 to 30 September 2016. During this period the council held a public meeting at Elsrickle Hall. Notification of the proposal was provided to all statutory consultees and the documentation was made available on the council's website, in council offices, public libraries and Walston Primary School. A proforma and an email address were available for submissions. The council received 27 submissions of which 22 were in favour, four were against and one was undecided. Thirty-one stakeholders attended the public meeting. The main issues raised at the public meeting were safe routes to school and the impact of the school on the infrastructure of Elsrickle village.

3. Educational Aspects of Proposal

- 3.1 The proposal to relocate Walston Primary School has many excellent educational benefits. The current building is in poor condition. Currently, the Rural Communities Nursery makes use of the school hall two days a week, limiting access for school pupils. The delivery of high quality physical education is limited due to lack of appropriate indoor and outdoor facilities. There is no appropriate space in the current school for private meetings with outside agencies. The proposal will provide increased and appropriate space for school children and dedicated facilities for nursery children. This has the potential to increase the delivery of early years education and improve the learning experiences of all children in the nursery and school.
- 3.2 All parents, pupils and staff who met with HM Inspectors strongly support the proposal. They agree that the new site offers many benefits, including the potential to increase the interaction with the local community, easier access and improved facilities in which to teach and learn. They have some concerns about safe routes to school and the design of the building. They are very keen to work with the council to help deliver the best possible outcome for the children.

4. Summary

South Lanarkshire Council's proposal to relocate Walston Primary School to a new site opposite Elsrickle Hall has strong educational benefits. It will provide modern purpose-built facilities for nursery and school children. There will be increased outdoor space and enhanced facilities for staff, pupils, parents and the local community. The new school will have the potential to help staff improve learning and teaching for all children. In taking forward its proposal, the council should continue to work with all stakeholders to deliver safe routes to school and a design, within the Council's respective budget, which meets the needs of pupils, parents, staff and the local community.