

STATUTORY PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING

PROPOSAL – TO ESTABLISH A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL AND ITS ASSOCIATED CATCHMENT AREA WITHIN THE LAND AT CRAIGHALL, MUSSELBURGH

**TUESDAY 6 DECEMBER 2016
BRUNTON HALL, MUSSELBURGH**

PRESENT:-

Fiona Robertson, Head of Education
Chris Webb, Independent Adviser, Chair of meeting
Liz McLean, Service Manager Strategic Asset
Iain McFarlane, Planning Service Manager, Development
Neil MacFarlane, Transportation Planning Officer
Paul Zochowski, Principal Planner (Policy and Project)
David Scott, Quality Improvement Officer
Fiona Brown, Principal Officer, Education
Pauline Smith, Principal Officer (Information & Research)
Rob Lewis, Senior Information Officer
Calum Murray, Business Support Officer (Education)
Anna Bennett, Business Support Officer (Education)
David Gilmour, Web Officer
Councillor John Williamson
3 members of the public (Ian Fullerton/Alison Elgin/Jill Robertson)

Chris Webb welcomed everyone to the meeting in relation to the proposed establishment of a new primary school and its associated catchment area within the land at Craighall, Musselburgh.

Chris Webb introduced himself and outlined the purpose of the meeting and introduced the Council Officers present. He informed the attendees that the meeting was being recorded to allow the Council to have an accurate record of any issues raised so they can answer any questions fuller at a later date. The views recorded will form part of the consultation exercise. He advised that the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act which governs the consultation the Council is currently going through came into force in 2010 and was amended in 2015. The Act, as amended, has established an open and transparent system for consulting changes to the schools.

Chris Webb advised that the purpose of the meeting is to give members of the public the opportunity to hear more about the proposal, ask questions about the proposal and have their views recorded and noted and taken account of as part of the consultation process.

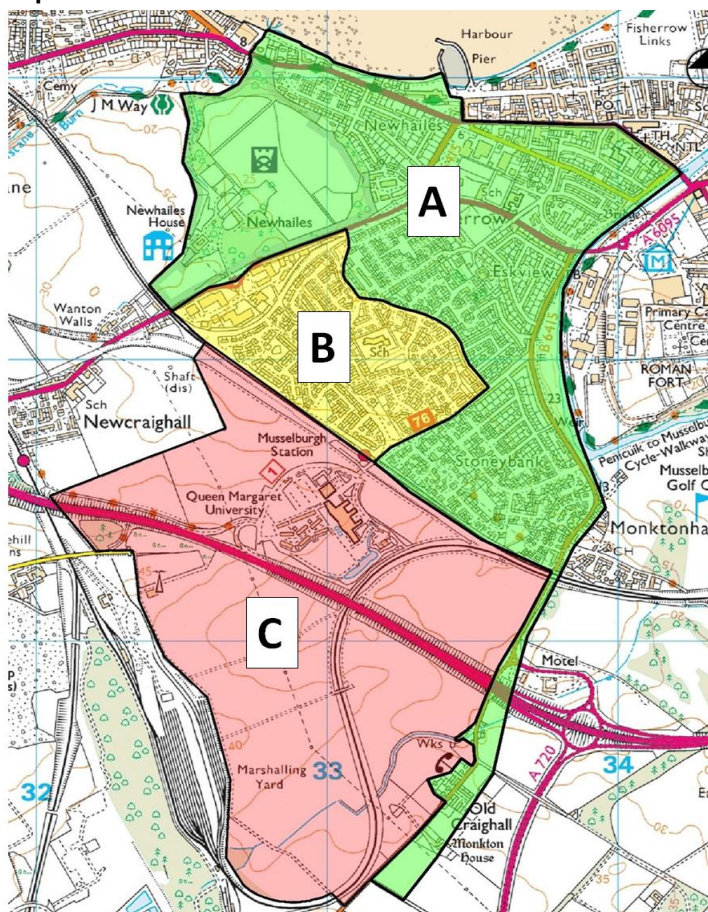
Fiona Robertson reiterated that this evening's meeting was being held to discuss the following proposal:-

- The establishment of a new catchment area for the Craighall area around the proposed Land at Craighall development site (LDP Ref: "MH1" , area "C" on map) and the removal of this area of land from Campie Primary School's catchment area.
- The establishment of a new school with primary education and early learning and childcare provision for the proposed Craighall primary school catchment area.
- Establishing the new primary school initially within Stoneyhill Primary School and relocating to its permanent site on completion of the new school facility.

Background to this proposal

- The Strategic Development Plan for South East Scotland (SDP) was approved by Scottish Ministers in June 2013.
- The SDP with its Supplementary Guidance on Housing Land requires the Local Development Plan (LDP) to ensure sufficient housing land is available to deliver 10,050 homes during the period 2009-2024 with 6,250 of those homes capable of being delivered across East Lothian in the period to 2019.
- To accommodate these strategic development requirements, East Lothian Council approved a Proposed LDP 2016 for representation on 6th September 2016.
- On 24 February 2015, approval was given by East Lothian Council to undertake consultations relating to the school estate (schools, catchment areas, locations) as necessary to support any emerging LDP.
- As part of the Proposed LDP 2016, the land at Craighall (LDP Ref: MH1 , area “C” on map) is one of the main development proposals in the Musselburgh Cluster – with a proposed allocation of mixed use development including circa 1,500 homes.
- Significant additional education capacity at primary and secondary level will be needed to support the new housing development proposed in the Musselburgh cluster, including a new primary school for the site at Craighall (MH1, area “C”).

Proposed Catchment



“A” – Proposed amended Campie Primary Catchment

“B” – Stoneyhill Primary Catchment (no amendment proposed)

“C” – Proposed Craighall Primary Catchment

Education Provision

To accommodate the projected pupil population from the proposed allocations (LDP Ref: MH1, area "C" on map) the Council proposes to provide education capacity as follows:

- Permanent early learning & childcare and primary school capacity at the Craighall site.
- Craighall primary school will be established initially at Stoneyhill Primary School under a temporary "hosting" arrangement, for a period of up to 36 months, until the permanent Craighall primary school facility is delivered.
- Loretto RC Primary School would serve denominational pupils from the proposed Craighall primary school catchment area.
- Secondary school capacity will be provided at Musselburgh Grammar School, in accordance with the Council's proposed strategy for the delivery of additional secondary school education capacity in the Musselburgh area.

Projected Population Data

Craighall Primary School - The LDP projected pupil population for the proposed houses in the Craighall area (LDP Ref: "MH1", area "C" on map) requires a peak roll of 579 pupils primary pupils with 21 classes and pre-school provision of 110 places.

Stoneyhill Primary School - Current roll projections for Stoneyhill Primary School show there is capacity to temporarily "host" pupils from the Craighall site (MH1) for the first 2 to 3 years of house build.

Educational benefits

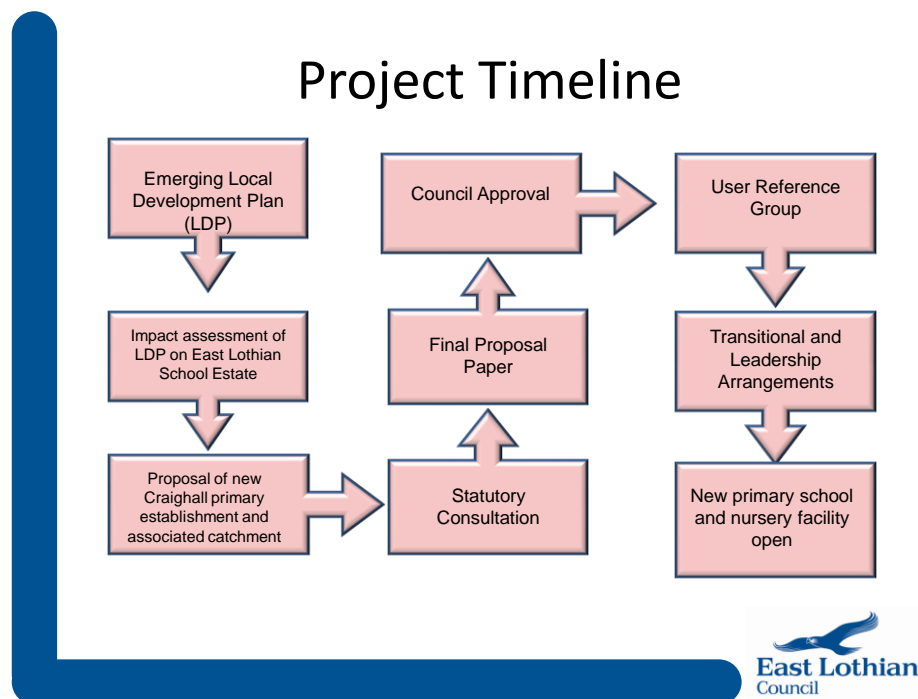
The establishment of a new primary school and its associated catchment area for the Craighall site (MH1) will have educational benefits through:

- Enhancement and improvement of the existing primary provision within the Musselburgh area.
- Providing a positive balance between the number of pupils in Musselburgh Grammar School and the proposed new secondary school at Wallyford.
- Addressing capacity constraints at Campie Primary School (if a new school is not built).

"Hosting" and transition

- Key priority for officers is development of "hosting" arrangement. *We are aware of authorities elsewhere in Scotland who have hosting arrangements in place and will communicate and learn from their experiences.*
- Comprehensive transition programme to support transition into new school.
- Hosting arrangement will last up to 36 months – until permanent Craighall primary school facility is delivered.

Project Timeline



Chris Webb invited questions from the public.

Councillor John Williamson advised that one of the reasons there were not many people at this public meeting is that not many people live in that area apart from there being a few cottages. He advised he had some concerns in relation to the creativity between both halves of Site C and how it will be integrated into the town of Musselburgh. He also expressed his concern in relation to the Consultation questionnaire and advised, in his opinion, the questionnaire was flawed. This is because people completing the questionnaire do not have to identify themselves on the consultation form, as the name and address field within the questionnaire is not mandatory. He felt that one person could, if they wanted to, could complete a number of responses.

Fiona Robertson commented on the question in relation to the questionnaire. She said that the Department do have quality assurance measures in place in relation to the completion of the questionnaires. It is not a requirement to have a questionnaire as part of the consultation process, but the Department did determine to have this as part of the consultation to encourage members of the community to respond. It would be far from her to suggest that members of the public would not fill these questionnaires in honestly in terms of providing a response to the consultation. The Department has already had approval from Council when preparing the relocation of Wallyford Primary School and at that point mentioned about Education Scotland saying the way by which the Wallyford Primary School consultation was conducted was commended by the stakeholders they had engaged with during the 3 week period. HMI who reviewed the consultation process gave this response to the Department. In relation to quality assurance measure arrangements in place, if you look at school consultations across Scotland and other authorities you will find they tend to remove the personal details if they do a questionnaire. But there are some school consultations far greater than this one and they have not included a questionnaire. This reflects how the Department has conducted this consultation as it has been opened up to the public. The Department feels it is an

appropriate questionnaire and have responded to the responses the public have made through the questionnaires.

Councillor Williamson went on to say it is not just school consultations he was referring to but all Council consultations are the same. There is no identification within the questionnaire and there could be a perception that everything is not a 100%, but he is not saying that there is.

Chris Webb thanked Councillor Williamson for his point.

Chris Webb asked Iain McFarlane and Neil McFarlane to respond to the questions asked by Councillor Williamson in relation to planning and transport issues. He thought that the intersection of the A1, the location and safe route school issues could be answered by Iain MacFarlane and Neil McFarlane and they could talk briefly about the principles that apply.

Iain MacFarlane said clearly there are some constraints on the site in terms of the railway line. There is currently an ongoing process and dialogue within the Council with Planning and Transportation and others in terms of a Master Plan approach towards the site. There are 2 key factors, where exactly within the site will the school be located from the perspective of neighbourhood compliant approach and from a transportation and planning approach and then, fundamentally linked with that is how we maximise the different parts of the plan and what would link the catchment. This is in the early stages and discussions have taken place with Council officers, Transportation and the respective developers so there is a significant piece of work on going. Further discussions will take place before we arrive at the fundamental principles for the Master Plan which underpins movement around the site including transport and safe routes to schools which is a critical part of the process. We are looking at the land use as it is allocated for mixed use purposes. There will be some business land, housing, residential and there will also be some community facilities within the site. What is absolutely critical to the Master Plan process is that the focus is very much on movement within the site, but also linkages to Musselburgh town centre. It is important to try and get people to use modes of transport other than the car and these issues will be addressed through the local plan process.

He went on to say the question asked is correct there are some movement issues around the site but one of the absolute fundamentals of the Master Plan process is to look at every opportunity there is to maximise how people can move around the site and that will be very much about creating a neighbourhood where people, as you know from the history of the local plan process, the site was an amendment to the plan. What is crucial about this is that the site has a substantial number of homes so you can create a neighbourhood which has its own sense of a neighbourhood but is also linked to Musselburgh. The location of the school will be a huge part in that. School and community facilities will be linked to the school as well and one of the first areas the Council will look at is the movement pattern tied in with where precisely the school will be located.

Neil McFarlane advised that the role of Transport Planning in this process is to ensure there is sustainable travel to minimise car use and encourage people to walk and cycle. The location of the school is crucial to minimising the distances people will have to walk and cycle to the school and shops and Transportation will contribute to the plan.

Chris Webb advised that he thought there was going to be a User Reference Group which would look at hypothetical situations. The Group would look at the area in which the school is going to be placed and he thought the Council would do this with the community rather than to the community. The Group would look at addressing the sort of issues being raised at this meeting in relation to

sustainability and the diversity of the building of a community in that area. Fiona Robertson advised there would be a User Reference Group.

Alison Elgin, Depute Head Teacher, Campie Primary School said she is working hard to build, as part of a community group, a community. In her mind it feels like you are building a town within a town. Musselburgh people are proud of their heritage and what we would want to make sure is that our community is still a community. Musselburgh is a historical community and a place where people are very passionate about. She understands it is a creation within a neighbourhood, but we need to be very careful in that we already are a neighbourhood and a community. She said it is important work is done to ensure this is maintained. She went on to say there is a need to be very mindful that we are a neighbourhood and proud of our community and not become a segregate community.

Fiona Robertson went on to say some families will be aware of the hosting arrangements but the fact they are starting off as part of a community within Stoneyhill will actually help develop those links across communities. This is part of the 3 year phasing and it will help to develop links not separate them out. The hosting arrangements will depend on the numbers, stages and ages of the children. It is important they integrate well with the children from Stoneyhill and across the Musselburgh Cluster. They will be starting out within their community in a sense and this will help to develop those links across the community.

Alison Elgin went on to say she is not just thinking about the children but people coming into the community who we already know, from experience, from the amount of people moving into the area will dilute the heritage and community of Musselburgh. Musselburgh people need to do more to inform them of what Musselburgh is about. She went on to say she was more concerned about making sure if we are creating a location of a new neighbourhood, as we don't know the people buying these houses in these places. We need to do all we can to welcome them and encourage them to support the traditions of the town. She felt the children are actually the least of our worries as we already, in Musselburgh, try very hard to engage children in our local history. It is the people coming in who know nothing about Musselburgh and also do not visit the town centre. We do not want them to be segregated.

Fiona Robertson then said this is when you involve beyond the school and you involve the community because you are not just building a school you are building a new community that is part of the wider community. When we talk about our primary schools we talk about the wider community and the wider learning community. She accepted the point that it is not just about the children but it gives a good focus for getting that community engagement.

Jill Robertson, Parent Council member Stoneyhill Primary School, asked in terms of the hosting arrangement at Stoneyhill Primary School, how will that look, will there be separate classes or integrated within the classes, for example if the child is in primary 1 will they be in the existing primary 1 class?

Fiona Robertson advised it can be a mix of both and there will be a need to look at the stages and ages of the children coming from the development and it will be about establishing an actual class in a sense, but because of numbers. Basically you would look at the numbers, if you had a group of P1, P2 and P3 and one P7 it would make sense to integrate the P7 into P7. It will depend on the numbers coming through and that is why there is a need to have a transitional leadership team early in order that we work with the school and look at the arrangements needed in terms of staffing. They will have their identity as part of the Musselburgh cluster and we are really encouraging a badge that will be part of the whole cluster which will identify the children as Craighall Primary

School children. We will look again at the stages and ages of the children and if you have one P7 pupil you will look at the appropriate way to deliver that education.

Jill Robertson then said historically over the last few years at Stoneyhill Primary School there have been a number of inter catchment applications which have been accepted because the roll is falling but it doesn't make sense for these children to be fully integrated.

Fiona Robertson replied that all of the work you would undertake with the parents would be at the earliest stage possible. We would look very carefully if there was, for example, one P7 and you would take a sensible approach. With hosting you will never know the ages and stages of the children that will come in. We have to make our decisions based on that as we move forward. We would need to be flexible and would work with the Head Teacher who will be the temporarily shared Head Teacher for both Stoneyhill Primary School and Craighall Primary School. The Head Teacher, along with staff, will be involved in that whole dialogue. Parents would hope that a sensible approach/decision is taken in relation to integrating the children.

Chris Webb added from an external perspective any discussions he has had with the Chief Executive and Fiona Robertson and other officials within the Council is that East Lothian Council is committed to putting the child at the centre of what it does and as soon as you put the child at the centre of anything the solution you come up with will not be the one that is pre planned. It will be one which is responsive to the needs of those individual children and the solution will be the one that is child centred and child focused.

Councillor Williamson asked if there would be flexibility? For example if a child in P6 or P7 goes to Stoneyhill Primary School and parents want them to stay at Stoneyhill Primary School and move on to Musselburgh Grammar School from there. Would that be an option?

Fiona Robertson responded by saying if it was a P7 pupil then they would move on with that group to Musselburgh Grammar School. We will have to look at the stages because ultimately we need to have a viable roll at the new school, as we do need the children to transition back to the new build. We will be looking at the numbers but the plan will be that they would be going to the new school and anyone moving into the catchment area knows that at first they may be hosted but will be moving into the new school. We do need a viable roll at the new school.

Pauline Smith said in terms of Stoneyhill Primary School the roll has fallen in recent years and birth rates are now fairly stable. The projected Craighall roll in the early years of the build is looking at single figures in the first few years and then grows from there.

Chris Webb drew the meeting to a close and thanked everyone who attended the meeting.