



Moray Council

**Establishing a new primary
school for south-east Elgin**

Public Meetings

14th December 2015

4th February 2016

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Elgin Primary School Rezoning Consultation 2015

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Establishing a new primary school for south-east Elgin 2015/16

Public Meeting (06.01.2016) (Afternoon session)

In attendance:

Laurence Findlay (Corporate Director, Education & Social Care)
Graham Jarvis (Head of Lifelong Learning, Culture & Sport)
Paul Watson (Senior Education Adviser for Schools Consultations)
Sarah Crowe (Community Support Officer)
Tracey Rae (Community Support Officer)

Elected Members In Attendance:

Cllr James Allan (Scottish Conservative and Unionist)
Cllr John Divers (Scottish Labour Party)
Cllr Kirsty Reid (Scottish National Party)
Cllr Mike Shand (Scottish National Party)
Cllr Graham Leadbitter (Scottish National Party)
Cllr Anne Skene (Independent)

Number of Community Representatives In Attendance:

Number	Representation
24	Lilliput Play 'n' Learn Centre
	East End Primary School Parents
	East End Primary School Parent Council
	Resident
	New Catchment Resident
	Fairhurst

Community Support Officer, Sarah Crowe welcomed all to the meeting and provided introductions of the staff in attendance and a brief introduction to the meeting.

Corporate Director of Education and Social Care carried out a brief introduction of the consultation.

Graham Jarvis and Paul Watson carried out a presentation on the establishing a new primary school for south-east Elgin proposal. A question and answer session followed the presentation.

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Questions & Answer Session

Q	Experience has shown us that this timescale is quite tight; what is plan B?
A	Plan B would be then have to look at where we could put temporary accommodation in our existing school sites to accommodate the children in Elgin. (GJ)
Q	Not East End but the other end; you have to accommodate four years and not three.
A	We would have to create accommodation. We would do this by bringing in modular accommodation on a temporary basis. (GJ)
Q	How quickly will a site be identified and how quickly will it be arranged?
A	We should know exactly where the site will be by the end of April 2016 as this will be part of the masterplan for Elgin south. (GJ)
Q	With regards to planning; you say 12 to 18 months for planning.
A	This is for design and planning; the design has to go to tender for contractors and then it has to go to planning. It could be done quicker but from experience the planning can take a while. (GJ)
Q	Surely the Council will pull out all the stops with planning?
A	The planning department will not give the Council any more leeway than they would another contractor or developer. Officers attempt to deal with all planning applications in the same way, as efficiently as possible. (GJ)
Q	Like Elgin High School you could get other spokes in the wheels as well.
A	There are no short cuts, even for the Council within the planning department. Planning is heavily legislated and monitored; therefore no corners are cut. (GJ)
Q	So 2018 is the earliest?
A	Yes, August 2018 would be the earliest. (GJ)

Discussion held regarding comments (rather than questions)

I would like to point out that there are parents sitting here that have gone to collect children from the schools; I would like to point out that the meeting times are not suitable for parents.

A We have offered the Parent Council another meeting and this has been arranged. (GJ)

There is meeting that has been arranged on the date and time agreed, however another meeting has been arranged on a different date as a number of parents are unable to attend these public meetings.

A It is very difficult to find a time that suits everybody; therefore we scheduled an afternoon and evening public meeting to try to accommodate people. (LF)

I wanted to make a particular point that having a school consultation at school pick up time is not suitable.

Comments received

It is heartening to know you have listened to our comments about having someone on the bus with the primary one pupils; I would not put my four year old on a bus without escorts.

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<p>Q</p>	<p>I cannot understand [and I am sure you have a great educational benefit reason why] why you don't just expand East End primary school till such time the new school is built. The educational benefits raised include 'keeping the children together'; these children would all be together in East End school as the physical capacity exists at the moment as you are going to be using the space that is already there. I understand this idea that perhaps people feel that their children are experiencing some kind of turmoil because of the changes that are happening. I can understand the attraction of a new school and a new Head Teacher. I also understand that people may be put off by the inspection report that East End had in the past. The Inspectors are due back in January so we shall see what the outcome of that is.</p> <p>I chose to place my child at East End school because of the options; of the schools I was given in Elgin [East End] is the best, despite the inspection report.</p> <p>Can you explain to me in the options you have come up with, you didn't include enrolling the children into East End. I understand that the proposal is for a new school but the interim arrangement does not mean you have to establish a new school now.</p>
<p>A</p>	<p>This is a fair point, to do nothing was actually one of the options we considered; if we were to do nothing we would be taking children and putting them into East End primary (or other Elgin primary school). These children would then have been part of East End school, if enrolled there. (LF)</p>
<p>Q</p>	<p>I don't want you to do nothing; you will see from all the banners that we are very angry about this. I read what has been written; that direct and indirect consultation with council officers and Elected Members and I don't feel that the education benefits of the children who currently go to East End school have been fully considered. All you talk about are the educational benefits of the children who will be attending the new school; that makes me angry as a parent of a child at East End.</p> <p>I don't want anyone in the south east catchment area to think that parents of East End think their children should not go there; I actually think the best thing is that the children come to a school that is already established, has a Head Teacher, is growing, is improving and they will have not just their own peer group but also a whole co-op of children to look after them. One of the most successful things at the school for me is that my daughter has a 'buddy' in primary seven who looks after them and the new school will not have that.</p>
<p>A</p>	<p>It is about that transition to a new school in three years' time with a Head Teacher and an established curriculum rationale. (LF)</p>
<p>Q</p>	<p>I understand that, but you said earlier that when the new school opens if children currently attending New Elgin or East End school are in catchment for that school will be expected to be uprooted from current school and go to the new school; how is that any different?</p>
<p>A</p>	<p>That is not what was said; they said they are happy for them to stay at the current schools, but they would have to apply to stay there. (Audience member)</p>

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	<p>They would have to make a placement request. (PW)</p> <p>If there is space we would try to accommodate them. (LF)</p> <p>These placement requests would be for children who are not in primary one; they are higher up in the school roll. (GJ)</p>
Q	<p>How come one of the options was not to enrol the children into East End; I don't see it as a do nothing option.</p>
A	<p>We have categorised this as a do nothing option as the result would be the same, the additional pupils would enrol into East End primary who may at some point then decide to go to the new school once it is built. So the pupils would be uprooted from their peers and class mates to go to a new school. Unless you enrol them into East End primary but keep them in a class with other pupils that would be moving any way. (GJ)</p> <p>This is an option and it why we consult, however at the beginning we have to make a proposal; we cannot just come out and ask 'what do you want us to do' because this does not comply with the law. We have to make a proposal but ultimately Elected Members can listen to what is being said and come up with a different solution, that is the whole point of the consultation. (PW)</p> <p>In a few weeks' time inspectors will come to Moray to review the proposal and talk to the schools and parents and you will have that chance to discuss this with them. They will look at the proposals, the report of the meetings and discuss with yourselves and staff and will report back on what they think of our proposals. They might suggest that we may need to revisit this proposal and consider an alternative. (LF)</p>
Q	<p>Where is the foresight involved; the building in this area has been relentless over the last three four years. I do not understand how things are agreed with building developers but was this on the back burner years ago or is this a result of 'oh my god', what are we going to do, the population has gone like this so we need a new school?'</p>
A	<p>There are various aspects to it, a few years ago there were tentative plans for a new school and it was identified that there was no need for it as the children were not there. There was a recession and house building stopped and there was no need for it. The economy then picked up and Elgin started to expand rapidly. The developers' side is complicated with regards to their contributions and takes a long time. (LF)</p> <p>It is important to understand that this is not unique to Elgin; towns in Aberdeen, Inverness and Perth are all having the same conversations with parents. We in Elgin have the different factor of the MOD who announced before Christmas an additional 400 personnel to Lossiemouth who are likely to have children. We do not know until they start to arrive. The new houses in the north that are not built yet may result in a new school; but we cannot build a new school until those houses start to be filled. (LF)</p>
Q	<p>We have known for a few years that most of the schools are at high capacity in Elgin.</p>

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A	<p>However across Moray we have huge capacity in our schools, but they are not in Elgin; this was reviewed a few years ago which resulted in the rezoning review of Elgin as instructed by Elected Members. This has led to this consultation today. (LF)</p> <p>There was a site identified for the school, which would have been too small now, although this would have helped us slightly. Looking back on how we got where we are now is helpful to ensure we don't end up in the same place again. This is why we are discussing with developers for Elgin north the possibility of a new school. (GJ)</p> <p>We have been very good at looking five years ahead but we and other councils need to look at 15, 20 and 25 years ahead. This is really hard as you don't know what the economy is going to do or what industries are going to do and what the needs are going to be. (LF)</p> <p>The roll forecast for the number of pupils was underestimated, this was due to the rate of house building and occupancy being greater than predicted and the increased birth rate starting in 2007 which has impacted as of 2012; these are the two factors which could not have been predicted. (PW)</p> <p>We have solid numbers for birth rates up to primary one as we have the nursery numbers; therefore those four years allows us to predict the primary one enrolment. Those beyond the five years who are having babies we do not know. (GJ)</p>
Q	Do the housing developers contribute to the new schools?
A	Yes, this is a normal process where a property developer is creating demand for a school they are duty bound (developers contribution) towards the cost of all public facilities provided, be it cemeteries, nurseries, school, libraries and retail units. (GJ)
Q	The attendance today is not good as there are not many East End current parents in attendance due to the timing of the meetings. Could I propose another meeting is scheduled after school drop off time, for example 9.30 am.
A	Yes, we understand that there is never an ideal time for everyone to attend. We are happy to arrange this. It is important that this is carried out quickly as this is a statutory consultation with timescales stipulated. (LF)

Discussion was held regarding the lack of consultation / information for parents whose children are currently in nursery. It was recognised the inconsistency of information being distributed by nurseries. These parents do not know anything about the Parent Council meetings as the children are not currently at the schools. The networking between Parent Councils and nurseries needs to be addressed. It was explained that the correspondence of this consultation was distributed to all nurseries / stakeholders in December 2015.

Q	Registration starts on the 18 th January; do we wait or do we register then.
A	You would register on the 18 th January at East End or New Elgin primary school. (GJ)
Q	What do we include on the registration?

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A	Name the school you would like your child to attend. (GJ)
Q	What happens if you name the new school and this proposal all falls through and does not go ahead?
A	If the new school is not established, we will have the same amount of accommodation available at East End primary (or other Elgin schools); therefore we would have room at East End to accommodate these children. (GJ)
Q	Would I then have a choice to request a placement at another school rather than East End?
A	We can accommodate children at Seafield and Greenwards primary. (GJ)
Q	During the rezoning consultation people were misled; you said that people could remain at New Elgin until the new school was built.
A	Only if they are already at New Elgin primary school, these discussions today are about the new primary one intake. (GJ) If they were currently on the roll for New Elgin they could continue at this school. (PW) If you are not at the school therefore you are not on the roll. (LF)
Q	With regards to enrolment do we still have to physically go to the school to enrol?
A	Yes and if you wish your child to attend a different school you would complete a placing request for another school. (Audience Member) You can register straight away for the new school and if this is delayed in any way, you would then submit a placing request for your second choice of school. (GJ)

Discussion was held regarding Council staff parking at the schools and the side streets surrounding schools. This results in no safe area for parents to drop off their children. It was agreed that parking within the school grounds should be for school users not Council office staff and this is to be reviewed.

The officers can look at the situation and suggest to the transport unit various options such as no car zones. For example Edinburgh City Council do not allow any parking near a school between 8am and 9.30am and again between 2pm and 4pm. East Lothian Council have closed the street towards a school. These are radical options that can be suggested. (LF)

Further discussion took place regarding the implementation of no car zones and the displacement effect on other streets.

Q	If the proposal stands the younger children are potentially going to lose the dedicated playing area in front of the Annexe.
A	No, all the primary one and two children will share the same play ground; there will not be separate playing areas. (GJ)
Q	Residents in the surrounding school areas have to live with the congestion during school times and out with these times. When the extra buses / traffic starts; where will the bus stop be allocated?

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A	We would look to re-establish the designated bus stop at the corner of Queens Street and Institution Road. This will involve discussions with our transport colleagues who will make the decision on the bus stop location. This will include an escort who will walk them from the bus to the school. (GJ) This would start in August 2016. (LF)
Q	Will the escort remain with the children until the school starts, to avoid children leaving the school grounds?
A	These are important issues that will be considered. (GJ)
Q	How many buses will be expected?
A	In the first year it would be one or two smaller school. This would be added to as the number of children increase over the years. (GJ)
Q	The information being received by residents is implying that roads are being closed.
A	We have not said anything, no decisions have been made. What was suggested was that a number of other authorities have implemented various measures to manage the traffic. There are a number of options that can be implemented by the Council; however that is a decision for the transport team. (GJ)

Discussion was held regarding the expectation of schools during pick up times, for example a primary one child must point out their parent(s) to the teacher/escort to be allowed to leave the school grounds; this results in parents having to park to collect their child.

Q	Are you blocking off Institution Road from Queens Street to Andersons?
A	We have not said this, there are a number of options that have to be considered and are open to further options as to how to deal with the traffic issues at East End primary school. No decisions have been made. (GJ)
Q	Child is currently (in-zone) at New Elgin primary and receives transport to and from school. With the new zones this will result in being zoned to Greenwards primary. Will the child still receive transport to New Elgin as an out of zone pupil?
A	Yes, transport will still be provided. (GJ) All existing transport will remain. (PW)
Q	What does a householder with private land do when a driver parks on our land and leaves their car?
A	That is a civil matter. (GJ)
Q	A family with a child starting primary three in the summer and another child starting school in two years' time and will be allocated to the new school. With the rise in numbers and there are no placing requests at chosen school and the new school will not be able to accommodate for the older sibling this will result in siblings being at different schools.
A	Yes this is a possibility. The first three years of the new school will only be able to accommodate primary one to three. (LF)

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Discussion was held regarding the recent lack of classroom space with East End primary school which resulted in children using corridor / GP rooms as classrooms. This will be discussed further with the East End Head Teacher.

(It has been clarified that East End Primary currently has six GP spaces, against a minimum requirement of three.)

Q	How many rooms are available with the Annexe at East End?
A	Eight and additional smaller rooms which can be utilised. (GJ)
Q	How will the space in the Annexe be used? There is a calculation that must be used with regards to number of children within an area. Can you confirm that the Council will be using the quote listed in the School Premises Regulations Act?
A	Yes, we will use the most up to date version of this for our calculations. We can use 1.5 square metres but preference would be to 1.7; we will need to look at this. (GJ)
Q	How is your confidence in the timeframe for building the new school? You spoke about 12 to 18 months for the design and planning stage; if 24 months (at the worst) for the construction phase (with no issues) that takes us to the back end of 2019; consulting the roll predictions by 2017 there will be 357 pupils at East End and functional capacity is 233; can you jam in an additional 150 pupils into the Annexe? By 2019 where are you going to put the pupils?
A	We would utilise temporary modular accommodation. (GJ)
Q	Therefore the costs are not accurate, as the options that went to Elected Members on the 9 th December the one for East End was the cheapest but it does not include the cost of the transport or the modular accommodation. This is misleading.
A	This would apply to every options considered as every accommodation would need to take this into account. (PW) The cost is based on getting everything ready for this August. (LF)
Q	This does not include the cost of the extension to the East End building.
A	No matter which option we consider, once we reach August 2019 we would need to build additional accommodation at any site that is chosen. (GJ) The cost that was put forward was to prepare for August 2016. (LF)
Q	Will planning permission be given for the addition to the grade listed building?
A	This is currently being worked on. (GJ)

Discussion took place regarding correspondence raised (Cllr Tuke) at the 5th December C&YP committee. Request was made for this information to be made available for view. The correspondence referred to was letters sent to individual Elected Members by the land owners, or their agents about housing development in Elgin North.

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Q	Will both schools be using the same canteen facilities? It is already rushed.
A	Yes, the impact would be the same if we were to make the additions to the current school roll or future school rolls. The numbers would still be the same. (GJ)
Q	You could keep the new school pupils together by keeping them in the same class rooms. This would help with the teaching issues.
A	Yes we have acknowledged this. (GJ) If that is the overwhelming feedback from this consultation this will be taken into consideration by Education Scotland within their report. (LF)
Q	What happens with the staffing of the schools, will the children attend the same assembly?
A	These are issues that need to be considered and discussed. (GJ)
Q	How is the breakdown of staffing costs identified; as I understand the school is going to share the canteen facilities and janitor; therefore the staff. So there will be a Head Teacher and teaching staff and a secretary; are the allocated funds enough?
A	Yes, this is for year one. The staffing costs and numbers would increase depending on the number of pupils.
Q	The options appraisal seems to be convenient that East End is the cheapest option.
A	The staffing costs would the same no matter the location. (GJ) These are valid points and the option appraisals did have a short timescale as children need to be accommodated in August 2016. There are maybe things that have been missed and we are happy to hear these being raised. (LF)

Laurence Findlay concluded the meeting by thanking those in attendance for coming along and participating.

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Public Meeting (06.01.2016) (Evening session)

In attendance:

Laurence Findlay (Corporate Director – Education & Social Care)
Graham Jarvis (Head of Lifelong Learning, Culture & Sport)
Paul Watson (Senior Education Adviser for Schools Consultations)
Sarah Crowe (Community Support Officer)
Tracey Rae (Community Support Officer)

Sally Stewart (Education Scotland)

Elected Members In Attendance:

Cllr John Divers (Scottish Labour Party)
Cllr Mike Shand (Scottish National Party)
Cllr Dennis Slater (Independent)
Cllr Kirsty Reid (Scottish National Party)
Cllr Graham Leadbitter (Scottish National Party)
Cllr George Alexander (Independent)

Number of Community Representatives In Attendance:

Number	Representation
33	East End Primary School
	New Elgin Primary School Staff
	East End Primary School Parent Council
	Parent
	Residents
	New Elgin Primary School Parent Council
	Grandparent
	Elgin Community Council

Community Support Officer, Sarah Crowe welcomed all to the meeting and provided introductions of the staff in attendance and a brief introduction to the meeting.

Corporate Director of Education & Social Care, Laurence Findlay carried out a brief introduction of the consultation.

Graham Jarvis and Paul Watson carried out a presentation on the establishing a new primary school for south-east Elgin proposal. A question and answer session followed the presentation.

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Questions & Answer Session

Q	There were various questions around what studies have been undertaken to gauge the increased number of cars involved?
A	<p>We have not specifically undertaken a traffic impact assessment as to what the number of cars will be. If we take the option of 'do nothing', the school roll at East End primary will increase and the traffic issue is one we would have to manage. We cannot avoid it as no matter what happens there will be an increased roll at East End primary; if we do not establish a new school many of those children may attend East End primary. East End primary has a growing roll any way; therefore the traffic issue will not go away by not establishing this school. (GJ)</p> <p>We are open to ideas and suggestions how best to manage the traffic problem; I have spoken to the Parent Council, Head Teacher and janitor who tries to monitor the traffic in and around the school and it is a real challenge but it is not going to go away quickly. (GJ)</p> <p>This is not unique to East End primary, a number of schools have major traffic issues. (GJ)</p> <p><i>(This matter has been referred to a Senior Roads Engineer and the response will be included in the Consultation Report)</i></p>
Q	You will find parents will not place their primary one children on the buses as they do not know anyone on it.
A	We cannot speak for all parents; however there are a number of parents across Moray who utilise the provided transport for their children to travel to school. It is a personal choice if you decide to drop off your child directly to school. (GJ)
Q	Children attending breakfast clubs will be delivered to school via taxis; therefore resulting in additional traffic.
A	All our primary school rolls are increasing and there will be increased traffic at all of the primary schools. The Council transportation department are reviewing this. (PW)

Discussion took place regarding planning permission on Queens Street and was agreed that this will be investigated further.

Q	<p>There are going to be parents who potentially have children at two different schools and hearing things like 'what parent would put their child on a bus' makes me feel rather upset. This is a situation that some families will have to face.</p> <p>Some parents may choose to drop off their children personally due to the staggered start times of the schools.</p>
A	The staggered start times are only an option at present. This is something that needs to be considered; will it alleviate traffic problems if we staggered the start and finish times; it might help or it might be better if both schools start and finish at the same time. (PW)

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Q	It is difficult to be in favour of a proposal if this information is not definite; parents need to know if they have to stagger the times. Primary one children will be escorted across but what about the current East End pupils, will they be escorted in any way due to the increased traffic?
A	This is an important concern to raise and we shall look into this further. (GJ)
Q	We understand that the school rolls are increasing and realise this may be the best 'worst' option. But why do we have to have two separate schools, why not just one?
A	<p>That was raised at the afternoon meeting and if this is the view you feel should be happening, please respond as such during the consultation. (LF)</p> <p>From an education perspective; we felt there was an attraction in establishing a new school; you appoint a new Head Teacher who can establish vision, values and names for the school, develop an ethos and get the new children, carers and parents involved. This could be established over the three years and then transition together into the brand new school. (LF)</p> <p>The feeling at the afternoon meeting was the children are very welcome to East End primary but not into a new school on the East End site. If that is the result of the consultation this will need to be taken into consideration. This will not however solve any additional traffic issues that may arise. (LF)</p> <p>The downside of this alternative option is that when the new school is opened and the pupils transfer over; East End primary would lose approximately 150 children with the possibility of more who wish to attend the new school. What affect would that have on the East End roll? (GJ)</p>
Q	Children will be sharing the playground and other facilities, so when the new school opens you will be taking a huge chunk of a school away without them having been part of the school officially.
A	<p>It would not have a direct effect on the staffing or classes. If you were to take 150 children out of a school (possibly in the middle of an academic year) you are looking at a complete restructure of classes across that year. This has a massive impact and would be detrimental; you would be changing peer groups and teachers; it does have an education impact in keeping them all (East End primary and new pupils) together now to just separate them later down the line. (Audience member)</p> <p>It is beneficial to keep the new school pupils together and move them as one at a later date. A comprise could be to have them at East End primary but keep them in their own classes corresponding to zone and then moving them as one to the new school. (GJ)</p>
Q	But they would still be using the same playground and canteen and mixing with one another?
A	Yes we hope so, but they would not be mixing in the classrooms. (GJ)
Q	The dining and gym facilities at New Elgin are currently very tight; with East End roll increasing tenfold at the moment; surely there are issues there with dining and gym facilities with the children coming in. How will this be managed and will they have access to facilities that are required and how will this affect East End?
A	It is worth noting that the roll at East End primary 15 years ago was 369. This

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	is 150 children more than current roll so it can cope with that number. The Annexe would have been used as part of the school. When the roll fell the Annexe was no longer used as part of the school. In the longer term the roll of East End primary will increase, the dining, gym and playground facilities can cope with that number of children. (PW)
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Discussion took place on the impact of the anticipated extra two hours of PE classes in the future and the free school meals for every primary one to three pupil.

Comment Received

Don't think it is a fair comparison to compare previous school rolls to current. East End is the same as New Elgin. It is about getting children sat down and providing the food as quickly as possible for the child then to leave, as there is another child waiting to be fed behind them. That is the current scenario; you are then going to introduce another 50 children who entitled to a free school meal.

We need to ensure we are not underestimating the pressure that is going to bring and the delays that will happen. I understand New Elgin are dealing with that now but I feel all we are going to do is create it in another place.

Having lunch at school is not just about feeding the children; it is about giving them a social experience on how to behave when they are sitting in large numbers of people.

Q	Will you keep the pupils from the new catchment area in their own classes?
A	That is an option and would allow the pupils to move with their peer group(s). We do understand they will make friends outside of the classroom and out with school. If these friends live near them and attend the same school and are in the same classes, this gives them a good chance in developing (for many) lifelong relationships with their peers. This option allows us to keep the children with their own peer groups, geographic zone groups but as part of East End primary rather than part of the south-east catchment school. This is however only an option. (GJ)
Q	Currently have a child in primary two at New Elgin Primary and another starting at the new school (which I can live with). However will my elder child have to move to the new school?
A	No, there will no compulsory moves. (GJ)
Q	Children currently receive transport to school; now that the zones have changed will these children still receive transport?
A	Yes, this will continue until the children have finished their primary education. (GJ)
Q	Can you guarantee there will be no compulsory transfers from the current schools to the new school? You are going to have empty primary four to seven classes in the new school?
A	That is currently what we are proposing; we will not compulsory transfer children half way through their education. We believe there may be a number of parents who may choose to send their children to a new school. People may see the attraction of a new school, especially if siblings are in attendance. (GJ)

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Q	Is there definitely no chance of siblings being placed at New Elgin primary school next year (who are now in the catchment for the new school)?
A	If this proposal is accepted and a large number of children choose to enrol into the current catchment of south-east; that will result in more space at New Elgin primary. That will increase the possibility of siblings attending New Elgin primary. Without seeing these numbers I cannot guarantee anything. However if 40 plus children do not enrol into New Elgin primary that does alleviate some of the pressures on New Elgin. (PW)
Q	I think the impact on the sibling and family relationships are being underplayed in this consultation. I understand this is a difficult situation.
A	Currently if we don't do anything, the siblings will be unable to attend New Elgin primary. (GJ) This is an attempt to try and alleviate the problems. (PW)
Q	If a large number of children try to enrol at New Elgin, who is preference given to?
A	We have an Admissions Policy; if you are in-zone and there are too many in-zone pupils to accommodate; we go to a distance between the school and the children's residence and those closest to the school are a priority. This is identified via our planning department using specific maps. (GJ)
Q	Seeking clarification on the timescales; the planning phase for the new school will be 12 months or is it 12 to 18 months as stated in an earlier meeting?
A	The planning and design phase target would be 12 months; 18 months would be our contingency. (GJ)
Q	Construction phase, you stated 18 months which I am sure is your target.
A	The timescale would depend on if there are any outstanding factors that will be out with our control. Elgin High School build is contracted for 18 months and is a more complicated build.
Q	So 18 months is the target timescale and 24 months is the worst case scenario.
A	18 months should be easily achievable, but learning from recent builds, circumstances out with our control can knock back the build by months.

Comments Received

The reason I am teasing out the timescale is the difference of two and half years and three and half years is going to cause problems and will result in modular unit construction on parts of East End playground. If that is what has to happen then so be it, but I feel we have to recognise that and the possible costs involved and that children may end up attending school in modular accommodation.

Q	The school will not be ready by 2018.
A	In an ideal world yes it will be, however 2019 is more likely. (LF) We will work towards 2018. (GJ)
Q	When will you know that 2018 is unrealistic?
A	That is difficult to give a guarantee on; if we take Elgin High School for example we thought we would have had a school virtually built by now. We could not have predicted the issues which have arisen there; so it would be very difficult to give that kind of prediction of guarantee. We will do everything

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	we can and pull out all the stops. We do not know what we will uncover along the way. (LF)
Q	You mentioned at an earlier meeting that in April this year you would have a better idea.
A	Yes of the site. We can do some basic design work but the full design and actual construction of the school is partially based on the site; for example is it level or sloping. The biggest hold up at the Elgin High site was the discovery of peat underground at the chosen site. (GJ)
Q	If the school was ready in January 2019, would you move pupils to the new school at this point?
A	Yes, if we have a cohort of pupils identified for that school we would try to do this during a holiday period. If we start from a blank school roll; the new school would have to wait until the August of that year to open. (GJ)

Comments Received

Child due to start school in August 2017 and my concern is that there would be a transition process in place for the new school. My preference would be for my child to attend East End in the interim where she would have the support of a school community.

Q	What if the school is not ready until August 2020 or later, what is the plan there, is it for modular units at East End and the new school site and is there capacity for both?
A	We would not have modular units at the new school site, only East End primary. The modular blocks are easy for classrooms, rooms with toilet blocks or nurseries (as currently at Seafield primary). (GJ)
Q	If the new school was at the East End Annexe and you then have to accommodate primary four at the Annexe is there capacity to do this? The two problems are that the capacity for East End (directly) would be at capacity and if the new school within the Annexe; is there accommodation for primary four pupils?
A	No, we would have to put additional modular accommodation for the East End pupils and for the pupils situated at the Annexe. (GJ)
Q	Are you not concerned about the staffing problems at schools; is there not a current shortage of staff?
A	<p>The recent issues with primary school staff vacancies are improving and applicant numbers per post are rising. The Scottish Government gave the figures for the number of teachers in training next year and they have increased this year as well. We are training more locally now via the partnership with UHI. I am less concerned about primary staffing than that of secondary. Appointing a new Head Teacher may be a struggle as we have struggled with these recently but we have had interest. (LF)</p> <p>There is an attraction of a new school and setting this up from scratch, setting up your own aims, vision, values and ethos. I think it would be very exciting as a Head Teacher. I can also see it being very exciting for a pupil in that school to have ownership of that school, to design your own school uniform, design logos and to come up with school rules. With regards to the transport, we currently have primary one pupils travelling to school on the bus and I can't</p>

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	<p>think of anything more exciting for these children to get on the bus with their peers first thing in the morning. As a parent, grandparent and Head Teacher myself, I can't think of anything bad about this; yes the first few days would be a worry but I think the children would enjoy it. (Audience member)</p> <p>The transport option that is proposed will include escorts who travel with the children and escort them into the school grounds. (GJ)</p>
Q	The problem is that there are no playground assistants before the children start school.
A	<p>At the moment we do not have responsibility for children who are dropped off before the bell. We do not have playground assistants at that time. If you choose to drop your child off at school on your way to work the school does not have responsibility to your child. (GJ)</p> <p>We are considering our options with regards to timescales, we will make sure the bus is arriving at school as close to the bell time as possible. This may mean escorting the pupils into the school, but that still has to be considered. (GJ)</p>
Q	I thought the school start times would be staggered?
A	This is an option that is being considered. (GJ)
Q	If the new school was opening straight away on the new site it would be exciting, but this new school will be opening right beside East End. Therefore it will not be seen as a new school, as you will be utilising East End facilities.
A	They will still have their own identity. (Audience member)
Q	The new school will be the one at the new site.
A	It is not always about the building, it is about what happens within that building. (LF)
Q	Playground use, will the Council be funding more playground assistants during break times?
A	Yes, that is part of the staffing cost for the new school. All schools are allocated staff, dependent on the number of pupils. (LF)
Q	My personal preference would be that the children enrol into East End and then at a particular point in time (once the school is built).
A	You can submit a placing request if you wish your child to attend East End. Once the new school is built you would then make a choice to move to the new school. (GJ)

Comment Received

Parents' evenings and nativities would be difficult with two children in different schools. I would also want my other child, who can potentially attend the new school to be involved in the development of the school.

Q	Post codes earmarked for the new school; are they now marked as the new zones and if they wish to attend an out of zone school they would need to submit a placing request?
A	Yes, placing requests will be required if you wish to attend an out of zone school. (GJ)
Q	Does this mean that those who are zoned to New Elgin are guaranteed a place? Even though there is a new zone but not a new school?

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A	<p>Those who are zoned to New Elgin primary school are given a priority for attending. (GJ)</p> <p>If they are allocated to the new school catchment area, they will enrol for the new school and if they if they are zoned to New Elgin they will have priority in attending New Elgin primary. (GJ)</p>
Q	What will happen if nobody enrolls for the new school?
A	<p>We cannot accept placing requests if the schools in Elgin are full. (GJ)</p> <p>There are currently spaces at Seafield, East End and Greenwards primary schools that can accommodate placing requests. (PW)</p>
Q	Education Scotland said the main concern of the proposal was New Elgin primary school and the capacity; I don't see how the new school being built is going solve that problem? I don't understand how the Annexe at East End taking in pupils will help?
A	<p>According to New Elgin primary capacity figures it is not full; however accommodation wise it is full. (GJ)</p> <p>If this proposal goes ahead the New Elgin primary roll will stabilise roughly were it is now and thereafter it would start to drop. (PW)</p> <p>There are no other plans at present apart from New Elgin primary utilising the NEON building. This will not solve all the problems but it is a step in the right direction. The management structures are also being reviewed. (LF)</p>

Laurence Findlay concluded the meeting by thanking those in attendance for coming along and participating.

East End Primary School (14.01.2016)

In attendance:

Graham Jarvis (Head of Lifelong Learning, Culture & Sport)
Paul Watson (Senior Education Adviser for Schools Consultations)
Alison McLaughlin (Community Support Unit Admin)

Elected Members In Attendance:

Cllr Mike Shand (Scottish National Party)
Cllr John Divers (Scottish Labour Party)
Cllr Kirsty Reid (Scottish National Party)

Number of East End parent Representatives In Attendance:

9

Senior Education Advisor, Paul Watson welcomed all to the meeting and provided introductions of the staff in attendance and a brief introduction to the meeting.

Graham Jarvis and Paul Watson carried out a presentation on the establishing a new primary school for south-east Elgin proposal. A question and answer session followed the presentation.

Questions & Answer Session

Q	You mentioned about stopping people parking at the school. If you start blocking the A96 with those people who are coming to East End; there is going to be a major problem.
A	We cannot stop people parking at the school; the biggest problem for the area is parents parking. (GJ)
Q	Why was the car park not extended when you extended the nursery? Why is this school a single floored building, why can it not be extended upwards? If you extend upwards and extend the car park that is the problem solved.
A	To extend East End primary we would need to close the school. (GJ)
Q	There is a large piece of ground at East End, why not extend there?
A	East End primary is not due for replacement; we currently have 53 primary schools (about to be 54) in Moray.
Q	Why did you extend New Elgin primary school?
A	New Elgin primary has not been extended recently. (GJ)
Q	I can see a serious problem if you start adding children as the A96 will get blocked and the businesses will start to suffer. You can fix it all by extending the car park here at East End. As long as parents can get off the main road to safely drop off and collect their children at the school. I have no problem with

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	the children attending the school; the problem is getting the children to the school.
A	This has been noted and will be included in the data that is considered for this consultation. (GJ) This is one of the reasons for offering to supply transport; to allow approximately 40+ children to travel to the school should the proposal go ahead. This could reduce the amount of traffic. (PW)

Discussion was held regarding the safety of the children walking to school with the current levels of traffic and the possible increase.

Q	Do you plan to utilise the Heritage side of the Annexe or the whole building for the temporary school? Classrooms are currently being used for East End pupils.
A	Initially it will be the Heritage side of the building. (PW) In the long term, East End primary will require the whole of the Annexe to accommodate the school roll. We are not going to move the East End primary pupils who are currently utilising classrooms within the Annexe. The aim is to refurbish the whole of the Annexe in the long term. We are looking at the benefits for all pupils in the medium to long term. (GJ)

Comments Received

The Elected Members who made the comment talked about a building that is currently vacant. If that is a building as a whole, the parents whose children are currently using those classrooms are looking for an acknowledgement that the statement was not factually correct and that those children currently being educated in the building are being considered.

Q	Where are all the classrooms going to be situated to accommodate the primary one intake?
A	East End primary is currently well under capacity. When a school has capacity (including the additional room in the Annexe) it will be used for specified topics e.g. music rooms. Head Teachers will make sure of all the space available to them (GJ)
Q	Are you going to make more classrooms for East End?
A	In the longer term yes, the Annexe will become part of East End primary. (GJ)
Q	What about the short term?
A	We have not been informed by the Head Teacher that the school is struggling with accommodation. We have been advised that the additional children would be welcome to attend East End primary as East End pupils; therefore there cannot be problems with the accommodation. (GJ) East End primary is currently well under (the functional) capacity (across the whole school) and can accommodate additional pupils. (GJ)
Q	You spoke about physical capacity figures; what about the functional capacity?
A	Functional capacity of a school changes year to year as it depends on the

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	<p>number of children enrolled, pupils ages' and stage and it depends on the number of composite classes etc. (GJ)</p> <p>The functional capacity is set in September once we know the enrolment numbers and the makeup of the classes. (PW)</p>
Q	Will the new changes you are intending to implement have an adverse effect on the functional capacity of the school?
A	It will be a benefit as it allows for more flexible, additional space. (GJ)
Q	The physical capacity of the school does include the additional two classes at the Annexe; this is why I think there is confusion from parents with regards to the Elected Members recent statement in the press.
A	The Annexe currently has unused rooms which have the potential to accommodate additional pupils. (PW)
Q	How are you going to accommodate the additional children in the hall ways, dining rooms and gym spaces?
A	We are receiving conflicting messages; we are being told that you can accommodate the additional children within the current East End primary school roll but not as children who would use the facilities adjacent to a temporary school. (GJ)
Q	The Parent Council have suggested that these children enrol into East End, as this was considered the best solution for all. There are potentially 50 children who require to be accommodated at East End. You both said further down the line that the Annexe would eventually be renovated to make sure that there is a 21 century educational experience for everyone. Giving children lunch is not just about feeding them; it is about learning to interact with other being; having social interaction.
A	We fully acknowledge that across Moray the school rolls are increasing and this does result in management problems for lunches and other facilities. That is something that officers have to support schools to enable the best possible arrangements to be put in place. Changes to lunch times and staggered lunches are going to become a reality. We understand that there are more pupils taking school lunches now. (PW)
Q	Dropping off children at Queens Street; how are you going to ensure the children arrive at school safely?
A	There will be escorts on the bus who will escort them off of the bus and into the school. (GJ)
Q	Are you going to explain to the businesses why the road is blocked because of the back log of traffic?
A	The Councils transport and roads departments are dealing with this. (GJ)
Q	The entrance and exit to the school car park is very tight; if you could open that up the bus could drop the children off there.
A	<p>That is certainly an option. (PW)</p> <p>If we looked at Moray as a whole, no new school would be built in their current locations. The new primary school at Keith was moved further back and away from the busy main road. (GJ)</p>
Q	What are the benefits to East End school?
A	The benefits are long term; the refurbishment of the Annexe. The Annexe will be returned to East End primary once the new school is built. (GJ)

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	We are doing this in response to the inspectorate in regard to the children who are unlikely to gain entry into New Elgin primary school, and to try to ensure that siblings are not separated. The main educational benefit is for families who are potentially going to be separated. (PW)
Q	Can that not be done on a case by case basis in the future?
A	It is currently done on a case by case basis but it depends if we can accommodate families at their chosen schools. (GJ)
Q	So the refurb is the benefit for East End? What else is there?
A	Yes. There is not a huge educational benefit for the current pupils at East End, there is however no detriment to those pupils. (GJ)
Q	Why are the gates not closed during the school day?
A	The playground assistants are responsible for the children during the school breaks. Gate can be closed if the Head Teacher feels that to be necessary (GJ)
Q	The learning support and Deputy Head teachers' offices are currently located at the Annexe, will these remain?
A	No, these will not be remaining; there are rooms at East End that can accommodate the Deputy Head. The learning support may have to come across as well. (GJ)
	The bulk of learning support should be delivered in the classrooms. (PW)

A discussion took place regarding the learning support system and the benefits of one to one support compared to that of classroom based support. If one to one support is required each school would need to utilise the GP spaces that are available.

Q	Why are you considering a new Head Teacher if East End can accommodate the children?
A	The new Head Teacher and other staff would move from the temporary accommodation with the pupils to the new school building once it opens. The staff would be responsible for developing the new school. (GJ)
Q	How are you going to fill the vacancies; considering there are a number of current vacancies unfilled.
A	Whenever we advertise school vacancies, all staff members are entitled to apply for the new posts. (GJ)
	We are currently looking at paired Head Teachers for the small schools we cannot recruit for. The idea of being a full class committed teaching Head is not always attractive, therefore rural authorities in Scotland have an issue in attracting rural Head Teachers. (GJ)
Q	Why does the school have to be in the Annexe? Are the modular buildings expensive?
A	To hire the modular units for three years would be a huge cost. The Annexe would then stay as it is and would not be refurbished. (GJ)
Q	When the new school opens what is going to happen to the Annexe?
A	East End primary in the long term will require the use of the Annexe to accommodate the increasing school roll. (GJ)

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Q	In that case keep the children as one school and move the children once the new school is open. This will save you money of two Head Teachers.
A	This time period will allow staff and pupils to develop the school. The new school building will have an established Head Teacher and staff rather than starting the school from scratch. (GJ)
Q	Why not have the school as suggested and then train the Head Teacher a year prior to the school opening. I don't understand why you would have two schools at the same site; especially when East End can accommodate the children.
A	That is something that could happen. Parents do have a choice, they can all choose to place their children at East End primary but at this point in time we do not know that. (PW)
Q	How does that help a school which has recently had a bad inspection turn itself around? This proposal makes the situation worse for East End.
A	Legislation allows families the choice of which school they wish their child to attend. It would be simpler if children had to attend the zoned school but this is not the case. (PW)
Q	This is what has been happening; parents have chosen New Elgin in the past and this has resulted in children resident in other catchment areas not attending the zoned schools. This is why there are major problems.
A	Many parents who were zoned to New Elgin primary chose to send their children to Greenwards primary. (GJ) This is one of the reasons the catchment areas were reviewed in 2015. (PW)
Q	Why is it detrimental for the children to attend Greenwards primary?
A	It was potentially detrimental for primary seven pupils only. (PW)
Q	Why are you taking the Annexe away from East End if we are going to use it?
A	There is capacity in the Annexe right now, East End primary will have it back when the new school is built and they have the roll to fill the Annexe. To provide temporary modular accommodation whilst there is a building available to accommodate the children is a waste of money. (GJ)

Comments Received

I would be happy for my child to be temporarily moved out of the Annexe to allow for the building to be fully refurbished; but only in the short term.

We do not want a 'them and us' scenario.

Q	Has the funding been secured for this new school; should this not be clarified before you start putting children into different buildings?
A	The time it takes to secure the funds, most of which is out with Council control, for example the Elgin High school has been on the cards for replacement since 2001. In 2010 we agreed that it would be replaced and there were changes that held us back. In February this year we will complete the process to release the funding and a few weeks after that the work will commence on site. (GJ)
Q	If things change again, I have concerns for this proposal. I understand that the long term plan is to implement modular units but that is of no benefit to East End pupils again. In the long term East End and the temporary Annexe

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	school will require modular units; will this take up the playground space?
A	Modular units can be as large as we ask for; this will depend on the layout of the units.

Discussion held on the number of contractors located in the school grounds since the New Year. Concerns were raised on the health and safety issues of these contractors not taking reasonable steps to ensure the safety of the children using the space.

Q	The timeline you mentioned, when will the full report (including Education Scotland) be submitted to Elected Members?
A	<p>Consultation finishes on the 4th February; aiming to have the collated report to Education Scotland on the 11th February. Education Scotland will scrutinise the proposals as of the 15th February and the Inspector will visit (as a minimum) East End and New Elgin primary schools. Education Scotland has three weeks to report back to the Council. The approximate date for publishing the consultation report is the 18th March. (PW)</p> <p>It is all dependent on the response received from Education Scotland and what the response is from the consultees. The plan would be to submit a report to Children & Young Peoples Services committee on the 27th April; where a decision will be taken on each of the proposals. (PW)</p> <p>What we cannot do is choose another option that is not mentioned in the proposal for this consultation. We would have to produce a further proposal to consider additional options. (PW)</p> <p>If the proposal of establishing a school in August is agreed, then by around the first week in May we need to have a Head Teacher in-situ; this will have to be an Acting Head. We will also ask our existing staff for expressions of interest in working in the new school (if it goes ahead). What we cannot do is make any appointments until the proposal has been approved. (PW)</p>
Q	April to August is not a very long; will you be pushing the refurbishment?
A	Yes, officers will be pressing ahead with the refurbishment before April anyway and the work will be ongoing. If the proposal falls the Annexe will be required by East End primary in the long term. (GJ)

Discussion was held on the perception of the refurbishment work taking place at the Annexe before the proposals have been agreed. Some may consider the Council has already decided what is happening. It is understood that the Annexe will be required in the long term and the refurbishment still has to take place.

Q	What about the long term; is there space for future classes?
A	<p>There is space for primary one, two and three pupils; if there is a future delay we will need to consider modular units to accommodate the increasing school rolls. (GJ)</p> <p>What we cannot do is insist that all the children in a catchment area attend East End primary; they have a choice to attend other schools such as Seafield and Greenwards primary school. (PW)</p>

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Q	Would the additional school pupils wear their own uniforms?
A	If they were to enrol into East End, it would be East End uniforms; if they then were to transfer to the new school at a later date it would be a different uniform. (GJ)
Q	Need to realise that parents may choose to request their child remain at East End and not move to the new school. I feel children with different schools and different uniforms in the same site is difficult; it is already hard that siblings will be attending different schools. It all seems to be for the south-east children.
A	It is about the children that we currently cannot accommodate. (GJ)

Discussion was held on the impression that this is all about the children who can no longer attend New Elgin primary and how it appears that East End primary children do not matter in this instance.

Q	Invest in East End primary to allow for all the south-east children to attend East End.
A	With future housing development it is not possible for the current schools to accommodate all the potential pupils. Additional school buildings are required. (GJ)

Suggestions Received

To fix the problem you need to enrol all the children at East End; extend East End primary school, extend the car park; this will result in the problem being solved.

Q	We are aware that the Annexe is currently being used by East End primary school and will continue to do so due to the naturally increasing school roll. We chose to attend East End as it is not overcrowded; these current proposals are going to result in this school being overcrowded. The children are not going to have what they need.
A	We currently do not have space to accommodate the primary one pupils in the previous catchment areas. (PW)

Comments Received

We are happy that East End school roll is growing naturally year on year; we were comfortable with the knowledge that the buildings could accommodate this and the children would still have space to move.

The situation should remain as is and the south-east zoned children should attend East End as one school not two.

Make it one school, extend the car park and when and if the new school is built; worry about it then. Two schools are going to cause problems with bullying.

Q	Would you put your young children on a bus to attend school? I certainly would not.
A	The idea of providing transport came from the previous rezoning consultation; the point was raised asking if the Council would consider providing transport from the Pinefield area to East End primary. As part of that consideration, if accommodation was to be provided at East End site it would be reasonable to provide transport due to safety concerns. (PW)

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	<p>We have agreed to consider the transport option and Elected Members will make the decision based on the outcome of this consultation. (GJ)</p> <p>Pinefield resident parents in the past have organised a bus to transport the children from the Pinefield area to be dropped off at the designated area at Queens Street. (GJ)</p>
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Further discussion on the traffic issues took place and the safety issues in and around the school area. Emphasis was placed on the importance of addressing the road safety issues in the area.

Paul Watson concluded the meeting by thanking those in attendance for coming along and participating.

New Elgin Primary School Parent Meeting (25.01.2016) (Morning session)

In attendance:

Paul Watson (Senior Education Adviser for Schools Consultations)
Sarah Crowe (Community Support Officer)

Ellie Pirie (New Elgin Primary School, Head Teacher)

Elected Members In Attendance:

Cllr Mike Shand (Scottish National Party)
Cllr Graham Leadbitter (Scottish National Party)
Cllr Kirsty Reid (Scottish National Party)
Cllr John Divers (Scottish Labour Party)

Number of Parent Representatives In Attendance:

15

Community Support Officer, Sarah Crowe welcomed all to the meeting and provided introductions of the staff in attendance and a brief introduction to the meeting.

Paul Watson carried out a presentation on the establishing a new primary school for south-east Elgin proposal. A question and answer session followed the presentation.

Questions & Answer Session

Q	<p>I understand the need for the new school. I am one of the families who have a child currently attending a school and have another child who has been attending the adjacent preschool; this young child has been involved in the school fetes and concerts. The expectation was that that child would attend this school.</p> <p>Is it one of the Council's priorities to keep families together in the same schools? I don't know how many other families there are in the same situation as my own, but I cannot envisage that it would be a massive amount of families. Would families who have siblings currently at a school be considered first?</p>
A	<p>This is one of the reasons why this proposal came about. We are unable to provide a guarantee on placing requests until the enrolment numbers are completed. The estimation of families in a similar situation to you is approximately ten. (PW)</p> <p>If 40 children who were zoned for New Elgin primary choose to attend an alternative school and the temporary new school goes ahead; this will result in</p>

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	<p>more space at New Elgin primary. (PW)</p> <p>No guarantees can be given today, however. (PW)</p>
Q	Therefore the in-zone children for New Elgin would be given a priority and the second priority would then be given to those families currently with siblings enrolled at New Elgin.
A	We would try to accommodate them as far as possible. (PW)
Q	Are the numbers flexible for accommodating children?
A	<p>The numbers are dictated based on the sizes of the rooms available at the schools. This would have to be taken on a case by case basis. We don't know until we see the actual enrolment and placing request numbers. (PW)</p> <p>This is why we wanted to consult on the proposal of a temporary school; we recognise the difficulties for some of the school sites and we wanted to try and help the families in Elgin. If the proposal goes ahead it will free up space at those schools that are at, or near, capacity. (PW)</p> <p>We do hope that those families whose first child is starting school in 2016 will request to attend the new school and this should help alleviate some of the pressures at New Elgin primary. (PW)</p>
Q	Is there any priority for those children who attend the adjacent nursery at a school?
A	No, this has never been the case. (PW)
Q	<p>I do feel that if anyone has a child starting school in August who already has children enrolled in a school and their child is attending the adjacent nursery the transition would be simpler for these children to settle in to New Elgin primary.</p> <p>If the new school had been built and we had that option to transfer our older child to that school in preparation for our younger child starting in the summer, there would not be this feeling.</p> <p>The children attending the Annexe at East End primary are not attending a school; they are only attending a building. I don't feel that our children will feel part of a new school as they will have to share the playground and other facilities. The feedback from the East End school is that they are not happy our children will be attending their school.</p> <p>I feel that the change of the catchment in January is penalising those families who were originally in the New Elgin primary catchment.</p>
A	If the result of this consultation is against the proposal, Elected Members are not going to impose the temporary school on anyone. People may prefer to enrol their children in another school and wait until the new school building is officially opened. (PW)
Q	There were plans years ago for a school to be built, but the Council gave all the different housing developers permission to carry on building new houses. The Council knew this was happening years ago, but now you have decided a new school is required. Why was the original school not built?
A	Yes a school should have been built years ago. Unfortunately we are where we are and we need to come up with a solution. What we are putting forward

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	are suggestions for temporary arrangements, however if the overall response is against these arrangements it will not happen. (PW)
Q	If it doesn't go ahead, what will happen?
A	East End, Greenwards and Seafield primary schools are able to accommodate the new children. Families will have to submit placing requests for which school they wish their child to attend. Unfortunately this may not be the first school of their choice. (PW)
Q	<p>We understand this, but it still feels that those who were previously zoned to New Elgin primary are being penalised. If this new school is built; we are ultimately going to be faced with the fact that we cannot have siblings attending the same school.</p> <p>This is what makes this consultation so emotive; if the school was opening this summer many families would probably choose to move their siblings so they all attend the same school.</p> <p>You are saying though that where possible, families with siblings will be given a priority?</p>
A	If we are able to take 40 children off of the New Elgin school roll, this will create spaces for those siblings who were previously zoned to the school. The temporary school is the only additional space we have; erecting modular accommodation will not be implemented by August 2016. If this proposal is rejected, we have to consider other options and carry out further consultations on any alternative proposal. (PW)
Q	For people who have registered this year for the new school, what happens to them?
A	We will contact those families individually to discuss the options. Until the enrolment process is complete we do not know who these families are. We only know the number of children from the data received. The information on the families is confidential until they enrol to a school. (PW)
Q	If you were to move our primary seven children to Greenwards primary; families who have other children starting school in the summer are in the same situation as other families.
A	This is one of the reasons we ruled moving the primary seven children out of the proposal. There is little educational benefit to moving the primary seven children out of their current school. If this current proposal is rejected and we have to find alternative proposals, we may have to consider temporary accommodation at Greenwards primary or transporting children to schools outside of Elgin. (PW)
Q	If the temporary school is rejected the only other option is to enrol your child in other catchments?
A	Yes, we are only consulting on the two options. (PW)
Q	We are concerned that if nothing is done, it is the children who are half way through their primary school education that are suffering due to the over capacity of the school. Something has to be done.
A	If people can provide us with other ideas during the consultation we will be delighted to consider the feasibility of them. We have not proposed transporting children to schools outside of Elgin as at a previous consultation meeting it was clearly expressed that this was not an option that would be acceptable to parents. (PW)

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Q	I know some people have considered transferring the older child to another school, so that the siblings remain together.
A	This is not something officers would ever consider proposing. That is a personal choice that would be respected. (PW)
Q	What about the NEON building; will the school continue to use this?
A	New Elgin primary currently use the two large rooms at either end of the building, these are used all the time. (E Pirie; Head Teacher)
Q	To clarify for people who currently have children attending a school; it would be beneficial for them if the new temporary school goes ahead.
A	Yes, as it may alleviate the capacity issues at the school and enable younger siblings to attend the same school. (PW)

Discussion took place on the benefits of all the new (catchment) primary one children attending the temporary new school at the East End Annexe compared to all the children being scattered across various schools in Elgin.

Discussion took place on the lack of guarantee of the time scales of the new school being built in time for siblings to attend the same school. There is too much 'if' and 'maybe' from the Council.

Discussion took place on the negative feedback from East End primary and that it does not fill families with confidence in the proposals. It was agreed that parents are emotional and it is an initial reaction. The fear is how this will affect our children who may be attending the temporary school on the East End primary site. It was agreed that this is not necessarily the case.

Q	Regarding the transport proposals for the children attending the temporary school at East End primary. Would the Council consider allowing parents to travel on the bus with their children for the first few days to help alleviate some fears and concerns?
A	We need to discuss this with the families it affects. This would allow us to discuss the various options. (PW)
Q	What is the timescale for a decision?
A	April 30 th 2016; the Elected Members will make a decision on the 27th April 2016. Most of the time constraints are dictated by legislation. If the proposal goes ahead, people will be informed as soon as possible. (PW)
Q	I don't want my child to be enrolled into East End primary; I want my child to remain with her peers so that when the new school is opened, she moves with them.
A	That is important personal view that needs to be included as part of the consultation. (PW)

Paul Watson concluded the meeting by thanking those in attendance for coming along and participating.

New Elgin Primary School Parent Meeting (25.01.2016) (Evening session)

In attendance:

Graham Jarvis (Head of Lifelong Learning, Culture & Sport)
Paul Watson (Senior Education Adviser for Schools Consultations)
Sarah Crowe (Community Support Officer)

Dave Malpas (Senior Engineer Traffic)

Elected Members In Attendance:

Cllr John Divers (Scottish Labour Party)
Cllr James Allan (Scottish Conservative & Unionist)
Cllr Mike Shand (Scottish National Party)
Cllr Graham Leadbitter (Scottish National Party)
Cllr Kirsty Reid (Scottish National Party)

Number of Parents Representatives In Attendance:

16

Community Support Officer, Sarah Crowe welcomed all to the meeting and provided introductions of the staff in attendance and a brief introduction to the meeting.

Graham Jarvis and Paul Watson carried out a presentation on the establishing a new primary school for south-east Elgin proposal. A question and answer session followed the presentation.

Questions & Answer Session

Q	These proposals are only for primary one children; it is not about primary seven?
A	<p>That is correct for this year; we could not consider moving the primary seven children this year. We cannot find an educational benefit for the primary seven children at New Elgin primary or Greenwards primary by moving primary seven pupils. This was an option that we could make happen with utilising modular accommodation, given enough lead in time for supplying and erecting accommodation, which we do not have at this stage. (GJ)</p> <p>The reason for not favouring the use of modular accommodation was the cost for a temporary solution. The other reason is that the Elgin High construction is due to start in six weeks. This is not a practical option at the present time. (GJ)</p>

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Q	Is it a potential option for next year?
A	<p>If the current proposals are rejected by Elected Members; the school rolls for next year are increasing. Further options would need to be considered and a consultation would have to take place. (GJ)</p> <p>If the temporary school at East End primary is rejected this year, the problem will not go away, it will only increase year on year. (PW)</p>
Q	The information I have read of the opposition of East End primary parents saying that the accommodation is temporary and is currently being used by them. Do they not have a lot of space?
A	They are currently utilising two classrooms in the adjacent Annexe and will continue to do so. There are further rooms available in what was the old Heritage Centre; this will be used on a temporary basis for new school pupils.
Q	The space is there for the new temporary school?
A	<p>Yes, the staff who worked in the Heritage Centre only recently moved out. The East End primary school only uses part of the building. (GJ)</p> <p>The whole building is being planned for refurbishment. (Audience member)</p>
Q	Parents want to know that their children will be made to feel welcome, no matter which school they attend.
A	<p>Yes, and talking to parents in the playground in the morning the majority of the parents are in agreement, they see the bigger picture and why it has to happen. (Audience Member)</p> <p>The main concern raised was they want the other catchment area children to join East End primary and to be involved in East End school, rather than the schools to be divided. (Audience Member)</p> <p>It is recognised that if these children are integrated with the East End children during class time, it would be disruptive to classes when the pupils transfer to the new school building once it opens. (Audience Member)</p> <p>We understand that some parents may wish to enrol their children into East End primary school, this is a personal choice. We cannot dictate to parents that they must enrol their children into East End primary; all parents have a choice. (PW)</p>
Q	Did you consider moving the new primary one children to Greenwards primary rather than the primary seven children?
A	No. The current vacant accommodation at East End Annexe will be required by East End primary according to our projected roll numbers by 2020. To refurb the Annexe is not a wasted spend; once the proposed temporary school moves out of the East End Annexe, East End primary school will move in. We are making best use of the money and the accommodation that is currently available. (GJ)
Q	What was the reason behind the primary seven children moving to Greenwards primary and the primary one children moving to East End Annexe?
A	New Elgin pupils being taught in the Greenward primary school building had happened in the past (approx. 40 years ago); there were a range of other factors that showed us it was not a realistic option at this time. (PW)

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Q	At least the primary one children have the realisation that they are going to move into a fantastic new school and eventually reap the benefits of the school.
A	Yes, it will be their school and they will have input into the development of the new school. (GJ) East End primary children will also benefit from inheriting a newly refurbished building. (GJ)
Q	Following on from the misunderstanding of how the East End Annexe was and wasn't used; the space that is available how do you plan to use it? Is the growth of East End primary school included in the figures that you currently have?
A	Yes the figures include this. If by 2018/2019 our projections are correct we may have to supply modular accommodation for East End primary children. The figures are refreshed year on year and we plan to review them every six months. Depending on various trends, East End primary may grow beyond its current capacity; therefore alternatives would need to be considered. (GJ) East End primary has land that would allow for temporary accommodation, whereas New Elgin primary does not. (GJ) The roll forecast is recalculated every year and placing requests have an impact on the roll. Primary roll forecasts are difficult for seven years in advance as you only have birth rates for five years. The additional two years are based on statistical probability. (PW)
Q	For parents who may end up having children at different schools; when is the drop off and pick-up times going to be tackled?
A	The pick-up points would have to be by negotiation with those families who are affected. (PW) Other suggestions have been to stagger the start and finish times of the schools. The reaction at recent meetings has been split and it does depend on the individuals circumstances. It will be that we have to discuss this with parents who are affected. (PW) We would not want to put an additional bus down Bezack Street. (GJ)
Q	I can understand that for some children travelling to school on the bus would be exciting; but as a parent I would be worried. I would be concerned how logistically I could be dropping a child off at one school and at another location for the bus collection.
A	These are discussions that still need to take place with the affected parents. The start and finish times of the schools that are affected will need to be considered. (GJ) We hope that if this proposal for the temporary school goes ahead; spaces will be created at New Elgin primary to allow siblings to attend the same school. (Audience Member)
Q	We know that East End representatives have been raising the traffic issues as a great concern, how are you addressing this?

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A	The main thing would be to stagger the start time of the schools in the area; this will depend on the negotiations that need to take place. We will need to take into account how many parents are considering transporting their children. We need to consider how many parents are considering using the provided transport; all of which will enable the negotiations to take place. This will allow us to consider various options that may help the traffic issues. Through all the investigation that has taken place and is still taking place; there is no quick fix solution. (DM)
Q	Has anyone had ideas on how to tackle the pickup and drop off situation at East End primary?
A	During the meetings at East End primary we have been informed of a few issues that we were previously unaware of. Sadly the majority of the ideas require funding which is not readily available. The main thing we can do is encourage people to use alternative travel methods where it is safe and appropriate to do so. (DM)
Q	Could people utilise the public transport at a subsidy?
A	I have a meeting regarding this tomorrow; if it is financially feasible it would be considered. (PW)

Discussion took place on alternative options such as making roads one way; the concerns raised are that this would encourage traffic to travel faster and this would result in increased risk to pedestrians.

Q	The road near the proposed new school site; what is the scope for the traffic management there?
A	When the school opens there will be a full three meter cycle / pedestrian way. The bridge would also be widened. Nothing has been designed as yet; it is all part of the negotiations of the planning stages. (DM) We would hope the developers' pedestrian / cycle route plans are carried through into the new school design. As far I can see from the Elgin South proposals this would be the case. (GJ)
Q	When will you have a decision on the proposals?
A	The 27 th April and we realise that this not ideal timescale. (GJ) Most of the timescales are set down by the legislation. (PW) The renovation work at East End Annexe will start as soon as possible; we will not wait for the outcome of these proposals as the building is required in the long term by East End primary school. This refurb will not be a wasted spend. (GJ)
Q	Is the cost of hiring an additional Head Teacher at a temporary school which may be located on the same site as an existing school not a waste of money?
A	A school must have a Head Teacher and this cost has been included in the estimated costs. (PW) Where the current discussions are is that we may invite expressions of interest from our current school staff. We need to be able to staff a temporary school with an Acting Head Teacher. There must be a good induction process in place for primary one children starting in the summer. (PW)

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Q	East End primary parents have said that they don't want the children separated in a different school and the resulting traffic problems that will be associated with this; however if the children are incorporated within East End primary school they are quite happy for it to happen. Will the Elected Members be able to amend the proposal to suggest alternatives?
A	<p>We cannot agree on a proposal that has not been consulted on. (PW)</p> <p>The majority of the Elgin Elected Members have attended the consultation meetings; the Elected Members will also be provided with all the evidence that is collated during the consultation. (GJ)</p> <p>Under the Schools (Consultations) (Scotland) Act 2010 the Council have to consult on solutions to the problems; we cannot just ask the public 'what do you want us to do'. At the present time we are consulting on the proposal of a temporary school with the option of retaining the status quo. The status quo allows parents to choose which school their child attends. (PW)</p>
Q	If parents choose to enrol their child at East End primary; would those children then be compulsory transferred to the new school once it is opened?
A	No, but they would have to submit a placing request to continue to attend East End primary. (PW)
Q	East End primary school may find themselves in the same situation as New Elgin; as the in zone children cannot enrol into the school as the capacity of the school has been reached.
A	Yes, this may possibly happen. (PW)
Q	There are alternatives for including the children within East End; for example including them as a new 'house'.
A	<p>The primary one class structure is a school management decision and this can be carried out in a number of ways depending on the outcome of the consultation. (GJ)</p> <p>If the new school catchment children are included in the East End primary roll they would not have their own school identity, which is important. (Audience Member)</p>
Q	That was my concern, as the children need to be included in the development of the school, this includes the uniform.
A	The option is they could have the East End primary school uniform or just plain grey and white clothes until the uniform is designed. (GJ)
Q	In terms of timescales if this proposal was to go ahead, you would be looking at primary one and two attending the temporary school at East End.
A	At worst we may have primary three; these children could then be transferred to the new school midterm or during a holiday rather than waiting until August. (GJ)

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Q	I like the idea that the children could be a new 'house' within East End primary that ultimately will move to the new school. The concern is how this will be managed.
A	It would be about managing the continuous relationship between the two schools once the new school is opened. There is massive amount of potential. (Audience Member)

Graham Jarvis concluded the meeting by thanking those in attendance for coming along and participating.