



Moray Council

Rezoning Forres ASG Primary Schools Consultation

Public Meetings

22 August 2016
30 September 2016

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Revised Admissions to Schools Policy 2016

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Forres Academy Public Meeting (22.08.2016)

In attendance:

Graham Jarvis (Head of Lifelong Learning, Culture & Sport)
Paul Watson (Senior Education Adviser for Schools Consultations)
Alison McLaughlin (Admin Assistant, Chief Executive's Office)

Lesley Meehan (Head Teacher: Applegrove Primary School)
David Gregory (Education Scotland)

Elected Members In Attendance:

Cllr George Alexander (Independent)

Number of Community Representatives in Attendance:

3

Graham Jarvis welcomed all attendees to the meeting and provided an introduction to the Rezoning Forres ASG Primary Schools consultation. Paul Watson carried out a presentation on the proposal. A question and answer session followed the presentation.

Questions & Answer Session

Q	No existing pupil will be expected to move school once the catchments are amended?
A	No pupil currently in school will be asked to change schools. If future siblings wish to attend the same school which is now out of zone; a placing request will have to be submitted. (PW)
Q	If and when the proposals are implemented will pupils continue to receive free transport?
A	Transport will continue for children currently in school. There may be a possibility of privileged transport for siblings; however there will have to be a cut-off deadline, for example when the older sibling leaves or the transport arrangements are amended. (GJ)
Q	Will this not increase transport costs?
A	Possibly in the short term. (GJ)
Q	Could you transport from the edge of Forres primary school to Kinloss primary school?
A	If children live over two miles from their zoned school, transport will be provided. If there is no safe route to walk to their zoned school, transport will be provided. (GJ)
Q	What happens if the Kinloss Barracks closes, what will be the impact to your proposed roll forecasts? Will these proposals if implemented have to be

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	reversed?
A	The roll forecasts are based on current information; this includes the housing developments that have been identified. (PW) If Kinloss Barracks was to close a review of the roll forecasts would have to take place. (GJ)
Q	You mentioned the safe route to schools but does the development at east of the Grantown Road not break this rule?
A	There is a safe road crossing in that area, however if the result from this consultation is that residents would prefer to remain zoned to the Applegrove primary school catchment, that will be considered. (PW)
Q	What is the timescale for the east side of Forres development?
A	We estimate 20 houses per year starting 2018; this will depend on the building rate. If the building rate is slow there will be no impact. (PW)
Q	Do you receive reasons for placing requests?
A	We do not request a reason for placing request submissions. People are entitled to choose which school their child attends and we are legally obligated to say yes unless there are capacity issues at the chosen school. (GJ) The main reasons we have found for placing requests are due to house moves, childminding/nursery or work commitments. (GJ)
Q	Would it not be helpful to know the reasons?
A	We look at the number of placing requests over a three year period to estimate the school roll. Dis-satisfaction is not a major reason for placing request submissions. (PW)
Q	Should you not put this consultation on hold until the decision is made for Kinloss Barracks?
A	No. We do not know when a decision will be made or what that decision will be. (GJ)
Q	How is the change going to help relieve the pressure of Kinloss primary school numbers?
A	Some new housing developments would be zoned to Alves rather than Kinloss
Q	If a family have children currently zoned to Andreson's primary school and a further child is zoned to Kinloss primary school; does this not increase the pressure at Kinloss primary school? Would it not be best to zone this area to Andreson's primary school?
A	That is something to consider. (PW) Planning is agreed but these will only be built if there is the demand from buyers. We have to go by what is agreed via planning permissions; this is why our numbers are forecasted. (GJ)
Q	The Moray Council has no money; would the new house development help increase Pilmuir primary school roll?
A	We do have money committed to the school estate with a deadline for completion of 2020. (GJ) We review our roll figures each year to ensure we have accurate information and will be starting to review these figures twice a year. (PW)

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	New housing developments could help increase the Pilmuir roll. Elected members may decide to place these proposals on hold or only implement part of the proposal based on the results from this consultation. What we cannot do is implement any changes which have not been consulted on during the allocated period. (PW)
Q	Why make these changes if there is no cost advantage to the Council.
A	This consultation is not a cost saving exercise. This is a cost neutral exercise as we still working with the same amount of children.
Q	Why would we move to Alves primary school which is further away than Anderson's primary school?
A	That is a valid point and will be considered. (PW)

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

Applegrove Parent Council Meeting (29.08.2016)

In attendance:

Paul Watson (Senior Education Adviser for Schools Consultations)
Alison McLaughlin (Admin Assistant, Chief Executive's Office)

Lesley Meehan (Head Teacher: Applegrove Primary School)

Number of Parent Council Representatives in Attendance:

6

Paul Watson welcomed all attendees to the meeting and provided an introduction and presentation on the Rezoning Forres ASG Primary Schools consultation.

Questions & Answer Session

Q	What happens to siblings after the zones are changed?
A	A placing request can be submitted. These children are given priority as explained in our Admissions Policy.
Q	Will the placing requests be capped?
A	We are not at that stage in Forres.
Q	How will you manage capacity and classroom sizes if the school roll is to increase?
A	There should be no pressure on the capacity of each school due to this rezoning. (PW) Head teachers review the school roll for each year and identify classroom sizes and set up using the most up to date school roll each year. (LM)
Q	If Kinloss Barracks close will school close?
A	The possible closure of the Barracks will have an impact on the school roll; however the future housing development site will also impact on the school roll.
Q	What about those schools that are currently showing as under capacity?
A	When we reviewed Dallas, Dkye and Logie we identified there was nothing we could do to realistically increase the school roll via the rezoning of catchment areas.

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