



Moray Council

School Catchment Area Amendments Consultation

Comments / Enquiries Received

**21 November 2016
20 January 2017**

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Please note that content within is unedited (except for the removal of personal data)

Correspondence

School Rezoning Proposal: Response from the City and Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council

Background

The Moray Council has conducted a statutory consultation exercise on its proposals to vary the zones (catchment areas) of Bishopmill, Lhanbryde, Linkwood, Seafield and West End Primary Schools, Elgin Academy, Elgin High School, and Milne's High School.

A public meeting was held by the Council to explain its proposals. The Community Council was represented by two of its members at the meeting in Elgin Town Hall on the evening of 30th November 2016.

The Community Council has tried to look at the overall picture as it affects Elgin, and to look at the greatest overall benefit, while recognising that some parents and their children may well be adversely affected by the proposals.

Merits of the Proposals

The Community Council recognises that the zones have not been altered for many years and this tidying up exercise is necessary. The Community Council believes that one of the drivers of any such rezoning must be to ensure that those who live in Elgin have the right to send their children to a school based in Elgin, and this is particularly important as Elgin expands both to the north and to the south, over-spilling outwith its current boundaries.

- (a) Rezone the geographical area which lies to the north of the A96 and to the west of the River Lossie from Lhanbryde Primary School to Seafield Primary School.

The Community Council supports this proposal.

The Community Council recognises that there may be at least one family adversely affected by this proposal in that they will now be zoned differently from their immediate neighbours, due to them living on the opposite side of the river. The Community Council asks that the Council treats their circumstances with due sensitivity and that every effort be made to allow the affected children to use the bus the neighbouring children use to get to Lhanbryde Primary, even though the family will have no absolute right to access it.

Revised Admissions to Schools Policy 2016

- (b) Rezone an area with postcode IV30 6UH (Sheriffmill Road) from West End Primary to Bishopmill Primary.

The Community Council supports this proposal.

- (c) Rezone part of Lhanbryde catchment area including the Hallowood Road, Troves area to Linkwood Primary.

The Community Council supports this proposal. The Community Council made this suggestion in its response dated 24th March 2016 to the consultation over the Council's Secondary School Rezoning Proposal, so is pleased to see that the suggestion has been adopted.

- (d) Rezone all of the revised Linkwood Primary School catchment area from Elgin Academy and Milnes High School to Elgin High School.

The Community Council supports this proposal, as this point was behind our thinking in the previous consultation response referred to above.

17th January 2016

Social Media

No correspondence received

Survey Monkey Comments

1	Include postcode IV30 5NZ in Lhanbryde Primary
2	Miss out curves/meandering in river and go by postcodes. IV30 5NZ to be zoned for Lhanbryde
3	This is causing me stress, I already have 1 daughter which last year was catchment area for Elgin Academy, now my other daughter has Elgin High, due to this I cannot get her free bus pass to school
4	I find it very interesting the amount of work the council put into the rezoning process when at the end of the day the councillors can overturn any of the catchment areas and force a school to take pupils from out with the catchment. This year Bishopmill primary school filled both primary 1 classes with in zone pupils to then be told by councillors to take 8 extra from other catchment areas which in turn made one class have 33 pupils. Myself and others have brought this to the attention of council employees concerned but my point here is really, why bother to have catchment areas at all if you are not going to bother sticking to them for all school admissions? This problem is not going to go away and I do feel, as one of your councillors quoted in a newspaper, certain parents are just being snobby and picky about schools and at the end of the day if it is such a high priority for them to put their child to a certain school then they should aim to live nearby said school. I look forward to hearing from those concerned at the consultation next week
5	Lhanbryde P4-7 Pupil Parliament members met with HT to discuss proposals on 13 January 2017. Children viewed the maps which were very clear. They thought that on the map it looked odd having the secondary school catchments proposals as they were and the new proposals made more sense. They asked questions about being able to still go to Elgin Academy if they wanted as some had siblings attending there and parental choice was explained. Again for the primary proposals they saw from the maps that these areas did not have a lot of houses and wouldn't be a lot of children affecting our roll; they could see these areas were closer to Elgin.

Stakeholder Responses

Bishopmill Primary School

Info went out to parents in a newsletter. All staff given opportunity to respond; direct consultation with one family who would be affected; pupil council consulted too (completed survey received). Hopefully you have received individual responses.

Lhanbryde Primary School

The head teacher confirmed that the school had consulted with staff, pupils and parents.

Extract of Staff meeting held 17 November 2016

GR shared documentation with staff on Moray Council's school catchment area amendments. Staff agreed to the proposal. They felt each proposal made sense and new school would be easier to reach and would have shorter journey times. The areas for us also haven't had many children/currently have many children attending our school. Those living in the Troves area have usually put in placing requests to go to Elgin schools anyway.

Extract of Parent Council meeting held 17 January 2017

Parents present, viewed the papers and the maps and discussed the proposals. All agreed to the proposals affecting Lhanbryde Primary and Milne's High School.

Linkwood Primary School

The head teacher confirmed that all statutory consultees were contacted and that the consultation documents were made available to all stakeholders. Stakeholders could respond individually.

Seafield Primary School

The head teacher confirmed that all statutory consultees were contacted and that the consultation documents were made available to all stakeholders. Stakeholders could respond individually.

West End Primary School

The head teacher confirmed that all statutory consultees were contacted and stakeholders could respond individually.

Revised Admissions to Schools Policy 2016

Elgin Academy

In terms of parents, we made the documentation available on the school website. All staff and pupils were made aware of the consultation and where to access the information. Information was sent directly by Moray Council to the Chair of the Parent Council for further distribution. (There was not a meeting of the PC scheduled for the period of the consultation). Stakeholders could respond individually.

Elgin High School

The consultation was intimated on the school website and had a link to it on the school Facebook page. The head teacher also sent the information to staff via email; no responses received. Stakeholders could respond individually.

Milne's High School

The head teacher confirmed that the school had consulted with staff, pupils and parents and that the Survey Monkey link had been provided for any stakeholder who wished to submit a response.

Milne's Parent Council: Extract from Meeting Minutes held 16 January 2017
Ends 20 January 2017. Previously discussed at PC. If not already done so, PC members should go onto MC website and complete survey monkey. All members happy with the consultation as it means more pupils for Milne's High - although there will still be parental choice. HMI inspectors visiting school on 31st January at 11.30 a.m. to speak with PC members to ensure we have been consulted about the proposals.
