

No.	Representative Comments	Response
1	<p>Dear Sir/Madam, I wish to express my concerns about the Moray Council's decision to choose Orchard Road/Roysvale Park as the site for the new Forres Academy for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Roysvale Park is part of the Forres Common Good estate which will be lost if the school is built on the land;</li> <li>2. This park is a natural soakaway for an area which is prone to flooding and, once built, will increase the risk of flooding.</li> <li>3. There is already traffic congestion on Orchard Road particularly around Applegrove Primary School and also at the junction of Orchard Road and St Catherine's Road, and this will be greatly increased if the secondary school is located nearby;</li> <li>4. There will be considerable disruption around Roysvale and Orchard Road during the construction period and this may well impact on Applegrove Primary and the current Forres Academy.</li> </ol> <p>Although the Lochyhill site is on the outskirts of Forres and may result in increased construction costs, it doesn't have any of the problems which I have listed above. Any increased costs will pale into insignificance over a potential lifespan of 50 years.</p>	<p>Thank you for your representation to the Statutory Consultation in respect of the proposed change of use of the common good asset.</p> <p>The consultation relates specifically to the proposed short term disposal and change of use of Common Good Land and is not seeking views regarding the preferred site for the new Forres Academy.</p> <p>As outlined in the consultation document, the proposal has been developed to minimise the area of common good land being used during the construction period so that the park, swing park, footpath and playing fields can still be used by the public, and on completion the majority will be returned for public use with improved drainage to enhance community use of the green space/ playing fields for future use.</p> <p>A planning application will need to be separately submitted for consideration which would consider the design, layout, noise and transport assessment. Any planning application will have to have regard to relevant policies on flooding and SEPA is a statutory consultee for planning applications whose comments would be fed into the design and the application.</p>
2	<p>I would like to attend the meeting but can't so I need to write instead. I live close to the proposed site for a new academy and I am firmly against it being built there. This area is a great asset to locals who use it and it's a lovely open green space which sometimes turns into a small lake when flooded as it does every year. It's shortsighted to build a large school in a tiny space. Where I belong, Earlston in the borders they had the same decision and the new school on the outskirts is brilliant. Great design and pupils are bused to school. There is no room to expand at Roysvale. A wee bit planning on a good cycle path to Lochyhill would be quite easy to achieve.</p> <p>Apart from all this is the traffic. It's hell on Orchard road as it is now and I'm surprised no one has been injured or worse. I've seen a few near misses, especially when the academy kids go home. Some have zero respect for others on the roads and some on their bikes have a death wish. I've almost been hit by a bike, on a pavement, not a cycle path.</p> <p>This could be a great opportunity for Forres as it's growing fast. Lochyhill is a far better choice than Roysvale to go forward into the future.</p>	<p>Thank you for your representation to the Statutory Consultation in respect of the proposed change of use of the common good asset.</p> <p>The consultation relates specifically to the proposed short term disposal and change of use of Common Good Land and is not seeking views regarding the preferred site for the new Forres Academy.</p> <p>As outlined in the consultation document, the proposal has been developed to minimise the area of common good land being used during the construction period so that the park, swing park, footpath and playing fields can still be used by the public, and on completion the majority will be returned for public use with improved drainage to enhance community use of the green space/ playing fields for future use.</p> <p>A planning application will need to be separately submitted for consideration which would consider the design, layout, noise and transport assessment which would involve an assessment of the capacity/operation of the existing network and will identify any areas where intervention/ mitigation is necessary in order to address any additional traffic generated as a result of the development.</p>

3	<p>I am sorry I am unable to attend the drop in session at the Forres Academy 21 October but would like to leave my comments here about the new site.</p> <p>The Lochyhill site seems the ideal place to build a new school. Pupils from the surrounding villages get there easier by bus, and parents would have no need to ferry children in individual cars. Pooled bus services are lowering the emissions, and the town would no longer be in gridlock between 8 and 9 am and in the afternoon. Forres has expanded considerably in the past few years. The impact on the infrastructure and natural environment is still to be evaluated. We need our common land green spaces more than ever. Elgin Academy seems perfectly well situated at the edge of town.</p> <p>I live very close to the present Academy and the stores nearby and I can observe daily the comings and goings. When I was still physically able to get down the banks of the Mosset Burn I was part of the litter picking group. This has all ceased to exist.</p> <p>The whole area around the banks are a tip. Plastic litter has been blown about, accumulating; it slowly gets covered up somehow by green summer growth and looks horrendous in winter. I wonder how many wildlife choke on the debris. The footpath between the two shops does not ever get cleared of litter and weeds. Accidents happen on the footbridge with cyclists, dogs, prams, mobility scooters and foot passengers all meeting at the narrow bridge edges, but worst when dozens of pupils try to get over the bridge 4 times a day. They are released to do their shopping for mid morning and lunch breaks. Nobody teaches them to take their litter with them. The bins are overflowing or get overturned.</p> <p>Old folks cannot do their shopping at school times because of the long queues of hungry kids. That is also true for other shops and supermarkets in town at lunch time. But what do pupils get to eat? A bag of crisps, a sweet bar and maybe a sugary drink. The more affluent ones can buy chips or burgers. If the school stays at Roysvale in Forres the temptation to live on junk food stays with them.</p> <p>At Lochyhill at least there could be a new opportunity to cater for all pupils with nourishing meals and also create a shop ethics with healthy growing and learning in mind. Please reconsider the planning process.</p>	<p>Thank you for your representation to the Statutory Consultation in respect of the proposed change of use of the common good asset.</p> <p>The consultation relates specifically to the proposed short term disposal and change of use of Common Good Land and is not seeking views regarding the preferred site for the new Forres Academy.</p> <p>A planning application will need to be separately submitted for consideration which would consider the design, layout, noise and transport assessment which would involve an assessment of the capacity/operation of the existing network and will identify any areas where intervention/ mitigation is necessary in order to address any additional traffic generated as a result of the development.</p>
4	<p>I am sharing my views of the new school proposals in advance of the public consultation events.</p> <p>I live in Nelson Road quite close to Applegrove Primary School and Forres Academy. I have lived in Forres since 1988.</p> <p>I strongly believe that the best option for the new school is at Lochyhill and I am against the proposed building next to Applegrove.</p> <p>I do understand there are pros and cons of each site but in my view the advantages of Lochyhill far outweigh the disadvantages whereas the disadvantages of Applegrove far outweigh the advantages.</p> <p>Here is a list of point which I think point strongly to Lochyhill.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Applegrove option will remove or significantly reduce the green space ( in time I believe any green space left will be encroached on as expansion of the school will inevitably occur) and in addition it will remove the green playing field from Applegrove school.</li> <li>2. The Applegrove option will significantly increase congestion in and around the area. There is already congestion around Applegrove at school pick up times.</li> <li>3. The council arguments are flawed in my opinion - a) Forres is a small town and the location at Lochyhill is easily reached on foot, bicycle or bus so there really is no need to shoehorn the school into a central site - perhaps it is good to encourage cycling/walking to school from a health perspective b) I am not sure what is meant by 'accessibility' but I would have thought the Lochyhill site would be more accessible due to a larger surrounding space and less nearby congestion c) I really do not think that the potential to be used by other members of the community its will be affected one way or another - I think this will be more likely affected by the willingness to allow the facilities to be shared and the standard of the facilities. I would like to see the</li> </ol>	<p>Thank you for your representation to the Statutory Consultation in respect of the proposed change of use of the common good asset.</p> <p>The consultation relates specifically to the proposed short term disposal and change of use of Common Good Land and is not seeking views regarding the preferred site for the new Forres Academy.</p> <p>A planning application will need to be separately submitted for consideration which would consider the design, layout, noise and transport assessment which would involve an assessment of the capacity/operation of the existing network and will identify any areas where intervention/ mitigation is necessary in order to address any additional traffic generated as a result of the development.</p> <p>As detailed in the consultation document, Section 104 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires the Council to consult local communities prior to taking a decision on the disposal or change of use of Common Good assets.</p>

	<p>evidence on which the council bases its assertions.</p> <p>4. The Forres Enterprise park is already situated farther to the east than Lochyhill and functions well in terms of accessibility.</p> <p>5. Similar schools in cities and towns in Scotland involve more travel than would be required at Lochyhill without problem.</p> <p>6. What is the point of public consultation if Moray council ignore it - I would like to know if this is a tick box exercise or if Moray council are required to follow the wishes of the public majority (cf the results of the online and mail consultations in May - overall strongly in favour of Lochyhill).</p> <p>7. I understand there is a financial drive to build at Applegrove but this is appearing to suppress any other consideration.</p> <p>8. Presumably the new school at Applegrove will have several storeys thus dominating the area which currently is green, open and with low residential buildings surrounding.</p> <p>9. The Lochyhill site allows for much greater forward planning and allows for adjacent sports facilities of a kind that Applegrove cannot (cf the new school in Lerwick).</p> <p>10. Car parking and expansion prospects at Lochyhill certainly seem to be better.</p> <p>11. It would seem to me that the site at Lochyhill will provide a much better canvas on which to design a modern school for the future without the restriction of space that exists at Applegrove.</p> <p>I hope that the council listens to the residents of Forres and does not push through a plan against the wishes of the majority at consultation. I am optimistic that this will be so however the poor standing of politicians both local and national in the eyes of the public lead me to think the new school will be built where the council choose regardless of the residents wishes.</p>	
5	<p>It seems clear from the original public response percentages, and the comments at today's consultation in the academy, that the majority of the residents who have shown an interest are not in favour of siting the new school at Roysvale Park.</p> <p>As a compromise I suggest that the parking for school buses be sited where the existing academy stands on Burdsyard Road instead of the permanent loss of a 12m strip of common good land at Roysvale Park. There's already a yellow painted bus drop off area there and once the buildings are demolished a suitably sized area could be allocated with the buses exiting on to Sanquhar Road as they do currently. This would go some way to soothing the residents who use Roysvale Park and don't want to see it being reduced in size. The bus pupils wouldn't have to walk any further than those who live in the town, and a pelican crossing could be installed where they have to cross the road, with a pavement railing to guide them to it. Your website already states that new footpaths will made in the Park so one lined up with a pelican crossing and going down in front of the changing rooms would reduce the number of pupils using Roysvale Place.</p> <p>I think the old academy area had been shown as a proposed staff car park but staff who are driving to work will want to park closer to the school, which looks like it's going to be a problem anyway regardless of where the buses are. Double yellows on one side of Sanquhar Road?</p> <p>Please give this suggestion some consideration.</p>	<p>Thank you for your representation to the Statutory Consultation in respect of the proposed change of use of the common good asset.</p> <p>The consultation relates specifically to the proposed short term disposal and change of use of Common Good Land and is not seeking views regarding the preferred site for the new Forres Academy.</p> <p>Your suggestions will be considered.</p>

6	<p>I filled in an online consultation a week or so ago. Presumably Survey Monkey has my response. However, having attended a meeting on this topic at Forres Academy two days ago, when it was made clear that ONLY comments to do with Common Good Land loss will be considered relevant, I wish to do the survey again.</p> <p>What are your views on the proposals in relation to Roysvale Park?•</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you have any views on the potential benefits of the proposals? In my opinion, the so-called potential benefits are very unlikely to prove genuine. During three or more years of the proposed New Academy construction, half of Roysvale Park Common Good Land will be lost. After construction, a third of the park will be lost permanently. A small football pitch will be left but there will be no room for a grass athletics track, which is currently used by Academy pupils and Forres Harriers. A tiny pavilion will be of little use to anyone apart from footballers. With advancing Climate Change, the proposed 'improved drainage' will prove to be impossible to achieve. As for 'improving the traffic flow' this will prove to be impossible. At present, on roads near Applegrove Primary and the present Forres Academy, especially when pupils arrive or leave, there is considerable traffic congestion. The partially blind roundabout near the British Legion is particularly dangerous. During the three or more years construction period, utter gridlock is bound to ensue and accidents will be likely. How on earth is this meant to be for the Common Good of Forres inhabitants?</li> <li>• Do you have any issues or concerns arising from the proposals? My main concern is the short-sighted, foolish, undemocratic decision by Moray Council to build the New Forres Academy on Roysvale Park. A majority of people who completed the previous survey was against this site and in favour of Lochyhills (WHERE ABSOLUTELY NO COMMON GOOD LAND WOULD BE LOST, AND WHERE THERE WOULD BE ROOM FOR FUTURE EXPANSION if, as is likely, the population of Forres expands in the near future, and the New Academy needs to expand as well.) Is the future intention to annex/steal all of Roysvale Park if the new academy needs to expand in future? Such a result would be seen by many as utterly unacceptable - and Moray Council would be completely to blame for this permanent loss of important Common Good Land.</li> <li>• Do you have any additional comments? I feel that, in my two replies to this survey, I have said more than enough to make my dismayed opposition clear.</li> </ul>	<p>Thank you for your representation to the Statutory Consultation in respect of the proposed change of use of the common good asset.</p> <p>The consultation relates specifically to the proposed short term disposal and change of use of Common Good Land and is not seeking views regarding the preferred site for the new Forres Academy.</p> <p>As outlined in the consultation document, the proposal has been developed to minimise the area of common good land being used during the construction period so that the park, swing park, footpath and playing fields can still be used by the public, and on completion the majority will be returned for public use with improved drainage to enhance community use of the green space/ playing fields for future use.</p> <p>A planning application will need to be separately submitted for consideration which would consider the design, layout, noise and transport assessment which would involve an assessment of the capacity/operation of the existing network and will identify any areas where intervention/ mitigation is necessary in order to address any additional traffic generated as a result of the development.</p>
7	<p>Please let me make it clear. I do not want the common good land of Forres to be eroded. There is no need to use the common good land when there is an alternative.</p> <p>I hope the council listen to the people of Forres and don't disregard valid comments because someone has mentioned the academy.</p> <p>What was the reason for your reply to me?</p>	<p>Good Morning</p> <p>Section 104 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires the Council to consult local communities prior to taking a decision on the disposal or change of use of Common Good assets. This is a statutory consultation and all representations are required to be responded to.</p>
8	<p>i do not agree with any change of use from common good land to not common good land; i believe this is very important.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	<p>Thank you for your representation to the Statutory Consultation in respect of the proposed change of use of the common good asset.</p>

9	<p>Thank you for your reply. I think this is a standardised response and I am not sure whether my response and the concerns I have raised regarding the use of CGL will be noted, or whether I need to resubmit my concerns concentrating only on the CGL issues.</p> <p>Although I think it is difficult to separate the use of CGL from the plans for the new high school - and also do not think the documentation regarding the CLG consultation was entirely clear - I understand now that this is the way this part of the consultation has been set out.</p> <p>I do however want my response to be counted, and would be grateful if you could confirm this is the case.</p>	<p>As stated the consultation is in relation to Roysvale Park Common Good and therefore it will be the elements of your response that relate to this that will be noted.</p>
10	<p>I attended the public drop in regards using Roysvale for a new Forres Academy and was told that it only concerned using Common Good land. Anything I brought up was dismissed as not relevant to the discussion. I enquired about official traffic surveys, flooding considerations and close proximity to Applegrove and its impact on the people in the area that are close to Roysvale when the majority are elderly. It appears this is all for other departments to deal with. I wonder if they know the buck is being passed on down the line?</p> <p>All I can say is let the Common Good remain as a historic and well used part of Forres now and in the future.</p> <p>Apologies as you've drawn the short straw in trawling through these emails, can't even think of a funny joke to end with apart from it's Friday afternoon. Unless it's Monday when you open this. Even I'm gloom filled now.</p>	<p>Thank you for your representation to the Statutory Consultation in respect of the proposed change of use of the common good asset.</p> <p>The consultation relates specifically to the proposed short term disposal and change of use of Common Good Land and is not seeking views regarding the preferred site for the new Forres Academy.</p> <p>A planning application will need to be separately submitted for consideration which would consider the design, layout, noise and transport assessment. Any planning application will have to have regard to relevant policies on flooding and SEPA is a statutory consultee for planning applications whose comments would be fed into the design and the application.</p>
11	<p>I am writing to express my extreme disappointment at this latest proposal to use common good land at Roysvale Park for the new build Academy. I object strongly.</p> <p>Not only have you disregarded the wishes of the community as expressed in your consultation on choosing the best site for the new school, you are now suggesting that the community should allow you to destroy a much valued amenity in the centre of Forres in order to create room for buses to park, create a car park and allow the storage of building materials etc. Although you reassure us that most of this land will be restored, a large strip of common good land will be lost along with valuable trees, and an improved footpath which took years to complete.</p> <p>The evening at the school to allow the opportunity for questions failed to provide answers I'm afraid so was really a waste of time.</p> <p>Please log my objection to use if common good land at Roysvale.</p>	<p>Thank you for your representation to the Statutory Consultation in respect of the proposed change of use of the common good asset.</p> <p>As outlined in the consultation document and discussed at the drop in session, if the proposal is taken forward, all of the well established trees will be retained or replaced as required. In addition the proposal has been developed to minimise the area of common good land being used during the construction period so that the park, swing park, footpath and playing fields can still be used by the public, and on completion the majority will be returned for public use with improved drainage to enhance community use of the green space/ playing fields for future use.</p>
12	<p>Good Morning,</p> <p>The first question you ask is 'What are your views on the proposals in relation to Roysvale Park?'. The 'proposal' is that a part of Roysvale is being changed from green space to part of the new academy development. The 'change of use' is from green space to part of academy development. It is very difficult to provide my views on the 'change of use' if I don't make reference to what the 'change of use' truly is.</p> <p>Could you confirm that my comments will be included with all others or, as I think your response is suggesting, you intend to discard them because I mention actually is?</p>	<p>As stated the consultation is in relation to Roysvale Park Common Good and therefore it will be the elements of your response that relate to this that will be noted.</p>

13	<p>Dear Sir/ Madam. We would like to comment on the proposed use of Roysvale Park as follows -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. During the construction phase mobility scooter access to the town centre via the path next to Sanquhar Road will be fenced off. There does not appear to be a replacement route that offers the same benefits as the current one. This situation will be for at least 32 months.</li> <li>2. Construction traffic will pose an increased hazard for pedestrian use, particularly in the area near the roundabout which is already a problem for pedestrians and for motorists coming out of Sanquhar Road. There is already a hazardous junction where Nelson Road meets Sanquhar Road due to poor visibility. How will students get to town safely?</li> <li>3.. We are concerned about root damage to established trees by heavy construction traffic and excavations. Saplings are not adequate replacements for mature trees.</li> <li>4. There will be a serious loss of recreational space for the general public and the schools. The pupils at Applegrove and football teams currently use the land that will be covered by the new building.</li> <li>5. A building of 2 to 3 storeys will cut out sun to the pensioners' bungalows to the north of the site.</li> <li>6. The construction site is known to have a high water table but the area does currently act as a soak away. New buildings and hard surfaces will greatly add to the run-off and could make drainage issues worse.</li> <li>7. There is no indication regarding where staff and visitors will park cars on completion. Parking facilities on the current site will be too far away and we are concerned that streets adjacent to the new school will become parking sites. There are already parking issues on Sanquhar Road at some times of the day with people parking on both sides.</li> <li>8. The site feels too small for a building of 2-3 storeys. If expansion is required where will this be?</li> </ol>	<p>Thank you for your representation to the Statutory Consultation in respect of the proposed change of use of the common good asset.</p> <p>The consultation relates specifically to the proposed short term disposal and change of use of Common Good Land and is not seeking views regarding the preferred site for the new Forres Academy.</p> <p>As outlined in the consultation document, if the proposal is taken forward, all of the well established trees will be retained or replaced as required. In addition the proposal has been developed to minimise the area of common good land being used during the construction period so that the park, swing park, footpath and playing fields can still be used by the public, and on completion the majority will be returned for public use with improved drainage to enhance community use of the green space/ playing fields for future use.</p> <p>A planning application will need to be separately submitted for consideration which would consider the design, layout, noise and transport assessment. Any planning application will have to have regard to relevant policies on flooding and SEPA is a statutory consultee for planning applications whose comments would be fed into the design and the application.</p>
14	<p>Common Good Representation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are your views on the proposals in relation to Roysvale Park? I am totally against these proposals to rob the community of a much loved precious green space in a densely housed area, much used and enjoyed by the community. It is Irresponsible, and benefits no one except the Moray Council (TMC). My view is that the proposals are UNNECESSARY as TMC have an alternative, less problematic and risky site for the new academy at Lochyhill.</li> </ol> <p>The proposals are to service TMC's chosen site for the new Forres Academy, so Forres's heritage Roysvale park will become a construction compound for heavy construction vehicles and building materials, and a building site for concreting over grass, cutting down trees, to construct a bus and car park for school pupils.</p> <p>Therefore It is impossible to separate these proposals for using Common Good Land (Roysvale Park) from the new academy site which will also rob Applegrove primary school pupils of their playing field - another precious green space which is much enjoyed by 5-11 year old children.</p>	<p>Thank you for your representation to the Statutory Consultation in respect of the proposed change of use of the common good asset.</p> <p>The consultation relates specifically to the proposed short term disposal and change of use of Common Good Land and is not seeking views regarding the preferred site for the new Forres Academy.</p> <p>As outlined in the consultation document, if the proposal is taken forward, all of the well established trees will be retained or replaced as required. In addition, the proposal has been developed to minimise the area of common good land being used during the construction period so that the park, swing park, footpath and playing fields can still be used by the public, and on completion the majority will be returned for public use with improved drainage to enhance community use of the green space/ playing fields for future use.</p> <p>With regards the proposed footpath adjacent to the pavilion, the proposal notes that this requirement is subject to detail design, however, was included in the consultation for information.</p>

<p>The proposals are vague and incomplete, and misleading, as we have not been given enough detailed information. You need to show the whole picture - how Roysvale is in the middle of a split school campus, and therefore will be absorbed by the school, and no longer be attractive or available to the community.</p> <p>The reality is that Roysvale Park will NOT be returned for public use. Dog walkers will have to be stopped from exercising dogs (due to fouling), in an area which is to be taken over as a school playing field for the academy pupils, and presumably for Applegrove Primary pupils as well. A ridiculously small area for 2 large schools to be using, let alone the community.</p> <p>The feasibility study that recommended Roysvale as a site has several inaccuracies . (This begs the question, "was it the fault of the producers of the feasibility study, or the fault of the brief they were given?)</p> <p>The feasibility study on which the council based their site decision, states that : "The new school, on any of the potential sites, will be within a single boundary". This implies that Roysvale Common Good land will be incorporated within school grounds. Roysvale common good land is already shown on your feasibility study images as being within that boundary.</p> <p>In time the park will become part of the school grounds. It will be the only green space for academy pupils to use during school hours and at break and lunch times. It will be a walkway for pupils and staff between the car park, the all weather pitches and the academy. The laying of a new 2.5M wide footpath is NOT needed to allow community 'safe and useable access by pedestrians and cyclists' It is obviously for the use of the academy pupils and staff.</p> <p>The feasibility report concludes that IF THE COUNCIL IS CONFIDENT THAT THE COMMON GOOD CONSTRAINT CAN BE REMOVED prior to the planned start of construction on site (programmed for July 2025.....</p> <p>WHY ARE TMC CONFIDENT THAT THEY CAN REMOVE THE COMMON GOOD RESTRAINT?</p> <p>TMC are completely ignoring the impact on Applegrove primary school. Apart from robbing the school of a beautiful playing field and concreting it over for a 2/3 storey building far too close to the primary for comfort, TMC are proposing also siting a construction compound on the other side of the primary school, effectively surrounding a primary for up to 4 years with a building site.</p> <p>This is shameful. In answer to "Why are you taking the playing field away from the Applegrove primary children when you have Lochyhill as an alternative?", councillor Lawrence and councillor Robertson both answered "Anderson's don't have a playing field". I fail to see see the logic of that response. Are TMC levelling DOWN in Forres?!</p> <p>The proposal to concrete over a substantial area of common good land to build a bus/car park, is IRRESPONSIBLE, when there is an existing bus car park at the back of the old academy, near the proposed new car park for the new school.</p> <p>A Bus/car park on Common Good Land at Roysvale is unnecessary, and in no way enhances the community use of a precious community space.</p> <p>TMC claim that their proposals will "improve traffic flow" within the area - not true. The proposal for the bus/car park is DANGEROUS as anyone familiar with the Nelson Road/Sanquhar Road junction will know. The buses and cars will emerge from the car park near a BLIND CORNER. This will endanger pupils, pedestrians and traffic.</p>	<p>A planning application will need to be separately submitted which would consider the design, layout, noise and transport assessment. Any planning application will have regard to relevant policies on flooding and SEPA is a statutory consultee for planning applications whose comments would be fed into the design and the application.</p> <p>Some of the specific points you have asked cannot be answered at this early stage but will become clearer as design of the project develops however the duty to consult at this stage is to seek community views on any proposal prior to any decision being taken that could result in disposal or change of use of a common good asset.</p> <p>The public drop in session held on Monday 21 October was a small part of the wider consultation process and was specifically to enable the community to attend and ask any questions they may have in relation to the consultation on the common good issues arising from the replacement Forres Academy project. The drawings displayed at the event were extracts from the full consultation document and were to scale.</p> <p>With regards the tree survey that has been recently undertaken on behalf of the Council, information has been received and is being reviewed by the Council and once the final report is released this will be made available on the Councils webpage, Forres Academy – New School Build (<a href="http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_151261.html">http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_151261.html</a>)</p> <p>The register of common good assets can be accessed through the Council website: <a href="#">register of common good assets</a></p>
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<p>When I asked Shona ? (Project Manager) about this on 2 occasions, she answered that roads dept would sort that. Therefore how are TMC so sure this will ease traffic flow if we are still awaiting planning and roads reports?</p> <p>There is also an entrance to Applegrove Primary school where the buses will emerge. Although Learning Estates spokesperson didn't know yet which direction the buses would be going. How can people make a decision without knowing where the traffic will be going?</p> <p>We also weren't told which and how many trees would be cut down. There was a trees survey to be done the day AFTER the drop in session. Where can the public access that survey?</p> <p>We also were NOT informed of the exact size/ dimensions of the construction compound, although Andy Hall assured us that it would not exceed that area on the image provided. How is he able to say that without the actual measurements? If he has the measurements, why are they not in the public domain? And who will police all those assurances we are given? How will the construction compound be accessed, and how will vehicles from the construction compound access the building site? It's not shown on the diagram. This is important for people to assess the risk to primary children, and to let the community know which and how many trees are cut down.</p> <p>The proposals are CONTRARY to current guidelines which advise making more accessible green spaces in towns, and in dense areas of housing and business on Orchard Road, around Roysvale Park. These valuable spaces are irreplaceable and good for our health and well being.</p> <p>I quote Moray Councillor Draeyk van der Horn in the Forres Gazette: "Access to green spaces and clean air alleviates stress and encourages physical activity, while environmental degradation leads to health issues and higher health care costs." However Councillor Horn's words do not match his actions nor TMC actions. Both the Applegrove primary school pupils and the community are being robbed of green space.</p> <p>The proposals are also CONTRARY to current thinking on trees which encourages planting more trees, not CUTTING down beautiful mature healthy trees.</p> <p>The proposal is CAVALIER. To concrete over a natural soak away in an area where the water table is only 24 inches below ground level, when there is an alternative. It is a triumph of hope over experience to think there will be no flooding issues.</p> <p>It is BLINKERED to ignore the experience of building the old academy 50 plus years ago on it's troubled wet site. Now the council are repeating the same mistake, and adding a few more on.</p> <p>It is INSULTING to the Forres community to ignore their wishes to have the new academy built at Lochyhill, their wish to leave Applegrove Primary School with their playing field, AND the community with Roysvale Park as the lovely tree lined green asset is for Forres.</p> <p>It was also INSULTING to the Forres community to provide such a poorly organised drop in session at Forres Academy with such a lack of information. Two representatives of Learning Estates were nowhere near sufficient to deal with the amount of people who attended. TMC are well aware of the opposition to their proposals, and could have been better prepared.</p>	
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<p>There was insufficient information available. We were told that our queries would be answered “in planning stage”, yet TMC are expecting the community to base their decisions (yet again) on too little information. People were leaving in disgust as they couldn't hear what was being said, and couldn't get near to ask questions. People were commenting that this was just another tick exercise for TMC. The images sellotaped to the backing boards were too small, and kept falling off.</p> <p>2. Do you have any views on the potential benefits of the proposals? There are NO potential benefits to the common good land from concreting over a green area to construct a bus /car park, and using the remaining diminished common good space as a sports field /playground for 2 large schools, and a walkway between school and carpark for staff and pupils.</p> <p>3. Do you have any issues arising from the proposals. - My fear is that our representations are to be summarised, and reported to the next committee by Learning Estates ( Andy Hall or Shona ?). How can this be an OBJECTIVE report when Roysvale/Applegrove is Learning Estates' preferred site for the Academy, therefore change of use of Common Good Land is in their interests?</p> <p>-Why is Forres not getting a school on the edge of town with a proper campus within one boundary as the feasibility study recommended, like most other new schools in Moray? It seems Forres are being short changed on many levels, by taking common good land to facilitate squeezing a new academy into an unsuitable site. It is unacceptable that Learning estates still hadn't established the ownership of the land at Lochyhill in October 2024, when Denise Whitworth committed to pregressing the Lochyhill site along with Roysvale.</p> <p>- where is the money for the footpath and drainage (management proposals) for Roysvale coming from. Is this coming out of the new academy finance? I would like to see the tree survey. That should be in the public domain.</p> <p>4. Do you have any additional comments? If TMC were representing the majority view of Forres community, and building at Lochyhill, there would be no need for costly, delaying court procedures. The young folk of Forres deserve better.</p> <p>What guarantee do we have that this is not the start of a 'land grab' of Roysvale by Moray Council? They have already decided to use the common good funds as they wish. And clearly they need Roysvale Park as part of the new school campus.</p> <p>We are not being told which trees will be cut down. Why? The council must know by now.</p> <p>Time and money is being squandered on unnecessary court proceedings, and planning excessive flood alleviation measures, whilst pupils'education is suffering, and will continue to suffer in the next 3-4 or more years while heavy construction machinery operates immediately next to a primary school with special needs children likely to suffer most. SHAME ON YOU MORAY COUNCIL. As well as secondary pupils having to negotiate the extra traffic and disruption. They have had enough with leaks in their building, Covid, strikes, RAAC and asbestos and now a council who are blinded by a vision of an 'UNRIVALLED SPORTS HUB'. It begs the question, how does one all weather pitch make an unrivalled sports hub? I wish the councillors and officers would stop being seduced by trendy 'HUB' ideas, and 20 minute neighbourhoods which do not necessarily fit with a small town like Forres, and do what is best for the children's education in this time of</p>	
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<p>falling literacy and numeracy standards in Scotland, and build a school on a decent campus with no awkward issues like Roysvale - a bit of common sense please.</p> <p>Your information evening should have been a PUBLIC MEETING for people to air their views and ask questions of the councillors publicly on such an important matter, and it should have been at the BEGINNING of the 8 week consultation period, not nearer the end. Moray Council's consultation process is very poor considering this is such a large important project for Forres.</p> <p>The Academy have an existing playing field which Moray Council are keeping very quiet about. What are the plans for it?</p> <p>Concreting over green spaces in the light of global warming, and over existing old Victorian drains is an unnecessary very expensive gamble with flooding risks.</p> <p>Why can Forres not have a school on the edge of town like most other new schools in Moray with a campus which is not split in half by common good land which it seeks to incorporate. We could have a school with a decent aspect looking towards the sea, and green space around, instead of having a botched split campus which has to incorporate common good land. We are being short changed compared to other Moray towns.</p> <p>Building on 3 sides of Roysvale is not going to enhance the park!!</p> <p>How can the public access the REGISTER of COMMON GOOD LAND in Moray?</p> <p>I quote again from the feasibility survey: "FORRES demonstrates a commitment to preserving its heritage, community bonds, and offering recreational spaces that enhance the quality of life for its residents."</p> <p>Please continue this commitment, and preserve Roysvale/Applegrove.</p> <p>I would appreciate your response to the issues I have raised, in addition to the information I have requested.</p>	
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<p>15</p>	<p>Thank you very much for your email and for confirming that the concerns I raised previously will be noted.</p> <p>As this consultation only relates to the common good land, I would like to restate that I do not agree or approve of the use of the common good land on either a temporary or permanent basis. As I submitted my original concerns before the public meeting at the school, I would also like to add the following concerns:</p> <p>At the school meeting, Mr Andy Hall said that the distance between the Applegrove playground and the proposed car park at the old school was not significant. He did not feel it was far to walk for those having to do this. I can see no reason therefore to permanently reduce the size of the common good land by building a bus lane, which will mean there is less space available for the public to use for sports or other activities. If it is not a significant distance to walk (for others), why can the buses not use a bus lane located near the old school or the old school car park? Please preserve as much of our park as possible.</p> <p>I also do not agree that a second path is needed. There is already a path running around 3 sides of Roysvale - this is adequate. A further path will add more cost and will also reduce the size of the park.</p> <p>I am concerned that siting building works on the common damage will cause irreversible damage. The path that was previously constructed used a corner of Roysvale adjacent to Applegrove and Sanquhar Road and has never been returned to its former state. I worry that construction use will cause permanent damage to the park.</p> <p>I do not think the planned bus lane will be safe. An entrance / exit close to the Nelson Road junction will be located on a blind corner and will also be right next to the existing road crossing and also the entrance gate to Applegrove Primary. This is already a dangerous crossing and cars often come around the bend too fast and in the middle of the road. I am concerned a serious accident will occur and a bus lane in this area will increase the risk. There is also insufficient space at the swimming pool end of Sanquhar Road and I cannot see how this will allow buses to turn safely. The roads in this area are already very congested in the mornings and as stated above, it would be better for the buses to come off the road and continue to use the old school car park or an alternative bus lane area.</p> <p>I am also concerned that the plans shown at the public meeting were not to scale - this gives a misleading impression to the public if this is the case - can you confirm whether this was the case or not please?</p> <p>If the path and bus lane do go ahead this would surely reduce the area of space available such that the existing running track and football pitch would no longer fit - this is a very well used public area: kids and adults use the football pitch regularly and the running track is also well used by the public and the school. Roysvale is also the main green space area for the Sanquhar area - all other areas of Forres have an area of green space to use - please preserve this area for all of the people who use it.</p> <p>Finally, I am concerned about damage to the trees that adjoin the Applegrove playground and also bordering Sanquhar Road. These trees add to the natural beauty of the park and make this an attractive green space for everyone to use.</p> <p>Thank you for noting my concerns.</p>	<p>Thank you for your further representation to the statutory consultation on Roysvale Common Good</p> <p>I can confirm your concerns have been noted and will be considered along with all other representations</p> <p>It should be noted that the proposed footpath adjacent to the pavilion, the proposal notes that this requirement is subject to detail design, however, was included in the consultation for information.</p> <p>Your points regarding the reinstatement of common good land and the safety of the bus lane would be considered as part of both the detail design and planning process.</p> <p>I can confirm that the drawings displayed at the drop in event and available online as part of the full consultation document are to scale. I would also note that the drawings detail that the football pitch would be retained with a 200m running track available during construction and a 300m running track available after construction.</p> <p>Lastly, the proposal detailed that it would look to retain (or replace as required) all of the well established trees. A tree survey has been undertaken and the outcome will be used to inform the detailed design process.</p>
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