

Sustainable Education Review Community Briefing 23/4/14

Main Points from the Meeting

- This briefing was for parent and community reps for all the Elgin Schools. As the secondary situation in Elgin is settled for the foreseeable future it concentrated mainly on the primary schools.
- It was repeatedly stressed that there are no fixed proposals at the moment and no decisions have been made. The focus is on educational benefit. At this stage costs don't come into the equation. The advisers (Caledonian Economics) explained that the process Moray was going through was well in excess of legal requirements, involving input from all school staff and pupils as well as community groups.
- The final advisers' report will be issued in August and considered by councillors in October. Only after this point will any proposals be taken forward to full statutory consultation.
- The results of the online survey re Elgin schools were discussed. Although the numbers were of interest the comments were considered more important. Zoning in Elgin is a complex interweave of placements but it is incumbent upon the authority that there is a place for every in-zone pupil in each school
- The two rezoning proposals for Elgin South ie NE boundary moves from the railway line to the A96 and the Greenwards boundary moves from Glen Moray Drive/Sandy Road to New Elgin Road/Main Street did not appear to be controversial, the zoning was largely catching up with what is already happening on the ground. It was emphasised that any change would apply to P1 intake only.
- The proposal to build one large school to replace both (and possibly Mosstowie) has been pretty much dropped. This was after discussion with Planning regarding the developer contribution system which will be more vigorously applied than hitherto. There is a working ratio of .3 pupils per new house. If this cannot be accommodated in existing schools then the developer will be obliged to contribute to extra places (school extension) or new build.
- There were no definite plans re Mosstowie as the pupils cannot be accommodated in the other Elgin South schools at present.
- I was able to ask if any proposals would be prioritised so that the most urgent situations, eg New Elgin, would be dealt with first. I was assured this was the case.

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