

Agenda 8.12.14

1. Apologies

Simon, Claire and Gillian

Heather opened the meeting and as Lorainne Mill joined us as a new member, we did round the table introductions. Coral Walker also joined us from Hillside Parent Council.

2. Proposed closure of Menzieshill High – this was the main area of discussion for this meeting.

Heather advised that there was a MHS Parent Council meeting on the 2nd Dec and the parents and staff there had raised their concerns at the point. Heather felt it would be good for us to do the same, so should the closure go ahead, we would be ready for the public consultation process. February is when the formal consultations would start. It was also agreed to include Camperdown Primary in our discussions and this would be done by emailing them the points we raised, to which they could add their own.

We agreed to send out a flyer to get the views of all the parents (P6&7) and we would do this jointly with Hillside PS.

Main areas of concern can be grouped together as below;

- Community –
 - Concern that the council are investing in a new 3 stream PS but taking the high school away
 - New housing is being built opposite MHS and people have bought these with the understanding they would have all the amenities on their doorstep, and now there isn't going to be a HS close by
 - The whole area is undergoing vast regeneration, which brings with it lots of potential growth and a vital part of the community is possibly going to be removed from the area.
- Costs
 - Travel costs – MHS is within walking distance of the majority of pupils, should the school close, the options would be Harris or Baldragon, both of which require bus travel which most parents won't have accounted for
 - Uniform costs – for those pupils who attend MHS for a year and then would need to move school should it close would need to buy 2 sets of uniforms.
- Distance
 - This links a little in with travel in that the 2 schools the pupils would attend are further away, so winter travel is a concern
 - With a lot of emphasis on healthy living, and encouraging children to walk or cycle to school, this would not be feasible if MHS closes as the other 2 schools are much further away and not within walking distance at all.
- Capacity of the school
 - It was never highlighted that 400 was a key number in pupil numbers for there to be a possibility of the school closing – why was this never mentioned?
 - Harris has capacity for 1300 pupils, but there is concern that this would be breached by moving the MHS pupils to it.
 - How would placing requests work? Feeder schools? Postcode? And the current system of putting the request in for Dec and not finding out til March leaves parents feeling anxious.

-Pupils with Additional Support Needs – it was discussed that there isn't ASN places, but those pupils who need additional support get it built into their timetables for as long as they need it – so this should affect anyone who is currently receiving ASN support.

-While MHS has a pupil role of 480 approx, this means that the teachers and guidance staff know the pupils really well and the school has built a real sense of community with the pupils. The numbers that could end up at Harris or Baldragon could mean the MHS pupils become 'a face in the crowd' and class sizes could compromise the learning

-Exams for those at MHS who are in 3rd/4th/5th year – having to move schools and teachers at a crucial time isn't good for the education and development of these pupils.

- Subject Availability

-It was agreed what the bigger school would be able to offer more subjects as the pool of pupils who would make these viable would be larger, meaning there would be more opportunities open to all pupils.

-Resources available to the pupils – it was discussed what would be available in the new HS – things like IT equip/Young Mums Unit

- Catchment Area

-If MHS does close, and the catchment areas redrawn then the options are Harris or Baldragon

3. Nativity

The P1/2/3 Nativity is taking place on the 16th and 17th Dec – and Heather and Jackie asked if there were any PC members who could volunteer to help out with tea's and coffee's afterwards. Morag is available both days and Caragh is available on Wednesday.

4. A.O.C.B

None.