

North Muirton Primary School

Community Drop-In Session

13 September 2017

**Overview of comments received at Community
drop-in session and Online Questionnaires**

Online Questionnaire Feedback

- 12 Questionnaires submitted online – 6 completed, 6 partially completed
- 64% (7) of responses from parents, 18% (2) of responses from neighbours and 18% (2) of responses from the wider community. 1 had no indication of the relationship to the school
- 7 questionnaires were submitted without any comments
- 50% (3) of responses preferred option 1, 17% (1) preferred option 2 and 33% (2) preferred option 3. 6 questionnaires submitted gave no indication of their preference.
- Questionnaire closed on 6 October 2017

Online Questionnaire Feedback

Option 1 - Both schools remain open – consider building a new school at North Muirton Primary School and improve the conditions and suitability at Balhousie School.

Comments

- Stability for all children
- Those living locally to Balhousie Primary School do not necessarily live locally to North Muirton Primary School for this to be practical. North Muirton is badly in need of being modernised.

Online Questionnaire Feedback

Option 2 - Consider closing Balhousie Primary School and moving pupils to a new build North Muirton Primary School.

Comments

- A new school with better facility's for the children.
- I think it would be very silly to close Balhousie, as I'm sure many within Perth. You don't want to push schools and teachers to the breaking point and rather than improve children's learning you'll be hampering it.

Online Questionnaire Feedback

Option 3 - Balhousie Primary School remains open – expand the provision of other PKC services utilising space within the school for these services and improve condition and suitability. Consider building a new North Muirton Primary School.

Comments

- I don't mind option 2 but feel option 3 is more beneficial to children's development and learning with 2 younger children likely to benefit from a new school it is important to me that having larger numbers of children to teach won't mean that children would be left behind that struggle and bullying isn't an issue with more children present too.
- Would hate to see another desolate grand building in Perth. Both schools deserve to stay. However as an ex North Muirton Primary pupils I can say it needed renovation or a new build then and that was 10 years ago! I am looking to send my son there in the coming years and I would like it to remain the quality of teaching I remember but to have the ability to provide this in the best possible way!

Questionnaires were provided at the drop-in session and completed at the Fun Filled Friday event held on 8 September 2017, the feedback is as follows:

Option 1 - Both schools remain open – consider building a new school at North Muirton Primary School and improve the condition and suitability at Balhousie Primary School.

Comments

- It's what we are used to and bringing new people in might "let the area down" change the school. Would make things different – know everyone here because they live in area - generations have come to the school.
- Previous experience of schools merging changes everything. Whole community and how it runs wouldn't want it – disruption for children. Like the size of the school. Lovely schools and ASN dealt with well at the school and supportive, teachers good, parents know each other.
- The school communities are very different and don't know how long the adjustments would be and it might not be positive for a long time.
- Catchment area was Balhousie – don't want a school where there are too many Polish children and with Balhousie there would be and so that English can be learned.
- Large number of EAL pupils at Balhousie mixing with ASN pupils at North Muirton might have issues.
- If no reasons to put together then don't close Balhousie but if you have to then it would be ok. New school might attract parents and teachers and teachers deserve a decent working area. Addition of Balhousie pupils could change the dynamics in the school.
- Traffic would be horrendous need to park at shops – otherwise fine.
- No preference re option as long as North Muirton stays here.
- Long way for pupils to come from Balhousie and they can't walk to school and this should be encouraged.
- Both schools should stay open for new houses.
- I like the size of the school, just enough pupils, staff good.
- North Muirton needs refurbished, no issues with existing site. Concerned with issues regarding the layout of the gym hall and open plan design. Like to see bigger nursery.
- Important that nurture space is considered in any new school.
- Would like new school at North Muirton – likes the smaller classes.
- Would like new school at North Muirton – I have one son who's completed a whole 9 years at North Muirton from nursery – P7. I also have daughters whom have started at North Muirton from nursery and now P., P. and nursery. I would like to see North Muirton upgraded as the work with the pupils that has been done would be potentially ruined. North Muirton deserves to be if not upgraded then most certainly re-done. There are too many

children in and around this area that count on the school. I have no concerns if Balhousie and North Muirton were to be joined together as an option either.

- Size just now is fine.
- Both schools need to be modernised.

Questionnaires were provided at the drop-in session and completed at the Fun Filled Friday event held on 8 September 2017, the feedback is as follows:

Option 2 - Consider closing Balhousie Primary School and moving pupils to a new build North Muirton Primary School.

Comments

- (From North Muirton) I have no problems if Balhousie and North Muirton were to be joined together as an option either.
- Both schools deserve to be modern – This is a good school.
- It makes sense financially and gives everyone the same standard.
- As long as there is a school at North Muirton.
- Ok with Balhousie if it helped with composite classes – more specialist teachers available.
- Happy with additional pupils and would help with composite classes.
- Would like to see North Muirton, Balhousie and St Ninian's as one school.
- Happy to see any significant development.
- North Muirton is old and spending on both buildings would be a never ending saga. Would be a boost to the community to see a new school building.
- More pupils means a happier school.
- To help school roll at North Muirton – population is largely static in North Muirton. Including Balhousie would ensure viability of North Muirton Primary School.
- Easiest – children don't care where they are – bringing in Balhousie would increase class sizes. No issue about Balhousie but might be an issue for the parents – traffic issues especially if Balhousie parents driving or getting buses.

Questionnaires were provided at the drop-in session and completed at the Fun Filled Friday event held on 8 September 2017, the feedback is as follows:

Option 3 - Balhousie Primary School remains open – expand the provision of other PKC services utilising space within the school for these services and improve condition and suitability. Consider building a new North Muirton Primary School.

Comments

No responses for option 3 received from questionnaires at either the Fun Filled Friday event or the drop-in session.

Community Drop-In Session

Drop-in session ran from 3pm – 7pm on 13 September 2017

- 15 attendees at the session
- 93% (14) of attendees were parents
- 7% (1) “other family members”

Comments received at the drop-in session

Option 1 - Both schools remain open – consider building a new school at North Muirton Primary School and improve the condition and suitability at Balhousie Primary School.

Comments

- Good idea – stones in playground are not safe. P1's keep falling and cutting themselves. Please get them away.
- I feel this would be the best outcome for both schools/parents.
- Great idea to build a new school.
- Great idea – if on the present site.
- Good idea for a new school to be built – better teacher environment, more outdoor play areas, climbing/activity area.
- I would like a new build for North Muirton – without it being too large with too many pupils.
- The current building is no longer fit for purpose.
- Balhousie needs upgrading on the inside.
- I feel it would be good to retain Balhousie as a primary.

Comments received at the drop-in session

Option 2 - Consider closing Balhousie Primary School and moving pupils to a new build North Muirton Primary School.

Comments

- Could work well, giving Balhousie pupils a wider range of friends and classmates.
- Would like the larger school to remain on present site as most pupils would be from North Muirton.
- A large new build school is great as it could also include more classroom spaces for pupils that need more support and it would also bring communities together merging the schools.
- Merging both schools is a better option rather than having empty classrooms, giving children an education in an inclusive environment.
- It would make monetary sense to combine both schools under North Muirton.
- Good – if classes have enough staff and support staff and kids that require extra support don't lose out.
- Quite like idea of bigger school if it would mean we retain the teachers longer! Seems North Muirton has a lot of turn around regarding teachers.
- I like idea of a small community school as teachers know parents and pupils better and have a better 1:1 relationship.

Comments received at the drop-in session

Option 3 - Balhousie Primary School remains open – expand the provision of other PKC services utilising space within the school for these services and improve condition and suitability. Consider building a new North Muirton Primary School.

Comments

- I think it would be lovely to retain Balhousie School building – I presume the other services would be separate from the classrooms etc – having their own entrance.
- Concerns over what services could be moved into the old school.
- Children's education is the most important thing here I hope the changes don't cause too much disruption.
- Not fair for pupils to have other services on site at school. Traffic and noise when they are trying to learn.

Ideas given at the drop-in session and Fun Filled Friday event for a new North Muirton Primary School if it was to be built:

- More playground stuff.
- More playground equipment.
- Toilets that work.
- No way to get on the roof.
- Bigger dinner hall.
- Air fresheners.
- ICT suite.
- Bigger lunch hall.
- More things in the playground.
- More maths.
- Bigger and cleaner toilets.
- Nothing for kids to play on in playground.
- The play area needs to have an all-weather area.
- In my new school I would like an art room, more things in the playground, more rooms.
- As long as there are enough teachers to meet all the pupils needs.
- Rivalries – need to keep staff levels up so that kids can still maintain a level of 1 on 1 attention.
- Want to keep our Head teacher should both schools come together.