

CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE - 20 MAY 2004

QUESTIONS ARISING FROM 15 MINUTE QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

<u>MATTER RAISED</u>	<u>ACTION REQUIRED</u>	<u>CURRENT POSITION</u>
<p>Mr Jim Monaghan, parent of a pupil at St Joseph's Academy, Cumnock Campus, intimated that it was his recollection that within the original agreement pertaining to the proposed merger with the Kilmarnock Campus in August 2006, provision was made to enable pupils who had previously attended the Cumnock Campus to access certain classes at Cumnock Academy or Auchinleck Academy, where this would be suitable in the light of the pupils' timetabling arrangements. Mr Monaghan enquired as to whether this provision had now been withdrawn in relation to the proposed merger in August 2004.</p>	<p>Euan Couperwhite advised that the arrangements pertaining to the original proposals for merger of the Kilmarnock and Cumnock Campuses in August 2006 did not provide for pupils who had attended the Cumnock Campus to attend Cumnock Academy/Auchinleck Academy for individual classes, but rather to attend either of these schools as their place of education; and this was confirmed by Councillor Eric Jackson.</p> <p>It was agreed that Euan Couperwhite would forward to Mr Monaghan a copy of the original documentation pertaining to the arrangements for the proposed merger in August 2006, in order to confirm the terms thereof.</p>	<p>Copy documentation provided to Mr Monaghan by Euan Couperwhite.</p>

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<p>Anne Reid, parent of a pupil attending St Joseph's Academy, Cumnock Campus, sought clarification, in the event of the proposed merger of St Joseph's Academy, Cumnock and Kilmarnock Campuses going ahead, in respect of arrangements for transportation of pupils from Cumnock and the surrounding area to the Kilmarnock Campus. Mrs Reid indicated that she had been unable to obtain any clear guidance in respect of this matter.</p> <p>Mrs Reid also drew attention to the detrimental effect upon pupils arising from uncertainty resulting from the proposed merger and in particular the lack of any indication as to timetabling arrangements for the coming school year. Mrs Reid indicated that pupils had been advised that teaching staff at the Cumnock Campus had indicated that they were unable to advise on timetabling because of the uncertainty arising from the merger proposals.</p>	<p>Euan Couperwhite, with regard to arrangements for transportation of pupils, advised that clear arrangements would be made with SPT and these would be properly notified to the affected pupils and parents.</p> <p>With regard to the issue of uncertainty, Euan Couperwhite confirmed that this was recognised by the Council and accordingly it was proposed to determine the matter as quickly as possible. It was intended that following the consultation process, a decision on the proposed merger would be taken by the Education Committee in late June and the outcome and associated information in the light thereof, transmitted to all parties concerned as soon as possible thereafter.</p> <p>Euan Couperwhite also undertook to look into the matter of lack of guidance available to pupils on timetabling for the next school year.</p>	<p>All necessary information relating to the merger, including transport arrangements for pupils, has been provided to the parties concerned.</p> <p>With regard to the apparent lack of guidance available to pupils in the lead up to the merger, ?????</p>

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<p>Mrs Brenda Fraser (a) suggested that there was a need to consult with the parents of Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils in the local area who could be affected by the early merger proposal for St Joseph's Cumnock and Kilmarnock Campuses and indicated that insofar that she was aware, this had not happened; and (b) advised that teaching staff within the Cumnock Campus had advised pupils that the Campus would be closing, notwithstanding the consultation process being carried out and that a final decision still had to be taken by the Education Committee.</p>	<p>Euan Couperwhite (a) advised that a copy of the consultation document on the proposed merger had been issued to all Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils attending feeder schools for the St Joseph's Academy, Cumnock Campus; and (b) confirmed that no decision had been taken regarding the proposed merger which would be subject to a decision by the Education Committee towards the end of June, but that he would look into the suggestion by Mrs Fraser regarding the comments of teaching staff within the Cumnock Campus.</p>	<p>With regard to alleged comments by teaching staff within the Cumnock Campus, ????</p>
<p>Community Representative Jean Smith, on behalf of Community Representative Ian Scade, enquired as to whether CCTV coverage in Cumnock extended to include the area of the Crichton West Church in Ayr Road, this matter having been raised by the Church in response to actual/potential vandalism.</p>	<p>John Crawford undertook to investigate and respond directly to Mrs Smith/Mr Scade on this matter.</p>	<p>The necessary information has been provided to Mrs Smith and Mr Scade by John Crawford.</p>

<u>MATTER RAISED</u>	<u>ACTION REQUIRED</u>	<u>CURRENT POSITION</u>
<p>Community Representative Alex Currie referred to the introduction into the local area of the new three bin system of waste/recyclate collection and in particular, advised of concerns which had been drawn to his attention regarding the adequacy of a fortnightly collection for residual waste, particular since the refuse collection service would not uplift additional bagged waste and suggested that this may result in an increase in the incidences of fly tipping.</p>	<p>John Crawford explained that the introduction of the new waste collection service necessitated a fundamental change in a way in which domestic waste is disposed of. It is anticipated that if householders make full and proper use of the other bins and container which will be provided for the collection of recyclate materials, this will greatly reduce the amount of waste being deposited into the residual waste bin, thereby necessitating collection only once a fortnight. However, the Council has specialist Officers available from the Department of Neighbourhood Services who will provide advice and assistance to members of the public regarding depositing of waste under the new arrangements in order to ensure the effectiveness of the scheme.</p> <p>John Crawford referred to, in general terms, the success of the new waste collection arrangements where these had already been introduced both in terms of the amount of recyclate being collected and the level of satisfaction of householders.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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<p>Community Representative Jean Smith enquired as to the arrangements for distribution of information on the introduction of the new waste collection services, to people with visual impairment.</p>	<p>John Crawford explained that the Council has made available documentation on the new system in a variety of formats including large print and audio tape; and advised also that the Council are looking into the possibility of having Braille stickers placed on the recycling etc bins to assist persons with visual impairment.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>M/s Nicola Reid suggested that, should the proposed merger of St Joseph's, Cumnock and Kilmarnock Campuses go ahead, there would be a need for additional efforts to be made to ensure that young people from the local area who will be attending the Kilmarnock Campus continue to be made aware of activities, issues etc, which may be of relevance and interest to them within their home community.</p>	<p>Councillor Jackson indicated, and this was generally accepted, that this will be an issue which the Department of Educational and Social Services should address in the event of the merger going ahead.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Mrs Brenda Reid sought clarification, again in the event of the proposed merger of St Joseph's Cumnock and Kilmarnock Campus going ahead, as to arrangements which would be applied for transportation of pupils involved in extra curricular activities, back to their home community.</p>	<p>Euan Couperwhite advised that arrangements would be as at present, such that pupils would be transported from the extra curricular activity in question back to their home address.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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<p>Arising from the previous question, Mr Hugh New, advised that, in his experience, the transport service provided to children involved in extra curricular activities, was only applicable where a pupil or pupils from either Cumnock or Auchinleck Academy were also being transported back to the local area, otherwise, separate arrangements have had to be made by the pupil/parents to return home.</p>	<p>Euan Couperwhite indicated that insofar that he was aware, this would seem to represent an anomaly from the applied arrangements and that he would investigate this particular issue.</p>	<p>?????</p>
<p>Mr Hugh New expressed concerns regarding potential safety issues for pupils from the local area in accessing transport to St Joseph's Kilmarnock Campus arising particularly from the need for pupils to present themselves at Cumnock Bus Stance for departure at 7.30 a.m.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Mrs Brenda Fraser suggested that the timescale for the proposed merger of St Joseph's Cumnock and Kilmarnock Campuses is unrealistic in light of the range and nature of the issues which require to be taken on board.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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<p>Mr Jim Monaghan suggested that, in the event of the proposed merger of St Joseph's Cumnock and Kilmarnock Campuses going ahead, the Council should give some consideration to possible working arrangements between St Joseph's Academy and Cumnock Academy and Auchinleck Academy to enable pupils to access, at least on some basis, their education within the local area; and suggested also that this is something that the local Elected Members may wish to examine.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Updated: 16 August 2004
SN/SR