

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 21 MARCH 2006

NETHERTHIRD COMMUNITY CAMPUS CONSULTATION

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the Education Committee of the outcome of the community consultation which took place on the proposals to build a new Community Centre in Netherthird.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** At Education Committee of 25 May 2004 a Committee paper “Community Facilities” was presented and approved. One of the recommendations arising from this paper was a need to review the current community facilities on the Netherthird Community Centre Campus.
- 2.2** At Education Committee of 22 March 2005, £200,000 was allocated for the purposes of building a new community facility.
- 2.3** At Education Committee of 31 January 2006 a Committee paper “Netherthird Community Campus: Consultation Arrangements” was presented and approved.

3. REPORT

- 3.1** On the 27 February 2006 a Community Consultation Event was held in Netherthird Community Centre between 3.00pm and 8.00pm to enable existing users of community facilities in the local area and members of the public the opportunity to view and comment on the proposed new Community Centre.
- 3.2** All existing users of the Community Facilities in the Netherthird Campus were sent letters inviting them to the consultation event. In addition, posters and flyers advertising the consultation were distributed throughout the community. Netherthird Primary, Nursery and Family Centre also distributed flyers through children’s school bags.
- 3.3** The Consultation Event was attended by 58 members of the community with 45 taking the opportunity to complete questionnaires following discussion on the proposed plans with Community Learning and Development staff. Overwhelmingly the feedback on the proposed new Community Centre was positive. Many felt that the Community Centre would provide improved and more modern facilities which would have a positive impact on the local community.

3.4 Several suggestions to enhance the facilities were made, focussing mainly on storage ideas and creating additional space within the existing plan. The feasibility of incorporating these ideas will be discussed with Contracting and Technical Services.

3.5 Of those who attend the consultation event seven indicated an interest in becoming involved in the existing Community Association.

4. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Nil

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 A full funding package will be developed to support the building of the new campus.

6. COMMUNITY PLANNING/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The proposal to replace the existing Community Centre is contained within the Promoting Community Learning Theme of East Ayrshire's Community Plan.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Members of the Education Committee are asked to:

- (i) note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

01 March 2006
JM/KG/DG

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Education Committee – 25 May 2004 – Community Facilities
2. Education Committee – 22 March 2005 – Educational Capital Programme 2005/06 and School Estate Management Plan 2005
3. Education Committee – 31 January 2006 – Netherthird Community Campus Consultation Arrangements.
4. Summary of questionnaires and comments from Community Consultation Event - 27 January 2006.

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support Tel: (01563) 576104 or Dot Grieve, Principal Officer Community Learning & Development Tel: 01563 578127.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR