

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES
SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 12 FEBRUARY 2003

**THE RESULT ON THE CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED
REFURBISHMENT AND EXTENSION OF MAUCHLINE PRIMARY
SCHOOL:**

- **INCORPORATING NEW BUILD PRE SCHOOL PROVISION**
- **INCLUDING COMMUNITY LEARNING PROVISION AND INTEGRATED SERVICES**

APPENDIX A - THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT
APPENDIX B - SUMMARY OF RESPONDENTS

**WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS FROM INTERESTED PARTIES ON THE
CONSULTATIVE PROCESS ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION IN THE
MEMBERS LOUNGE.**

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES

The result on the consultation of the proposal to provide a refurbishment and extension of Mauchline Primary School, incorporating New Build Pre School Provision and including Community Learning Provision and Integrated Services

Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 On 21 November 2002 East Ayrshire Council's Education Committee approved the issue of a consultation document which proposed a refurbishment and extension of Mauchline Primary School, incorporating new build pre school provision including Community Learning Provision and Integrated Services. A copy of the consultative document is attached as Appendix A.

1.2 The main issues raised in the consultative document were:

- A key factor for the Council is the need to ensure that the best possible educational environment is available through the provision of a safe, secure and up-to-date environment
- The Council's vision for the school's estate and the need to:
 - Ensure that all aspects of the modern curriculum can be delivered to children of all abilities.
 - Provide the most up to date Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in all schools.
 - Provide maximum access for pupils, staff and parents.
 - The development of the Arts, Culture and Sports and Health education and the creation of Centres of Excellence to deliver an agenda of continuous improvement.
 - Provide a secure environment for all who are educated and work in the school.
 - Provide access to the community having regards to those with particular need.
 - Provide catering and dining facilities of the highest standard in a modern environment.
 - Provide appropriate social area provision for parents and pupils.
 - A commitment to the environment and environmental issues.
 - Develop Learning Partnerships through the New Community Schools model and forming strong partnerships with local/national organisations committed to offering support.
- The recognized need for a significant investment in the school estate.
- The availability of national funding under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) initiative.
- The submission of an Outline Business Case to the Scottish Executive according to guiding principles, which are:

- (i) Rationalisation of school provision
- (ii) A commitment to social inclusion and a presumption in favour of mainstream education
- (iii) Provision of pre-school provision
- (iv) Access to lifelong learning through an integrated community learning provision
- (v) Partnership with other agencies supporting community development and better neighbourhoods
- (vi) Development of Centres of Excellence in secondary schools to provide enhanced and specialist support in a range of academic, sporting and cultural pursuits

1.3 In relation to Mauchline Primary School

The projected future maintenance for the building is £1,087,000. The fabric of Mauchline Primary School is poor and does not meet the needs of the curriculum of the 21st century. The costs of maintenance are high and only cover known defects. Additional sums would also be needed to ensure that the site could comply with the new legislative requirements such as the Disability Discrimination Act.

Mauchline nursery class is currently based within the primary school campus. Pre School provision will be provided within the new building having clearly identifiable Pre School facilities including a separate play area. The Pre School centre will benefit from being able to share certain facilities within the primary school such as staff and visiting services and other areas on a programmed basis. It is proposed that the Pre School centre be opened in August 2006 or as soon as possible thereafter. The nursery class is located in hatted accommodation within the school campus.

2. THE CONSULTATION

- 2.1** Written representations on the Committee's proposals were sought from interested parties in terms of the Education (Publications and Consultation etc) (Scotland) Regulations 1981 and Amendment Regulations 1987, 1988 and 1989.
- 2.2** In accordance with statutory requirements parents of the affected school and the appropriate school board have been consulted. Copies of the consultation document were also made available to the staff of Mauchline Primary School, representatives of teacher and staff unions, the appropriate member of the Scottish Parliament and the appropriate Member of Parliament.
- 2.3** The existence of the document was publicised in the press and copies were made widely available in the Education Offices and the affected school, in the local community and to local interest groups.

- 2.4** Two meetings including a public meeting were arranged in partnership with the school board of the establishment affected. These meetings were attended by parents, staff and members of the community. The meetings offered the opportunity for discussion and clarification of the proposals as well as a forum for people to express their views of the proposal. The meetings and in particular the one organized for members of the community were significantly well attended and gave the opportunity for very many views to be expressed.

3. VIEWS EXPRESSED

- 3.1** A total of 22 written submissions were received, including those made by e-mail. These submissions included those from:

- Mauchline Primary School Board
- Mauchline Primary School Head Teacher and staff
- Constituency Member of Parliament
- Constituency Member of the Scottish Parliament
- Mauchline Community Council
- Parents and other relatives
- Mauchline Student Council
- Ayrshire and Arran Health Board
- Head Teachers' Association of Scotland
- UNISON
- The Reverend Alan Telfer
- Mauchline Burns Bairns under 5s Group
- Other interested parties

A full summary of respondents is included at Appendix B.

In addition to the written submissions, the meetings referred to in 2.4 enabled a number of significant issues to be raised. The following paragraphs attempt to summarize the issues raised at the meetings and in the written responses to the consultative documents.

- 3.2** The written responses expressed very strong positive opinions in respect of the proposals.
- 3.3** Mauchline Primary School Board welcomed the proposals, underlining the additional space needed for classes, recreation and storage, and an integrated dining hall and hatted accommodation. They identified specific concerns for suitable disabled facilities, pre-school facilities and continuing maintenance of the fabric of the building. Out of hours and community use is identified as important, as is the continuing openness and communication throughout the next stage of the planning process.
- 3.4** The Head Teacher of Mauchline Primary School welcomed the proposals, which would help enhance good practice in the school. She looked forward to contributing fully to the further consultation and planning associated with the

next stages. Staff also welcomed the proposals, but wished for consideration of health and safety of the fabric of the building to be addressed. They were pleased about the integration of nursery provision and separate play area, and the provision of disabled access and facilities.

- 3.5** The constituency Member of Parliament noted the proposals.
- 3.6** The constituency Member of the Scottish Parliament welcomed the decision to invest in the future and the integrated approach to learning. She highlighted concerns that all staff, teaching and non-teaching, who come into contact with children, should remain in the employment of East Ayrshire Council. She regarded this as a fundamental part of the delivery of an integrated service to her constituents.
- 3.7** Mauchline Community Council were grateful to East Ayrshire Council for considering Mauchline Primary School as a possible PPP beneficiary, but wished to draw attention to various issues. The dining hall should be incorporated into the main school building, current storage space raised Health and Safety concerns, the community should have access to and use of the building, disabled facilities are made available, and the needs of current pre-school groups be taken into account.
- 3.8** Parents and other relatives were pleased that the school was the subject of these proposals, and that serious problems of space were now being addressed. The extra space could be used for various parents groups. They also looked forward to further consultation, and were pleased that the plans were for refurbishment, and that the original building was not being knocked down. The integration advantages in one self-contained building would ease pupil movement arrangements across the playground. Concerns were expressed over jobs and conditions of service of staff affected by this proposal, and further information was sought on this issue.
- 3.9** Mauchline Student Council welcomed the proposals, and emphasized the necessity for more room, the Nursery being in the main building, and “no more huts”. Extra space would provide room for their own meetings, visitor talks, school nurse, parents, School Board, national tests and visitors. A computer room was seen to be desirable. The Student Council look forward to further and more detailed consultation in the future.
- 3.10** Ayrshire and Arran Health Board viewed the proposal very positively, especially the incorporation of pre-school provision. The implementation of the health promoting school framework, the school environment and staff health issues will all be enhanced by this proposal.
- 3.11** The Head Teachers’ Association of Scotland has “no view on PPP projects”, believing that each Scottish Local Authority should pursue a building policy in line with the wishes of its local electorate. It stated that a policy of building renewal and refurbishment could only be of benefit to pupils and the learning and teaching process.

- 3.12** UNISON were not opposed to rebuilding and refurbishment of schools, but were exploring funding models other than PPP. It is opposed to the transfer of any staff out of Local Government employment as a result of PPP. It also noted that Treasury and Scottish Executive advice made it clear that there was no requirement for staff to transfer.
- 3.13** The Reverend Alan Telfer, as parent and School Chaplain, wholeheartedly supported the proposals. The school urgently needed upgrading to address concerns over limited teaching and storage space, and room for the ever increasing demands of the modern curriculum and parental needs. He noted that sporting and recreational facilities should not be overlooked during this initiative.
- 3.14** Mauchline Burns Bairns under 5 Group supported the proposal, but expressed concern at Section 5.2, Pre School provision. The Group required clarification of the Nursery's extension of capacity and hours, and the impact on their service. The Group currently accommodates all children in their ante pre-school year. They also wished to be kept fully informed of all developments regarding these proposals.
- 3.15** Other interested parties supported the proposals.
- 3.16** At the public meetings, the proposals were strongly welcomed, with further information sought on how community use of the premises would be managed, whether the extension would be open plan, traffic management considerations, whether there would be sufficient capacity for school and pre school built into the plans.

4. COMMENTS ON THE VIEWS EXPRESSED

- 4.1** The issue of the consultative document raised considerable interest and support amongst staff, parents, school boards, community groups and other interested parties. The number of written responses and the level of attendance and questioning at meetings confirm the important place that the school has in the community, the real interest that parents and others have in the quality of education that their children receive.
- 4.2** The expressions of support, which were made by respondents in respect of the proposal, are welcome.
- 4.3** Anxieties which have been expressed in respect of health and safety, the poor fabric and limited space of the current buildings, disabled access and facilities, parental and community use, extra recreational and sporting facilities, the need for integration of school buildings, employees' jobs and conditions of service are all noted carefully.
- 4.4** It is intended to continue to work in partnership with the staff, Head Teacher, staff of the school and the School Board in the development of the refurbished school and will ensure that the appropriate mechanisms exist to take this forward. The views of the Student Council will be taken into consideration as

implementation plans are prepared. The need to consult and inform as the proposal is developed is readily acknowledged.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1** Having carefully considered the responses made during the consultation period, it is concluded that there is considerable support for the proposal to proceed at this stage. The opportunity exists to develop Mauchline Primary School and pre-school provision to a standard in keeping with the educational and environmental needs of this century.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1** It is recommended that the Education Committee agree that Mauchline Primary School should be refurbished and extended to include a Pre School centre and incorporate enhanced community learning and integrated services with a proposed date for completion of the new build of June 2006 or as soon as possible thereafter.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

DF/JP
28 January 2003

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Written responses from consultation document

SUMMARY OF RESPONDENTS

1. Margaret Jamieson MSP
2. Bill McGregor, Head Teacher, James Hamilton Academy, HAS
3. Annie McLelland, teacher
4. Rt Hon George Foulkes MP
5. Sally Harkis, member of staff and parent
6. FH Feasey, School Board
7. Moira Crocker, Head Teacher
8. Mauchline PS Student Council
9. Mauchline Burns Bairns Under 5s Group
10. John and Anne Montgomery, Mauchline
11. Elizabeth Mitchell, Assistant Head Teacher
12. Laura Hainey, teacher
13. Alan D Hall, parent and School Board member
14. Helen McArthur, Depute Head Teacher
15. Arthur West, UNISON
16. Rev Alan B Telfer, Mauchline Parish Church
17. Janette Paterson, parent
18. Mrs S Sharp, Mauchline Community Council
19. Gregor Caldwell, Chairperson, Mauchline PS School Board
20. Mark Hillan, parent and School Board
21. John and Sylvia Colburn, parents
22. Wai-yin Hatton, Chief Executive, NHS Ayrshire and Arran