

Proposals to alter existing denominational and non-denominational catchment areas within the Ravenscraig area

Proposal for a new build denominational and non-denominational primary schools within the Ravenscraig area

Frequently Asked Questions and Responses

We have grouped your questions under five headings: **Education, Building and Planning, Land Issues, Community Links and Other.**

Education

Q. Will the school be open to residents out with school hours? (e.g. for use as a community centre)

A. Yes

Q. Will the school have an early years' facility within it?

Q. Will there be a nursery attached as local nurseries are oversubscribed?

A. The following answer addresses the above questions: Yes, as per the consultation paper.

Q. Will the community be able to put forward suggestions for the name of the school, or does the council already have a name in mind?

A. No names have been decided yet so the community will have their say.

Q. How many pupils do you envisage the school will hold?

Q. What's the capacity?

A. The following answer addresses the above questions: 217 children in each school.

Q. Will a new Chapel be getting built along with the school for the children to continue their religious education?

A. It would be for the Catholic Church to consider their infrastructure requirements to serve the local populations. This consultation is to discuss the creation of new catchment areas and new schools. The school community would work with the associated parishes to determine the necessary liaison for religious education.

Q. If no chapel is being built what is your back up plan for religious events ie. Communion, Lent, Ash Wednesday, First Friday Mass?

A. The school community (led by the head teacher) would work with the associated parishes to determine the necessary liaison for religious celebrations, Sacraments etc.

Q. Will the school be staffed with a complete new faculty or will staff from surrounding original schools be seconded to make a transition easier?

A. The new schools' staffing entitlement and structure will be determined by the new school roll, policies and agreed procedures of the council.

Q. Will the school be on its own or is it a shared campus with non-denominational school?

A. The new schools will be on a shared campus.

Q. If the proposal goes ahead, will there be written assurance that my child can remain at OLSF, even as a placing request?

A. Parents would apply for a 'right to remain'. Given that this change was not anticipated by the parents when making the placing request it is highly likely that this would be accepted. Any younger siblings would be required to complete a placing request and would be evaluated on the merit of the application at that time.

Q. If the catchment area changes will the school bus from Dalziel Park still run to OLSF?

A. Free school transport will continue to be available for a limited period of time.

Q. It is not clear from the document how we are affected. The list of streets affected for Kier Hardie does not include our street, however the catchment area maps include our street. Is this because we are in Phoenix Park within Ravenscraig and it is assumed we are in the catchment area regardless of the fact my son is currently in the catchment area for Kier Hardie? It is also not clear if my son will need to move when the school is ready or if he will remain at Kier Hardie and only new people to the area will go to the new school.

Q. If your child is currently in a local school and the catchment changes you don't have to move your child?

A. The following answer addresses the above questions: New houses in the Ravenscraig area which are already complete will be rezoned to the new catchment areas. Parents would apply for a 'right to remain' as per above.

Q. As it's a joint campus will it be one management team and will the children get a chance to mix?

A. While the campus will be shared, there will be two distinct schools, one denominational and one non-denominational. Therefore, each school will have its own staff and management team. It will be down to the management teams from the schools to organise opportunities for children from each school to come together.

Q. The proposed schools within Ravenscraig & potential impact of catchment areas. Current catchment seems to end at the roundabout leading to estate at Vesuvius Drive ML12EY. Would be interested in finding out if this estate will fall under new school proposals as regardless of locations, both would be closer than current catchment.

A. All of the proposed affected streets are listed in appendix 4 of the consultation papers.

Q: Is there a prediction for the number of pupils who will change schools?

A: No. This will be pupil choice – when a new school is built, generally pupil populations take time to grow with only some pupils electing to move to a new school. These schools are being built for the longer term pupil populations and will have capacity for 217 pupils in each school. It is

anticipated that this will provide adequate capacity for the foreseeable future in both schools, with the pupil populations growing over the years.

Q: How will the existing schools be supported? The pressure of placing requests may be overwhelming.

A: The proposed new campus will take the strain away from the existing schools that are already at maximum capacity.

Q. What changes are anticipated to the catchment area of OLHS, Motherwell?

Q. What, if any, other aspects of the plan for a denominational primary school at Ravenscraig affect OLHS, Motherwell?

Q. What are the medium to long term plans for OLHS, Motherwell?

A. The following answer addresses the above questions: This consultation is for the proposals around realigning catchment areas for primary schools and new build primary schools. A separate consultation will take place on secondary catchment areas once this consultation process has been completed.

Building and Planning

Q. Will the school be single storey?

Q. Where will the main entrance be? (i.e. facing on to Plantation Road/New Craig Road)?

Q. Is the school open plan?

Q. Are there any visualisations that the council could show the community at this stage to give them an idea what it would look like?

A. The following answer addresses the above questions: The design of schools is an iterative process and each new school is designed differently. The design of these schools would not be commissioned until after an agreement was reached to proceed with the project (i.e. subject to a successful education consultation) and funding allocated to deliver the proposals. Current schools in design and those recently completed are not open plan.

Q. When approximately is construction due to begin? (And similarly when do you anticipate it will complete?)

Q. Estimated completion/opening date?

Q. What are the timescales for the opening of a denominational primary school at Ravenscraig?

A. The following answer addresses the above questions: The project cannot be planned and put into the pipeline until a successful consultation has been approved. A benchmark of three years from when a project is added to the build programme until when a school is opened is offered. However, this does not necessarily mean it will be three years from completion of consultation – funding must first be allocated. It's approximately three years from when funding is approved and it is included within the build programme.

Q. Has a main contractor been approached via hub work/as a preferred bidder?

A. No, the contractor will not be determined until after the school joins the build programme and will be procured using the agreed procurement process in place at that time.

Q. Will there be adequate parking facilities for drop off & pick up times for parents?

A. Required parking would be included as part of the design, in accordance with the planning application process. Drop off zone would be considered as part of this exercise.

Q. What traffic calming measures will be in place along this road?

Q. Will there be traffic calming measures and crossings put in place on Plantation Rd?

A. The following answer addresses the above questions: A traffic impact assessment, which would be carried out at design stage, would inform if any measures were required. This would be determined at planning stage.

Q. Will new crossing guards be located along the busy roads you will need to cross from Jerviston to the proposed site? (As the roundabout at the entrance to Ravenscraig is extremely busy in the morning)?

A. Acceptable walking route assessments will be carried out at the appropriate time (usually not until the design has been approved and the entrances to the school are known). It is therefore not possible to provide a yes/no answer to this question at this time. However, it will be clear to residents what the position is in advance of the school opening.

Q: Is there a requirement for two joint campuses? Is there likely to be an increase in traffic and air pollution as children would be required to walk quite a distance to reach the new campus?

A: As building proceeds on the site there is likely to be the need for more schools. There are two designated areas so far. The north of the Ravenscraig site will be the first. As the site develops acceptable walking routes will be addressed as part of the design phase.

Active travel is promoted through the Green Action Trust to reduce traffic speed. The active travel plan to connect Motherwell and Wishaw has cycle routes to where the new campus will be. The whole travel route will be improved, with a focus on pedestrians and cyclists.

Q: Are the new schools considering the pick-up and drop off arrangements?

A: Yes they will. Whilst every site is different – each campus is designed to accommodate pick up and drop off points to fit within the overall site design.

Q: Will the schools have priority bookings at the sports centre as there will be no pitches on the campus? The local community needs better facilities.

A: The changing design of schools is about making them more flexible to local needs including outwith the school day. A recent example has made very creative use of space which in addition to being of value to children and young people will be used by Culture NL as a resource for all.

It is anticipated that children and families of the new schools would benefit from all the Ravenscraig site has to offer including the sports centre, play park etc.

Land Issues

Q. Can you provide reasoning as to why there has never been much in the way of nature within that site? As far as I can see from the site, the only sign of life (in terms of nature) is a few trees that have attempted to spring to life only to perish early on. Is there a known reason for this?

A. After the closure of Ravenscraig, British Steel commissioned a series of investigations to determine the scale and extent of potential residual contamination at the site. In the late 1990s, as a direct result of these investigations, a large-scale remediation project was undertaken to address the principal areas of contamination with the aim of making the site suitable for use at the time. Following the demolition of the buildings and structures on the site, most of site had a surface scrape of the materials and soils, and any potentially contaminated material was taken to the SEPA Licenced Landfill on site. Due of the extensive movement of soils and the production of development platforms, it has resulted in these development areas being clay-capped to produce a suitable platform to build upon, and thus the material is unsuitable for plant growth without suitable topsoil. (It should also be noted that any development that requires landscaped or garden areas requires the importation of a suitable growing medium, which is the normal way of developing on brownfield sites).

Q. Has there been a lessons learned approach taken with this on part of the council? With this question I refer to the site of St. Ambrose, Coatbridge where there has been much speculation on the risk assessments performed on site and as such many staff and pupils have taken sick with incredibly similar (and rare) ailments and illnesses.

A. The St Ambrose site was correctly and properly investigated to all current guidance and standards for the time, and this was backed up by independent review by an independent consultant on behalf of the Scottish Government. Both the Scottish Government and the Lanarkshire health authority found no fundamental link between the school and its grounds and any health effects of the pupils or teachers.

Q. Is there a reason why the housing developers did not buy the land?

A. There was always a recognition within the planning process that there would be a requirement for additional school provision due to the volume of housing projected. Therefore Ravenscraig Ltd were required to identify land on which schools could be located. This is the first of those sites that was identified. Therefore, there was never any intention to market the site for house building as it was always earmarked for school provision.

Q. What testing has been so far completed on the site and can we have a copy provided to the proposed school community?

A. It should be noted that the site has had extensive testing carried out over the years, and the following reports can be made available to the public:

Mason Evans Ravenscraig Housing Site Investigation 2003

URS APB1 Additional Investigation Carfin 2006

URS Slag Validation and Supplementary Site Investigation 2006

Community Links

Q: Will there be links and communication with the local community?

A: In order to look at community aspects, a group has recently been established. The aim is to link up local groups in Ravenscraig to canvas local voices. The email address for this group is: ravenstraig@gmail.com.