

# Braco School Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017

6pm – Braco School

**Attendance:** Jo Speed, Susan Ross, Fiona Kerr, Dominic Edward, Rachel Beaton, Adrian Davidson, Claire Janse, Helena Carey.

**Apologies:** Julie Davies

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of meeting 29/8/17 approved by JS, seconded FK

## 1. Headteacher Report

SR reported on recent incidents of litter and vandalism in the school playground. Damage to the bike shed has now been repaired by PKC Estates. The incidents have been reported to the police, who will be acting on the reports and performing regular drive-bys. SR asked that all parents who notice anything suspicious should report incidents to the police directly. Nevertheless, it was also stressed (by SR and AD) that probable suspects are unlikely to pose a serious risk; acting out of boredom rather than a genuine intent to cause harm. Hence, the community should be not afraid to say hello and engage with these youngsters as positive action to include them in the community could help. SR also intends to contact the fire service to see if they can provide advice on fire safety to the children, as there are signs of fire damage in the ark. To help improve the playground environment, SR informed us that JD has agreed to put on some Friday morning sessions in the garden and one of the school committees is looking at ways to improve the school grounds. Also, CJ noted that Marina Bridges has access to special paint that can be used to improve the playground. JS suggested approaching Tesco with a plan to raise money for a specific playground project through their local charity token scheme.

Following recent changes to staffing, SR confirmed that Mr Lee is contracted for 5 days per week until January, then it is planned he will be reverting to 1 day per week until June.

- JS to approach Tesco to fundraise for a playground project.

## 2. Fundraising Update

FK reported that £555.70 was raised from the Bingo Tea. It was generally agreed that the turnout for this event was good and the outcome represented a good return for the effort. There are still some wine prizes left over that can be used at Christmas fundraising events.

JS suggested that we arrange a hamper raffle to be drawn at the end of the nativity.

JS and Linda Dawson have been in contact with Mike Boxer to try and arrange a fundraising event alongside the Christmas lights switch on. The response was generally positive, though the light switch itself is organised by the Ardoch Development Trust. As JS/AD/Marianne Heron sit on the ADT board, they will try to coordinate this event. A suggested date to put forward is Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

FK noted that another Christmas fair is being organised at Braco Village Hall for 11<sup>th</sup> November.

## 3. Transformation of the School Estate Update

JS thanked everyone for the good level of attendance at the recent drop-in session. Anyone who still wishes to express an opinion on the options can do so on the PKC website. JS has also received a thank-you email from Carol Taylor at PKC:

*“Thank-you for your help in organising the drop-in evening last Tuesday. We were really pleased with the turnout and we have gathered lots of views. We are planning to send out a summary of the responses to you hopefully by the end of October and will also put them on the website. We do not have committee dates for next year yet so we are unsure of when the options appraisal will be going to the Committee. The report*

*will be on the Council website 10 days before the Committee. The on-line survey will be open until the school holidays."*

#### **4. Childcare Proposal**

AD has been looking into the options for improving out of school childcare provision in Braco/Greenloaning – including researching information from the Out of School Alliance, and the PKC and Clackmannanshire Council websites. The barriers to setting up an 'organisation' to run this childcare appear significant, relative to setting up 'one-off' after school clubs. Many breakfast clubs are organised by councils, both in Perth and Kinross and in Clackmannanshire. Hence, it seems the easiest first step would be to try and work with PKC to get them to support a breakfast club, or some other form of childcare in the morning.

JS informed that following her previous research, including conversations with Susan Johnstone from PKC Childcare Strategy Team, PKC are not keen on running breakfast clubs for schools but are happy to support community groups in setting up their own up, in the form of a 'Safestart' club. About 8 years ago, PKC did run an after school club for the local area, based in Blackford, but closed it as it was loss making. JS said the Safestart club could be run by volunteers, but would become difficult to run if the community group were to employ someone. If something was up, JS had asked if PKC would be able to take act as the employer, but they were not keen on this idea. JS had invited them to the next Parent Council Meeting on 24 October, but as this date now needs to be rearranged AD plans to go up and meet Susan Johnstone instead, and feedback at a later Parent Council meeting in November.

HC wondered if an informal scheme would be better, PVG checking parents who might then provide childcare in a domestic setting. SR noted such a scheme would need to be clear on the definition of a childminder, so as not to breach any regulations. AD noted who would hold insurance for such a scheme and be responsible for checks and balances.

SR noted that the Community School of Auchterarder has a breakfast club run by parents, has anyone checked how that operates? Also the school at Dunning may be operating something similar.

AD noted that the issue of childcare should be closely linked to any future changes to the school estate, that is, if larger schools having more pupils is to be encouraged a model, that can only be achieved if childcare is taken into account to support a thriving community. Allied to this, parents who may not be in need of childcare themselves, should consider benefits to the wider community of supporting an out of school childcare scheme.

JS suggested parents who didn't need childcare all of the time could perhaps benefit from free childcare if they volunteered some of the time, whilst parents who need full-time childcare could make a contribution which could go towards other community benefits. It may also be possible to obtain funds from the ADT to cover start-up costs, for example hall fees.

CJ noted that a small village school, like Braco, is often very much sought after and should be attractive to young families that would support the school roll, but this is not happening because of a lack of childcare provision.

- AD will investigate options for a breakfast/safe start club further with PKC.
- DE will draft a letter from Parent Council to PKC highlighting the need to consider childcare requirements in the upcoming school estate transformation, including creating a community space in the school which could be used for childcare before and after school hours.

#### **5. AOCB**

JS suggested cancelling the meeting on October 24<sup>th</sup> due to other commitments.

Date for the next meeting will now be Mon 13<sup>th</sup> November, rather than waiting until the end of November. As this may be too late to organise a fundraising event alongside the Christmas lights switch on, HC agreed to coordinate the organisation of those events separately.

**Meeting Close 19:30**