

# Braco School Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018

6pm – Braco School

**Attendance:** Jo Speed (Chair), Julie Davies (Vice-Chair), Dominic Edward (Secretary), Linda Dawson (Head), Jenni Allardyce, Anna Black, Helena Carey, Rhona Nuttall, Carol Taylor (Perth & Kinross Council – Service Manager (Resource Management)) & Karen Robertson (Perth & Kinross Council - Service Manager (Business Services)).

**Apologies:** Rhiannon Howie Davies

## 1. Transformation of the School Estate

Parent Council were very grateful that Carol Taylor and Karen Robertson, from Perth & Kinross Council, were able to join us to provide an update on improvements to Braco School and the statutory consultation on the closure of Greenloaning school. CT is responsible for overseeing improvements at Braco, whilst KR will be overseeing the proposal to close Greenloaning. Please note that the dates and timescales that they were able to provide are only advisory and subject to change.

KR explained the proposed timeline for the statutory consultation to close Greenloaning. A proposal paper will be prepared over the summer holidays, ready for when schools start back in August. The council will make this available by contacting parents, informing the community council, and through public notices on social media and the press etc. The council will then be accepting responses to the proposal between about the middle of August to end of September. This will include at least 1 public meeting. The next stage will be to send all the information that has been amassed to Education Scotland, who will then have 3 weeks to write a report. Education Scotland is then likely to make a visit to Braco School around the end of October. Perth & Kinross Council will then prepare a final report around the end of November/December, to be published in January 2019. PKC will then consider that report and prepare a final decision around March 2019. PKC will then have to notify Scottish Ministers if the intention is to close Greenloaning and await their final approval. Hence it is likely that a final decision to close might be known in the summer holidays of 2019.

Carol then explained to us what would be happening at Braco. This process will not be delayed by the consultation for Greenloaning, as the buildings at Braco will be improved irrespective, however it is still unlikely that building work will begin before that consultation is finished – simply because of the amount of planning and preparation required. This is because the plan is for the children to be decanted to Greenloaning, for about a year, whilst improvements are being made to the buildings at Braco. Consequently, the council not only needs to plan improvements at Braco, but also temporary improvements to the buildings at Greenloaning to make them suitable and the logistics of moving the school infrastructure and pupils.

The council is currently working towards preparing for a decant/building works to take place between August 2020 and the summer of 2021. During this period it is anticipated that transport will be provided from Braco to Greenloaning, with timings arranged so that this will have minimal impact on current pickup/drop off times. The detail of this still needs to be worked out however, for example how transport might be arranged at lunchtimes; arranging transport for nursery children where timings are different; and integrating transport arrangements with the current taxi service.

KR informed us that any parents in Greenloaning who might benefit from transport to Braco should put in an application for transport – forms can be found on the council website. Even if a placing request had been made in the past, since Greenloaning has been mothballed these are now redundant and would not affect an application. Even though the distance between Greenloaning/Braco may not be sufficient to qualify, if the route is deemed to be too dangerous to walk this would still qualify for assistance.

CT informed us that details for the refurbishment of the school buildings are still to be confirmed. When this process gets underway representatives from the school, parent council and pupil council will be invited to contribute – though the process will not be open to parents individually. However, works to improve facilities

at the hall are likely to begin sooner. This is because improvements to the hall are being overseen by a different department in the council, this is a property project, rather than being the responsibility of Carols dept. The improvements we might expect to see to the hall are improving toilets, providing wheelchair access, improvements to the floor, internal decoration and providing additional storage. The council will be getting in touch with LD soon to make arrangements for this.

JS asked whether any improvements might be made to the area outside the hall, such as the old tennis courts, particularly as Ardoch Development Trust could consider making a contribution towards such costs. CT informed us that no money has been set aside for this and this is not something that would automatically be provided by the council. There was some discussion as to whether a contribution would need to be made to ensure that the school has necessary facilities to deliver the curriculum – given that the school does not have any other green outdoor space and is reliant upon the park.

After proposed closure, and after decant for refurbishments, future use of the buildings at Greenloaning was discussed. KR informed us that the councils education department would then declare the buildings as being surplus to requirements. CT informed us that at this point there might be the possibility of the council coming to an arrangement with the community so that the buildings can be used to benefit the community. Alternatively, the buildings might be sold – in which case proceeds would be returned to PKC. However, CT did say that her preference would be for at least some of the proceeds of a sale to be returned to ECS (Education & Childrens Services) to be used in the community.

KR informed us that the council does intend to maintain nursery provision at the school, during decant and following refurbishment.

Parent Council thanked CT/KR for their time. CT/KR left the meeting.

### **3. Headteacher Report**

LD informed us that £400 had been raised at Easter towards the summer beach trip. Buses have been arranged for £520. Parent volunteers will be required and asked for shortly. The date for this trip is Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> of June.

### **4. Fundraising – Beetle Drive**

Parent Council are organising a Beetle Drive for Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May. This will take place in the village hall, starting from 7pm. The format will be 6 games, with an interval to hold a raffle half way through. Entry will be £5 per adult / £1 per child. Tea/Coffee will be available. JS has already received some raffle prizes and the children are sending out letters.

#### **Action Points**

- LD to provide pens/dice
- JA to provide paper
- JS to ask Mrs Speakman about Tea/Coffee/Biscuits
- JD to get raffle books to send out on Friday. Also organising a fundraising square.
- DE will put out a news item on the app, to include request for raffle prizes
- JS to advertise on Facebook and organise posters.
- Help will be needed on Friday after school to prepare the hall and refreshments.
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### **6. AOCB**

None.

**Meeting close: 1930**