

Motherwell, 26 October 1999 at 4 pm.

A Special Meeting of the **NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL**

PRESENT

Councillor McCulloch, Provost; Councillor Connelly, Depute Provost; Councillors Barrie, Brady, Brooks, Burns, Cassidy, Cefferty, Chadha, Clarke, Cox, Curley, Curran, Devine, Glavin, Gordon, Gorman, Gormill, Grant, Gray, Hebenton, Hogg, Holloway, Homer, Irvine, Jones, Lafferty, Logue, Love, Lyle, McCallum, McKeown, McKinlay, McLaughlin, Maginnis, J. Martin, Mathieson, Moran, Morgan, Morris, G. Murray, M. Murray, Nolan, Pentland, Ross, Saunders, Selfridge, Shields, Smith, Stocks, Sullivan, Valentine and Wallace.

CHAIR

Councillor McCulloch (Provost) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Director of Administration; Director of Education; Head of Contracts and Provisions and Head of Central Services.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Coyle, Donnelly, Griffin, McCabe, McElroy, H. McGuigan, J. McGuigan, W. Martin, Scott and Wilson.

REMIT FROM EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF 19 OCTOBER 1999 - SCHOOLS FOR THE MILLENNIUM

(1) REVIEW OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PROVISION IN CUMBERNAULD

1. Reference was made to paragraph 14 of the Minute of the meeting of the Education Committee held on 19 October 1999 when that Committee, having considered a report dated October 1999 by the Director of Education summarising the issues associated with current primary school provision in Cumbernauld, describing the first phase of the consultation process and making proposals for the options to be offered in the formal consultation, agreed to (1) note the issues associated with current primary school provision in Cumbernauld; (2) note the view expressed in the informal consultation process; (3) approve the broad proposals for future primary school provision in Cumbernauld, and (4) approve the submission of formal consultation papers covering these proposals and when one quarter of the members present and voting having required, in terms of paragraph 4(c)(D) of the Council's Scheme of Administration, that the power delegated to the Education Committee be not exercised and that the matter be referred for determination to the Council, the matter was referred accordingly.

Councillor Gray, seconded by Councillor Smith, moved that the Council (a) endorse the decision of the Education Committee; (b) note the issues associated with current primary school provision in Cumbernauld; (c) note the views expressed in the informal consultation process; (d) approve for consultation, the broad proposals for future primary school provision in Cumbernauld, and (e) agree that the formal consultation papers covering these proposals be submitted to the Council.

Councillor G. Murray, seconded by Councillor Lyle, moved as an amendment that

“This Council rejects the administration’s recommendations and calls for the review to be continued for:-

- (1) A fuller examination of the current Primary School provision in Cumbernauld, to ensure that at the end of the review, there is a balanced and fair provision of Primary Education in each part of Cumbernauld, with adequate **local Nursery provision** for all 3 and 4 year old pupils without subjecting parents to unacceptable transport costs.
- (2) A realistic design capacity for each school to be established. The present accepted figures based on a minimum of 30 Primary pupils per class (including composite classes) is not a realistic desired option as we enter the 21st Century. This is especially so with a Government elected on a Policy of "EDUCATION, EDUCATION, EDUCATION". It is reasonable to allow up to 3 classrooms per Primary School for Nursery and Special Educational requirements. This means in a normal 2-stream, 14 classroom school, the future desirable, effective capacity should be 11 classrooms with 25 pupils, ie 275 places per Primary School.
- (3) Adopting proposals which represent the standards which will be normal within 10 years. Such proposals summarise the clear views of the parents as expressed at the informal consultation process.
- (4) Ending the present proposed consultations for an irresponsible programme of undesirable school closures. Closures which will lead to unacceptable problems in achieving the higher educational standards which will be necessary for our communities to flourish in the future world situation.
- (5) A revision by the Education Committee of the fundamentally flawed and biased statistics and arguments, they have prepared to the detriment of the residents of Cumbernauld."

On a vote being taken 10 Members voted for the amendment and 41 Members voted for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

Decided:

- (1) that the decision of the Education Committee be endorsed;
- (2) that the issues associated with current primary school provision in Cumbernauld be noted;
- (3) that the views expressed in the informal consultation process be noted;
- (4) that the broad proposals for future primary school provision in Cumbernauld be approved for consultation, and
- (5) that the formal consultation papers covering these proposals be submitted to the Council.

(2) ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSULTATION

2. There were submitted six reports (docketed) dated October 1999 by the Director of Education (1) containing consultation documents relating to the Education provision for, respectively, primary age non-denominational pupils in the Abronhill area of Cumbernauld, primary age denominational pupils in the Seafar, Carbrain and Kildrum areas of Cumbernauld, primary age non-denominational pupils in the Greenfaulds and Carbrain areas of Cumbernauld, primary age non-denominational pupils in Cumbernauld Village and areas north of the A80, primary age denominational pupils in Cumbernauld Village and areas north of the A80, and primary age pupils living in rural areas outwith the town of Cumbernauld, and (2) recommending that the Council (a) adopt, for consultation, the proposals contained in the consultative documents; (b) approve the issue of the consultative documents; (c) agree that all interested parties be asked to make written representations on the proposals not later than 30 November 1999, and (d) instruct the Director of Education to prepare a report on the results of the consultative process for consideration at a future meeting of the Education Committee.

Councillor Gray, seconded by Councillor Smith, moved

- (1) that with regard to non-denominational primary school provision in Abronhill, the following proposals be approved for consultation:-
 - (a) that Glenhead Primary School be closed at the end of session 1999/2000 and that the pupils at present in attendance or who would have attended Glenhead Primary School transfer to Abronhill Primary School, Whitelees Primary School or Cumbernauld Primary School from August 2000 in accordance with the map in appendices 2 and 3 to the report;
 - (b) that from August 2000, the designated catchment areas for Abronhill be the existing catchment area plus Gean Court, Hawthorn Road, Birch Road, Elm Drive, Oak Road, Larch Court, Larch Grove and Larch Road which are within the existing Glenhead catchment area;
 - (c) that from August 2000, the catchment area for Whitelees Primary be the existing catchment area plus Pine Place, Pine Grove, Pine Crescent, Almond Road, Maple Court and Hornbeam Road which are within the existing Glenhead catchment area;
 - (d) that from August 2000, the Westerwood area currently zoned to Glenhead Primary School be zoned to Cumbernauld Primary School, and
 - (e) that from August 2000, the rural areas, in accordance with the map in appendix 4 to the report, be zoned to Whitelees Primary School;
- (2) that with regard to denominational primary school provision in Seafar, Carbrain and Kildrum, the following proposals be approved for consultation:-
 - (a) that Sacred Heart Primary School be closed at the end of session 1999/2000 and that pupils at present in attendance or who would have attended Sacred Heart Primary School transfer to St. Joseph's Primary School from August 2000 in accordance with the map in appendix 2 to the report;

OR

 - (b) that St. Joseph's Primary School be closed at the end of session 1999/2000 and pupils at present in attendance or who would have attended St. Joseph's Primary School transfer to Sacred Heart Primary School or St. Mary's Primary School from August 2000 in accordance with the map in appendix 3 to the report, and
 - (c) that pupils living in the rural area to the south of Carbrain, currently zoned to St. Mary's Primary School, be zoned to either St. Joseph's Primary School or Sacred Heart Primary School from August 2000 in accordance with the map in appendix 4 to the report;
- (3) that with regard to non-denominational primary school provision in Greenfaulds and Carbrain, the following proposals be approved for consultation:-
 - (a) that Langlands Primary School be closed at the end of session 1999/2000 and that the pupils at present in attendance or who would have attended Langlands Primary School transfer to Melrose Primary School, Eastfield Primary School or Cumbernauld Primary School from August 2000 in accordance with the proposals in 4.1 of the consultation document annexed to the report and the maps in appendices 2 and 4 to the report, and

- (b) that the rural area to the south of Carbrain, as shown in appendix 3 to the report, including Blairlinn/Luggiebank, Stirling Road, West Waterhead Cottage, Greenside, Palacerigg Cottage, Tannochbrae, Tannoch Farm, Sandyknowes, Acrecroft Farm and Greenacres, be zoned to Melrose Primary School from August 2000;
- (4) that with regard to non-denominational primary school provision for Cumbernauld Village and areas north of the A80, the following proposals be approved for consultation:-
 - (a) that Cumbernauld Primary School be relocated in a new school building in Carrickstone, north of the Eastfield Road, in accordance with the map shown in appendix 2 to the report;
 - (b) that the catchment area of the new school include Cumbernauld Village, Craigmarnloch east of the Craighalbert roundabout, Carrickstone, Westerwood, Dullatur and Castlecary, in accordance with the map in appendix 2 to the report;
 - (c) that Craigmarnloch, west of the Craighalbert roundabout, be zoned to Eastfield Primary School, in accordance with the map as shown in appendix 2 to the report;
 - (d) that from August 2000 the catchment area of the new school, as in (b) above, be zoned to the existing Cumbernauld Primary School as an interim arrangement, and
 - (e) that from August 2000, children living in rural areas currently zoned to Cumbernauld Primary School be rezoned to Melrose, Whitelees and Eastfield Primary Schools in accordance with the map in appendix 3 to the report;
- (5) that with regard to denominational primary school provision for Cumbernauld Village and areas north of the A80, the following proposals be approved for consultation:-
 - (a) that a new denominational primary school, accommodated in a building shared with a non-denominational primary school, be built in Carrickstone north of Eastfield Road, and
 - (b) that the catchment areas for the new denominational school include Cumbernauld Village, Craigmarnloch, Carrickstone, Westerwood, Dullatur and Castlecary, as shown in appendix 2 to the report;
- (6) that with regard to primary school provision in rural areas outwith Cumbernauld town, the following proposals be approved for consultation:-
 - (a) that the rural areas of Blairlinn/Luggiebank, Stirling Road, West Waterhead Cottage, Greenside, Palacerigg Cottage, Tannochbrae, Tannoch Farm, Sandyknowes, Acrecroft Farm and Greenacres currently zoned to Cumbernauld Primary School and St. Mary's Primary School be rezoned to Melrose Primary School and St. Joseph's or Sacred Heart Primary School from August 2000 in accordance with the map in appendix 3 to the report;
 - (b) that the rural areas of Fannyside Lodge, Fannyside Mill, Fannyside Toll, Easter Fannyside, Arns, Crowbank and Glenhead currently zoned to Cumbernauld Primary School and St. Mary's Primary School be rezoned to Whitelees Primary School and St. Lucy's Primary School from August 2000 in accordance with the map in appendix 3 to the report;
 - (c) that the rural areas of Castlecary Road, Garnhaw Farm Road, Castleview and Castle Court continue to be zoned to Cumbernauld Primary School and St. Mary's Primary School until new schools are built north of the A80, and

- (d) that Croy and Drumglass Cottage currently zoned to Cumbernauld Primary School be rezoned to Eastfield Primary School from August 2000 in accordance with the map in appendix 3 to the report, and
- (7) that in each case the relevant report be issued as a consultative document and made available to all interested parties, that all interested parties, including the relevant school boards, be asked to make written representations on the proposals to the Director of Education no later than 30 November 1999 and that the Director of Education prepare a report on the consultative process for consideration at a future meeting of the Education Committee.

With regard to non-denominational primary school provision in Abronhill, Councillor Irvine, seconded by Councillor Lyle, moved as an amendment that

“This Council rejects the Administrations proposals for the Abronhill area as they are fundamentally flawed and against the wishes and needs of the community. The Council recognises that the proposals in the agenda would see Whitelees Primary School at 91% capacity and Abronhill Primary School at 90% capacity thereby giving little room for any expansion in the Primary School population. The Council calls for the following recommendations to be put forward for full consultation with the community of Abronhill:-

- (1) that all schools in the Abronhill area non-denominational and denominational remain open;
- (2) the catchment areas as proposed would result in pupils passing each other to get to the remaining schools. Many of the routes that children would have to travel are long and through woodlands, badly lit underpasses etc. Safety of children is supposed to be paramount to North Lanarkshire Council and this clearly would not be the case if these catchment areas were pursued. These views have already been expressed by parents attending the informal consultation process and should be considered by the community of Abronhill;
- (3) the current nursery school provision is currently located within grossly inadequate premises which are converted patio houses in Cedar Road and Hornbeam Road. Consideration should be given to providing nursery education within all four Primary Schools in Abronhill bearing in mind the Government’s commitment to pre school education thereby avoiding the need for any school closures. This should also be a matter for discussion with the community;
- (4) parents have expressed the view that the proposal of 30 pupils per class is unacceptable and we should be striving to have class sizes of 25 again bearing in mind the present Government was elected on a policy of education, education, education! We should be considering creating new opportunities for educational needs within the four schools in Abronhill and indeed throughout Cumbernauld and not closing existing facilities;
- (5) all interested parties be asked to make written representations on the proposal to the Director of Education and that he prepare a report on the results of the Consultative process for consideration at a future meeting of the Education Committee.”

Eleven Members required that the vote be taken by calling the roll and eleven being less than one quarter of the whole number of Members present, in terms of Standing Order Number 31 the vote was taken by a show of hands whereon 10 Members voted for the amendment and 41 Members voted for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

With regard to denominational primary school provision in Seafar, Carbrain and Kildrum, Councillor M. Murray seconded by Councillor Glavin, moved as an amendment that

“This Council rejects the proposal to close an unspecified one of three denominational schools in Cumbernauld ie Sacred Heart, St. Joseph’s or St. Mary’s as not a properly thought out policy fit to go out for formal consultation.”

Eleven Members required that the vote be taken by calling the roll and eleven being less than one quarter of the whole number of Members present, in terms of Standing Order Number 31 the vote was taken by a show of hands whereon 10 Members voted for the amendment and 41 Members voted for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

With regard to non-denominational primary school provision in Greenfaulds and Carbrain, Councillor Homer, seconded by Councillor Lyle, moved as an amendment that

“This Council rejects the Education Department’s proposals in regards to the non-denominational and denominational primary schools’ provision in Greenfaulds and Carbrain and calls for the present review to be continued for:-

- (1) a fuller determination of nursery provision required in the area to ensure that at the end of this process there is adequate local provision for 3 and 4 year olds. Noting that the proposals would mean moving the current nursery provision to the other side of the estate thus disrupting the continuity of the service provided;
- (2) the Education Department to establish realistic design capacities for each school in order that they may meet their full potential in remaining open and functional for the needs of pupils, parents and the community in general;
- (3) that a full “open and transparent consultation” takes place with local parents to establish pupil and community requirements for their individual school. Taking into consideration the widely expressed view that class sizes be reduced to 25 pupils;
- (4) that a review be made of the routes for the new catchment areas as to their safety for the children to travel, as many of these are inadequately lit and would take them through wooded areas, and
- (5) that provision be made for community education on a wider base as many groups already using the schools will find themselves without these premises.”

Eleven Members required that the vote be taken by calling the roll and eleven being less than one quarter of the whole number of Members present, in terms of Standing Order Number 31 the vote was taken by a show of hands whereon 10 Members voted for the amendment and 40 Members voted for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

With regard to non-denominational primary school provision in Cumbernauld Village and areas north of the A80, Councillor G. Murray, seconded by Councillor McCallum, moved as an amendment that

“This Council cannot accept the Department’s proposals for the following reasons:-

Not even a block plan or a sketch plan has been made available for the proposed new schools north of the A80. No walking and vehicular access to the site have been indicated. There is only one relevant underpass across the extremely busy Eastfield Road. This road has been decreed unsafe to cross for the secondary pupils from Croy attending St. Maurice’s School.

No date has been given for the commencement of the building of these new schools or for their completion, despite constant pressure from the local Councillor and parents for this information.

It is obvious that Cumbernauld Primary School will have to be kept open for at least two years. As a result of the decisions in connection with Glenhead, Langlands and Carbrain Primary Schools it will be even more overcrowded during this two year period - apart from the impact of further house building.

The result is that considerable expenditure will have to be spent on the existing Cumbernauld Primary School to keep it serviceable for over 400 pupils for the next two years. In these circumstances a local school in Cumbernauld Village which has been deprived of its Library and other services by North Lanarkshire Council is essential. The school provides the only building available for church youth work varying from Sunday schools to uniformed organisations such as Brownies, Girl Guides, Life Boys etc, as there is no church hall.

A nursery school must be established within the smaller Village School once the new schools are opened.

The zoning of the retained smaller Village Primary School should consist of the Village itself, Castlecary, Edenvale, the Links, the areas of Carrickstone nearest to Cumbernauld Village and the southern part of Muirfield Road. The underpass adjacent to Dobies Garden Centre would have to be improved and certain paths would have to have their lighting also improved.

After two years the remainder of the zone at present being proposed for Cumbernauld Village School across the A80 would then be zoned to the new school. This would give a non-denominational school roll peaking at approximately 400 pupils. There would of course be a separate but detached denominational school, as proposed in the Department's consultative document. These new schools would also require to have a nursery provision.

As a compromise, we would accept that this alternative proposal be issued for consultation along with the Education Department's proposals to enable the community to clearly indicate which of the alternatives they prefer."

Eleven Members required that the vote be taken by calling the roll and eleven being less than one quarter of the whole number of Members present, in terms of Standing Order Number 31 the vote was taken by a show of hands whereon 10 Members voted for the amendment and 42 Members voted for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

No contrary propositions were advanced with regard to denominational primary school provision for Cumbernauld Village and areas north of the A80 or with regard to primary school provision in rural areas outwith Cumbernauld Town.

Decided:

- (1) that with regard to non-denominational primary school provision in Abronhill, the following proposals be approved for consultation:-
 - (a) that Glenhead Primary School be closed at the end of session 1999/2000 and that the pupils at present in attendance or who would have attended Glenhead Primary School transfer to Abronhill Primary School, Whitelees Primary School or Cumbernauld Primary School from August 2000 in accordance with the map in appendices 2 and 3 to the report;
 - (b) that from August 2000, the designated catchment areas for Abronhill be the existing catchment area plus Gean Court, Hawthorn Road, Birch Road, Elm Drive, Oak Road, Larch Court, Larch Grove and Larch Road which are within the existing Glenhead catchment area;
 - (c) that from August 2000, the catchment area for Whitelees Primary be the existing catchment area plus Pine Place, Pine Grove, Pine Crescent, Almond Road, Maple Court and Hornbeam Road which are within the existing Glenhead catchment area;
 - (d) that from August 2000, the Westerwood area currently zoned to Glenhead Primary School be zoned to Cumbernauld Primary School, and

- (e) that from August 2000, the rural areas, in accordance with the map in appendix 4 to the report, be zoned to Whitelees Primary School;
- (2) that with regard to denominational primary school provision in Seafar, Carbrain and Kildrum, the following proposals be approved for consultation:-
- (a) that Sacred Heart Primary School be closed at the end of session 1999/2000 and that pupils at present in attendance or who would have attended Sacred Heart Primary School transfer to St. Joseph's Primary School from August 2000 in accordance with the map in appendix 2 to the report;
- OR**
- (b) that St. Joseph's Primary School be closed at the end of session 1999/2000 and pupils at present in attendance or who would have attended St. Joseph's Primary School transfer to Sacred Heart Primary School or St. Mary's Primary School from August 2000 in accordance with the map in appendix 3 to the report, and
 - (c) that pupils living in the rural area to the south of Carbrain, currently zoned to St. Mary's Primary School, be zoned to either St. Joseph's Primary School or Sacred Heart Primary School from August 2000 in accordance with the map in appendix 4 to the report;
- (3) that with regard to non-denominational primary school provision in Greenfaulds and Carbrain, the following proposals be approved for consultation:-
- (a) that Langlands Primary School be closed at the end of session 1999/2000 and that the pupils at present in attendance or who would have attended Langlands Primary School transfer to Melrose Primary School, Eastfield Primary School or Cumbernauld Primary School from August 2000 in accordance with the proposals in paragraph 4.1 of the consultation document annexed to the report and the maps in appendices 2 and 4 to the report, and
 - (b) that the rural area to the south of Carbrain, as shown in appendix 3 to the report, including Blairlinn/Luggiebank, Stirling Road, West Waterhead Cottage, Greenside, Palacerigg Cottage, Tannochbrae, Tannoch Farm, Sandyknowes, Acrecroft Farm and Greenacres, be zoned to Melrose Primary School from August 2000;
- (4) that with regard to non-denominational primary school provision for Cumbernauld Village and areas north of the A80, the following proposals be approved for consultation:-
- (a) that Cumbernauld Primary School be relocated in a new school building in Carrickstone, north of the Eastfield Road, in accordance with the map shown in appendix 2 to the report;
 - (b) that the catchment area of the new school include Cumbernauld Village, Craigmarloch east of the Craighalbert roundabout, Carrickstone, Westerwood, Dullatur and Castlecary, in accordance with the map in appendix 2 to the report;
 - (c) that Craigmarloch, west of the Craighalbert roundabout, be zoned to Eastfield Primary School, in accordance with the map as shown in appendix 2 to the report;
 - (d) that from August 2000 the catchment area of the new school, as in (b) above, be zoned to the existing Cumbernauld Primary School as an interim arrangement, and
 - (e) that from August 2000, children living in rural areas currently zoned to Cumbernauld Primary School be rezoned to Melrose, Whitelees and Eastfield Primary Schools in accordance with the map in appendix 3 to the report;
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- (5) that with regard to denominational primary school provision for Cumbernauld Village and areas north of the A80, the following proposals be approved for consultation:-
- (a) that a new denominational primary school, accommodated in a building shared with a non-denominational primary school, be built in Carrickstone north of Eastfield Road, and
 - (b) that the catchment areas for the new denominational school include Cumbernauld Village, Craigmarloch, Carrickstone, Westerwood, Dullatur and Castlecary, as shown in appendix 2 to the report;
- (6) that with regard to primary school provision in rural areas outwith Cumbernauld town, the following proposals be approved for consultation:-
- (a) that the rural areas of Blairlinn/Luggiebank, Stirling Road, West Waterhead Cottage, Greenside, Palacerigg Cottage, Tannochbrae, Tannoch Farm, Sandyknowes, Acrecroft Farm and Greenacres currently zoned to Cumbernauld Primary School and St. Mary's Primary School be rezoned to Melrose Primary School and St. Joseph's or Sacred Heart Primary School from August 2000 in accordance with the map in appendix 3 to the report;
 - (b) that the rural areas of Fannyside Lodge, Fannyside Mill, Fannyside Toll, Easter Fannyside, Arns, Crowbank and Glenhead currently zoned to Cumbernauld Primary School and St. Mary's Primary School be rezoned to Whitelees Primary School and St. Lucy's Primary School from August 2000 in accordance with the map in appendix 3 to the report;
 - (c) that the rural areas of Castlecary Road, Garnhaw Farm Road, Castleview and Castle Court continue to be zoned to Cumbernauld Primary School and St. Mary's Primary School until new schools are built north of the A80, and
 - (d) that Croy and Drumglass Cottage currently zoned to Cumbernauld Primary School be rezoned to Eastfield Primary School from August 2000 in accordance with the map in appendix 3 to the report, and
- (7) that in each case the relevant report be issued as a consultative document and made available to all interested parties, that all interested parties, including the relevant school boards, be asked to make written representations on the proposals to the Director of Education no later than 30 November 1999 and that the Director of Education prepare a report on the consultative process for consideration at a future meeting of the Education Committee.