

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A  
NEW BUILD SCHOOL ON THE NORTH HAUGH

CHAIRMAN OF SCHOOL BOARD, PETER MCKIERNAN

1. Professor McKiernan outlined the long-term strategic estates plans of the University of St Andrews. As one of the potential partners in these ambitious plans, he hoped the School Board should be informed and consulted about the strategic principles and outline.
2. In a series of slides, he showed the main features of the plans as they might affect the future physical layout of the University.
3. One particular development proposal that might be of interest to the Board was the sports and leisure complex being considered for the North Haugh. The scale of this part of the plans would depend on the number of future partners within and out with the local community. It would be of interest to the University to consider joint use of some facilities with local community and sports organisations and with the local secondary school. External funding from Sport Scotland or the Scottish Tennis Association would be easier to achieve if there were several partners involved.
4. In the current debate about the future of Madras College, therefore, a potential existed to start a dialogue about shared interests in future developments. Professor McKiernan was keen to “catch the moment”, since the coincidence of School and University plans might never be so close again.
5. In practical terms the main issues for Fife Council were a suitable site for a single-site school and for capital funding. The other issue was to be sure that the School plans met the best interests of the catchments in NE Fife.
6. Assuming that a school of about 1200-1400 pupils was appropriate for the redrawn catchments, the following outline proposal could be offered for discussion:
  - A site for a new school on the North Haugh could be leased in perpetuity by the university to Fife Council.
  - A new Madras could be built at a much lower cost than the estimates given to the Fife Children’s Committee in January 2007 through the use of land swaps with the university involving the South St and Kilrymont sites and their re-development.
  - Access to Station Park would be created by a foot-bridge
  - Priority daytime use of the sports and leisure facilities by the School would be agreed, since priority evening and weekend use were the main concern of the University.
  - The historic part of the South Street building would remain in educational use.