

THE FIFE COUNCIL – MADRAS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT GROUP

15th September, 2009

6.00pm –6.50pm

PRESENT: Ian Jones, Head Teacher Madras College, Jane Pettegree, Canongate Primary School Parent Council, Andy Herd, Head of Community Use, Madras College, John McLaughlin, Education Officer, Adam Smallwood, Teaching staff representative, Morag Wilson, Non teaching staff representative Andy Primmer, Madras College Parent Council, Diane McGhie, Wormit Primary School Parent Council, Sally Walker, Tayport Community Council, Arlene Herzog, Lawhead Primary School Parent Council and Dr Jeremy Howard, University of St Andrews

ATTENDING: Councillor Tim Brett, Councillor Elizabeth Riches, Councillor Robin Waterston, Councillor William Sangster, John Peden, Architect, Property Services, Santosh Thota, Project Manager, Property Services, Colin McCredie, Service Manager, Property Services, David Aitken, Design Adviser, Corporate Asset Management and Morag Wallace, Partnerships Manager, Corporate Asset Management

**APOLOGIES
FOR**

ABSENCE: Sharon Watson, Leuchars Primary School Parent Council, Zoe Smith, Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council, Ian Nicol, Operations Project Manager Corporate Asset Management, Alan Paul, Corporate Asset Manager, Jason Judson, Client Agent, Education, John Lilley, Project Manager, Property Services, Emily Foster and Annie Philpott, Pupil representatives,

17. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Ian Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the apologies.

18. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 4th AUGUST 2009

The Group considered the minute of the Madras Local Development Group held on 4th August 2009. The Group asked that the minute be amended as follows:-

- (i) Morag Wilson and Diane McGhie to be recorded as present at the meeting
- (ii) Paragraph 15(b)(iv). Add "The estimated costs of the options would be demonstrated in terms of the business case"

Decision

The Group agreed to approve the minute as a correct record subject to the above amendments.

19. COMMITTEE DECISIONS

(a) Education & Children's Services Committee 20th August 2009

Alan Paul advised that helpful discussions had taken place with the University of St Andrews regarding a site for a new school but that these discussions had not yet crystallised. The Committee had agreed discussions with the University should continue and that further assessment of sites at St. Andrews West take place. A report on the outcome of these discussion and assessments is to be provided to the Committee at its meeting on 12th November, 2009. The Group was advised that on the basis of the work done to date it was considered that the project could be accommodated within a budget of £40m. The Committee also agreed that the Policy, Finance & Asset Management Committee be asked to approve capital funding of a maximum of £40m to implement the project.

(b) Policy Finance & Asset Management Committee 10th September 2009

Alan Paul advised that the Committee had approved a maximum of £40m to implement the project.

The Group raised a number of questions and issues:-

- (i) The respective estimated costs of the renewal of Kilrymont and a new build on another site – The Group was advised that based on the feasibility designs which had been presented to the previous meeting the estimated cost for renewal of Kilrymont was £39m+ and for the new build around £40m. However, there was the potential for a joint project with the University which would require to be costed.
- (ii) What information would be presented to the Education and Children's Services Committee? - The Group was advised that a series of discussions had taken place including meetings between the Council's Chief Executive, elected members and the Principal of the University. Further discussions with the University were planned and activities would take place over the next few weeks including a joint master planning workshop. The outcome of those activities and discussions would be reported to the Committee. The Group discussed the potential benefits of a shared campus with the University. John McLaughlin advised that a report on the benefits of co-location had been produced by a working group. It was agreed that a copy of that report would be circulated to the Group.
- (iii) How the existing building at Kilrymont might be delisted?- The Group was advised that if the school was to be vacated steps would have to be taken to find an alternative use, the building would require to be marketed for a period of years and if it was demonstrated that there was no alternative use then the building might be delisted and the consent of Historic Scotland granted for demolition. It might be possible to commence this process before the building was vacated.

The Parent Council representatives advised that there was a clear consensus amongst the parents that a new build was the preferred option, the two main issues being the disruption that would be caused by the decant during construction and the continued requirement to bus pupils to Station Park for some PE activities. The parents also liked the potential benefits that would come from locating the school in South West St Andrews. Andy Primmer advised that the Madras Parent Council were proposing to hold a vote on which option was preferred at the Parent Forum AGM to be held on 16th September.

Decision

The Group noted the content of the above reports and agreed that Morag Wallace would circulate the report of the Madras Co-location Working Group to the Group

20. NEXT STEPS

Alan Paul advised that a report would be submitted to the Education and Children's Services Committee at its meeting on 12th November. Discussions would continue with the University. Key principles would require to be agreed with the University. The Group was advised that it would be 2010 before this could be done and the business case finalised. In the meantime both options were being developed and the summer of 2013 remained the estimated delivery date for the project.

Decision

The Group noted the content of the above report

21. COMMUNICATION

- (a) The Group discussed communication with Community Councils and Primary Schools. It was agreed that a briefing note would be issued after the meeting. Concern was expressed about the cost to the primary schools of distributing briefing notes and lack of clarity about the head teachers' role in this matter. John McLaughlin agreed to raise the matter with the primary school head teachers at a meeting to take place on 16th September. Ian Jones agreed to circulate details of the Madras Parent Council web site address to all feeder primary school head teachers.

Decision

The Group agreed that

- (i) Alan Paul, John McLaughlin and Ian Jones would draft a briefing note for circulation after each meeting of the Group;
 - (ii) John McLaughlin agreed to raise the circulation of information with the primary school head teachers at a meeting to take place on 16th September; and
 - (iii) Ian Jones would circulate details of the Madras Parent Council web site address to all feeder primary school head teachers.
- (b) Alan Paul advised the Group that Morag Wallace was leaving the Council and that he would be the contact for the Group. Ian Jones thanked Morag Wallace for her contribution to the work of the Group and wished her well in her new post.

22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 27th October 2009 at 6:00pm in Madras College, Kilrymont Road, St Andrews

POST MEETING NOTE: Contact Details for Alan Paul, Corporate Asset Manager, Asset and Facilities Management Services, Kingdom House, Kingdom Avenue, Glenrothes KY7 5LT Tel No. 08451 555555 ext 440484 email alan.paul@fife.gov.uk