

THE FIFE COUNCIL – MADRAS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT GROUP

28th May, 2009

6.00pm - 7.00pm

PRESENT: Ian Jones, Head Teacher Madras College, , Diane McGhie, Wormit Primary School Parent Council, Jane Pettegree, Canongate Primary School Parent Council, Andy Herd, Head of Community Use, Madras College, Zoe Smith, Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council, Andy Primmer, Madras College Parent Council, Morag Wilson, Non teaching staff representative, Adam Smallwood, Teaching staff representative, Arlene Herzog, Lawhead Primary School Parent Council, Sally Walker, Tayport Community Council, Emily Foster and Annie Philpott, Pupil Representatives

ATTENDING: Councillor Ron Caird, Bruce Kennedy, Lead Officer, Property Services, John Purves, Architect, Property Services, Colin McCredie, Service Manager, Property Services, Ian Nicol, Operations Project Manager, Corporate Asset Management, Jason Judson, Client Agent, Education and Morag Wallace, Partnerships Manager, Corporate Asset Management

APOLOGIES

FOR ABSENCE: John McLaughlin, Education Officer

8. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Ian Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced Emily Foster and Annie Philpott pupil representatives and Jason Judson, Client Agent, Education

9. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 6TH MAY 2009

The Group considered the minute of the Madras Local Development Group held on 28th May 2009

Matters Arising

Item 5 - Andy Primmer asked for an explanation of the score of B for “overall functionality” Morag Wallace agreed to have the score checked and an explanation issued to Andy.

Decision

The Group agreed to approve the minute as a correct record

10. EVALUATION OF SITES

IN gave verbal a report on the evaluation of sites for Madras College. 10 sites in St Andrews had been examined at Kilrymont, South Street, Station Park, University North Haugh, University Lang Lands, University Playing Fields, Pipelands, Craigtoun Road, Strathkinnes High Road and Strathtyrum Estate. Of these 6 sites were judged as failing a fundamental “pass/fail” question. That is, the development would not meet the required school delivery date or the development would not be supported by the broader planning process. As regards South Street there was considerable doubt that a viable transport solution could be found for the 18 buses which would be required to convey pupils to and from school. This is being investigated further. The use of the University playing fields was not supported by the University or Development Services. The group was advised that the Council is in discussion with the University about the Lang Lands site. The Group discussed proposed access arrangements to the Lang Lands site, the potential for joint use of science and sports facilities and the progress of negotiations with the University.

Decision

The Group noted the content of the report.

11. SPECIFIC SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Ian Jones advised the Group that he had been working with the head teacher of Dunfermline

High School and colleagues In Asset and Facilities Management to establish a schedule of accommodation to be used as the basis for the school design. He confirmed that he was happy with the outcome, having achieved the appropriate number of rooms, of a good size, a good mix and flexibility. The accommodation schedule had been adjusted to suit local conditions with Madras having greater drama accommodation.

The Group discussed the road network serving Kilrymont. It was explained that difficulties were caused by the buses blocking the road and it was proposed that this would be ameliorated by bringing the buses on campus. Concern was expressed that the hospital would result in increased traffic and the possibility of extending the hospital access road was raised. The Group was advised that this had been considered but was not practical. A question was asked about the possibility of more buses being required if the Lang Lands site was chosen as pupils who currently walk to Kilrymont would require transport. A suggestion was made that double decker buses be used from Tayport. Ian Jones advised that he understood that the transport contract would be let later this year.

The Group discussed the provision of sports facilities, if the school was built on the Lang Lands site. The Group was advised that the school would have inside sports facilities but that sports fields would be shared with the University with the possibility of sharing other sports facilities. Community access to University facilities was discussed. It was explained that a service level agreement would require to be negotiated with the University and discussions would require to take place on the University's charging policy.

In response to a question about whether or not Lang Lands was the favoured site, it was explained that there were a number of matters which required to be considered including progress with negotiations with the University, the time implications, negotiations with Historic Scotland over the impact on the schools' listed buildings and provision of infrastructure before a decision could be made. The final decision on the site would be made as part of consideration of the business case

In response to a question about whether it would be possible to retain the swimming pool if the Kilrymont site was developed. The Group was advised that the existing condition of the pool and cost of refurbishment were being investigated. At present the schedule of accommodation did not include a swimming pool.

The Group discussed concerns regarding disruption to pupils and teachers during construction if the Kilrymont site was developed. The measures which would be put in place to minimise disruption were explained.

A question was raised about the value of the school sites, whether this was taken into account in the business case and whether any proceeds of sale were ring fenced. It was explained that the values of the sites were included in the business case but that any proceeds of sale were not ring fenced but put into a general pot. The possibility of using the Kilrymont site for social housing was raised.

Decision

The Group noted the content of the report

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 23 June at 6:00pm in Madras College, Kilrymont Road, St Andrews