

Agenda

South Morningside Parent Council Meeting

Monday November 18th 2013 at 7pm in Staff Room

- 7.00 Welcome, attendees and apologies
Review & Approval of Minutes of June 10th meeting (Secretary)
- 7.05 Review of matters arising & actions from last meeting (Secretary)
- 7.10 Report: Chair (paper submitted)
- 7.15 Report: Head Teacher (paper submitted)
- 7.25 Report: Treasurer (paper submitted)
- 7.30 Review of Funding Requests (paper submitted)
- 7.45 Requested Items
- a) Situations vacant/movements (Chair)
 - b) Polling Station review (Chair)
 - c) Access to school for Clubs (Chair/Kerry Simpson)
 - d) Council Budget Update (Howard Kippax/Susan Regnart)
 - e) Recruitment training (Chair)
 - f) Morningside Community Council (Chair)
- 8.20 Standing Agenda items
- a) Accommodation update (paper submitted)
 - b) Fundraising update
 - c) Boroughmuir development update (paper submitted)
- 8:30 AOB
- 8.35 Close

Date of next meetings:

- January 27th 2014
- March 3rd 2014

Supporting Papers

South Morningside Parent Council Meeting

Monday November 18th 2013 at 7pm in Staff Room

1. Draft Minutes of the Parent Council meeting June 10th (Jonathan Mundy)
2. Matters Arising/Action log (Jonathan Mundy)
3. Chair Report (Craig Hilton)
4. Head Teacher Report (Liz Grierson)
5. Treasurer Report (Alison Dalrymple)
6. Funding Requests (Peter Sibson)
7. Summary of PC Groups (Jonathan Mundy)
8. Council Budget Report (Howard Kippax)
9. Accommodation Report (Howard Kippax)
10. Boroughmuir Newsletter (Kate Hillier)

SOUTH MORNINGSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

SOUTH MORNINGSIDE PARENT COUNCIL

Draft minutes of the SMPC Meeting held on Monday June 10th 2013 at 7pm in the Main Hall.

Parent Council Members (22)

Craig Hilton (Chair)	Pam Leslie (MCC)
Jonathan Mundy (Secretary)	Kate Smith
Anna Cuthbert (Accommodation)	Gillian Anderson (Gym Club)
Nasira Bradley (Fundraising & Playground)	Yvonne Moore (staff)*
Liz Grierson (Head Teacher)*	Eileen Maclean (Comms)
Howard Kippax (Accommodation)	Nora Tanner
Ruth Brown (Accommodation)	Elaine Jones
Moray Tait	Kerry Simpson (Finance)
Peter Sibson (Finance Group)	Ken Macnamara
Alison Dalrymple (Treasurer)	Gordon Carruthers (Transport)
Lauren Jack (staff)*	Amy Wilson (Vice Chair)

* non-voting staff members (Trish and Lauren share membership)

Guests (5)

Joanna Loxley (Parent)	Susan Brown (ECC)
Callum Robertson (Parent)	Stephen James (Parent)
Andrea Constable (Parent)	

Apologies received in advance of the meeting (4)

Phil McIntyre	Graeme Drummond
Roksan Hür (Clubs)	Marion Bourbouze (Fundraising)

7.00 Welcome, attendees and apologies - Craig Hilton (Chair) and Jonathan Mundy (Secretary).

7.05 Update on Building Works from Susan Brown (Area Facilities Manager for Edinburgh South and East). A summary of the works now completed and future planned projects was submitted to the meeting by Susan.

- Susan stated that the Council had now done everything possible to alleviate the risk of flooding to the school.
- Feasibility studies are in progress to assess the possibilities of refreshing the existing hatted accommodation. There is no budget for replacement of the huts. Susan Brown

will report back to Liz Grierson (Head Teacher) on the timescale for these feasibility studies.

- The council has a strategic plan for toilets in the Primary School Estate. The Council has been assessing their priorities for toilet provision. Susan Brown was asked to feed back to the PC the exact ratios of toilets to children required in Primary Schools. Mrs Moore commented that there were frequent incidents of leakage from the toilets in the huts causing occasional closures.
- Susan announced that the council intended to spend £20,000 to replace the vinyl flooring on the stairs, which will help refresh the internal condition of the school.
- There will be an upgrade to the electrical capacity of the school. The supply between the school and the pavement will be upgraded over the summer holidays and any street supply upgrade required, thereafter.

7.30 The draft minutes of the Parent Council meeting on 13th May 2013 were approved (18 in favour, 1 abstention). Owing to meeting time pressures, Jonathan Mundy (Secretary) agreed to review the matters arising list & contact individuals regarding any outstanding items.

7.35 Report: Chair

Report Submitted by Craig Hilton to the meeting.

7.45 Report: Head Teacher

- Mrs Grierson has decided to organise next term's P7 classes into two classes of 33 (P7 is now full) and three P6 classes. She is hopeful that there will be no changes to this arrangement before September.
- Mrs Grierson talked about the Self-Evaluation for Standards and Quality Report. The teaching staff rated themselves 4-5 out of 6. The school priorities will be Expressive Arts, Technologies and RME and Mrs Grierson outlined the next steps for SMPS.

7.55 Report: Treasurer

Report submitted by Alison Dalrymple (Treasurer).

8.00 Review of Funding Requests and Issues.

- Susan Brown will now process the remaining payments to clubs outstanding from the building works. All invoices have now been submitted.
- Approval requested for £30 to cover the cost of wine for the internet security talk. Vote taken (18 in favour, 1 abstention).
- A vote was taken on the PC budget for next year, excluding expenditure on the P7 leaving presents (19 in favour). Mrs Grierson will confirm and report to Peter Sibson whether the link with the Malawi Project is now closed.
- Mrs Grierson will report back to Peter Sibson on the proportion of the P7 leaving presents which is currently funded by the parent council.

8.05 Requested Items

a) Funding Requests for 2013/14 – The PC discussion centred on the under-representation of Art, Drama and Music in the school curriculum. Mrs Grierson informed the Parent Council that the Art Specialist was retiring, but she had advertised a two day position for a Music Specialist. The Art cupboard has been reorganised and restocked to assist teachers in the delivery of a school art programme. The PC felt that ICT should no longer be a priority, as the school is expecting an ICT fresh in the summer. No decisions on how to spend PC resources were taken at this meeting. Mrs Grierson will provide costings for line painting in the sports area, nets and the cost of finishing the planters.

b) Summer Fair – The summer fair was very successful. The final profit is yet to be confirmed. It was suggested that a ParentMail should be circulated to inform all parents how much was raised and what it will be spent on. This will hopefully motivate parents to assist with future fund-raising.

c) Sports Day – There was a query about why sports day was held on a Wednesday not a Friday this year. Mrs Grierson said that the notification for Sports Day went out in August. The PE specialist does not work on a Friday and the school has lower staffing levels on Fridays. The extra time available on Wednesday was necessary.

d) Boroughmuir Plans – Craig Hilton had asked Callum Robertson (a parent) if he would attend a meeting on June 4th, on behalf of the Parent Council, on the New Boroughmuir School Project and Design Proposals. Callum reported that there was a generally positive feedback at the meeting. There were a few areas of concern expressed by parents which were mainly about the relationship of private to public space around the school. The boundary details of the dedicated school space, issues around the proximity of the school to surrounding roads, road safety and transport. There was a suggestion that further traffic

studies would be carried out to look at issues including those around the bridge over the canal. Individual comments from parents will need to be submitted by 12th July 2013, as the planning application will be submitted shortly thereafter.

8.25 Review of issues arising from other supporting papers.

Attention was drawn to the accommodation report and the transport report submitted to the meeting. Gordon Carruthers is conducting a transport survey for the school.

8.30 AOB

There was a query about a possible gardening club for the school and who would be responsible for maintaining the greenhouse.

8.35 Close

The Date of the AGM – to be confirmed (September)

The Date of Next Meeting – to be confirmed (October)

Supporting Documents Supplied in Meeting Pack

- 1) Draft Minutes of the Parent Council meeting held on 13th March 2013
- 2) Matters Arising/Action log (Jonathan Mundy)
- 3) Chair Report (Craig Hilton)
- 4) Head Teacher Report (Liz Grierson)
- 5) Treasurer Report (Alison Dalrymple)
- 6) Funding requests (Peter Sibson)
- 7) Accommodation Report (Yvonne Sibson)
- 8) Fundraising Update (Elaine Jones)
- 8) Transport Report (Gordon Carruthers)
- 9) Playground Update (Marion Bourbouze)
- 10) Communications Update (Jonathan Mundy)

SMPC**Matters Arising/Action Log to be reviewed on November 18th 2013****OPEN MATTERS**

Reference	Date Raised	Issue	Owner	Status
#02/13	Jan 28th 2013	SMPC Email Addresses	Jonathan Mundy	Update provided in Nov 18th pack
#04/13	May 13th 2013	Clubs coordinator understudy	Roksan Hur	Volunteers to come forward
#06/13	May 13th 2013	Input into Configuration of school day	Karen Richmond	Establishing parent group
#07/13	May 13th 2013	PVG Scheme	Graeme Drummond	Confirm final issues
#08/13	May 13th 2013	Social Media Policy & moderation	Jonathan Mundy	Confirm policy/arrangements

CLOSED MATTERS

Reference	Date Raised	Issue	Owner	Last Status Before closure	Closed
#02/12	June 11th 2012	Accommodation Issues	Sub-group	Update provided Jan 28th 2013	Jan 28th 2013
#04/12	Nov 19th 2012	Neighbourhood Group meeting	Roksan Hur	Chair to attend meetings	Jan 28th 2013
#05/12	Nov 19th 2012	Clubs profitability issue	Roksan Hur	Action completed by Roksan	Jan 28th 2013
#06/12	Nov 19th 2012	Craighouse Development response	Howard Kippax	Activities during December	Jan 28th 2013
#07/12	Nov 19th 2012	Fundraising targets	Peter Sibson	To be reviewed at March 4th meeting	March 4th 2013
#01/13	Jan 28th 2013	200 Club	Jonathan Mundy	Review of distribution/updates	March 4th 2013
#01/12	June 11th 2012	M&S Uniforms	Craig Hilton	More information sought from Clan House	May 13th 2013
#03/12	Oct 1st 2012	Payments for Clubs	Peter Sibson	Matter discussed and resolved	May 13th 2013
#03/13	March 4th 2013	PE Improved Provision Proposal	Craig Hilton	Matter agreed	May 13th 2013
#05/13	May 13th 2013	Parent Survey	Craig Hilton	Survey issued to full Parent Forum	May 13th 2013

South Morningside Parent Council

Chairman's Report – November 2013

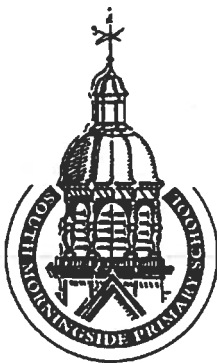
Membership

11 members left at the AGM and whilst they are unlikely to be reading this, I'd like to express the thanks of the Parent Council for all their efforts. I'm also pleased to report that 8 new members joined us.

An informal meeting was held with the new members (plus some existing PC members) and it was great to see the new ideas, suggestions and approaches which come from an influx of "fresh blood".

The issue with access and clubs continues to be the most pressing matter for the PC. The school will undergo an audit early in 2014 and unless the situation is resolved there is a real chance that we will have to stop running clubs. Thank you to Kerry Simpson for progressing this issue and thanks to Kate Hillier for assisting more generally with the clubs.

The other items on the agenda demonstrate that this is a busy time for us and the range and variety of activities the PC are involved in. One specific area I think we should address is that of our spending priorities. The fundraising group (and wider volunteers) do a fantastic job of raising funds to improve the school experience for our children and I think we should frame this with a clearly articulated view of what our spending priorities are. One suggestion from a new PC member took this further and asked why we wouldn't actually set ourselves targets for the improvements we wish to see in the next school year. A step too far?



Head teacher Report to Parent Council

14 November, 13

Staffing:

Interviews will take place next week for two permanent teachers.

I have permission to advertise these posts as two temporary posts have become vacant.

The temporary nature of the team teacher posts has resulted in a great deal of unsettled staffing, as teachers apply for and leave to take up permanent positions.

Notionally these temporary team teacher posts will be the NQT posts from now on.

We still have a number of temporary positions covering maternity leave.

Staffing then may change as teachers return in the course of this session.

Depute Head teacher interviews will also take place next week.

This is the DHT 1, formerly Mrs Crawford's post, i.e. the DHT with responsibility for deputising for the HT.

I propose to advertise for a Principal teacher later in the session, rather than another DHT.

The saving will go some way towards meeting the 12.5% cut to management time implemented over the last few years and the ongoing efficiency savings from school budgets.

After School Clubs:

I have now met with Mr Hilton and more recently with Mrs Simpson. We seem to have identified a way forward to improve security and protocols for all After School clubs.

I believe that this is to be discussed at our next meeting.

The role of the head teacher and school staff in relation to After School Clubs is to ensure the safety and security of all children and adults within the building. We are also responsible for ensuring that school property is secure.

I should point out that The After School Club licence is dependent on them being able to demonstrate that their children are safe and that there is no unchecked access by adults.

The current situation therefore needs to be reviewed, security tightened and access checked.

PC Funding/ Teaching staff views

- Teachers voted to continue with individual class allocations.
- Teachers agreed with ICT being supported annually. (Maintenance of new laptops is £5K/ annum).
- The Library is thought to be well stocked presently, indeed we would need to clear out books to make space for any more.
- Teachers requested funding allocation this year to top up sets of novels, etc. to cover wear and tear.
- Lighting for Nativity has been paid for over past few years. Can this be added to annual allocations?

Supporting Inclusion in Wider Achievement

We request that the PC fund a place for a term at an After School Club for children identified by school staff.

Leadership Group

We had a very successful meeting auditing our current RME curriculum against the expectations of a Curriculum for Excellence. Effective learning and teaching approaches were discussed. Our next meeting will look at progression in children expressing their values and views.

Scottish Education Directorate Visit

We will be hosting a visit by 5 Directors of Education on Weds 4 December. These guests will speak with staff and children and visit a number of classes.

Class Organisation for August 2014

We have enrolled 101 catchment area children for P1 in August 14. The number of deferrals is yet to be confirmed.

Mrs Grierson
Head teacher

SOUTH MORNINGSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL SMPC
Treasurer Report 11/11/13

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Profit/(loss)</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Cash bal at start of yr	32,206.74		32,206.74	
Events				
200 Club	1,180.00	116.00	1,064.00	
Christmas Cards	5,155.00	35.14	5,119.86	
Fashion Show	-	-	-	
Ceillidh	-	250.00	(250.00)	
Hallowe'en Party	375.00	197.21	177.79	
Car Boot Sale	-	-	-	
Summer Fair	-	-	-	
Quiz Night	-	-	-	
Winter Festival	-	-	-	
SUB TOTAL EVENTS	6,710.00	598.35	6,111.65	
Clubs				
Guitar	840.00	300.00	540.00	
Ballroom Dancing	-	-	-	
Basketball	-	-	-	
Brazilian Football	1,299.00	870.00	429.00	
Chess	1,490.00	120.00	1,370.00	
Chanter & Drumming	3,432.00	1,600.00	1,832.00	
Drumming	-	-	-	
Pipe Band	-	-	-	
French	1,787.00	1,787.00	-	
Gym	1,802.00	-	1,802.00	
Judo	1,620.00	825.00	795.00	
Recorder	792.00	792.00	-	
Ski-ing	5,628.00	4,270.40	1,357.60	
Stage	4,620.00	112.00	4,508.00	
Snowboarding	672.00	-	672.00	
SUB TOTAL CLUBS	23,982.00	10,876.40	13,305.60	
Sundry Income	303.99	-	303.99	
Payments				
Library Books - approved Jun 13		107.91	(107.91)	
Ski Races		284.00	(284.00)	
Teacher's Allocation-approved Jun13		2,595.00	(2,595.00)	
P1 Curriculum/AGM wine-app'd Jun 13		263.90	(263.90)	
SMPC website/Annual Maint- app'd Jun13		12.41	(12.41)	
Other General Expenditure		96.00	(96.00)	
SUB TOTAL PROJECT EXP	-	3,359.22	(3,359.22)	
2013-2014 NET INCOME/(EXP)	30,995.99	14,633.97	16,362.02	-
CURRENT BANK BALANCE	63,202.73	14,633.97	48,568.76	
		<i>Control</i>	-	48,568.76
Available to spend				-3,000.00
Less floats 'fund' re fairs				
Less committed:				
Ring Fenced for playground improvements			-£4,410.27	Summer Fair ringfencing
Clubs Surplus - note that any surplus as at 30 June becomes available for general use			-£13,305.60	
Ski Club-Term 1 coaching fees			-£5,500.00	
Xmas Card Expenses			-£4,000.00	
200 Club Winners			-£464.00	
			-£27,679.87	
				£17,888.89
Uncommitted funds				
Approved Payments o/s:				
Science Week			-£3,000.00	Approved Jun 13
Arts and Crafts Supplies			-£750.00	Approved Jun 13
Scottish Opera			-£350.00	Approved Jun 13
Library Books			-£892.09	Approved Jun 13
Parentmail			-£300.00	Approved Jun 13
Drama Workshops			-£1,000.00	Approved Jun 13
P3 Football Set Up Grant			-£250.00	Approved Jun 13
SMPC Website Annual Maintenance			-£87.59	Approved Jun 13
Budget for ICT Refresh - approved Jun 12			-£1,276.19	Approved Jun 12
Budget Increase for ICT Refresh - approved Mar 13			-£2,275.00	Approved Mar 13
Science Budget - approved Mar 13			-£440.32	Approved Mar 13
Playground Consultant - approved May 13			-£250.00	Approved May 13
Budget other PC Expenditure				
				-£10,871.19
Unallocated funds				£7,017.70

Notes

200 Club set to raise £600 this year, almost double last year,
Halloween party made a profit of £178

Alison Dairyple
Treasurer

Finance Group Report to 18 November 2013 SMPC

1. Requests requiring approval

None received.

2. Requests requiring more information

N/A.

3. Budget for the year

The Fundraising group usually plan a number of fund raising events that the PC hopes will raise £15,000. We expect the clubs to run at breakeven and should expect all costs already approved to be spent.

In June we have agreed ongoing expenditure of about £10,000¹, this is already included in the Treasurer's report.

Assuming fundraising continues at previous levels the PC should have £21,000 available to spend this year and £15,000 per year thereafter. **The PC needs to agree what it sees as its priorities for funding over the next few years on this basis.**

We attempted to do this in June but a PC meeting did not prove long enough with so many other things on the agenda. As a way forward can I suggest **the Finance sub-group, and anyone else who wants to, meets and proposes a list of items with amounts for the PC to vote on at the next meeting.** These could include the school's improvement priorities for this year of Expressive Arts, Technologies and RME, together with ongoing ICT costs and the playground Improvement.

Peter Sibson on behalf of the finance sub-group

¹ Post meeting Mrs Grierson confirmed that the link with the Malawi Project is now closed. In previous years the PC has paid £4 per pupil, half the cost of the P7 yearbook, this was not approved in June.

	BUDGET	ACTUAL
bank balance at start of year	32,000	32,000
Committed to spend		
playground improvements ring fence	5,000	5,000
ski invoice for summer 2013	4,500	4,300
iPads March 2013	3,500	3,500
2013/14 budget items		
Ongoing expenditure agreed June 2013*	10,000	10,000
	-23,000	-22,800
projected income 2013/14		
Winter Festival – December	5,000	
Christmas Cards - December	1,000	1,000
Fashion Show – April	1,500	
Summer Fair – June	5,000	
Clan house commission	1,000	
sundry	1,500	
	15,000	1,000
retained floats	-3,000	-3,000
Potential available to spend	21,000	7,200

Ongoing expenditure agreed June 2013*

Science Week	3,000
Teachers Allocation £4 per child	2,500
Library Books	1,000
Drama Workshops	1,000
Arts & Crafts Supplies	750
Scottish Opera	350
Parent Mail	300
P3 Football Set Up Grant	250
SMPC Website Annual Maintenance	100
AGM Wine	100
Introduction to P1 Parents Wine	100
	9,450

SOUTH MORNINGSIDE PARENT COUNCIL STRUCTURE 2013/2014

OFFICE BEARERS

Chair
 Secretary
 Treasurer

Craig Hilton
 Jonathan Mundy
 Alison Dalrymple

chair@sm-pc.org
secretary@sm-pc.org
treasurer@sm-pc.org

GROUPS/SUB-GROUPS

1 Accommodation	accomm@sm-pc.org **	Howard Kippax Yvonne Sibson Katherine McAlpine Kousha Efessami Sharon Kennedy Wagner Georgina McLellan	Head of Group/PC member Parent Parent Parent Parent Parent
2 Clubs	clubs@sm-pc.org **	Roksan Hur	Convenor/PC Member
3 Fundraising	fundraising@sm-pc.org	Fiona Kippax Elaine Jones Marion Bourbouze	Head of Group/Parent PC member/Parent PC member/Parent
4 Finance	finance@sm-pc.org	Peter Sibson Morag Laird Kerry Simpson Katherine McAlpine Morag MacDonald	Head of Group/PC member Parent PC member/Parent Parent Teacher/PC member
5 Playground	playground@sm-pc.org	Karen Richmond Fiona Kippax Linda Dawson Marion Bourbouze Gary Henney Philippa Ivison Blue Sky Photography Macdonald41	Depute Head Teacher Parent Parent & Architect PC member/Parent Parent Parent Parent Parent
6 Communications	comms@sm-pc.org **	Jonathan Mundy Craig Hilton Eileen Maclean Oily Headey Stella Sinclair	Secretary/Parent Chair/Parent PC member/Parent Parent PC member/Parent
7 Transport	transport@sm-pc.org **	Gordon Carruthers Michelle Clark	Parent Parent
8 Morningside Community Council		Noelle O'Doherty	PC member/Parent

** Email group to be created

Council Budget Update

Susan Regnart and I attended the Council's consultation evening on the draft budget for the Children and Families department. In attendance was Gillian Tee, the Director of Children and Families(C&F) and Paul Godzik, the convenor of C&F committee and a number of other council officials and councillors. The invitees were representatives of other Parent Councils.

The council officials gave a brief presentation on why the cuts are required followed a short Q&A. There was also a group brainstorming session aimed at highlighting ideas that the event attendees think as appropriate for potential cost savings.

The speakers were not able to give an insight as to how the cuts would affect individual schools and said to speak to school management for a clearer understanding. Cuts look to include support staff, librarians and an increase in the maximum size of p1 classes to 20.

There is a lot of information available online about the budget, which can be accessed at <http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/budget>. We can look for Mrs Grierson guidance for what it means for our school and whether the Parent Council should be making a response.

In the Q&A session there were a number of queries about the head teacher of small schools being required to have some teaching time, and there was vocal opposition to librarian cuts.

Another side point was that the survey on condition of the whole school estate will be presented to the council next month. I got the impression that money will be made available for upgrading the worst/most in need sites.

Howard Kippax
Nov 12th

A Parent Mail was sent out last month with the summary of the parent survey on accommodation issues. We have alerted Paul Godzik that we would like to present the data to him, and preferably to the full Children and Families committee.

We look for the parent council to agree the broad outline of the proposed communication as described below.

The purpose is to use the survey as additional leverage in highlighting the issues facing the school. The message will encompass several points.

Firstly, parents believe the school is overcrowded. The most common (92%) solution offered by parents to the problems of overcrowding at SMPS is additional school in South Edinburgh.

Although a long list of councillors have acknowledged it is necessary, it has yet to become a firm commitment. This has to be the consistent core messages from the PC, despite it not being of benefit to our children. We need to push for an explicit commitment that a new school is written into council plans.

Other than a new school, parents suggested a catchment review to allow us to become a two stream school and possibly manage to get all kids on site and/or stop accepting out of catchment children. (The second point could well become reality given the ongoing high roles for new P1 intakes).

Secondly, the conditions and suitability of the huts and use of the annexe were raised. We propose requesting the council replace the two huts with one double story unit which is fit for purpose. This will free up valuable playground space and does not increase the capacity of the school.

We are currently gathering additional information to support the survey. Our school's management has collated the school's statistics on injuries. The basis of reporting has regularly changed over the past 3 years making historic comparison difficult. I have made an FOI for information on playground injuries in Edinburgh to see if there any useful comparative statistics across the city. Parents are concerned by the number of playground injuries and we think this will be related to the overcrowding in the school.

I have also sought the last risk assessment for the annexe.

One issue on which I have had a response is food at the annexe. The council policy is to offer school meals to all. Where circumstances prevent the provision of the full menu i.e. equipment failure, a packed lunch option will be provided. However the school cannot offer hot meals to children at the annexe. We think this is unacceptable but need to liaise with school management on the most appropriate course of action.

Other points

The council's survey of the condition of its school estate, which is expected to detail the costs required to improve the accommodation to an appropriate standard, will be presented to the Children & Families committee at their meeting in December. Having recently spoken to committee convenor Paul Godzik I got no impression of any imminent new capital spending decisions.

The council is reviewing its policies on how it collects money (section 75) from property developers.

HAK

New Boroughmuir High School

Project Update: November 2013



Updated impression of the school's main entrance from the canal bridge on Viewforth
© 2013 Allan Murray Architects

For more information

Consultation Update Meeting
Boroughmuir High School (Atrium), Viewforth
Tuesday, 12 November at 7.00pm

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/newBoroughmuirSchool

Welcome to the latest issue of the new Boroughmuir High School newsletter. Our last issue highlighted the design consultation process which ran in early summer.

Thank you to everyone who took time to come along to the various events and to send in comments about our initial proposals. All the points you raised were considered as the designs developed.

Over the last few months specialist engineers and consultants have been working with us to refine the designs and ensure the new building can truly provide the teaching and learning environment the school requires both internally and externally.

We can now give you a brief overview of the main issues raised and outline how our final proposals address them.

The Public Park and the School

A lot of questions were asked about the relationship between the new public park, the school grounds and security. The security of the school and safety of pupils during the school day is a high priority. There will be a clear distinction and defined boundary between the school site and the public park.

The school will manage their space in different ways at different times. Although the school will be open from 7am to 10pm on weekdays this does not mean that the whole school site will be open to all users at all times.

It is likely that pupils will arrive at three entrances – the main entrance by the canal, from Dundee Street or from the school grounds to the west. After 9am all the doors will be locked, apart from the main entrance. Visitors will only be able to enter/leave the school via reception.

The linear park will be 0.3ha which is the same size as that which was to have been provided by the student housing development and is much bigger than the old park at Gibson Terrace which was only 0.13ha.

It is being provided for the amenity of all local residents and the Head Teacher is very proud of the way the pupils conduct themselves and expects them to respect their new surroundings and help to look after them.

Work is ongoing to develop the landscaping both within the school and the park and these proposals will continue to be developed as the school plans progress.

Viewforth Crossing

Many people stated that the route down Viewforth, particularly the crossing across the bridge, needed to be greatly improved. This had already been recognised by the school and design team as an area to be developed.

It became apparent in discussions that even if a separate pedestrian bridge was built some young people would still be tempted to cross the road using the existing bridge. Therefore we have agreed that our application to Planning will include proposals to:

- narrow the road over the bridge;
- widen pavements on both sides; and
- install new traffic lights on either side of the bridge.

This new arrangement will calm traffic as vehicles will only cross the bridge in one direction at a time. Having undertaken a traffic impact assessment of the proposal we are confident that changes on the bridge will not adversely affect traffic flow or lead to large delays or congestion in the area.

The flow of traffic both up and down the road will be controlled and the area will be safer for all pedestrians, not just school children.

Cycle routes

We are engaging with our Safe Routes to School Team to ensure safe and adequate cycle access is provided to the site. This is also being considered as part of the transportation study for the area.

Traffic calming

We were also queried about the potential to calm traffic down the length of Viewforth from Bruntfield Place. This is now being considered as part of a transport study regarding pupil movements. We will keep you informed of any proposals for this.

A traffic consultant has been appointed to review transport impact and any road safety measures. Their report will be submitted as part of the planning application.

School Parking

Due to the small site size our priority has been to maximise the amount of outdoor space available for the park and the school playground.

We have agreed with the school that they do need some parking on site to operate on a daily basis but that as much outdoor space as possible should be available for pupils.

Two disabled parking bays will be provided on site along with a maximum of seven further operational parking spaces. We are continuing to explore the options for further school parking which will be provided off site.

Demolition works

Some works are already underway to prepare the site for construction works. This includes plans to demolish some of the old buildings on the Dundee Street part of the site and this is likely to happen in January.

Project Timescales

The planning application is due to be submitted later this month and we anticipate a decision before Easter 2014.

The project is on schedule and our aim is to appoint a contractor that would allow construction work to start on site next summer, with the new school due to open in August 2016.

Contact

If you have any queries about this newsletter please send them by e-mail to: newschoolbuildings@edinburgh.gov.uk or telephone Catherine on 0131 469 3161, who will find the best person to respond.