

Moray Council

Rezoning Forres ASG Primary School Consultation

Comments / Enquiries Received

**22 August 2016
30 September 2016**

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Please note that content within is unedited (except for the removal of personal data)

Correspondence

Subject: Changes to zones for Alves Primary

Received: 20 September 2016

Subject: Changes to zones for Alves primary *

I'm writing with regard to the proposed changes to school zoning for Alves. My three children are currently at Alves primary and we live in Alves but we are building a new house near Califer. The map on the council website seems to show the boundary line going right through our plot. I'm very concerned that we are going to be just out of the zone which will affect us hugely as we won't get transport for the kids if this is the case. I wonder if there is a fine detailed map showing the exact placement of the line?

* It was confirmed that the site in question would lie with the proposed Alves catchment area

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12 Sept 2016

Your Ref: Rezoning Forres ASG Primary Schools

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I note from your recently issued consultation paper the Moray Council propose to vary the zones (catchment areas) of Alves, Anderson's, Applegrove, Kinloss and Pilmuir Primary Schools based on geographical areas.

We live in an area, shown bounded in red on the attached map that is to the north of the A96, to the west of the Mosset Burn and to the east of the River Findhorn. This area currently falls within the catchment for Anderson's Primary but it is proposed that it be rezoned to the Kinloss Primary catchment.

Although we fully appreciate the desire to evenly balance school pupil numbers we do not believe this change is necessary, and also believe it will be detrimental to the children from this area by restricting opportunities available to them.

Noted below are the points we would ask be considered before a final decision on catchment changes is reached.

1. The area in question contains 22No houses. From information provided at the public consultation in Forres Academy, this equates to 7No children of primary school age. Currently children from 9No of these houses, 3No children, are able to walk or cycle to Andersons Primary safely as they are within 2 miles of the school and the houses have a footpath that extends from house to school. If the area was rezoned to Kinloss Primary none of the children from the 22No houses would be able to walk or cycle to school safely. As I'm sure you know the objective of Active Schools in Moray is to get 'more children, more active, more often'. Removing the option of walking or cycling to school safely would seem at odds with this objective.
2. The 75% increase in transport costs, as 7No children require transport instead of 4No, would put an even greater strain on the Moray Council budgets.
3. At present children can take part in after school activities in Forres and then walk or cycle home after they are finished. If the children have to take school transport to Kinloss they will need to leave when the transport is provided, at the end of the school day, and therefore miss the opportunity to take part in these activities. Again this is contrary to the aims of Active Schools.

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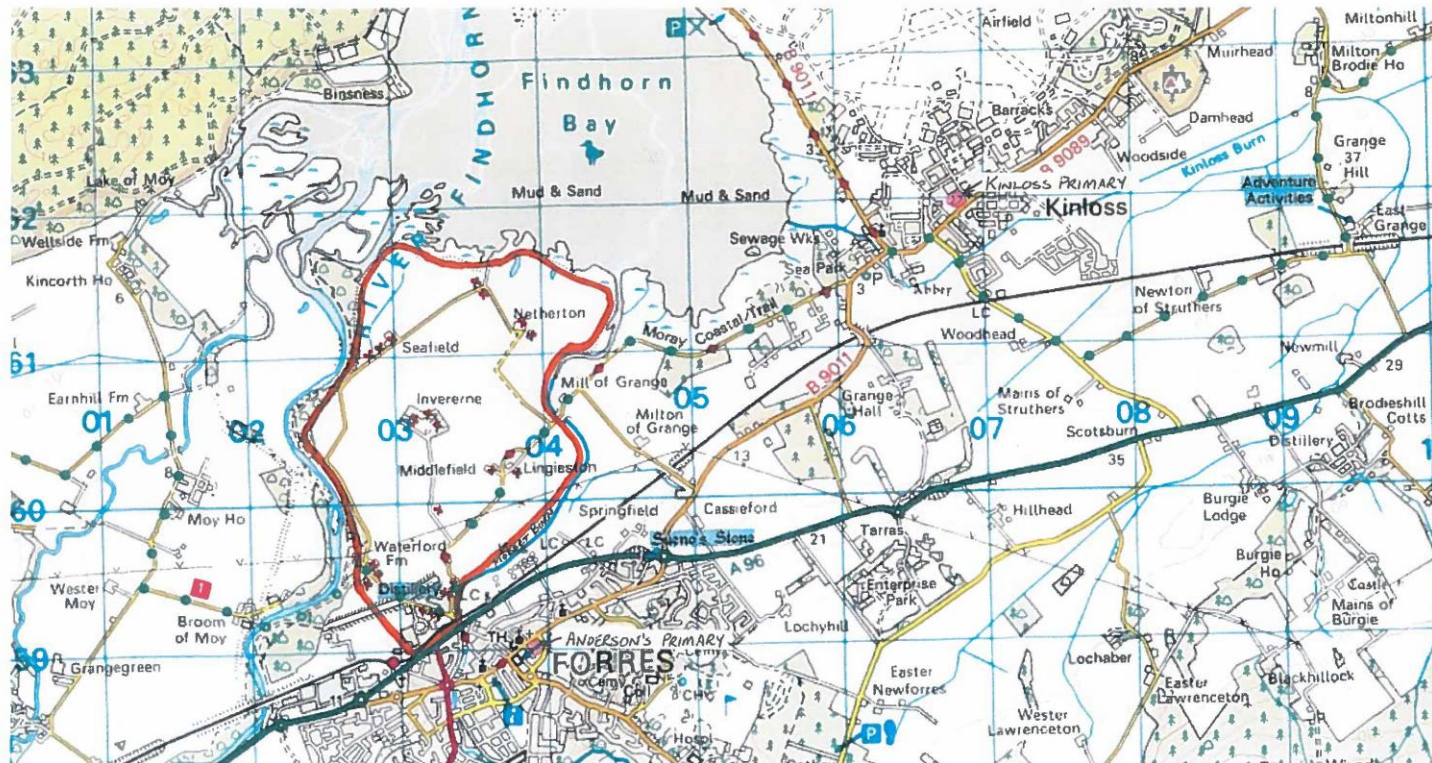
4. As Kinloss is a smaller school, and Kinloss is a smaller town than Forres, there are fewer after school activities available. Therefore, even if a child's parent could arrange some alternative pick up arrangement, there are fewer activities available for the child to take part in. Again this is contrary to the aims of Active Schools.

If you wish to discuss any of these points further please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely, 



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Social Media

No correspondence received

Survey Monkey Comments

- Why not take this opportunity to reduce the number of schools. I'm sure Forres could cope with one less primary.
- Looking at the current and future numbers of Dallas, Logie and Alves I can't see how it cost effective to keep these 3 schools open. Dallas could go to Andersons or Elgin. Logie to Pilmuir or Applegrove, and Alves to split between Kinloss and Elgin. I think the council need to take the decision, I know parents will object but it not cost effective or best interest of the council which is already stretched and strapped for cash. Yes people won't move into these areas to put child to the local county school, but it not the councils responsibility to keep the community alive at the cost of thousands a year.
- Rezoning could secure a steady roll, which would mean that a better management structure in the school would exist. The school has a mixed catchment area with a number of families with complex needs; this impacts on the duties of the HT and it can be time consuming but clearly essential work.
- Concerned that current huts are old and are in a poor state; removed would affect our capacity.
- Primary 7 pupils thought this was a good idea. Chance to meet more pupils/make more friends. More people involved with school (to help). May need walls in the open plan bit to make it quieter if a lot more pupils or bigger classes. May mean composites. More money for resources. Staffing - more for outside. Janitor more to tidy. May need a bigger hall. HT might get help of PHT (like in my old school) to help keep everyone happy and doing what they have to do.
- Staff all agree it could benefit the school. Securing a steady roll may enable the school to have a DHT and principal teacher. Many feel parents will make their own choices along traditional lines. Concerns about accommodation - esp Huts which are getting to the end of their life. Concerns that if roll increases could be much more crowded and difficult in open plan areas. When classes were much bigger it was more challenging. One class area would be difficult to teach in as it is a route through to Hall and Library. Currently used by ASN teacher for small groups / computers. Discussion was held at a meeting and in conversation main issues about need to invest in infrastructure.
- All those present agreed for the following reasons and raised aspects which they though needs consideration. Rezoning will potentially secure the future of the school. Roll due to drop from 2020 so this may keep it steady, which could

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secure a more robust management structure. Overall a good thing and agree - but concerns that class sizes will increase and suitability of accommodation needs

- It was felt the building needs to be fit for a 21 century school - may need spending on buildings especially Huts which P6 and P7 are taught in. Families still have a choice and may not choose Pilmuir.

Stakeholder Responses

The Moray Council Planning and Development department

I support the principles behind the proposals, however would suggest the following two amendments;

- That the employment land sites identified within the Moray Local Development Plan 2015 at I1 to I8 be included within the Forres primary school catchment areas.
- That the area to the east of Forres, north of the A96 (Cassieford), running to the east as far as the roundabout at the Enterprise Park, Forres be included within the Forres primary school catchment areas. This is likely to be the much longer term growth area for Forres and may be a good location for a new primary school, subject to capacity in existing primaries.

The current review of the Defence Estate may have an impact upon the school rolls within Kinloss and Forres and it may be prudent to plan for a further catchment review in the medium term.

Pilmuir Primary School

Pilmuir primary school head teacher undertook consultation meetings with the following stakeholders:

- Primary 7 pupils
- Staff
- Friends of Pilmuir / Parent Council

All Pilmuir primary school stakeholders were happy with the proposals that affected their school. Comments / suggestions were submitted via the online survey.

Alves Primary School

Alves primary school head teacher undertook consultation meetings with the following stakeholders:

- Parent Council 15.09.16
- Staff 14.09.16
- Support Staff 29.09.16
- Primary 5/6/7 pupils 29.09.16

Extract from Parent Council minute:

JMcL advised that comments regarding the rezoning consultation document had to be returned to Scottish Government by 30.09.16. JMcL explained the current issues

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regarding boundaries and zoning and that there were 2 consultations regarding this including a consultation on Forres ASG boundaries and a consultation on Secondary School zoning changes. JMcl advised the group that we could respond as individual parents or as a group from the APPC. It was agreed by the group that it made sense for Alves School to change the catchment area. Agreed jointly to say yes to the changes proposed for Alves, Kinloss and Andersons. A joint response was completed during the meeting and given to JMcl for submission. JMcl reported Alves currently have 49 pupils from within their zone and 13 pupils (26.9%) from out of zone. JMcl has brought this to the attention of P5, 6 and 7s, teacher helpers. DJ to put on Facebook and link to Moray Council website re consultation process.

Extract from Staff meeting minutes:

Rezoning consultations – HT went over the ASG catchments and the proposed rezoning. Staff agreed to submit a group feedback. Teachers attending – 5.
Support Staff – Agreed to submit a group response. Support Staff attending – 4.

Pupils consultation:

Summary of issues – The rezoning of the catchment areas was discussed with 21 pupils from the Primary 5/6/7 class. The pupils were excited about the prospect of the catchment area increasing to bring more pupils to the school. The concerns / questions the pupils were asking revolved around transportation and if it changed any area of the current catchment area. The response was that the catchment area would increase and not affect any pupils in the current catchment area. Some of the pupils living just outside the catchment area in both proposed sections would be entitled to the bus. The Public Transport Unit will sort out bus arrangements. Pupils were happy with the response and agreed to complete a group response.

- I Agree with the proposals to vary the catchment area of Alves Primary School as detailed: 37 responses
 - I Agree with the proposals to vary the catchment area of Andersons Primary School as detailed: 37 responses
 - I Agree with the proposals to vary the catchment area of Applegrove Primary School as detailed: 30 responses
 - I Agree with the proposals to vary the catchment area of Kinloss Primary School as detailed: 37 responses
 - I Agree with the proposals to vary the catchment area of Pilmuir Primary School as detailed: 30 responses
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Anderson's Primary School

Anderson's primary school head teacher undertook consultation meetings with the following stakeholders:

- Pupils 22.09.16
- Staff 07.09.16

Pupil consultation responses:

Pupil Council consultation with classes – questions answered – no objections raised.

- Less people might come to Andersons and the school might close down.
- Not being able to start school with older siblings.
- There are less pupils than before.
- Not enough P1s might not come in the future.

Extract from Staff meeting minutes:

Staff were asked if they wished to add anything to the consultation regarding the proposals for rezoning schools within the Forres ASG.

Parent Council

The Parent Council responded via the online survey.

Applegrove Primary School

Applegrove primary school head teacher undertook consultation meetings with the following stakeholders:

- Pupils
- Staff

54 children were asked. These ranged in age from P4 to P7 including reps from committees (School Council, JRSO, Health and Eco) as it was felt there were elements of rezoning which would affect them all.

Of the 54 children, 36 agreed with the rezoning and 18 disagreed. Some needed reassurance they would not have to move to another school.

The head teacher held two consultations with staff on Friday 16th September. Twelve support staff (PSAs, Classroom Assistants and the janitor) attended the first. Their general view was that if parents could still make parental requests the zoning didn't matter. There was also a feeling that Applegrove's Enhanced Provision would negate the zoning lines anyway. They did not feel it would affect their jobs in any way.

The head teacher held the teachers' consultation later in the day, giving them time out of class. The same comments tended to come up. One teacher believed Anderson's should be made P1 – 3 and Applegrove P4 – 7 or vice versa.

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No one asked any further questions. This tended to raise more about the fact the majority (of staff) believe Logie should be closed than any issue over rezoning Forres.

Parent Council meeting held 29.08.16

Notes can be found via the Public Meeting report (ref 230-16813).

Kinloss Primary School

Kinloss primary school head teacher undertook consultation meetings with the following stakeholders:

- Pupils 25.08.16
- Staff 29.08.16
- Parent Council 29.08.16

There were no concerns or comments raised.