

# **Moray Council**

## **Elgin Primary School Rezoning Consultation**

### **Public Meetings**

**13 April – 29 May 2015**



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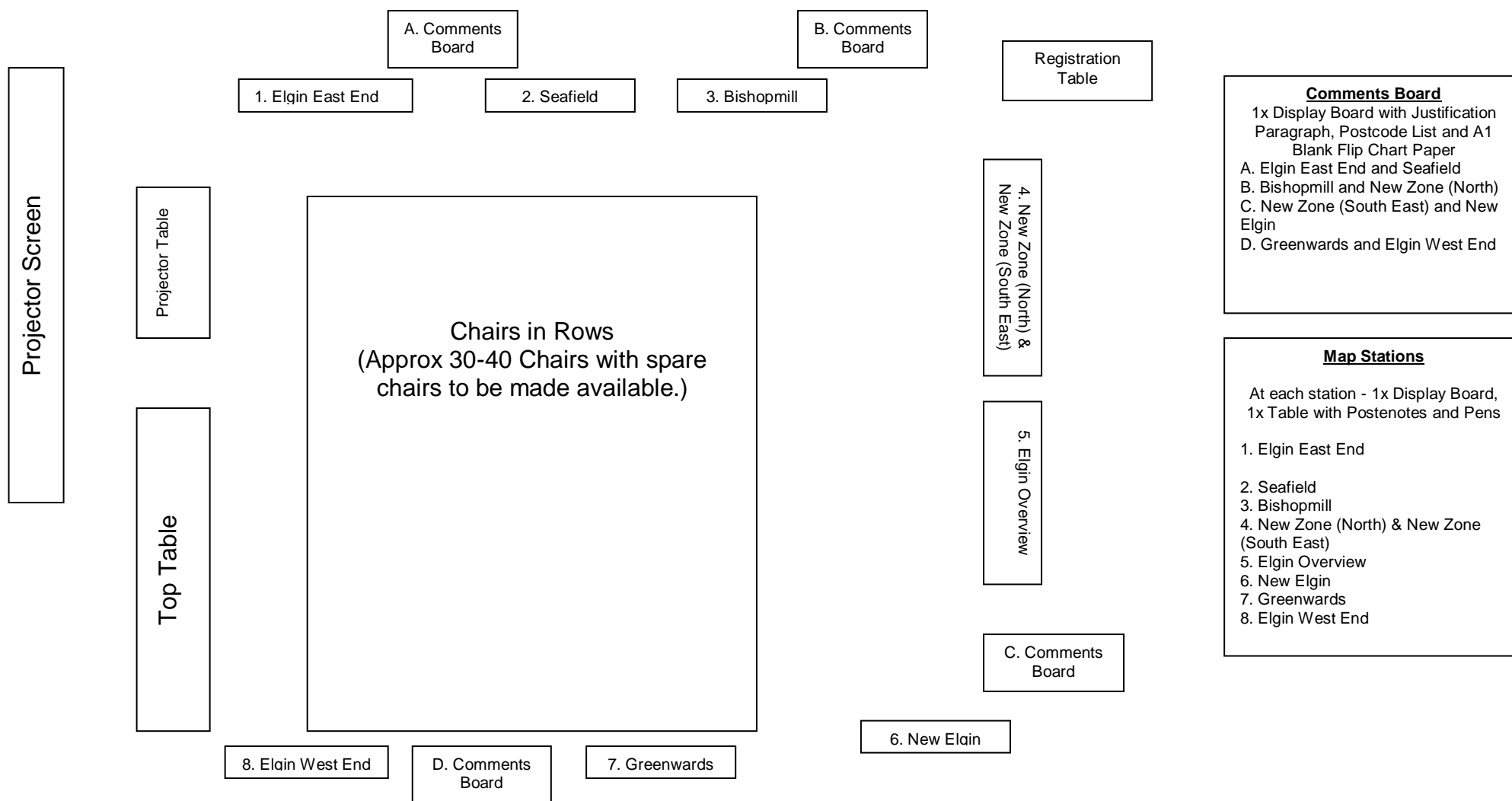
## Introduction

This report is a collation of notes taken from the Public Meetings on the Elgin Primary School Rezoning Consultation.

## Facilitators Briefing

### Venues:

Date	Venue	Display Boards	Set Up Time	Proposed Start & Finish Time	Officer Availability
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2015	Bishopmill Primary School	4.30pm DLO to Collect from HQ delivered to venue at 6.00pm. DLO to collect again from venue 9.30pm	6.00pm	7.00pm - 8.30pm	Graham Jarvis Paul Watson Alison Hannan Sylvia Jamieson
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2015	New Elgin & Ashgrove Hall	4.30pm DLO to Collect from HQ delivered to venue at 6.00pm. DLO collect again from venue 9.30pm	6.00pm	7.00pm - 8.30pm	Graham Jarvis Paul Watson Alison Hannan Dawn Brodie
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2015	Elgin Town Hall (Main Hall)	11.30pm DLO to Collect from HQ delivered to venue at 12noon. DLO collect again from venue 9.30pm. To return to HQ 9.30am Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April.	12.00noon	2.00pm-3.30pm	Graham Jarvis Paul Watson Alison Hannan Dawn Brodie
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2015	Elgin Town Hall (Main Hall)		6.00pm	7.00pm-8.30pm	Graham Jarvis Paul Watson Alison Hannan Sylvia Jamieson



**Venues:** Bishopmill Primary School – Sports Hall, New Elgin and Ashgrove Public Hall and Elgin Town Hall.  
**Equipment:** Display Boards and Projector Screen to be delivered by DLO Team. CSU Dictaphone, Lap Top, Projector, Screen to be used at all venues (apart from Town Hall no requirement for Screen). CSU Lap Top, Projector and Dictaphone to stay with Community Support Officer.  
**PA:** Bishopmill PS has only one radio mic. New Elgin and Ashgrove Public Hall has no PA equipment CSU Team to take PA equipment as a backup if required. Town Hall has several microphones.

## **Resources:**

12x Display Boards (Delivered by DLO Transportation)	The various stations around the hall will consist of 2 large scale maps one of the current zone and one of the proposed new zone: 1. Elgin East End 2. Seafield 3. Bishopmill 4. New Zone (North) & New Zone (South East) 5. Elgin Overview 6. New Elgin 7. Greenwards 8. Elgin West End In addition there will be a further 4 display boards to receive comments on the proposed zones.
Sound/PA	Dictaphone – to record question and answer session. Microphone – to be passed around the hall by one of the facilitators.
Laptop/Projector/Memory Stick	To be available for presentation.
1 x Flip Chart	To display large scale evaluation form for attendees to tick as they depart from meeting.
Clipboards	1x to sign in/register attendees 1x for facilitators to take notes of meeting.
Post it notes/Pens and Paper	Post it notes to be available at each station along with pens and paper. Post it notes to be stuck around the maps on the display boards.
Ballot Box (Homemade one)	For hard copy Response Proformas to be returned on the day.
25x Consultation Packs	Hard copies of the consultation packs to be available for distribution on the day.
50x Response Proformas	Hard copies of the Response Proformas to be available for distribution on the day.
In Tray	To receive hand written generic questions requesting a response either directly to the individual or to be published on the webpage.

### **Agenda for Evening Session:**

7.00pm	<b>Doors Open –</b>
7.00-7.20pm	<b>Sign In and Register</b> – Attendees sign in with one of the facilitators. The second facilitator explains the set up of the hall for attendees to walk around and view the maps. The attendees have approximately 20mins to look at display boards of each zone area and opportunity to write notes/comments at each station.
7.20pm	<b>Welcome</b> – Facilitator welcomes the attendees and explains any Health and Safety points, informs tape recording of the question and answer section. Hands over to Graham Jarvis and Paul Watson.
7.20pm	<b>Presentation</b> - PowerPoint Presentation from Education and Social Care.
7.40pm	<b>Question and Answer Time</b> – Microphone facilitated by CSU Team and notes taken of question and answer time. Dictaphone used during this session.
8.15pm-8.30pm	<b>Wrap Up</b> - Final opportunity for attendees to look at display boards and make comments. Evaluation Form displayed on flip Chart to be completed as attendees walk out of the building.
8.30pm	<b>Close</b>

### **Agenda for Afternoon Session:**

2.00pm	<b>Doors Open –</b>
2.00-2.20pm	<b>Sign In and Register</b> – Attendees sign in with one of the facilitators. The second facilitator explains the set up of the hall for attendees to walk around and view the maps. The attendees have approximately 20mins to look at display boards of each zone area and opportunity to write notes/comments at each station.
2.20pm	<b>Welcome</b> – Facilitator welcomes the attendees and explains any Health and Safety points, informs tape recording of the question and answer section. Hands over to Graham Jarvis and Paul Watson.
2.20pm	<b>Presentation</b> - PowerPoint Presentation from Education and Social Care
2.40pm	<b>Question and Answer Time</b> – Microphone facilitated by CSU Team and notes taken of question and answer time. Dictaphone used during this session.
3.15pm-3.30pm	<b>Wrap Up</b> - Final opportunity for attendees to look at display boards and make comments. Evaluation Form displayed on flip Chart to be completed as attendees walk out of the building.
3.30pm	<b>Close</b>

## **Welcome Note from Lead Facilitator:**

### **1. Introduction of Names**

My name is Alison Hannan. Sylvia Jamieson/Dawn Brodie and myself are from The Moray Council's Community Support Unit. The Community Support Unit is supporting Education and Social Care with the Elgin Primary School Rezoning Public Consultation. This afternoon/evening we have Graham Jarvis – Head of Lifelong Learning, Culture and Sport and Paul Watson the Lead Officer for the consultation. I will shortly be handing over to them to take us through the next part of this public meeting.

### **2. Housekeeping Information**

Before I hand over please can I take you through a couple of housekeeping points, there are no fire alarms planned this afternoon/evening. Therefore in the event of a fire alarm please make your way through the nearest fire exist and assemble..... Toilets are available ..... should you require them. If you have mobile phones we would be grateful if you could turn them onto silent.

### **3. Overview of Agenda for the Meeting**

We will shortly be having an approximate 20 minute presentation from Paul Watson followed by a 20 minute Question and Answer Time. During the Question and Answer Time Sylvia/Dawn and myself will be passing a microphone around for people to ask questions, please can you indicate to one of us that you want to ask a question. Before you ask your question you are welcome to inform the meeting who you are or representing if you wish to do so. If there are members of the press present they may wish to speak to you after the meeting. Press questions to Paul or Graham will be dealt with at the end of the session.

### **4. Note of Recording**

Please also note this section of the meeting will be recorded to aid officers writing up the notes from this meeting. Identity of who raised a comment/question from all the planned consultation events will not be published.

A summary of the main comments/questions raised this afternoon/evening will be published shortly after this meeting on the webpage dedicated to this consultation. The link for the dedicated webpage is found on the Moray Council website and details of this will be available at the end of the presentation.

After the Question and Answer session there will be a further opportunity to walk around the hall and view the maps and make hand written comments. During this time both Graham and Paul will be available to answer any questions you prefer to raise directly with them.

### **5. Evaluation**

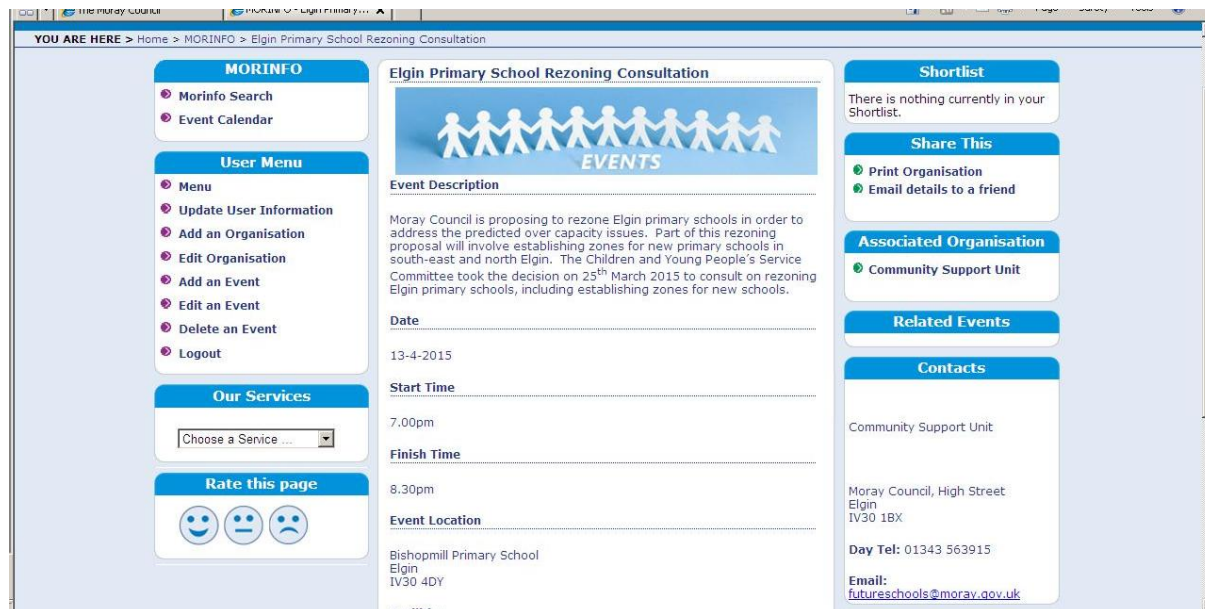
Before you leave the building there is an evaluation form which we would appreciate for you to comment, there are also copies of the consultation pack and blank response proformas which you can take away. There is also a ballot box to hand in completed response proformas. Listed within the consultation pack are the various locations across Elgin where you can return hard copies of the response proforma's or alternatively there is the on-line response forms available on the webpage link. I will now pass over to Graham and Paul.



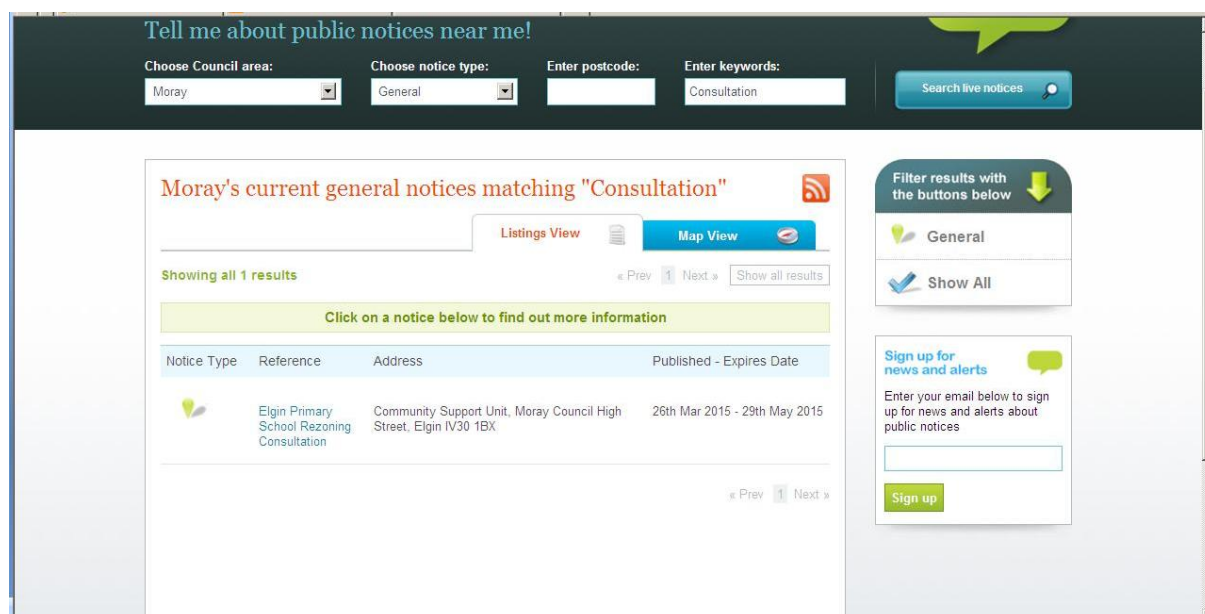
## Promotion

The Public Meetings were advertised on the Moray Council internet page as per examples below:


- The Moray Council, More Info Events internet page



- Tell me Scotland internet page





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## Elgin Primary School Rezoning Consultation

### The Moray Council




[Print this page](#)

Community Support Unit,  
Moray Council High Street,  
Elgin  
IV30 1BX

Moray Council is proposing to rezone Elgin primary schools in order to address the predicted over capacity issues. Part of this rezoning proposal will involve establishing zones for new primary schools in south-east and north Elgin. The Children and Young People's Service Committee took the decision on the 25th March 2015 to consult on rezoning Elgin primary schools, including establishing zones for new schools.

A period of statutory consultation commences on 13th April 2015 and ends at 5.00pm on 29th May 2015 (32 School Days)

**Public Meeting dates** have been scheduled as follows:

Monday 13th April - 7pm - Bishopmill Primary School, Elgin, IV30 4DY  
Thursday 16th April - 7pm - New Elgin & Ashgrove Hall, Elgin, IV30 6BL  
Monday 27th April - 2pm - Elgin Town Hall, Elgin, IV30 1UL  
Monday 27th April - 7pm - Elgin Town Hall, Elgin, IV30 1UL

For further information is available as of the 13th April by visiting [www.moray.gov.uk/rezoning](http://www.moray.gov.uk/rezoning)  
[Please follow this link for more information](#)

The Consultation was advertised on the Moray Council web page as follows:

Information Management

Local Information

Roadworks, Closures and Restrictions

About Moray and Tourism

Flood Management

Local Holidays


Webcasting

The webcast for the Economic Development and Infrastructure Services Committee will be available for viewing on 7 April 2015 at 9.30am.

Webcasting

Search for a Minute, Agenda or Report

MORINFO



MORINFO is your community information database. Find

Current Consultations



School Rezoning Consultation

Housing Support Services Draft Policy

Taxi Fare Review 2015 - Notice of Consultation

More

Our Partners

Your Moray


NHS Grampian

Police Scotland

Scottish Fire and Rescue

Find My Nearest

Spotlight




General Election 2015

Universal Credit

Scottish Welfare Fund

Welfare Reform

Welfare MAP



Changes to the Welfare System could affect you. The Welfare MAP will guide you to local help and information.


Welfare MAP

Job Vacancies

Find a Job with the Council

Teaching and Supply Teacher Vacancies

Rate this page



- Facebook post (*individual meetings*)

This screenshot shows a Facebook post from Moray Council, posted by Local government [?] on 14 April. The post text is: "Elgin Primary School Rezoning Consultation Public Meeting at New Elgin & Ashgrove Hall Thurs 16th April start 7pm #ElginRezone All welcome". It indicates that 3,352 people reached the post and that the boost is unavailable. The post has 14 shares and a comment from a user named [REDACTED] dated 14 April at 19:24. The comment text is partially obscured but appears to say "I have been on".

**Moray Council**  
Posted by Local government [?] · 14 April · 🌐

Elgin Primary School Rezoning Consultation Public Meeting at New Elgin & Ashgrove Hall Thurs 16th April start 7pm #ElginRezone All welcome

3,352 people reached Boost Unavailable

Like · Comment · Share

👍 [REDACTED] and 2 others like this.

🔄 14 shares

👤 [REDACTED]  
Like · Reply · 14 April at 19:24

Write a comment...

This screenshot shows a Facebook post from Moray Council dated 16 April. The post text is: "Elgin Primary School Rezoning Public Meeting at New Elgin & Ashgrove Hall tonight, Thurs 16th April start 7pm #ElginRezone All welcome". It indicates that 366 people reached the post and that the boost is unavailable. The post has 1 like from a user named [REDACTED]. A comment from Moray Council, Kelly Hale, is visible, dated 20 April at 09:31, stating "Commented on by Local government [?]".

**Moray Council**  
16 April · 🌐

Elgin Primary School Rezoning Public Meeting at New Elgin & Ashgrove Hall tonight, Thurs 16th April start 7pm #ElginRezone All welcome

366 people reached Boost Unavailable

Like · Comment · Share

👍 [REDACTED] likes this.

**Moray Council** Kelly Hale  
Like · Reply · Commented on by Local government [?] · 20 April at 09:31

Write a comment...

**Moray Council**

21 April · 🌐

Elgin Primary School Rezoning Public Meeting at Elgin Town Hall on Monday 27th April at 2pm and again at 7pm #ElginRezone All welcome

540 people reached

Boost Unavailable

Like · Comment · Share

  and  like this.

 1 share

   
Like · Reply · 22 April at 08:08

 Write a comment... 

**Moray Council**

Posted by Local government [?] · 21 April · 🌐

Elgin Primary School Rezoning Public Meeting at Elgin Town Hall on Monday 27th April at 2pm and again at 7pm #ElginRezone All welcome

1,373 people reached

Boost Unavailable

Like · Comment · Share

  likes this.

 1 share

   
Like · Reply · 21 April at 11:37

  Ta, I'll try not to forget this time!! Least there are 2 times, I should manage to remember one of them!!  
Like · Reply · 21 April at 20:07


 Write a comment...  

- Twitter posts (*individual meetings*)

**The Moray Council**   
@TheMorayCouncil



Elgin Primary School Rezoning  
Consultation Public Meeting at New Elgin &  
Ashgrove Hall Thurs 16th April start 7pm  
[#ElginRezone](#) All welcome

12:20 PM - 14 Apr 2015




**Trends**  
[#MemorialDay](#) [#SaalEkShuruaatAnek](#) [#houstonflood](#) [Charter Communications](#)  
[#CharityTuesday](#) [Chuka Umunna](#) [#ChooseDay](#) [Teesta](#) [Delhi Assembly](#) [Liverpool](#)

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**The Moray Council**   
@TheMorayCouncil

Elgin Primary School Rezoning Public  
Meeting at New Elgin & Ashgrove Hall  
tonight, Thurs 16th April start 7pm  
[#ElginRezone](#) All welcome

8:49 AM - 16 Apr 2015



**Trends**  
[#MemorialDay](#) [#SaalEkShuruaatAnek](#) [#houstonflood](#) [Charter Communications](#)  
[#CharityTuesday](#) [Chuka Umunna](#) [#ChooseDay](#) [Teesta](#) [Delhi Assembly](#) [Liverpool](#)

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## Bishopmill Primary School (13<sup>th</sup> April 2015)

### In attendance:

Graham Jarvis (Head of Lifelong Learning, Culture & Sport)  
Paul Watson (Senior Education Adviser for Schools Consultations)  
Alison Hannan (Community Support Officer)  
Sylvia Jamieson (Community Support Officer)

### Elected Members In Attendance:

Cllr Kirsty Reid (Scottish National Party)  
Cllr Mike Shand (Scottish National Party)  
Cllr Patsy Gowans (Scottish National Party)  
Cllr John Divers (Scottish Labour Party)

### Number of Community Representatives In Attendance:

Number	Interest
2	Press
7	Parent
1	School

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Community Support Unit Officer Alison Hannan welcomed all to the meeting and provided introductions of the staff in attendance and a brief introduction to the meeting.

Graham Jarvis and Paul Watson carried out a presentation on the Elgin Primary School Rezoning proposal. A question and answer session followed the presentation.



## Questions & Answer Session

<b>Q</b>	<p>You have mentioned that Bishopmill primary school already has 50% of pupils from out with the zone area and moving the zone to the proposed area will not solve that problem. Therefore how do you make sure that this school will not become full, especially as if the school currently has capacity out of zone pupils will still be accepted; but what happens if people move into the zone and the school then becomes full?</p> <p>Is something going to be done to cap the number of out of zone pupils at each school?</p>
<b>A</b>	<p>Directors have the authority to reserve places for in-zone pupils; if it becomes clear that there is significant pressures within a zone at an early stage; spaces can be reserved. (PW)</p> <p>Legally, under current legislation if places are available at a school (e.g. the school is not full) then pupils must be provided with a space within that school. (GJ)</p>
<b>Q</b>	<p>It seems like you can draw the lines where you like, but the bottom line is people can still go where they want and the Moray Council is wasting a lot of time on a consultation and meetings to move the lines, when the placing system in Scotland is the way it is.</p> <p>In Elgin people are crossing major traffic areas because they want to attend a particular school. Is there not scope to be more accurate and say there are schools available near your address, rather than people travelling and increasing the major traffic issues in the area?</p>
<b>A</b>	<p>Childcare is a significant issue; attending a school close to where the childminder lives is a significant issue. (PW)</p> <p>Inward place requests to attend Bishopmill last year comprised of 104 Seafeld catchments, 27 East End catchments, Alves, Hopeman, Burghead and Greenwards, Mosstowie, Lhanbryde, Keith, New Elgin, Portgordon, catchments. It is difficult with the current legislation to reserve too many places. (GJ)</p>
<b>Q</b>	<p>There is the issue, that to ensure their children attend the school of their choosing, people will use grandparents addresses e.g. family lives in Buckie but used the grandparent address to ensure the child could attend New Elgin Primary School. Is there a way to stop this from happening in the future as that will have huge pressures on the schools?</p>
<b>A</b>	<p>We can look into that. If an address is provided which is in the zone of the chosen school and the name of the addressee and the child are the same; it would be difficult to investigate if this is the child's actual home address.</p> <p>We do take a cursory look over, but every year there is approx 1000 pupils starting primary 1 so it is very difficult to look at every address. (GJ)</p>



<b>Q</b>	Have a child starting school next year and another starting in 2018 and at the moment it does not look like she will be able to attend Bishopmill and we live in the catchment area. The new school is approx 2021 in Elgin North. When a child starts nursery they are asked to fill in a form which includes the preferred primary school but the nurseries have not been told, therefore a lot of parents do not know about the consultation or the problems the schools are having with capacity numbers.
<b>A</b>	<p>All nurseries and pre-school partner providers have been informed of the consultation and asked to advise parents. Catchment zone children have the priority as the places are reserved in advance. (GJ)</p> <p>The capacity problems have been published widely, especially regarding New Elgin and the consultation has come about because people have come back to us with questions regarding the various published information. (GJ)</p>
<b>Q</b>	Do the projections include historic placing requests? Therefore 50% of those requests will be historic requests and these requests will no longer be granted? (Cllr Reid)
<b>A</b>	<p>Yes. It could in the future occur that only 20% requests are actually granted. The 80% places would be for in-zone places only. Therefore catchment areas would have priority. (PW)</p> <p>We could get to the situation in Bishopmill were there are no out of zone places being accepted at all in Primary 1 as they will be filled by in-zone pupils only. Officers in Moray Council look at in-zone placements, they look at in-zone placements and then what is left, look at out of zone. (GJ)</p>
<b>Q</b>	In-zone trumps even if you have a child in school already. (Cllr Reid)
<b>A</b>	Yes in-zone children will trump out of zone children even if they have siblings at that chosen school. In-zone children must be given priority. (GJ)
<b>Q</b>	<p>Projected rolls until the new building is opened, Bishopmill primary will be increasing do we have enough capacity to take all these pupils or can we stop placing requests? Class sizes increasing and pressure on teachers is concerning. Will the standards of teaching and learning become a problem if the class sizes increase further?</p> <p>Standards should not suffer. Can you cap out of zone at any time?</p> <p>Present class size of 30, less attention than class of 25, particularly Primary 1. I personally struggle with class sizes increasing as quickly and the teacher cannot provide each child with the same amount of contact.</p>
<b>A</b>	<p>Standard of teaching and learning should not suffer. In terms of the out of zone pupils being placed at Bishopmill, yes these will be limited, if the in-zone pupil numbers increases. (PW)</p> <p>The Moray Council is complying with the law regarding the class sizes. (PW)</p> <p>When the number of pupils on the roll changes there is an impact on the number of teachers allocated to that school. (GJ)</p>

<b>Q</b>	Will the Council be able to recruit for the new schools?
<b>A</b>	<p>Moray is struggling for teachers but not within the town of Elgin. There is more promoted staff support for teaching staff in larger schools. Elgin is not an issue; problem is in schools where head teachers are also teachers and do not have the same capacity as dedicated non-teaching head teachers. (GJ)</p> <p>Trends tend to suggest bigger schools and bigger towns attract more applicants. (PW)</p> <p>We will continue to proactively recruit teachers until all our positions are filled. (GJ)</p>
<b>Q</b>	Looking at the projected roles at the moment; you said that a new school would not be built until approx 2018. Are there going to be any provisions put in place to alleviate some of the pressures on the schools in the meantime until those schools are built?
<b>A</b>	<p>Some are happening already including the increased class sizes in primary 2 and 3. The functional capacity shown in the presentation is at September 2014 and these will all increase in the next year when the class sizes increase. For example some schools may be able to take 20 extra pupils next year due to the class size increases. (PW)</p> <p>It also depends on the makeup of the classes; the more single stage classes on the timetable, the less pressure on the school; as legally it must be 25 pupils maximum in a composite class but it can be up to 33 in a single upper stage class. (PW)</p> <p>Different proposals for different school sites as to what we can do. For example, at the New Elgin site there is no possible way we can add in more accommodation on this site (e.g. six huts), as there is no space and the current traffic problems. Whereas at East End we could reconfigure the current space to allow us to add further space on this campus, which we may want to consider at a future date to allow us to add more pupils. Other schools such as Seafield and Bishopmill have a lot of ground space and if it was pushed, it would be possible to add temporary accommodation.</p> <p>This is a decision for Elected Members as to what happens within the school estates. (GJ)</p>
<b>Q</b>	Current projections shown in the presentation, does that take into consideration the new catchments as well?
<b>A</b>	That is the old one.

<b>Q</b>	That is my concern, as it sounds great having the change of catchments, but if there is not going to be a new school for two years at best, what is going to happen in the meantime?
<b>A</b>	<p>If all the figures are put together, we are very close to accommodating all the children in Elgin as it stands currently with the alterations at New Elgin and East End. It may be that the children may not end up going to the first choice school as per the parents' request. We currently have space at Greenwards and Seafield. (GJ)</p> <p>We do not want to move children out to other areas such as Rothes and Hopeman; which is also an option. (GJ)</p>
<b>Q</b>	Has there been a particular reason in the delay for the new school proposal, especially taking into account the recent increase in developments in the New Elgin area?
<b>A</b>	<p>There were previous proposals for a new school in current developed zone; south of New Elgin in the Master Plan at the time. There was previously a location recognised for a primary school in New Elgin South and the developers pushed that we were accommodating all the pupils already so a new school was not required. (GJ)</p> <p>It was recognised by the Council and Elected Members of the increased development and the growing numbers and that a new school would be required and this was the reason for extending the capacity of Elgin High School. There is no reason to think of why a new school would not be required. (GJ)</p>
<b>Q</b>	When you take into account that you have to take into consideration what the school is going to look like, the layout and the location. The timescale you have given us and the length of time it will take; I just can't think based on the proposals that have been there for the development of Elgin. I can't help but think why has there not been a proposal for a new school before now?
<b>A</b>	<p>At the present time, we have no idea on the rate the developer will build the houses; if we knew the developers would build at a rate of 50 houses per annum over the next 20 years there would not be the same pressure on our schools.</p> <p>Up until 2011 Moray Council did not do its own roll projections (bought in prior to this from Aberdeenshire Council as a legacy of Grampian Region). New buildings appear not to have been factored in properly and projections were well below the actual builds. Roll projections are now carried out in-house and using local knowledge. (PW)</p> <p>1500 houses at 0.3 children per house would equal a school. But when developers only sell a small number of houses and there are only a small number of children living in these houses; how do you factor this in?</p> <p>There is some responsibility on developers of those houses to pay something towards the infrastructure costs of that school that the Council have to provide. Therefore do we ask the developers to contribute to the £10 million towards the costs of a 400 pupil new school? We need to work out who pays for the school. (GJ)</p>

<b>Q</b>	Potentially the school considered for the North may never actually be built? How are we going to accommodate all these children? We already cannot feed all children at the same time, dining hall bursting at the seams, it is eating into school time e.g. primary 1 to 3 free meals and the Primary 6 to 7 are getting poorer quality of meals as they are waiting so long.
<b>A</b>	These are external factors; we have no control over free meals being introduced and for example the increase in preschool childcare. These factors are great but we do have a physical capacity problem. (GJ)
<b>Q</b>	It is not as simple as saying there is land available at these sites to accommodate the physical extensions that are required.
<b>A</b>	When looking at school design it is easy to cram on six classrooms but not general purpose areas, kitchens and core facilities to cope with bigger numbers. Therefore the issue is not just how do we accommodate another 180 kids but how do we accommodate the core facilities e.g. the dining hall. (GJ)
<b>Q</b>	If it is agreed in December that a new school is required will the school actually be built?
<b>A</b>	If these proposals are agreed by Elected Members we have a zone identified for the North of Elgin for establishing a school at some point in the future. We then have to carry out further statutory consultations to establish a location of where to build. This is the very first step of the consultation process. (PW)
<b>Q</b>	You mentioned earlier that there was a proposed site across in New Elgin previously but then due to developers reaching an agreement and that location was turned into houses rather than a school; is that likely to happen again if developers stand up and state they will only build so many houses at one point.
<b>A</b>	<p>The proposed developments that appear the Elgin South Master Plan says three thousand houses in New Elgin which is the same size as Lossiemouth which has two big primary schools and a secondary. There is no hope that we can accommodate in existing premises that number of pupils. (GJ)</p> <p>When the decision was made ten years ago the birth rate had not begun to rise. (PW)</p> <p>That decision was made approx 12 years ago; the figures for New Elgin for the present day at that time were 350 pupils and New Elgin is now at 511 pupils. These figures shows how far out the projected figures were and the proposed school (at the time) would not have been able to accommodate the current number of pupils. (Cllr Divers)</p> <p>At that time this current exercise was not carried out; whereas today we have identified the zone which will produce enough children to fill a school in the areas. Cannot foresee anyone saying a new school is not required. (GJ)</p>
<b>Q</b>	Are there any proposals for preschool?
<b>A</b>	The first choice would be to build a primary with a preschool; therefore there would be the transition between preschool and primary school. The plans for the redesigning of Seafield campus show the preschool becomes part of the primary school. (GJ)

<b>Q</b>	It is based on what you said earlier about out of catchment areas, more people are choosing these areas because of childminders. If there were more childcare provision there would be less need for childminders.
<b>A</b>	The Council do not provide wraparound childcare, it only provides nursery childcare. The Council would be encouraged when building a new primary that a nursery is built along side. (GJ)
<b>Q</b>	There is a huge strain on childcare especially in the Bishopmill area, for example I live in Lossie Road but my child had to go to the Ark which is a very difficult journey when you do not drive.
<b>A</b>	The childcare is difficult as the Council provide education and not necessarily childcare, and for those parents who are working and require 8am until 6pm childcare it is difficult. The Moray Council is able to offer every three to four year old preschool for up to approx 15 hours per week free. This may not be in the parents' first choice of location but there is a good record. (GJ)
<b>Q</b>	The locations of childcare offered are not always logical and the travelling time can be unrealistic for some parents. If there was provision available within the catchment areas it would make a huge difference.
<b>A</b>	There is a nursery at Seafield and there is VIP Childcare at Elgin Community Centre which is a 'not for profit' social enterprise.
<b>Q</b>	Will the Secondary schools be able to cope or will you have to rezone the associated primary schools for each secondary?
<b>A</b>	<p>Almost certainly have to look at secondary school zones across Moray but there should be capacity. You would think that currently primary school pupils would be zoned exclusive to a secondary school when in fact some schools are not as they are actually split zones; therefore this does need a tidying up exercise but also the impact on the rezoning of Elgin itself will result in further consultation and consideration. (PW)</p> <p>Elgin High School role will be 1000 pupils; therefore we are creating capacity at the school; dual zoning needs sorting. (GJ)</p> <p>Elgin High School was 150 pupils out in projections 10-12 years ago. (Cllr Divers)</p> <p>If you have better proposals (these are just starting points) please tell us. (PW)</p>
<b>Q</b>	1500 houses and 450 pupils does not make sense.
<b>A</b>	The factors used in projections are based on census data. Similar roll projection methodology is used across Scotland. (PW)
<b>Q</b>	Has planning gone through yet?
<b>A</b>	<p>Councillors are willing to listen to developers who wish to develop on that site in New Elgin.</p> <p>Development Plan sitting at Scottish Government.</p> <p>Market and other factors.</p> <p>Not a planning permission.</p> <p>There is only a site available for development at present. There is no planning permission for any houses.</p>

<b>Q</b>	Elgin South Master Plan has two private nurseries (and Forres). (Cllr)
<b>A</b>	Fochabers private childcare on campus and another voluntary provider is on campus. Wraparound childcare is very difficult; Moray Council does not want to get too involved in this. Other options are voluntary organisations, private, social enterprises, Moray Council provision (unlikely). (GJ)
<b>Q</b>	Is South zone further ahead than North?
<b>A</b>	Already houses there, can project better reasonably accurate figures. (PW)
<b>Q</b>	Will Elgin North get to the same stage?
<b>A</b>	This is a political decision; we can prove the need in formal planning but need to find the money.
<b>Q</b>	2019 figures; 103 pupils does this include new houses?
<b>A</b>	Figures are not claimed to be 100% accurate, purely for illustrative purposes; could be worse, unlikely. (PW)
<b>Q</b>	Once a trigger number of houses are built, a school then has to be built?
<b>A</b>	Can be built into the planning permission. Elgin South Plan this happened nurseries etc. (Cllr)
<b>Q</b>	School didn't happen, concerned this will happen again.
<b>A</b>	Hard lesson learned; Aberdeenshire Council projections used at the time. (Cllr)  Factoring in the number of house builds into role projections In reality a much smaller number of houses projected ten years ago compared with actual houses built. Nothing wrong with methodology. (PW)
<b>Q</b>	When a development proposed percentage of social housing? Look at figures for social housing, more overcrowding.
<b>A</b>	Based on national averages.

Alison Hannan concluded the meeting by thanking those in attendance for coming along and participating.

#### **Questions / Comments Received in ballot box**

No questions / comments received

#### **Questions / Comments Received from regarding the zones**

No questions / comments received

## New Elgin & Ashgrove Hall (16th April 2015)

### In attendance:

Graham Jarvis (Head of Lifelong Learning, Culture & Sport)  
Paul Watson (Senior Education Adviser for Schools Consultations)  
Alison Hannan (Community Support Unit Officer)

Sally Stewart (Education Scotland)

### Elected Members In Attendance:

Cllr Kirsty Reid (Scottish National Party)  
Cllr Mike Shand (Scottish National Party)  
Cllr Graham Leadbitter (Scottish National Party)  
Cllr John Divers (Scottish Labour Party)

### Number of Community Representatives In Attendance:

Number	Interest
27	Members of the public

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Community Support Unit Officer Alison Hannan welcomed all to the meeting and provided introductions of the staff in attendance and a brief introduction to the meeting.

Graham Jarvis and Paul Watson carried out a presentation on the Elgin Primary School Rezoning proposal. A question and answer time followed the presentation.

### Questions & Answer Session

<b>Q</b>	We have concerns for parents who already have pupils within a school and the potential that they may have to drop off and pick up pupils at two different schools.  New Elgin functional capacity is 531 and in 2016 it will be 63 pupils over and in 2018 it will be 134 pupils over; what is the plans for before the school is built?
<b>A</b>	There are a number of issues for this, for example we cannot expand the school estate of New Elgin, it is just not possible. The projected figures do include an element of out of zone placements. This year at New Elgin primary, the Council has refused all out of zone placing requests. That should affect that figure for next year. As yet we do not have a definitive answer of what we are going to do; what we can say is that looking at the numbers we do have enough capacity if all the schools in Elgin are taken into account, but not necessarily in the zoned school or the first choice of school. (GJ)

<b>Q</b>	Why are we in this crisis situation?
<b>A</b>	We are in this crisis due to a lack of investment, innovation and creativity in the management of the school estate in previous years. The last time the Elgin school zones were looked at was in 1977 when Greenwards was built. (GJ)
<b>Q</b>	Once of the major sources of stress at the moment for a parent is that siblings are not being granted placements at the same schools. Research has shown that this is severely disruptive to children and I am wondering how that fits in with 'getting it right for every child'?
<b>A</b>	How we accommodate siblings at the same school; if they are in-zone resident that is not a problem as we have not turned down any in-zone pupils at present. Where they are out of zone placing requests, we are at the stage in New Elgin (and almost at Bishopmill) where there is not the capacity / physical space to accommodate any out of zone pupils. Accepting one out of zone placing request is not a guarantee that future siblings will be accepted.
<b>Q</b>	So this is due to physical space reasons rather than sound education reasons?
<b>A</b>	One trumps the other; if we do not have the physical space this would ultimately impact on the sound education. (GJ)
<b>Q</b>	In the transition phase will sibling placements still be considered?
<b>A</b>	We will look to revise the Admissions policy to reflect the impact of rezoning.
<b>Q</b>	What happens if you are in-zone at the minute with a child at school and the other child starts the next year, do you change them to a different school?  We are currently zoned for New Elgin but next year due to the proposals I would be zoned for Greenwards. Does this mean I would have children at two different schools? At the minute I am doing everything right, the children go to the catchment nursery and then the catchment primary but next year my catchment changes. I have not chosen this; you are choosing this for me.
<b>A</b>	That is the reality of the situation. We will try to mitigate against any potential negative impacts. (PW)
<b>Q</b>	I think you should honour the current zones.
<b>A</b>	As far that it is possible, the Council would try to place pupils in the chosen schools. The reality is that we have inherited a situation from lack of investment for a number of years and the fact zones have not been looked at and we are where we are now. Every child will hope to be placed in the most suitable school. We are obviously restricted by the physical space. (PW)
<b>Q</b>	You have spoken about portacabins and how this cannot be considered at New Elgin due to traffic safety issues etc, but that would accommodate siblings and you would not have increased traffic as it would be the same person dropping off more than one child.
<b>A</b>	If we tried to accommodate more at New Elgin it would mean building on top of current playground space. (GJ)
<b>Q</b>	I personally as a parent would rather give up a small amount of land to help accommodate more pupils.



<b>A</b>	<p>We are not convinced that planning permission would be granted. (PW)</p> <p>This is however an option that can be noted and considered. (GJ)</p> <p>All of this does depend on what the final decision is regarding these proposals. All comments and suggestions are welcome and will be taken into consideration. (PW)</p>
<b>Q</b>	<p>I am currently in the catchment for New Elgin and will remain so based on these proposals. You mentioned in your presentation, that due to roll pressures you were considering capping roll numbers. The new development area in New Elgin is growing and development is continuing, what happens if in-zone pupils reach the capped roll numbers; will you start to turn away in-zone pupils?</p>
<b>A</b>	<p>This is a possibility. (GJ)</p>
<b>Q</b>	<p>Child safety has been mentioned; that at Bishopmill primary for safety reasons you would not want children crossing the Elgin to Lossiemouth road to go to school. You also mentioned East End and the A96 crossing; my worry is that Thornhill Road is going to be the link road once that is complete; you have not mentioned that children may have to cross this road to get to New Elgin primary school in the future. Why is this not included?</p>
<b>A</b>	<p>That is a very good point and will need to be looked at; the difficulty will be in the size of schools that will need to be created. An original plan for a new school zone was showing the new school as far too big and New Elgin would have been too small; which would have taken us from one extreme to another. However if there is any way to create a zone that avoids that, then it would be taken into consideration. (PW)</p> <p>The preferred site for the new school would be on the south side of Thornhill Road. No sites have been identified as yet but this would be the preferred site. Therefore for your particular circumstance a new school would be in the estate where you live and would not have to cross over the link road. (GJ)</p>
<b>Q</b>	<p>Will there be a point where the Council can say 'stop building the houses'? Should it not stop until the education estate issues have been rectified and to allow us to accommodate the children we currently have in Elgin?</p>
<b>A</b>	<p>That is certainly a question for the Elected Members. The decision to allow house building and the increase in population of the area is because the Council wants to; the Council wants to bring prosperity to the area. I am not sure if we would get to the stage where we have to say enough is enough. There is an obligation on the developers to contribute towards the costs of local infrastructure to service the needs of the people of the houses that are being built. (GJ)</p>
<b>Q</b>	<p>It is great that the area has shops and a medical surgery but education is just as important and should have been taken into consideration; I know hindsight is a wonderful thing.</p>

<b>A</b>	The roll projections for New Elgin primary in 2014, made ten years ago, was 310, but in reality it is 200 more than the projected figures. Given that the other roll projections for the other schools in Elgin were accurate (generally within plus or minus 10%) shows the methodology used works. What may not have been factored in correctly was the projected number of houses; these figures appear to have been significantly underestimated. This has then impacted on the roll projection figures. (PW)
<b>Q</b>	What is the capacity of the new school going to be?
<b>A</b>	If it is built on purely projected numbers, we would want the schools across Elgin to be a similar size. A school which has 14 classes (two classes for each year) that gives us a capacity of approximately 350 to 400 pupils, a management structure of a head teacher and two deputy heads and accommodation for additional support needs would be preferred. This is the size of school that we the Officers will be suggesting are built and this is what we would say is the optimum size of the schools. (GJ)
<b>Q</b>	Figures suggest 0.3 per household and in Elgin the majority of houses built recently are three or four bedroom houses; has that figure increased in the last few years?
<b>A</b>	There has been single dwelling houses built recently, therefore we know that these houses will not have children living there. This is an average figure rather than specific figures for each area of development. (GJ)
<b>Q</b>	This number does not seem correct as some houses may have one child and others may have more or none. Would it not be better to assume each family home has one child?
<b>A</b>	It is assuming that three children of primary school age per ten households. Other children may be pre-school or secondary school age. The Council have only recently taken the roll projection forecasting in-house, this was previously carried out by Aberdeenshire Council. Revising roll projection methodology can be looked into. (PW)
<b>Q</b>	How can the new school be the same capacity as the other schools in Elgin if you are basing the figures on the housing developments?
<b>A</b>	If 3,000 more houses are built on top of the current development projections more than one school will be required. (GJ)
<b>Q</b>	Lessons need to be learned from this and past mistakes, so they are not in the same situation in a few more years.
<b>A</b>	Elgin High School is currently being built and the current roll is less than 700 pupils for what will be a 1000 pupil capacity school. (GJ)
<b>Q</b>	Has the Elgin High School build started yet?
<b>A</b>	It is due to start in June of this year. (GJ)
<b>Q</b>	You are being optimistic with putting forward a rezoning consultation when there are no plans and no land identified. I know there was land previously identified and it did not work. Should this not have been started a year ago? If things continue it is going to 2020 before anything is ready? What happens if there are complications, this will eat into the timescale?
<b>A</b>	We have new Elected Members and new Officers looking into things; Elgin has never seen such a rapid demand, therefore everything is new. We do spend a lot of time on school designs and we are working with a number of developers, which will allow us to purchase a school design off the shelf. The site is the key component as to what we can have. (GJ)

<b>Q</b>	If that is the case, why does it take 18 months?
<b>A</b>	This is how long it takes to build the actual school. (GJ)
<b>Q</b>	Do you have specific land that you are considering?
<b>A</b>	<p>We have had discussions with the property section of the Council and considered where we would like to build. As you can see from the proposed maps it is always best if the school is in the centre of the community. We have estimated the cost of building a 400 pupil school and the approximate construction time.</p> <p>The first stage is for Elected Members to agree to build a school, while this is taking place we shall be considering possible build sites and seeking permission from Scottish Government for possible funding. Once a site is confirmed the design process will begin. (GJ)</p> <p>There are a number of possibilities for sites but this will all depend on the zones and where they are situated. After this consultation process, if changes to the zones are required, these may have impact on the proposed school sites. (PW)</p>
<b>Q</b>	How are the other schools; are they going to be deprived if budgets are invested elsewhere?
<b>A</b>	We are currently trying to bring all of the school estates up to a good standard. New Elgin for example is a great school but the building itself is not that great; the current approximate cost to bring all of the schools in Moray up to standard is £140 million. We are currently spending £17 million on four smaller sized schools (GJ)
<b>Q</b>	In other areas there are not enforced catchment areas; why does Elgin have catchment areas, why are the residents dictated to?
<b>A</b>	Scotland has catchment areas due to the Scotland Education law. This means that we are able to offer all in-zone children a place in the zoned school. If it is a free for all how do we determine which pupil receives free transport and where should a new school be built? (GJ)
<b>Q</b>	I would not expect the Council to pay for my transport.
<b>A</b>	In Scotland it is traditional that each pupil who lives out with two miles of the zoned school receives transport. In rural areas every child receives transport to school on safety grounds. (GJ)
<b>Q</b>	August 2015 school roll projection is 552, was this based on the old formulae? Is the school going to be at functional capacity for the first day of term?
<b>A</b>	No not this year. The number of pupils does change due to the composite classes. The functional capacity for this year will be 546. (Head Teacher)
<b>Q</b>	Have parents been notified that they do not have placements for this year? If we have not heard anything does that mean we are in?
<b>A</b>	Yes, if you are zoned residents; there are no out of zone placements being accepted at New Elgin primary school this year. It is important to remember that the more we squeeze in pupils in primary one section the further impact this has on throughout the following years. (GJ)
<b>Q</b>	I am concerned that at New Elgin primary space is so tight. We have to have the rezoning in place by January next year or we are going to be in the same situation again.
<b>A</b>	There is the concern that next year New Elgin primary may have to turn away zoned resident requests due to the capacity of the school. (Head Teacher)

<b>Q</b>	Regarding transport costs, at an earlier meeting you said that Moray Council will not pay for transport costs for children who live out of zone; however if you live within the zone of the school and are refused a place at this school; will the Council pay for transport?
<b>A</b>	That will be a decision for Elected Members to make. This scenario will need to be taken into account. (PW)  New policies will need to be developed to take these new issues into consideration. (GJ)
<b>Q</b>	If you are in a zoned area for a particular school but you cannot get into that school and are forced to go elsewhere; how does it get decided which school to attend?
<b>A</b>	Consideration will be given which school in the immediate area has capacity. (PW)
<b>Q</b>	You mentioned that if these proposals are carried out it should become easier to grant placing requests. Will each request still be assessed in the same manner; for example will siblings still be in the top priority?
<b>A</b>	Top priority is in-zone pupils, then those with siblings attending. The policy which the Council follow complies with the Education (Scotland) Act 1980. (GJ)
<b>Q</b>	If we were to be refused an out of zone placing request are we guaranteed a place at our dedicated zoned school?
<b>A</b>	It is only at New Elgin primary that out of zone placing requests have been refused. It will depend on the capacity of each school where we can accommodate placing requests. (GJ)
<b>Q</b>	What about St Sylvester's, what is the difference?
<b>A</b>	They are governed by separate legislation as a denominational school. The zone for St Sylvesters's is what used to be the parish, which covers all of Elgin, Hopeman, Lossiemouth and Burghead. (PW)
<b>Q</b>	If an in-zone placement is refused due to capacity issues, how is it decided which in-zone pupils are accepted and refused?
<b>A</b>	Those geographically closest to the school will be accepted. (GJ)  A clear and definitive answer will be provided to those who have been refused placements. (PW)
<b>Q</b>	With regards to the figures provided, how far along can you continue to accommodate all of the pupils within Elgin?
<b>A</b>	Currently up to 2019, just not necessarily at the zoned school or the first choice of school. (GJ)
<b>Q</b>	Is the rest of Moray not as bad?
<b>A</b>	No, it is due to the rate of development within Elgin. (GJ)
<b>Q</b>	Can you guarantee that no Elgin pupil will be transported to another school within Moray?
<b>A</b>	No, but this would be an absolute last resort for this to happen. Consideration would need to be taken with regards to current schools and the possibility of temporary structures being built to accommodate pupils within the area. (PW)  We cannot guarantee this as it will all depend on the continual development of housing estates in Elgin. (GJ)

Discussion took place with Elected Members in attendance regarding the Thornhill Road and the possibility of crossing patrols, as the current crossing islands are not safe for anyone.

Alison Hannan concluded the meeting by thanking those in attendance for coming along and participating.

<b>Questions / Comments Received in ballot box</b>
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No questions / comments received.
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<b>Questions / Comments Received from Greenwards Zone</b>
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<b>Q1</b>	Will children with learning disabilities still be catered for at Greenwards even if out of zone?
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<b>A1</b>	Yes. (Response PW)
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<b>Q2</b>	Zoned to New Elgin-zone changes to Greenwards in 2016; the siblings will be split up due to this rezoning.
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<b>A2</b>	The Admissions policy will be looked at to try to mitigate against any adverse impacts. (Response PW)
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<b>Q3</b>	What if you move out of zone after the first child goes to school. What is the position for other children younger in the family?
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<b>A3</b>	A placing request would have to be made. (Response PW)
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<b>Questions / Comments Received from New (South East) Zone</b>
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<b>Q1</b>	Please can you extend to Hallwood Road?
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<b>A1</b>	This will be considered, however the proposals were designed so as not to impact on the roll of Lhanbryde Primary School. (Response PW)
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<b>Questions / Comments Received from New Elgin Zone</b>
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<b>Q1.</b>	In the calculations for future projected school rolls there have been significant assumptions made; what contingencies are in place for if these are wrong?
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<b>A1</b>	The roll projections are revised every year and roll projections four years in advance have been reasonably accurate. (Response PW)
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<b>Q2</b>	Stay in catchment, one child at school and sibling due to start in 2016. Will he be honoured a space as the new zoning puts him out of catchment as it is not my choice to change zones.
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<b>A2</b>	The Admissions policy will be looked at to try to mitigate against any adverse impacts. (Response PW)
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## Elgin Town Hall (27th April 2015 (Afternoon Session))

### In attendance:

Graham Jarvis (Head of Lifelong Learning, Culture & Sport)  
Paul Watson (Senior Education Adviser for Schools Consultations)  
Alison Hannan (Community Support Unit Officer)  
Dawn Brodie (Community Support Unit Officer)

Alistair Brown (Education Scotland)

### Elected Members In Attendance:

Cllr Kirsty Reid (Scottish National Party)  
Cllr Patsy Gowans (Scottish National Party)  
Cllr Stewart Cree (Independent (Leader))  
Cllr Chris Tuke (Independent)  
Cllr John Divers (Scottish Labour Party)  
Cllr Mike Shand (Scottish National Party)

### Number of Community Representatives In Attendance:

Number	Interest
4	Members of the public

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Community Support Unit Officer Alison Hannan welcomed all to the meeting and provided introductions of the staff in attendance and a brief introduction to the meeting.

Graham Jarvis and Paul Watson carried out a presentation on the Elgin Primary School Rezoning proposal. A question and answer time followed the presentation.

### Questions & Answer Session

<b>Q</b>	Can I ask about the secondary situation? If you re-jig the zones and I am thinking of Elgin South; does that mean the capacity will exist in the high school for the number of kids in the current three primary schools including Mosstowie?
<b>A</b>	<p>When I talked to a property developer and he said if you take 3000 new houses, that is approximately the same size as Lossiemouth and Lossiemouth has two primaries and one secondary. So if you have 3000 new houses in South Elgin we would have a problem with capacity.</p> <p>At the moment we are building a new high school in New Elgin for 1000 pupils to replace the current 650 pupil school. So we are building capacity right away, to cover the medium term future. Certainly for the long term future this Council will have to look at what they do in Elgin if it continues to grow as planned, as these are houses that five years ago no one had foreseen would be built.</p>

	<p>No one thought that 1500 houses would have been built in this timeframe. We are fairly confident over the next seven to nine years we can accommodate all the pupils zoned for the new secondary school.</p> <p>We are also looking at primary schools that have two secondary schools zoned. As a further stage to reviewing the school zones we will be looking at the catchment areas for secondary schools. These primary schools could easily be zoned elsewhere, for example Forbes, Lossiemouth or Milne's. In the longer term the Council will have to consider the future builds in Elgin.</p> <p>Graham explained about relooking at school timetables. Timetable models can be reviewed as the planned model is aimed at using all the classrooms more often; therefore there will be the same amount of classrooms but used in a more economical way to help increase the capacity of the school. (GJ)</p>
<b>Q</b>	Are developers asked to contribute financially any way to the new schools? Will Springfield and Barretts developers be asked to contribute?
<b>A</b>	<p>Yes, they are asked to contribute towards infrastructure.</p> <p>Graham explained about developers contributions. It depends on whether or not the new development necessitates expenditure on increased schools. Whereas in New Elgin the development of the houses has resulted in the requirement of a new school; a contribution is / will be requested. The planning department can enforce the contribution. (GJ)</p>
<b>Q</b>	How many houses are there so far in New Elgin? I mean they have been going up for years?
<b>A</b>	Cllr Divers confirmed 1,500 houses in south side.
<b>Q</b>	I am just wondering why it has taken so long. To see that there is a major problem. It has taken so long to deal with that side the 1,500 houses planned for the north side will the same thing happen, build, build, build and then become a disaster level oh gosh, we need a new school?
<b>A</b>	<p>No, to date no permission has been granted for those houses to be built. There is no developer appointed yet.</p> <p>A school of 400 pupils costs approximately £10.5 million to build, not including the cost of land or any other costs regarding the land conditions. We do need to talk to the developers to encourage how much of that they are going to pay. (GJ)</p>
<b>Q</b>	Is the Council currently laying aside money to pay for the new school?
<b>A</b>	<p>GJ passed over to Cllr S Cree to answer: The roll estimates for south of Elgin were wrong, that's the first line, we wouldn't be in this position if we had more accurate estimates at the time. It's just a matter of fact.</p> <p>With regard to the Capital Plan we don't for the most part fund purchases like this out of the kitty. We borrow money, to invest in the construction of schools, but we need to be able to repay that. We need to prove that and have a Capital Plan that says if we borrow this; that is how much it costs every year. It's like a mortgage.</p> <p>We have reserves at the moment that are currently not ear-marked for a new</p>

	<p>school, but could be used to help towards paying back the on-going Capital costs. But then, developer contributions can be significant in these cases and certainly in the north of Elgin development, we are well placed at this time.</p> <p>Some of these decisions go way back even before Moray Council time; we are where we are with some of them. We do have a greater control this time around and want to emphasis this. The planning process would seek to ensure the Council is not disadvantaged by the costs of a new school. (Cllr S Cree).</p> <p>I think it is worth saying it's come out now that we got the numbers wrong when we were looking at the Elgin South Master Plan. I questioned the figures time and time again saying they were way out. It's a sad thing to say that I have been shown to be correct. The Officers at that time (and they are not the same Officers here now) failed to go away and recheck the figures at that time. (Cllr J Divers)</p> <p>GJ came back in and concluded the discussion: The north site currently has no one on site therefore it is in a good place to discuss sites of a new school before developers begin. The planning department can enforce certain restraints on the speed of the houses being built, for example if a play park is to be built before another house can be built. (GJ)</p>
<b>Q</b>	To confirm with Cllr Cree, the Council would normally have to borrow money to build a new school but there is money within the reserves that could be used to put towards a desperately needed new school in New Elgin?
<b>A</b>	<p>It is not the conventional way of this Council to fund that type of development. Reserves are normally for unforeseen purposes. If you had said to me six years ago that the population of Moray would have increased by 6000, you would have found it difficult to find an analyst in Scotland to suggest this. You couldn't have said that in 2008 you would have had an economic crash, scale of which we haven't seen post war.</p> <p>We are supposing that plans in north Elgin will go ahead, what if new rules are implemented by the Government then these houses may not be built? There are so many varying factors that affect the outcomes and are not controlled by the Council. We are 6,000 people more in Moray than the last census and that has surprised everyone we are among the fastest growing Local Authorities in Scotland. (Cllr S Cree)</p> <p>If Westminster had decided to close down the RAF base in Lossiemouth there would be no demand for these houses in the north of Elgin. (GJ)</p>
<b>Q</b>	I still have concern about New Elgin itself and the necessity of the school. I have been told the numbers were all wrong and the population boost was not anticipated; but the planning has still been granted. You only need to drive up Rothes Road and they are still going up at quite a pace. At what point will the developers be told that we need a new school and cough up?
<b>A</b>	Cllr C Tuke answered – I am pleased to hear that developers are entering discussions at least. It is very difficult to get money out of developers retrospectively. We can get planning obligations for schools before the event when existing schools reach capacity. In this case there were no projections



	for schools reaching capacity and we had no remit to charge developers at that time. Certainly we are in a different position in the north where we can see the problems coming in Elgin north and revising the obligation scheme, so we shouldn't encounter the same problems as in the south. (Cllr C Tuke)
<b>Q</b>	You would not expect developers to pay for a whole new school, is it just a percentage?
<b>A</b>	<p>It has happened before; for example in Perthshire a large number of houses are being developed and the developers have been asked to build a new school. (GJ)</p> <p>The 1500 houses in Findrassie will trigger the requirement for a new school. (Cllr C Tuke)</p> <p>It is a big development, as they will not build 1500 houses in one year. (GJ)</p> <p>Look at areas such as Bridge of Don and go and have a look at the schools they are boarded up as there was no thought given to predicating how many children would require schooling. It's so hard to estimate. (Cllr S Cree)</p> <p>The advantage now, is that we carry out the roll projections in-house. Up until 2011 they were done by Aberdeenshire Council. We have local knowledge of the types of houses being built.(PW)</p>

A discussion took place between the Elected Members and Officers regarding the style of houses within developments and the census data's impact on how the primary and secondary roll projections are calculated.

A discussion took place regarding the facility requirements within the new housing developments that is not just educational.

<b>Q</b>	Are there contingency plans for any slippage in the new primary school for New Elgin? Is there a point where the two other schools would not be able to cope in accommodating the extra pupils?
<b>A</b>	<p>We have no land at New Elgin Primary School to enable accommodation expansion; we could perhaps create accommodation at Seafield, Greenwards and Bishopmill. The contingency plan would be to add temporary accommodation at these locations. (GJ)</p> <p>We can accommodate pupil roll projections for Elgin until 2019 within our current schools. However, this would mean that some children would not go to their zoned school or their first choice of school. (GJ)</p> <p>Beyond this timescale we would have to either look at expanding one of these sites or transporting children out with Elgin to Lhanbryde, Lossiemouth, Hopeman or Rothes to whichever is closest; this would be the last option we would choose. (GJ)</p>

<b>Q</b>	When it comes to East End pupils, I have heard there are quite a lot people not happy with the East End zone because even though there are children having to cross the A96 to get there where previously they were zoned to Seafield. It's probably a safer walk to school to Seafield than actually crossing the A96.
<b>A</b>	There is a crossing patrol on the A96 at Institution Road. (GJ)
<b>Q</b>	Is there a way in this rezoning proposal that this could reconfigured?
<b>A</b>	<p>We would not have built East End primary where it is if we had a choice. Last year the consultants suggested building a central primary school which would combine West End and East End; there is not a suitable location to accommodate this plan. There is nowhere in the middle of Elgin we could locate it. We have to deal with the problems at New Elgin, West End and East End due to their locations; the new schools which could be built will be designed to accommodate all safety issues. (GJ)</p> <p>When the configurations for the rezoning were looked into, the possibility of children from the Pinefield area attending New Elgin was considered but the problem is the numbers. It could result in East End becoming too small and New Elgin becoming too large.</p> <p>These are all only proposals and can be changed in light of responses. (PW)</p>

Discussion took place regarding traffic changes and possible changes to traffic flow and road systems.

Alison Hannan concluded the meeting by thanking those in attendance for coming along and participating.

## Elgin Town Hall (27th April 2015 (Evening Session))

### In attendance:

Graham Jarvis (Head of Lifelong Learning, Culture & Sport)  
Paul Watson (Senior Education Adviser for Schools Consultations)  
Alison Hannan (Community Support Unit Officer)  
Sylvia Jamieson (Community Support Unit Officer)

### Elected Members In Attendance:

Cllr John Divers (Scottish Labour Party)  
Cllr Mike Shand (Scottish National Party)  
Cllr James Allan (Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party)

### Number of Community Representatives In Attendance:

Number	Interest
8	Members of the public

Community Support Unit Officer Alison Hannan welcomed all to the meeting and provided introductions of the staff in attendance and a brief introduction to the meeting.

Graham Jarvis and Paul Watson carried out a presentation on the Elgin Primary School Rezoning proposal. A question and answer time followed the presentation.

### Questions & Answer Session

<b>Q</b>	If you have a current child at New Elgin and then your other child is due to start school but you are now in a different zone; how is a parent supposed to drop two children off at two different locations at the same time? Are you looking to have different start times?
<b>A</b>	<p>No, we would not change times at school unless we had to. It is a question that has previously been asked in particular for New Elgin. This is the first time in Moray where we have refused enrolments to pupils who have siblings at the same school. Priority must go to pupils from within the zoned areas and the next priority is out of zone pupils who have siblings already at the school.</p> <p>In the past we have always been able to accommodate both of those categories and sometimes had to turn down out of zone placements for people who do not have any children already at the school. For the in-take in August this year for the first time in Elgin, we have had to say even if you have a child already at the school and you are out of zone we are physically full we can't take any kids in. Therefore your choice is to go to your zoned school.</p> <p>Graham asked the attendee how far away. The attendee responded that it was a theoretical question. We can't guarantee to educate the two children together at the same school unless it was your zone school. (GJ)</p>

<b>Q</b>	Would you recommend that parents move their children?
<b>A</b>	<p>We do not necessarily recommend this; what we are saying is that we cannot take any more at New Elgin Primary. The parents have a choice to place their children at two different schools or for both children to attend the zoned school. I understand this sounds cruel, but that is the situation we are currently in. (GJ)</p> <p>Alternatively, we end up not being able to take in-zone pupils because we have too many out of zone pupils. (GJ)</p> <p>We do need to look at the Council's Admissions policy as it was written when this sort of situation did not occur. Interim arrangements need to be considered during this period until a new school opens to try and ensure that families, as far as possible, are not disadvantaged. (PW)</p>
<b>Q</b>	Looking at the figures for the future, it looks like in-zone pupils may not be able to attend New Elgin either. Take the figures 531, the figures from the New School and the current roll; what is the short term plans for the in-zone pupils?
<b>A</b>	<p>That is one of the reasons why we have refused out of zone pupils even with siblings already attending. New Elgin has refused out of zone placing requests; we are acutely aware that next year we may have a problem with in-zone pupils at New Elgin; there is not a definitive answer at this point. What we can't do is add to New Elgin as it is full to capacity. If you have a child at the school, you'll see they have lunches on the stage. We just don't have the physical capacity.</p> <p>Due to the location of the school and the traffic safety issues we could not expand the school as it would take away playground space which is very precious to us, and it would not help with the other facilities such as the dining space and quality PE.</p> <p>We have unique problem for New Elgin and we are going to have to really think hard about enrolments for next year. Turning away in-zone enrolments is not what we want to do. We would have to look at transport arrangements to take them to the next nearest school. It is one that is currently on our minds. (GJ)</p>
<b>Q</b>	I am currently a teacher at Seafeld Primary School and I live in the catchment area for Seafeld. My daughter attends Bishopmill Primary and my son is due to enrol next January at Bishopmill as a placing request. My placing request is because I didn't want my children to be at the same school I work at. What is the situation with that, because looking at the figures it looks like that even in-zone children won't be able to get into Bishopmill, same as what New Elgin is facing now? Is there even going to be an option for a placing request for Bishopmill next year?
<b>A</b>	<p>You can still make a placing request, if it is accepted or not is a different matter.</p> <p>Bishopmill have refused non siblings in the past and West End is currently refusing out of zone pupils who do not have a sibling attending already. We do not have any priority for Council staff, whether teaching staff or anything else they are treated exactly the same as everyone else. Therefore the fact</p>

	that you are teaching at a school and you don't want your children attending the same school as you teach at is not covered by current policy. (GJ)
	We understand your feelings entirely, and you wouldn't be alone. (GJ)
<b>Q</b>	The attendee explained, that if she knew what the outcome of her placing request would be in advance she could look to make arrangements to accommodate the outcome of her placing request now rather than waiting and finding out later. The attendee was asking for a rough idea if her placing request would be successful.
<b>A</b>	<p>You would currently be a higher priority than someone out of zone with no children already attending. It's very difficult to predict how many placing requests we are going to get. (PW)</p> <p>Priority is given to in-zone placements, then out of zone placing requests with siblings already in attendance, (children with siblings closer in age range receive higher priority to those with siblings of a wider age gap); and then next priority is the distance from the school. Graham went on to explain the guidance Local Authorities followed was dictated by Scottish Education Law which explains the placing requests priorities. This information is available for the public to look at. (GJ)</p>
<b>Q</b>	In the predicted rolls, Mosstowie is regularly 20 children less than the predicted roll; would it not benefit other schools in the area if their rural catchment areas are transferred to Mosstowie?
<b>A</b>	<p>That does not help as it would only be approximately another 25 children. The maximum number Mosstowie can take is 75 children. (PW)</p> <p>If a rural school capacity rises above 69 the Council loses some funding, which is currently significant. To take a further 20 pupils at Mosstowie we need to decide how to draw the lines to change the catchment area; it's worth a look at and we have made a note of it this evening to consider it. (GJ)</p>
<b>Q</b>	Concerned regarding Mosstowie and the possible extension at West End and moving Mosstowie pupils to attend West End. If that was to happen, would Mosstowie primary need to close?
<b>A</b>	<p>This is a 25 year project; the West End building is not in great condition. Therefore we, the Officers, would suggest building a campus in a suitable location, and amalgamate the two zones which would result in two school closures. A process would need to be followed if this was considered; the Council has recently agreed not to consider rural school closures but this may be something that has to be considered in the future. (GJ)</p> <p>It's not part of this consultation; it's much more a longer term plan. (PW)</p>
<b>Q</b>	My youngest daughter is due to start school in 2017, if the new zones begin in 2016 and the new school is not anticipated until 2018; will she still receive priority for New Elgin over those which are zoned to the new school?
<b>A</b>	If you are currently in-zone for New Elgin and will remain in the zone for New Elgin, you will be the highest priority as you are in-zone. (GJ)
<b>Q</b>	Are there any plans for parking at East End?

<b>A</b>	This does need to be reviewed; the Heritage Centre staff and visitors currently access the car park via the school gate. We do have Roads and Transportation department carrying out a survey in this area and looking at the issues. Even if we were to implement a drive in and drop off area and drive out, we would still cause dangers due to people stopping and waiting in the drop off areas. East End, New Elgin and St Sylvester's are the biggest problem for traffic issues. (GJ)
<b>Q</b>	Could they do something about the streets round about the schools, such as half hour zones?
<b>A</b>	The problem with the zones is that they need to be enforced. East Lothian has closed the roads around certain primary schools between core hours so it is a no-through area. All suggestions are welcome. (GJ)

Discussion took place regarding the safety of children at schools due to the increased level of traffic, where the schools are situated and who is causing the increased level of transport; in-zone or out of zone residents.

Discussions took place regarding other possible transport routes, such as transporting pupils to Mosstowie rather than New Elgin and East End; opening up Memorial Road for access to New Elgin primary.

<b>Q</b>	Why does New Elgin have coach transport?
<b>A</b>	There are two coaches everyday bussing children to New Elgin. For transporting the pupils who live more than two miles away to school. (GJ)
<b>Q</b>	Some parents like to stay and watch the children as there is no one at the schools to watch the children until the school session starts. Could people be provided to help solve this problem?
<b>A</b>	It has been suggested that two drop off areas may be required; especially if parents are dropping off children at two different locations can they be ensured the pupils will be safe. This does come with insurance issues as well as staffing and financial issues for the Council. (GJ)
<b>Q</b>	The new proposed housing developments in the South side; where are these people going to come from?
<b>A</b>	Moray's population has increased by 6000 in-between the last two censuses. (Cllr J Divers)  The developers must have some predictions that show people will purchase these houses. (GJ)

Discussion took place regarding developers' contributions to the infrastructure of the housing sites; these include shops, play parks and roads and planning conditions; which are enforced to planning permission requests.

Discussion took place regarding teacher recruitment problems.

Graham Jarvis concluded the meeting by thanking those in attendance for coming along and participating.

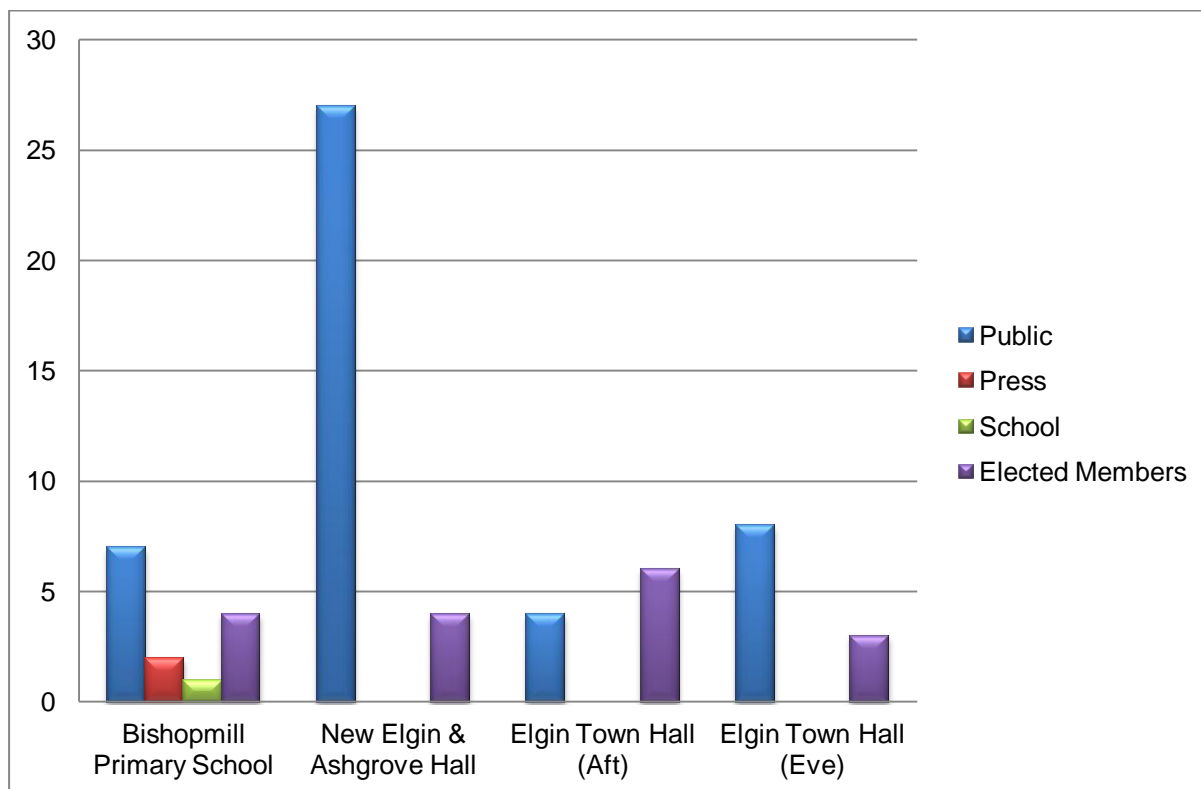
<b>Questions / Comments Received in ballot box</b>
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|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Larger scale maps would have assisted a more detailed understanding of plans.</li><li>• Timetable / format of conversation could have been communicated in advance (i.e. presentation, Q&amp;A etc).</li><li>• Very well laid out at the Town Hall – staff excellent.</li></ul> |
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<b>Questions / Comments Received from Zone West End primary</b>
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Mosstowie primary school should be retained with its own rural catchment area.
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## Attendance Breakdown





## Collated Evaluations

