

<b>Title of Meeting: Comely Park Parent Council Meeting</b>
<b>Venue of meeting: Staff Room, Comely Park School</b>
<b>Date of meeting: 28 November 2007</b>
<b>Attendees:</b> Mrs Collins, Mel Brookes, Douglas Kennedy, Barry Smart, Sheila Ferguson, Rochelle Black, Stuart Duncan, Mrs Simpson, David Henderson, Arlene Mallis, Nicola Morton, Colin Gordon
<b>Apologies:</b> Margaret Cochrane, Brian Cassidy, Lorraine Johnson, Lorraine Kennedy (Minutes Clerk), Cllr John Patrick, Cllr Georgie Thompson, Cllr Joe Lemetti

<b>No</b>	<b>Action/Discussion Point</b>
1	<p><b>Welcome and introductions</b></p> <p>Dougie welcomed everyone to the meeting. Unfortunately, Richard Teed was unable to attend, due to illness, so Dougie will invite him to the next meeting on 6 February instead.</p>
2	<p><b>Issues arising from Falkirk Council Committee paper/Parent Council Meeting</b></p> <p>There was a discussion of the Falkirk Council Committee paper, which Dougie had circulated prior to the meeting, relating to proposed consequences of class size reduction and increasing placing requests on schools in the Falkirk area.</p> <p>A suggestion was made that the example used in Appendix was likely to be based on Comely park School, which shows more than 100% occupancy by 2012. It was also interesting to see the number of schools in the Falkirk area which are under-subscribed, in comparison with schools like Comely Park, St Andrews and Bantaskin.</p> <p><b>Improved Learning &amp; Attainment</b></p> <p>This discussion document was originally raised at the Parents' Meeting at St Andrews Primary on 21 November, which Dougie and Colin went along to represent our Parent Council. Issues at this meeting for consideration were: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increasing the length of the February holiday to one week</li> <li>- Introducing an asymmetric week, to include 4 x longer days and 1 x shorter day in the school week</li> </ul> <p>Diane Cherry circulated combined comments from the 21 November meeting to all Parent Councils, which reflected the heated nature of the meeting and the perceived element of "railroading" by the Council to make a quick decision on these issues.</p> <p>If our Parent Council agrees we are interested in looking at the concept of an asymmetric week, what information does the Council then need to provide, in order for us to make an informed decision?</p> <p>Issues for consideration include: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Childcare: is the Council proposing to provide more after-school childcare places to cover the 1 shorter school day each week?</li> <li>- Impact on education</li> <li>- Impact on transport/school bus travel</li> <li>- Timing for introduction of proposals: earliest date should be 2009 (due to holiday/term dates already being set and agreed for 2008)</li> <li>- Better training opportunities for teaching staff?</li> </ul> <p>Mrs Collins commented that the teachers' union has also not been consulted about these proposals, which would obviously have an impact on the teaching staff's working week.</p> <p>Parent Council members should respond to Dougie with any additional issues they would like to be included in our draft response, which Dougie will then circulate to</p>

	<p>members prior to the submission deadline of 21 December. Any additional comments must be passed to Dougie within the next 2 weeks, to ensure we meet this deadline date.</p>
3	<p><b>Minutes from last meeting</b></p> <p><b>Playground supervision</b>  Brian and Barry have been looking at a draft strategy for the school gates and will give their proposals to us on this by e-mail next week.</p> <p>Mrs Collins added that there will also be a paragraph on playground supervision in the next school newsletter in January.</p> <p><b>Playground facilities</b>  Mrs Collins updated us to say that Falkirk Council has a part-time landscape architect, who is due to come along to the school for a site visit within the next couple of weeks. She will then draw up plans of the playground and proposed improvements/planting etc, which we will be able to use to support our intended Awards for All application (which can be submitted anytime).</p> <p>Sheila mentioned that Central Scotland Forest Trust has a community projects fund for one-off grants of up to £500. She is currently looking into this and will report back with more details asap.</p> <p>The National Landscape Trust may also be able to support us, but any approach for funds needs to be from a Bank of Scotland employee (so we would need to establish if any Comely Park parents work for B of S).</p> <p>Does Brian have an update on his approaches to MCA Homes and Formula One? As he was not able to attend the meeting, we need to get more details from him about this.</p> <p><b>Weatherproof notice boards</b>  Mrs Collins has established that we can obtain these for the playground, but they cost c. £220 each – could the Parent Council help out with funding for these?  At the Parent Council recently attended by Dougie, Colin and Mel, mention was made of the fact that extra funding could be available from the Council for specific projects. As there is much emphasis from the Council on improving communication with parents, this would be a good angle to use to request funding to buy the notice boards (as we would need more than one in the playground).</p> <p>Dougie will write to the Council to request funding for notice boards.</p> <p><b>Lollipop Person Situation</b>  Conversation on the concerns about the council’s policy on the manning of crossing patrols and in particular the decision of the council on the removal of a crossing patrol at Coburn Street, Arnot Hill. The overall consensus of the Parents Council was one of major concern and in particular how the decision was reached.</p> <p>Nicola Morton agreed to compose a response to Falkirk Council on behalf of the Parents Council.</p> <p><b>Business Links</b>  Stuart had prior to the meeting circulated the proposed principals for the business links and asked that the committee review and provide feedback on any changes that they would like to see.</p> <p>Stuart took the action to draft a letter that would be circulated to all parents at Comely Park to encourage them to look at the possible development of suitable</p>

	links. Mrs Collins agreed that she would add a suitable paragraph to the letter.
7	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p><b>Early Years Provision</b> Mrs Collins raised the issue on the consultation paper on the early years provision that is provided between Woodburn Nursery and Queen Street. Comely Park Parents council need to provide input on the consultation and it was agreed that those members of the council who had experience of using both facilities would provide comments and concerns to Mrs Collins.</p> <p><b>Communication</b> From the slips that were distributed to the parents as part of the Parents Evening invitation a line was added asking people who would be interested in communication from the Parents Council. Mrs Collins has those completed slips and these need to be passed to Barry to create an alias for distribution purposes. Dougie agreed that when setup an appropriate communication would be sent out.</p> <p>The council also agreed that going forward we would have a standing agenda item on Communication as it was felt that this is an important role for the council and needs extended discussions.</p> <p><b>Bank Accounts</b> Now that we have details of funding Colin suggested we go ahead and open appropriate account with the Clydesdale Bank in Falkirk. It was agreed that the signatories should be any two from three of;</p> <p>Colin Gordon    Dougie Kennedy    Sheila Ferguson</p> <p><b>Next meeting date:</b> Our next meeting will be on 6 February 2008.</p>

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