

**Meeting of Kelso Area Primary School Heads of Parent Councils with Kelso High School Parent Council Chair and others**

**2nd September 2009**

In Attendance:

Ian Fingland – Chair, Kelso High School Parent Council (IF)  
Charles Robertson – Rector, Kelso High School (CR)  
Alec Nicol – SBC Councillor (Finance Committee)(AN)  
Alasdair Hutton – SBC Councillor for Kelso (AH)  
Tom Weatherston – SBC Councillor for Kelso (TW)  
David Ferguson - Edenside PS (DF)  
Amanda Witchall - Yetholm PS (AW)  
Lorraine Lynn - Morebattle PS (LL)

Apologies:

Colin Henderson, Broomlands PC  
Fiona Scott Provost, Kelso Community Council  
Michael Scott-Watson, Sprouston PC

IF welcomed all those in attendance and explained the purpose for calling this meeting, which was to discuss the future of the Kelso High School estate

AN explained that SBC have a number of rolling programmes of planned work and improvements – a 5-10 year plan , a 5 year plan, and a 3 year (more detailed) plan.

He explained that, contrary to the assurances given by Cllr Bhatia, (elected member with responsibility for the Education department) to PC representatives and pupils in June, now that the RE blocks have been replaced, the grading of the KHS estate has been raised from ‘Poor’ to ‘Moderate’, and this means that it’s priority for planned improvements by SBC is lower.

It was explained that capacity provision takes priority over state of repair so therefore, Galashiels and Peebles schools will be higher up the list.

He recommended that those involved in the PC’s begin to form a draft plan considering the following:

- Location of any future school, given that it is unlikely that the current site would be seen as being suitable for future needs.
- Who the school would be educating; ie 3 -18yr olds, 11 – 18 yr olds, or a learning centre, integrating a wider learning programme?

Those present were asked to consider their preferred options and reasons for these.

It was advised that Martin Walness (SBC Local Plan) has been asked to look for a suitable site

CR – there are already differing wishes for the future, ie :

- Site within town

- Site outwith town incorporating playing fields

Possibilities debated such as the possibility of closing local primary town schools and creating one large primary school on the current KHS site.

The use/bidding procedure of the 'Futures Trust' discussed in terms of SBC's necessary financial commitment. SBC have not put in any bid for this fund as they are not able/willing to put up any finance

Accepted (on advice by AN) that there will be no new build for 10/15 years and if there is, the catalyst is likely to be H&S legislation, which could deem it unsafe for pupils to be educated over areas which cross public roads

It was agreed that 2 plans should in fact be drawn up:

- A short-to-mid term refurbishment plan, because in between now and any new school of the future, pupils must be educated in suitable accommodation
- A new school plan

It was agreed that Glen Roger (Director of Education Department, SBC) and Jackie Swanston (Schools Services, secondary schools and pupil support) be invited to a future meeting

A few preliminary matters were to be discussed by CR and SBC officers prior to convening another meeting.