



QUEENSFERRY and DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Queensferry Community High School, Parents Council meeting 30/01/2017

The meeting was addressed by Crawford McGhie, Head of Operational Support. ECC.

The capacity of the new school will be for 1200 pupils, this is based on the projected future numbers. The contractors are Morrisons and detailed designs are now being produced. The Principal Architect will be Alastair Forbes.

The proposed layout will be a 'Faculty Model' which is a new concept, there will be about 8 faculty areas in the building. There will be a carefully planned relationship between classrooms and 'break-out' areas.

A Faculty head will be in charge of each area.

There might be problems in creating sufficient space for the planned Plaza area(s) which could be used, for example, by the Art Department. Consideration will also be given to the more specialised space requirements, eg Music Department practise rooms. A theatre may also be included. Staff have visited other schools throughout Scotland and may 'pinch' ideas from them.

The 1200 capacity is largely dependant upon funding and it could be difficult to extend the building in future.

The possibility of another High School in West Edinburgh was discussed and the time-table for the new build was questioned, there is a deadline of 2020 built into the contract.

The Community aspect of the present school was brought up and Crawford assured us that the replacement facilities would be on a 'like for like' basis.

ECC are trying to open up facilities in all schools for greater use and Edinburgh Leisure would run these facilities. Schools are no longer 'community' as in the previous concept.

The sports facilities may be treated as a separate unit and would be run by Edinburgh Leisure from 6pm to 10pm.

Concern was expressed about heavy traffic issues which will arise during the new build and we were reassured that this will be carefully planned, based on considerable experience in other builds.

During the build there will be a definite safety line of demarcation to separate the present school from the building area.

ECC will publish new number projections every year in December.

Later there was discussion about the situation with the Hub and sports facilities. The school will be meeting with them on 8th February and we all hope that they can come to an amicable arrangement for use of Hub facilities.

David Flint
31/1/2017