

Kingmoor Nursery & Infants and Kingmoor Junior School

1. Traffic and Parking

- Qs. } What will happen about construction wagons- where will they come on/off site?
Has the extra traffic of both construction vehicles and more parents dropping children off been assessed?
Needs to know development details; when was extension developed? No engagement at all from planning process.
- A. *Once Cabinet has reached a final decision in March 2012 feasibility studies can be conducted involving the schools and taking account of the local community. These studies will shape the nature and process of any building work undertaken at the sites and would be subject to planning permission. Contractors used for any building work will have experience of working on schools and will strive to keep any disruption to a minimum.*
- Qs. } How will the parking problems actually be addressed? Roads on the estate are getting chaotic and dangerous for the children to cross.
If expansion goes ahead won't there be a problem with the emergency services reaching the schools and residential buildings due to traffic congestion?
Can there be a system to police existing "drop off" procedures as residents are unable to get access/exit from properties?
Can yellow lines be policed rather than just painted? Yellow lines added have displaced traffic onto surrounding streets.
Won't the growth of the school add to current problems of vehicles within the cul-de-sac at school muster? This situation also occurs at event times.
Residents in all surrounding roads have people parking in front of their properties/driveways, will this not get worse?
- A. *Congestion and parking around many schools can prove to be an issue as an increasing number of parents drive their children to school rather than walk. It has been acknowledged through the consultation process that this is a major concern for residents in the area as well as parents of the school and the Local Authority will work closely with residents, parents, Highways, the Local Committee, Carlisle City Council and local members to develop the best possible solution. Following contact with Highways a traffic warden was sent out to police the area.*
- Q. Why weren't traffic arrangements looked at in 2010 when the last consultation happened at Kingmoor?
- A. *At this time Cabinet decided not to carry through the proposals. Such details and arrangements are explored once a decision has been made to proceed to more in-depth feasibility studies.*

2. Belah School/Other Schools

- Qs. } Can the community have a small School on the Belah site? The numbers in the catchment already travel to Crosby, Rockcliffe and Blackford because their preference is a small school, people will not want to choose Kingmoor any more if it gets too big, build a primary school to give parents this option and to help ease the pressure on Stanwix and Kingmoor.
Option to other parents within catchment but further afield to have new school?

A. *Any alternative options raised through the consultation process would be passed on to the Cabinet for consideration.*

Q. Why is building another school north of the river not an option? Can a new school be built at Crindledyke? Can other schools north of the river be expanded?

A: *The only option that Members have asked us to consider in the north Carlisle area is Kingmoor.*

Q. Why has the birth rate increased so highly in the last 2 years? Why was this not realised by CCC when Belah was closed?

A. *GPR data available at the time of the decision to close Belah could not show the trends that we are now experiencing. However, since that time birth rates in subsequent years have risen across Carlisle (and indeed most urban centres throughout the country) and currently show no signs of returning to previous levels. There have also been changes in demographic movement in Carlisle which may well be related to the current economic situation.*

Qs. } At the time of Belah's closure we were guaranteed that there would be sufficient places in the future. How can you assure us that there will not be further changes after this?
} The proposals seem short term. What happens if more homes are built, more people want to send their children here, or if the birth rates carries on increasing?

A: *There is no guarantee that numbers will not change again in the future, school organisation is about trying to plan for and accommodate those changes so that all children who require a school place can get one. Numbers in the Kingmoor catchment area will remain above 70 with the exception of 2014. Kingmoor School is popular and is likely to remain oversubscribed over this period. Should these proposals go ahead then we would be near the limits of the site and would be unlikely to seek further expansion (although it cannot be entirely ruled out).*

3. School Places

Qs. } Regarding transfer from Kingmoor Infant to Kingmoor Junior, is it possible to change the rules to make it possible for children to be automatically transferred/enrolled/registered for the Junior School, while still keeping the Schools separate?
} Our child got in to Kingmoor Infants through an appeal, if the expansion goes ahead will our child definitely get in to the Junior School?

A. *According to statutory guidelines we cannot guarantee infant-junior transfer. A federation arrangement has been mentioned by the Governors of the two schools and the Local Authority will look to clarify if this arrangement is possible. The proposed expansion of Kingmoor Junior School will certainly create additional places for children moving towards junior school age.*

Qs. } My daughter is due to start the school in September, does this mean that all the children who apply for that year will be given a place as it is above the threshold?
} As work is not due to start until September will it be the reception children who end up in temporary classroom?

- A. *The proposed change to the PAN for the Infant School would start in September 2012 allowing a Reception intake of 75 children. The Junior School PAN would change from September 2014 allowing a Year 3 intake of 75 at that time. The school will make any decision related to which teaching groups will be taught in the teaching spaces available.*
- Q. What will happen to the class limits?
- A. *There is a statutory limit of 30 on class sizes for infant children, but it will be for the staff and Governors in each school to determine how teaching arrangements and class-sizes are organised.*
- Q. LA said places would be provided last year. How do we know you will provide places this year?
- A. *The proposed expansions at Kingmoor Nursery & Infant & Kingmoor Junior Schools, as well as across the city of Carlisle, will provide sufficient places in keeping with numbers on roll and GPR data.*
- Q. Why can't they allow all children in to the juniors if there is no restriction on pupil/teacher ratio?
- A. *There are statutory guidelines on the amount of space required per child and the proposed additional building work will allow accommodation of the increased PAN from the Infant School.*
- Q: How was it known that 15 additional places were needed in the catchment area?
- A: *GPR figures show us how many 0-6 year children were living in the area as at 31/8/11.*

4. Plans for Expansion/Amalgamation

- Qs. } What plans are there to expand the School halls, toilets and dining facilities? Is the kitchen big enough to provide for extra children in both schools?
 } There is a parcel of land (scrubland) that is not being used at the back of the playground. Why can that not be used to build on?
- A. *Should the Cabinet decide to take up the proposals then feasibility studies and plans will be drawn up in consultation with the staff and Governors with the aim of not only accommodating the extra children and their needs but also improving facilities where possible.*
- Qs. } Can you guarantee that sufficient funding, resources & support will be available to implant any changes & address issues of overcrowding?
 } This will be an expensive exercise – are there monies earmarked for development?
- A. *Sufficient funding has been allocated from budget to deal with the proposed expansions.*
- Q. Why was the new head appointed at the infants less than 6 months ago if amalgamation was going to be proposed?

A. *The head was appointed before the trigger occurred for the consultation to take place.*

Q. Why the 'bigger picture' can't be looked at instead of reacting year by year?

A. *Each year all school projections are looked at on an individual basis using GPR data that shows us 0-3 year olds (ie. the next four years of potential school intakes). These figures are then balanced on an area basis providing a 'bigger picture'. This information is updated each November providing new birth data as well as movement of the existing children between areas.*

Qs. } Can the grassed area at the Infant School entrance remain so? There is an issue on green spaces; we shouldn't be looking to build over them.
Is there a minimum requirement for a play area? More buildings/classrooms will surely mean less play area?
What space would be remaining after building – would that still meet statutory requirements?

A *The current hard play space, based on Build Bulletin 99 recommended guidelines; show there is enough space for over 1200 children. This might change with any building work but can't calculate anything more definite due to no plans being in existence. Playing field size regulations only relate to 8-11 yr olds, not younger children. The current playing field available to Kingmoor could accommodate up to 400 8-11 yr olds.*

Qs. } Can catchment and appeals be looked at? DO NOT take children from out of catchment allowing those who live in to get a space.
Can the appeals process be looked at? The appeals process should be stricter to reduce the number of successful appeals. Pupils from outside catchment do not have an automatic right to attend the school.
If catchment areas were adhered to, would this be more manageable?
Is parental choice now an obligation?
Who drew the line for the catchment? Change the catchment rather than expanding the school.

A. *Catchments do not govern where parents can choose to send their children. The Government encourages parental choice (although it is not a statutory requirement) and, if there places within a school, where a child is living is of no concern. Appeals are determined by an independent body, not the Local Authority. The catchment area was drawn up by the School Organisation Team at the time of the proposed Belah closure.*

Q. Mixed aged classes, is it good for the children?

A *Yes, it can be successful. 70% of schools across Cumbria have mixed aged classes. How classes are separated is decided by the management team and governors.*

Q. Can we be reassured that there will be no further expansion in the future?

A. *There can be no guarantee that birth-rates will not alter again (either up or down). But there would be unlikely to be further expansion on the Kingmoor sites.*

Q. If the schools expand will the sports clubs be able to handle the popularity of people? Will this mean that the clubs will go fortnightly or even termly?

A. *This would be determined by the staff and Governors.*

Qs. } Will staff energies be focused on organisation rather than education and will there be a loss of opportunity in after school activity?
} Will the quality of education have a potential to suffer?

A. *The Local Authority will ensure that sufficient support is available to both schools to ensure that any building work/organisational change causes the minimum of disruption and even perhaps provide some learning opportunities.*

Q. Blackford want to expand – so why can't they?

A. *Cabinet asked us to examine the option of expansion at the Kingmoor sites.*

Q. How long will the temps be up and what kind of temps will they be?

A. *Temporary accommodation may well be used whilst building work is underway but the feasibility stage will determine what form they will take and how long they would be used.*

Q: We (local residents) have concerns about potential building works on the site.

A: *If the proposals were approved then any building works would be subject to planning permission and consultation which would involve the schools and local residents.*

Q. Are the extra 15 children going into separate classes or into one? Is wrap-around care available in other schools?

A. *The class and teaching set up would be decided on by the governing body.*

Q: In 2014 figures show that there are only 62 Reception age children in the area against a proposed PAN of 75. Could class sizes not be variable to accommodate the next two years?

A: *Between now and 2014 the cohort of 62 may change with movement of families across the area; the school attracts children and regularly experiences applications from outside the catchment area. Class sizes for infants have a legal maximum of 30.*

5. Consultation Meeting

Q. Previously gone through a consultation where there was opposition to the proposals. Why were we not listened to? Can the council listen and not restrict voice at the consultation meeting?

A. *The Cabinet decided not to proceed with the proposals to expand as a result of the consultation in 2010. The opposition to that proposal was taken into account when that decision was made. Data analysis since the last consultation in the Kingmoor area however indicates that there are insufficient school places in comparison to*

GPR information and this situation is compounded by the rising birth-rates across the whole of Carlisle, hence the current consultation and new proposal. .

Q. Should a 'no change' option not have been included? Why was "do nothing" and option on the Kingmoor Infant & Nursery Consultation evening but not the Kingmoor Junior meeting?

A. *Members felt that 'no change' was not an option.*

Q. How many of the members making the final decision have actually worked in schools?

A. *This information is not held by officers of the County Council. Members do though have extensive knowledge of schools.*

Q. What will be different in this consultation to any others that have been before it?

A. *All consultations, by law, follow the same process.*

6. General

Q The school population figures were going up when Belah closed. The figures are massively inflated, it hasn't happened as they were predicted. Why are the figures so wrong? The figures I have showing population per 1,000 in Carlisle are completely different to the figures the CCC are producing, CCC are constantly getting it wrong.

A *There has been a 45% increase between 2004 and 2010. Data used currently is from General Practitioner Registers from 31 Aug 2011 for under 6s. Pupils are being directed into Kingmoor Nursery and Infant School from Independent Appeals Panels, forcing us to deal with these issues in the short term. A longer term solution is needed.*

Q. Will the nursery close? It would be a waste of public money to close facilities as these were purpose built only 4 years ago.

A. *The Nursery provision is part of the Infant School and will be accommodated in feasibility plans.*

Q. Schools are popular for extended services. Would it be possible that other schools had those services?

A: *This was a decision for the Governors of those other schools and determined by demand.*

Q. Is the CCC in effect granting itself the planning application to go ahead with any scheme as they are also the Highways authority, county planning authority etc.?

A. *Any planning permission application follows rigorous consultation processes.*

Q Is there not enough spaces needed for a new school?

A. *No. The increase is spread across the city, not all in one place, dependent on where parents want to send their children.*