

Responses to Statutory Consultation on Glashieburn and Middleton Park

Aug – Oct 2013 (Part 1 11 June – 13 Sept)

The following comments and views have been received in connection with the Aberdeen City Council proposal

“(a) To close Glashieburn and Middleton Park Schools and establish an amalgamated school within the existing Glashieburn building and campus .

and

(b) to vary the delineated (catchment) area of Middleton Park, Brimmond School and Bucksburn Academy.”

These views and comments do not necessarily represent the views of Aberdeen City Council.

11/6/13

As a parent, I am very disappointed at the proposals to close Middleton Park Primary. My children also feel very sad at the idea.

My daughter, 7 years old, has been building friendships with pupils and teachers alike, from the 4 years she has been at the nursery and school. How will she feel when she is split up from her friends and teachers? And the school that she is so proud to be a part of. Taking this away will be a huge blow on their confidence. Also, my son, currently in Anti-preschool, has learnt so much at this wonderful school nursery, he's made friends, got to know the teachers and his environment. The disruption the school closure will cause will have an adverse affect on the transition he makes from anti-preschool and preschool to P1. The whole point of school nursery is to slowly introduce the little ones to Primary 1 - this transition will be majorly disrupted.

Middleton Park is performing well. It is common sense to keep good schools open! Why is the council closing such a good school? 'To save on building costs' - well the fact that it is an excellent performing school and the pupils do so well here, should outway the reasoning behind the 'cost of the buildings' - the children are our future and the whole point of education is to get children to achieve their best - this school is very successful!

Simple things like being able to walk a short distance to school with a child will be a thing of the past - cars will cause congestion and accidents, unsafe for children crossing at roads.

Also, the proposals you have for Middleton Park to move to Glashieburn means you will be cramming the children into an existing building, which isn't fit for purpose. Our children should not be treated like battery farmed hens! What are you going to do when the Travellers sight opens near Glashieburn School? And when thousands of new homes are built in Bridge of Don? Kids will be on waiting lists for schools and our childrens education will suffer as class sizes will be huge!

I just can't see anything good for the children from these proposals. There is no educational benefit that anyone with common sense can see from this. Why destroy such a wonderful school, which all the children, parents and teachers at Middleton Park are very proud of? Don't destroy their dreams and don't destroy their future!

12/6/13

I am writing to you to urge you to give your support to help us parents keep Middleton Park and Glashieburn Primary schools in the Bridge of Don open. Following a recent meeting between a small number of parents and the Education Officers it has been made clear that they want to make sure they are able to get their plans to close the schools and merge all the children into the existing Glashieburn (i.e. Burst Primary) given the go-ahead. However the evidence and the figures do not add up. Firstly I would like to make you aware that the current plans are the worst plans so far for the closure of Middleton Park school - the parents at Middleton Park have had to suffer the threat of closure before. There are several major issues:

1. The space inside Glashieburn Primary School is not big enough to accommodate all the children. The amalgamation to form Burst Primary would have our children **BOTTOM OF THE LEAGUE** in Aberdeen. Believe it or not, the Council plans will give our children a school with the lowest internal area per pupil than any other school in Aberdeen. All seven schools that the Council has recently announced roll capping (and subsequent in-zone priority) to address serious space constraints would be above us. There would be a dozen schools with pupils enjoying more than twice the area of ours. Children at Burst Primary would be taught in what are essentially corridors and there would be little or no space for significant active learning / moving around / group and project work. There would also be no flexibility for different class sizes etc. This situation would lend itself better to a 1920s style of teaching than the Curriculum for Excellence in the 21st century. We also have to remember that space would have to be found for the merged nurseries and the ASN base.

2. The space outside of Glashieburn Primary School is not big enough to accommodate all the children. The Curriculum for Excellence places much more emphasis on delivery of some elements outdoors. We agree wholeheartedly with this but struggle to see how the current Glashieburn facility will be in a position to deliver this for 420+ children.

Lack of space for any extension - The Bridge of Don community is going to see massive change over the next few years. The Council's officers are now telling us that Greenbrae needs an extension. This is despite stating less than 5 years ago that it was going to be chronically under capacity. We are extremely worried about where additional capacity requirement is going to come from. We are facing an obesity epidemic in Scotland. We have already cemented our place as the 'Sick Man of Europe'. Do we really want to give our children a facility where they will struggle to even have 2 or 3 games of football going at once let alone anything else? There is also no separate protected nursery space. To implement this the general external space would be further eroded.

3. Inadequate Staff Car Park.

4. Inadequate Street Parking / Drop off.

5. Traffic Congestion.

6. Base Unit Disruption.

I would like to invite you to read the information available on this website, it makes very interesting reading : <http://www.schoolsreview.info/home.html>

Please give us your support and keep these two amazing school open. There are so many young children in Middleton Park and Glashieburn schools and many more that will be joining the schools in the next few years. Lets work together to ensure EVERY child is given the same standard of education and same opportunities. What we instil in young children is taken into their teen years and beyond. We need to ensure we provide excellent education to the young children to ensure they can support our economy in the future.

My granddaughter is a Primary 1 pupil at Middleton Park Primary School. I am extremely concerned about the proposed merger of Glashieburn Primary and Middleton Park Primary schools into a combined school on the Glashieburn site without any commitment to redevelop the site to cope with the influx of additional children.

I understand that this amalgamation would exceed the school roll capacity and that nursery and special needs places would have to be reduced to exacerbate the overload. This merger will surely disadvantage pre-school children and special needs children as well as creating teaching and play space problems for the school children, who will end up with the least amount of space per child compared with other schools in Aberdeen.

Please could I have your assurance that a proper reappraisal of the unsatisfactory internal and external space available for the merged school will be seriously considered before the Council's proposals are agreed.

I am a parent of a p1 child (currently at Middleton park) and a 2 1/2 year old. As the weeks go on I am becoming more and more concerned at the events surrounding the proposed merger of Middleton park and glashieburn schools.

I -as anyone would - strive for my kids to have the best education that they can. I am also realistic as to council finances and the fact new schools cannot be build all over the city. This however Is not an excuse to close city schools.

I cannot understand how a blank canvas school estate strategy that we had back in oldmachar in November had an educational officer state that one of three schools in the area would have to close. To now where again this is reiterated. Is the consultation just a paper exercise?

More and more the school - more importantly my child's EDUCATION - is being turned into a political circus which the kids are innocent pawns in a flawed process.

The huge delay in consultation (handily awaiting scottish parliament changes) and uncertainty are harsh, unfair and unsettling.

I appeal to common sense. Reality. Can you look me in the eye and assure me that the "new school" at glashieburn will offer my children the same educational benefits as other recent schools opening in the city. The new schools - such as mile end, Where 21st century learning takes place in purpose built roomy classrooms - opening out to a fantastic outdoor spaces, with spacious break out rooms, ict suites, libraries, dining rooms, performance halls and gym halls. Brimming with the latest technology.

Or in reality do you see a bad "fix".

Bridge of don children do not deserve a second class overcrowded education environment. Please put politics aside and consider carefully and without bias a sensible approach to education in the bridge of don. One that follows an open and robust process - free from preconceived ideas and damaging and quite remarkably flawed statements.

I for one am fed up being told to wait and engage in the "consultation" process. A process I have no confidence will provide aberdeen with a primary estate fit for the 21st century. A vision for the next 25 years.....

17/6/13

I am writing to you as my representatives at local and national government level.

I am truly concerned about the current proposals in relation to the closure of Middleton Park and Glashieburn schools.

As a parent of two pupils at Glashieburn, I am extremely concerned over a number of points within this proposal :

The timescale involved since the initial decision to consult on this proposal in February 2013 to the potential final decision likely at the Education, Sports and Culture committee in January 2014 - this is whole year of uncertainty. Why does the process take so long? Surely ACC should have done at least some homework on this proposal before it was even was presented to the committee - why do they need from Feb to August 2013 to fact find on their own school estate?

Current school rolls for both schools exceed Glashieburn's current capacity - the officers at a meeting on 10 June stated that they would never fill a school to capacity?

External facilities at Glashieburn are just sufficient for the current school roll - what will happen when a further 180 pupils are added into the playground? Surely health and safety risks?

Where will all the additional teachers park - there are no spare spaces at the moment?

Some of the existing MP pupils will have a distance to travel and no doubt working parents will have to drop off their kids at the school - local residents are going to be up in arms about this? There are serious health and safety issues with an increased volume of traffic around a school - how is this going to be addressed.

Internal facilities at Glashieburn are apparently adequate at the moment but below ACC expectations for All city schools to be B grade. There is certainly no comparison to the new 3R schools which are fit for 21 st Century schooling. An additional 180 pupils will mean classes will be placed in current corridors/busy areas outside the gym hall entrances - how will these kids concentrate when they are distracted by passing flow of other pupils coming and going into the halls throughout the day.

Also with all of these extra pupils how can the school provide 2 hours PE per week per pupil - there isn't enough halls for this? And how will the current kitchen/hall deal with all those extras lunches/seats required at lunchtime - how many more lunchtime staggers? How much more hanging around can the pupils take before they get lunch?

The curriculum for excellence encourages more mobile/group working and pupils should have room to work - where will this space be?

The school will have the lowest available internal space per pupil in Aberdeen - why is this acceptable to us? Other schools in the city where internal space is an issue, such as St Peters have school capping in place. So why is ACC proposing that our kids are put into that a worse situation than the most cramped schools in the city?

What is going to happen to the ASN unit within Glashieburn and the nursery facility? Any disruption to the ASN pupils will affect them seriously for a long period of time and that will affect their continued education. Surely nursery provision in any primary school should be encouraged and beneficial to all pupils - we are living with a real uncertainty over this too and have no guarantees from ACC on either.

I also cannot understand why this proposal isn't being considered along with the re-zoning proposal? Surely the large property developments at Grandhome and Sheilhill will have significant impact in both Glashieburn and Middleton Park? Why on earth is ACC proposing that kids from Grandhome cross a major trunk road to get to Danestone when Middleton Park is just a stones throw away? Why are they proposing that kids from Sheilhill walk to Scotstown which would also mean crossing the same major road until Greenbrae is extended. There is no doubt that Glahieburn could pick up some of these kids BUT NOT 180 EXTRA!!

I could really keeping going with a number of more arguments against this proposals but you will surely get the jist of why I feel this proposal is a no sense. Please can you feedback any comments and please do all you can to stop this now?

Thanks in advance,

18/6/13

I am writing to you to express my deep concerns over the proposed merger of Glashieburn and Middleton Park. My son >name< is 5years old and has autism. He started school at Glashieburn last year and was fortunate enough to get a place in the ASN Base Unit. >name<s autism means it is hard work for him to be around other children and he finds the school environment very noisy, busy and sometimes confusing. As I am sure you can appreciate it has been a difficult time for >name< adjusting to school and its demands. Without the base unit >name< would have found settling in at school impossible. This is one of the reasons I feel any changes to Glashieburn would impact on >name<s ability to cope with school and could trigger difficult behaviour due to any changes in his surroundings or routine. Glashieburn is a small school and an increase of possibly 180+ children would affect the schools ability to provide extra curriculum activities and would reduce time available in gym. >name< would find the changes needed at Glashieburn to accommodate Middleton Park children very confusing and distressing, especially if the base unit was affected. I understand the council budget is under pressure but to close two good performing schools to create one overcrowded and under spaced school seems unfair to all the children it will affect. Please try and find a better solution that will give our children - particularly those in the base unit the best experience at school possible. Please put their welfare and education before money. I would appreciate any feedback you may have on this matter

19/6/13

I am a GP living and working in Bridge of Don/Danestone and I'm emailing to express my great concern at the proposal to close two schools which are currently performing well and replace them with an amalgamated "Burst Primary" which will be immediately over-capacity using current rolls and the council officers' own capacity figures.

I am slightly heartened by the news last week that educational benefit must still be gained for a school to be closed as I cannot see how anyone could honestly say this plan would benefit the children's education. I know there are budget constraints as there are everywhere but education is a priority and it would be grossly unfair to close two excellent schools, neither of which have high average costs per pupil compared to other Aberdeen schools, when the plan is not to build a new school but to cram them into one of the existing buildings with inadequate playground space. (Glashieburn was rated C overall at capacity by council officers' report and D for playground so not even room to extend, Middleton Park was rated B at capacity). This would be a move to a worse situation for both groups of children.

There are so many reasons why this is a short-sighted plan.

Burst Primary leaves no room for any fluctuation in numbers from year to year. My practice area includes all of Danestone and Bridge of Don. From my knowledge of rising birthrates amongst my patient population here in Bridge of Don and from a search of the practice computer system for

numbers of children born each year over the last 12 years, I would expect numbers of schoolchildren to increase in the next few years. The practice midwife now runs clinics twice a week instead of once a week to cope with rising demand. The baby and toddler group I attend which has been running for about 20 years has had a waiting list this year for the first time ever. I believe the Middleton Park nursery has seen an increase in demand for nursery places for 2013/14 with children on a waiting list for a place. It makes no sense to cut the number of nursery places overall in the combined school as is planned when the demand is there for more not fewer places. The council officers were proven to have grossly underestimated pupil numbers for the following five years in 2008 and again in their report for this 2013 proposal the current rolls exceed what was stated. I suspect they have also underestimated in their projections for pupil numbers over the next few years.

The Glashieburn site is at the periphery of the new proposed catchment area making it inconvenient and impractical for children at the other end of the zone to walk to school - over 30minutes. More children will therefore be driven. This would be bad for traffic congestion in the area as there is no easy parking. I am aware of two children who have been hit by cars outside Glashieburn school already at school pick-up time. Increasing the number of children will only increase the risk of this happening. We are all trying to get children (and parents) to be more active to reduce ill-health due to obesity so walking to school is important for health as well as the environment. As a parent of a nursery and P1 child I would have to walk over 3 hours a day to do this if we were going to Burst Primary.

With Burst Primary full to bursting the plan also includes rezoning the children from the new Grandhome development and surrounding countryside from Middleton Park to Danestone Primary. This would involve the children crossing the A90 at the Buckie Farm roundabout where there are regularly road accidents. I have seen 3 in the past three months including one which smashed through the barriers and took out the crossing lights as the car mounted the pavement. For some reason this plan is being consulted on separately although it is a key part of the Burst Primary proposal.

As a doctor, I am also concerned about the effect on the children from the ASN base at Glashieburn. Many of these children find change difficult. They often also need more space to learn and are more stressed by busy environments.

A better plan might be to build a new school on the Middleton Park site as this is more central to the zone and has easy parking at Asda and Mains of Scotstown. The children might then have to all go to Glashieburn for a year or so while building this but this situation would be short term for overall benefit, not a long term solution.

Another preferred alternative to Burst Primary would be to continue as the schools are for the medium term. They are both ageing but neither are near to falling down and now both have solar panels so lighting and electricity costs will be much reduced.

I fear that the children will be cramped into Glashieburn and the Middleton Park site sold for more housing as a short-sighted quick fix. More housing will result in more children in the zone with no space in Glashieburn and then there will no suitable land to build a new school in the area when the Middleton Park site is the obvious place for this.

I would urge you to act now to consider the above and to assure me that any change will be for the benefit of the children at the two schools rather than for overall benefit to the children of Aberdeen by robbing Peter to pay Paul.

21/6/13

Thank-you. I would like to know in particular if educational benefit has to be gained for the children from Middleton Park and Gladhieburn to close the schools or if the educational benefit could be claimed as a whole for Aberdeen children by using the money saved elsewhere?

9/7/13

I am writing to you on behalf of Education or Burst, the group formed from the parent councils of Glashieburn and Middleton Park schools. We have a vast and growing argument against the plans to close Middleton Park and Glashieburn schools to form Burst Primary, the 'new' school proposed for the existing Glashieburn facility.

As you are aware the parents in Bridge of Don are certain that the current proposals for Burst Primary are so flawed that they should never have been put to statutory consultation and certainly not be considered separately from the proposed rezoning within the associated schools group. We are writing to urge you to stop the current process.

Following our recent discussions with the Cabinet Secretary for Education we were reassured at the centrality of educational benefit to any proposed school closure. He called for transparency in the press and it would appear the Council have promised this. As part of this promise we are seeking explanations and clarity on the matters detailed below.

Much of our alarm centres on the content of a single email from one of your officers, David Leng to the Education Convenor Jenny Laing, Deputy Education Convenor Ross Thomson and Councillor Willie Young. We feel that this email alone provides compelling reasons to halt the process now. A copy of the original email is available starting from page 11 of the following document on the council website, <http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=49618&slD=22462> .

In the email, David Leng offers his advice to the Education Convenor on why the closures should happen and attempts to justify them. We are deeply distressed that his advice could be misleading and have highlighted these concerns with questions relating to them following the extracts of his email below.

[Internal HDD:Users:Ewan:Desktop:Screen Shot 2013-06-06 at 19.21.16.png]

We agree, both schools have a long history of high attainment and would like to see this continue.

[Internal HDD:Users:Ewan:Desktop:Screen Shot 2013-06-06 at 19.23.43.png]

We are both concerned and perplexed by this statement.

Is David advising the Education Convenor that there is NO evidence to suggest children's educational outcomes can be adversely affected by a merger?

Do you agree that there is no evidence of adverse outcomes following a school merger?

[Internal HDD:Users:Ewan:Desktop:Screen Shot 2013-06-06 at 19.24.48.png]

This is another highly concerning, potentially misleading statement.

What resources and facilities does David mean?

Given the fact the Council's budget was under spent last year and our cost per pupil is significantly below the Aberdeen average why are we not seeing this essential investment in our schools now?

What evidence can you provide that there would in fact be additional investment into the amalgamated school?

Given the fact that the Glashieburn facilities are rated as 'Poor' when at capacity and the merger would take it over capacity, we would very much like the opportunity to review the research mentioned. Can you make this available to us?

[Internal HDD:Users:Ewan:Desktop:Screen Shot 2013-06-06 at 19.29.08.png]

What about the unsuccessful amalgamations? The evidence we have reviewed indicates that the process, under which, this amalgamation is proceeding will not be successful for a generation of children in Bridge of Don if not beyond. Additionally we have heard reports of significant problems in some of the other amalgamated schools. Can you comment?

[Internal HDD:Users:Ewan:Desktop:Screen Shot 2013-06-06 at 19.35.23.png]

While this sounds entirely reasonable and noble, it is in direct contrast to the requirement to provide educational benefit for each of the children affected by closures and subsequent merger. Releasing resources is not an acceptable benefit and would in fact be detrimental to the children currently attending Glashieburn and Middleton Park schools. We are particularly concerned that there is not even an assurance, that should any released funds materialise, they will be spent within the Bridge of Don.

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Here David is using very striking figures to convince the Education Convenor that proceeding to statutory process is absolutely the thing to do. We believe the way these figures are presented is misleading.

We have discussed capacities with all 3 Parent Councils. Our experience and previous communications suggest that nobody, we have been in conversation with, who is associated with the schools believes they could deliver CfE as effectively as they are currently at the capacities suggested.

We must remember these are 1980s schools. At capacity there is almost no free space that is currently enjoyed for project working, science weeks, reading weeks and general CfE requirements.

The teachers who would be able to offer an expert opinion from their professional teaching experience and in depth knowledge of the schools have been advised not to speak with the parents about the proposals. Do you believe this situation offers transparency?

The capacity figures David is stating here would put the schools firmly at the bottom of the Aberdeen internal space per pupil league.

[Internal HDD:Users:Ewan:Desktop:Screen Shot 2013-06-06 at 19.42.56.png]

These statements suggest that the roll at Middleton Park is reliant on the Grandhome development which is simply not the case. It also calls into serious doubt the decision to separate the statutory consultation of the school zones from the closure and merger of Middleton Park and Glashieburn schools. The two proposals are fundamentally linked and we believe they cannot be considered separately. Could you confirm that the consultations will be separated, and if so, provide justification on why they are not being considered together when they have such a fundamental impact on one another?

We believe part of the reason for the proposed closures is to saturate capacity forcing the developer at Grandhome to build a new school early in the development. Can you confirm this?

[Internal HDD:Users:Ewan:Desktop:Screen Shot 2013-06-06 at 20.06.07.png]

23 teaching spaces would give Glashieburn a capacity of 690 pupils. This would take internal space per pupil to less than 4.5m² per pupil. This verges on half the space of the schools currently at the bottom of the league table for space. Our pupils would be enjoying one fifth of the space that is currently enjoyed by Braehead or Seaton. What about the nursery, additional support needs base or space required for CfE?

Do you feel David was justified in suggesting that there are 23 viable teaching spaces in Glashieburn?

Would it surprise you that some of those spaces in other identically laid out schools have been written off by officers due to an acceptance that they are actually corridors?

Do you agree this paragraph has the potential to mislead about available space?

We have calculated, that if the classroom spaces were in line with those enjoyed by new schools like Braehead we would have a total capacity of approx 750 spaces across the 3 schools. We would also stress, that unlike, schools like Braehead this would be with absolutely no additional space or facilities. If we were to add some additional facilities such as a little library and some ICT as well as wet areas the three schools would be OVER capacity just now.

Willie Young has recently said that there were “catastrophic errors” with the 3Rs project. Are the children of Aberdeen now suffering from these errors and the cost burden they have brought?

Our final question, the stated objective of the school estates review is to ensure long-term sustainability. Do you think closing great schools both of which are well under the Aberdeen average for cost per pupil and are certainly not flush with excess internal space per pupil is justified?

We are calling for this inherently flawed process to be halted with immediate effect. In addition, while we don't expect brand new state-of-the-art schools, we do at least expect some parity. As such, we are calling for an urgent reappraisal of the capacity of our facilities done in full collaboration with all stakeholders.

We look forward to your response.

23/8/13

I received a letter today regarding the above consultation from Glashieburn primary.

Please advise when the educational benefit statement will be available and how I can obtain a copy?

A parent called on Friday afternoon, after receiving her parents letter in her child's school bag she was disappointed to be unable to access the web link straight away.

I am a parent of two Glashieburn pupils and member of the Parent Council.

I have been absolutely astonished and upset by the actions of ACC over the past few months which has culminated today in reading in the local press when the public meeting on this proposal will take place.

I have given up a considerable amount of time being involved in this proposal including meeting with ACC Education officers to discuss timing, etc of these meetings. Both Glashieburn and Middleton Park parents has been given assurances by both Gayle Gorman and Derek Smanson that

- via Gayle at an ACPCF meeting -we would be given in excess of the statutory minimum to consider your report - we really don't think that an extra 3 days is excessive and not what we would have expected

- via Derek - we would receive the report around 20th July in order that we had time to absorb the report in advance of the public meetings and that we could communicate our views to our parent body also. This certainly has NOT happened with no explanation why or an update on the status of the report despite numerous emails from our PC. ACC have had 6 months to write this report - what were the hold ups? You are giving us 33 days to respond - what is the parity in this?

Can you respond to these concerns and let me know why ACC couldn't have had the decency to discuss this with the PC in advance to ensure that the plans did meet our expectations?

We have also not heard from ACC on how they are going to communicate the process with other stakeholders within the catchment of both schools - not everyone gets the P&J - what are your plans?

I believed at the start of this process that it would be a fair consultation for all parties involved but the lack of communication has tarnished my views.

All we want to achieve from this consultation is a fair review and the best outcome for our children and the citizens within the area. The children's education is key in this process and still we haven't seen ACC Educational Benefit statement, ie ACC assessment of why ACC think this proposal will benefit our children. We need time to digest this and be ready to ask ACC officers, etc questions on specifics at the meeting, etc and revert back with our report.

25/8/13

I wish to protest at the news that Middleton Park has been threatened with closure and being merged with Glashieburn Primary School. This proposed action raises a number of concerns that I feel have not been fully addressed.

1. **Attainment level.** The attainment level of Middleton Park is the highest of the three primary schools on Jesmond Drive. Table 1 shows how Middleton Park Primary compares with the rest of Aberdeen City. This will be affected by the proposed merger of Middleton Park to Glashieburn Primary. It is also better than the city average, strange that the stated goal is to increase the attainment level of Aberdeen to that being achieved by Edinburgh and Glasgow by closing one of its higher attaining schools

Percentage of pupils attaining or exceeding minimum levels for their stage (P3 to P7) 2010/2011		
	Middleton Park	City

Reading	88	80
Writing	96	73
Maths	94	82

Table 1

2. **School site safety.** The position of Middleton Park Primary compared to Glashieburn Primary is actually better suited as Asda Car Park is nearby which allows parents to safely drop off and pick up their children. The situation at Glashieburn is more dangerous as there is no suitable parking.

3. **School building suitability.** There is little to separate the schools on Jesmond Drive regarding this. All that I have been told is that Glashieburn is large enough to accommodate Middleton Park school as is, no additional building work is required. This means rooms that are currently being used as computer room and library and for extra-curricular activities will be earmarked for closure and put aside for the use of Middleton Park. This will have an effect on attainment levels of both the affected schools of Middleton Park and Glashieburn.

4. **School building capacity.** Currently the capacity figures are quoted at 60 to 70%. (Although I dispute the 71% figure quoted for Middleton Park as this figure includes the temporary classes housed in portacabins.) With the proposed future housing developments there will be very little spare capacity left for the children from these new developments as the combined Middleton Park/Glashieburn School will be at 100% capacity. In the short term the schools are under capacity but in the medium to longer term future housing developments will acquire this spare capacity.

I urge you to re-consider your position and fight to stop the closure and merger of Middleton Park with Glashieburn.

I refer to the proposed merger of Glashieburn Primary and Middleton Park and have viewed the proposed site plan and have the following observation:

The library area designated will not be large enough to cope with the books already in Glashieburn school library. Is it the Councils plan to restrict the number and type of books available for loan to the pupils? Is the library from Middleton Park to also to be accommodated?

Consultation Commenced 26 August 2013

26/8/13

I am writing with grave concern over the moving of Middleton Park school Into the Glashieburn building.

I have looked at your plan and it is NOT ACCEPTABLE the proposals you have made There is no room and the areas you have suggested could be classrooms will make it very cramp.

My particular concern is the LIBRARY area. At the moment I help voluntary in the library and helped set it up the way it is now. I have counted a minimum of 20 shelving units each 1 meter long filled with books.

There is absolutely no way that the books the shelves, the desk and of course having room for the children to view and select the books, will fit in the tiny space which is about a quarter of the size, that is your plan.. Sometime there is two classes at the same time could be about 30 children and the area you have selected has a flow of traffic of children going towards the gym, the dinner hall and the computer room.

I don't think you have thought this through practically.

For health and safety reasons this area is not acceptable it is far too small and cramp and if there was a fire there will be a jam up of children--NOT GOOD.The area you have suggested is nothing more than a corridor.

In this day and age of computers and video games keeping the children interested in books is a hard job at the best of times and the for the children coming to the library is exciting and makes books interesting.

Many parents don;t have time to go to the public libraries these days, so this could be the children's only chance of selecting books.

I SUGGEST THEREFORE THAT YOU CLOSE MIDDLETON PARK DOWN AND REZONE THE CHILDREN AND SPREAD THEM ABOUT. IT IS A SHAME FOR THE CHILDREN BUT THEY WILL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN WHEN HEY ARE AT THE ACADEMY.I KNOW SOME OF THE CHILDREN THAT GO THERE ARE FROM DANESTONE AND THOSE THAT STAY IN THE MIDDLETON HOUSES COULD GOT TO FOREHILL SCHOOL. WHY SPOIL A GOOD SCHOOL LIKE GLASHIEBURN BY MAKING IT TO CRAMP.

Just a note to let you that as a parent of two pupils at Middleton Park primary school (Aberdeen) I as well as many others oppose the proposed closing down and merger of MP Primary school. I have already expressed my views in writing to local councillors before in quite detail on more than one occasion, but basically we as parents cannot understand how the new pupil nos will fit into Glashieburn school and all teaching facilities provided to all pupils to benefit their learning and education (capacity issues). Why is a high performing school such as MP Primary being targeted for closure, and has future residential expansion in the area being considered by the council in all details with respect to these decisions. From reading the consultation reports it doesn't look like it this has been detailed enough.

Also having looked over the consultation report I do not see any clear guidelines, recommendations on what will happen to out of zone children. This is a big area of concern to me as we live out of zone and my eldest will be going to Oldmachar next year with my youngest still in Primary.

I strongly object to the proposed merger plans.

27/8/13

I have just been reviewing the document issued by the ACC with regards to the combining of Glashieburn and Middleton Park Primaries.

I would like to know why the document which took months to release is a cut and paste from at least two other documents that this council has released?

- The Bramble Brae/Quarryhill conclusion is EXACTLY the same for Glashieburn/Middleton Park.
- Parts of the conclusion were used for the Kincorth and Torry's brand new academy.

To add further insult the quality of the documents are extremely poor. Has anyone from the council read these documents in their entirety? Does the council have no quality control to prevent the regurgitation of other previous used documents? Or is this "don't care" attitude what we should expect from this council?

Do the children of these schools not deserve better?!

I am a parent of two Glashieburn pupils and a member of Glashieburn Parent Council.

I have been absolutely astonished and upset by the actions of ACC over the past few months which culminated on Friday when I was advised by a work colleague that there was a public notice in the P&J regarding the dates of the public meeting on this proposal.

Both Glashieburn and Middleton Park Parent Councils seem to have been ignored regarding planning for the statutory process. It is discouraging, that the officers felt unable to update the PCs on developments, including the planned meeting dates etc. This is despite e-mailing the officers on a number of occasions for an update on progress. The PCs were completed in the dark until Friday morning once we discovered the dates of the public consultations in the P&J.

You may be aware that members of both Parent Councils, including myself, gave up our time to meet with your officers in order to discuss how best to organise the public meetings etc. At best we expected some communication in advance regarding the meeting times and venues to ensure this aligned with our initial discussions. We are also still in the dark regarding how they plan to communicate the consultation to the broader Bridge of Don community given that not everyone reads the P&J or whether the request for translators at the meetings has been actioned. We have sought answers on this but would be grateful if you could help with this also.

We have been promised a process that will go beyond the bare minimum and examples of such are as follows:-

- via Gayle Gorman at a ACPCF meeting - we would be given in excess of the statutory minimum to consider the consultation report - I really don't think that an extra 3 days is excessive and nowhere near our expectations

- via Derek Samson and Charlie Penman at the pre arranged meeting per above - PCs would receive the consultation document around 20th July in order that we had time to review the report well in advance of the start of the consultation period and the public meetings.

This certainly has NOT happened with no explanation why or an update on the status of the document despite numerous emails from our Parent Council. The officers have had 6 months to write this report - what were the hold ups? We have 33 school days to respond - where is the parity?

And of course what happened on Friday 23 August - the document was released then withdrawn on Monday 26 August with no apology or explanation nor notes on what exactly had changed. Once again our PC groups and the wider parent group had spent lots of family time over the weekend reviewing a document which was to be scrapped within hours? Why did this happen?

There needs to be co-operation and transparency. We do not believe recent events are in keeping with any of this.

Getting back to the content of the second version of the document, I feel that it contains numerous inaccuracies and the bulk of its content has no back-up facts/information but assertions/assumptions with little substance. I have read through the document in great detail and have notes typed up in excess of 6 A4 pages questioning the basis for assertions/assumptions, facts and information key to the proposal being missed from the report, specific questions on parts of the document, etc.

It has shocked me that this is the type of information that you, our councillors, are presented with to make key decisions affected the future of my/our children. I urge you to question the information in this report and also whether there is additional information that should be considered - please review with your "parent hat on" , ie as if you were a parent of a child within these schools as well as our councillors. What benefit could there be to any child being educated in a school with the least space in ACC school estate, approx 7m2 per pupil?

I would like to see a fair review and the best outcome for my/our children and the citizens within the area. The children's education is key in this process .

28/8/13

I am once more emailing about the Burst Primary proposals now that we find ourselves finally at the start of the statutory consultation. I had thought the purpose of waiting 6 months was to provide more detailed information on the proposal but what we have been presented with is very disappointing. Have you had a chance to read it yet? I fully read the version we were directed to on Friday in the letters sent home with the kids. It was then very annoying to be told on Sunday that an early draft had been mistakenly put out instead of the final one. However, having now taken yet more time to read the final version on the website it doesn't look like much has changed and it certainly doesn't look like a final draft.

There are large chunks cut and pasted from the document about the new build school for the amalgamation of Torry and Kincorth Academies. The arguments may make sense in the context of a new build but it makes no sense to apply them to Burst Primary. There is no mention of whether the existing number of nursery places will be retained. There is no explanation of the plan for how the children will be accommodated. The problems with parking outside the school and road safety have not been addressed. There are simple errors in the times quoted for walking distances in Appendix 1 if the distances are correct. The suitability of the Glashieburn building and playground has been "reassessed" since February and found to have inexplicably improved in its ratings without any actual changes. There is no significant drop in the pupil numbers predicted at Middleton Park without the Grandhome development but graphs and text are misleading to say that there is. Glashieburn's perimeter fence has been omitted from the map to make the cramped playground look bigger. The capacity of Glashieburn Primary was stated in February to be 420 but this has now been changed to 460 with no mention of how the extra children would be fitted in, to give the appearance of the proposal being feasible presumably when it was realised that the school would be over-capacity from

the start. At 420 it would already be the school with the least internal space per pupil in Aberdeen. I could go on...

There are so many glaring errors in the document and it is littered with cut and paste errors with words missed out and non-sentences. I have no confidence in its suitability to inform the public or the Education, Sports and Culture Committee on their decision. Please see this and help stop Bridge of Don kids getting such an unfair solution, to the detriment of their educational experience, in Burst Primary.

I am writing in response to the proposed merge between Middleton Park Primary and Glashieburn Primary. Having looked at the details there appears to be absolutely no educational benefit to the children with this merger. The existing Glashieburn school would be fit to burst, therefore losing many benefits which both schools have at the moment. This is bound to have a detrimental effect on the educational performance, which at the moment is exceptional from both schools.

I cannot understand why the proposed housing development for Grandholm is being used as a pointer in this matter as the houses haven't even got planning permission, let alone a new school being built! To say that Brimmond is "adjacent" to this area is ridiculous and the thought of children living in Bridge of Don having to travel to Brimmond is ludicrous.

When the focus should be on educating our children, who are the future of our city, it would appear that officers are losing sight of what is important and misleading councillors and the public with misleading information.

I truly hope that many people get behind a campaign to stop this ridiculous proposal from going any further.

29/8/13

After reading the document regarding the proposal to close Middleton Park Primary and merge into the existing building at Glashieburn Primary (not Academy as your document states) I cannot believe that this proposal is still going ahead based on a document that has so many errors. I cannot see any educational benefit to the children, this decision is purely financial driven.

The space inside Glashieburn Primary School is not big enough to accommodate all the children. An additional 180 pupils will mean that classes will be placed in current corridors/areas outside gym hall/school dinner hall entrances – how will the children be able to concentrate when they have the distraction of other pupils coming and going throughout the day?

How will the school provide 2 hours PE per week per pupil – there is not enough room!

Will the kitchen staff cope with the extra lunches/seats required at lunchtime – both halls are currently used and lunches are already staggered – how long will children have to wait before they get lunch?

The curriculum for excellence encourages more mobile/group working and pupils should have room to work - where will this space be?

The school will have the lowest available internal space per pupil in Aberdeen - why is this acceptable to us? Other schools in the city where internal space is an issue have school capping in place. So why is ACC proposing that our children are put into that a worse situation than the most cramped schools in the city?

What is going to happen to the ASN unit within Glashieburn and the nursery facility? Any disruption to the ASN pupils will affect them seriously for a long period of time and that will affect their continued

education. Surely nursery provision in any primary school should be encouraged and beneficial to all pupils.

What about non classroom impact - IT rooms only have a certain amount of computers a higher number of children mean less timetabled options for the children. Sports days/ school disco's/ parent invited events such as school concerts. More sessions have to be put on to allow parent to access events or extreme ticket restrictions apply meaning many parents miss out.

Inadequate Staff Car Park - there will not be enough parking spaces for the additional teachers that will be required for this "new" school - where are they going to park ?

Inadequate Street Parking / Drop off - currently at school drop off/collection time the area around the school is extremely congested. This is only going to get worse. In an ideal world all children would walk to school but with the distance you are going to be making some children travel to the "new" school this is not possible. Where do you suggest these additional cars go?

I feel that this proposal is wrong and I hope that the correct decision is made for the children's sake - both schools should remain open.

Please clarify when the consultation period ends. On the letter dated 22 August 2013 sent to parents and carers at both schools you state two different finishing dates for the consultation period.

The website and consultation document differ from the letter as well.

Does it end 5pm on the 10th of October, 5pm on 11th October or midnight on 11th October?

This is another example of the unacceptable inconsistencies throughout the documentation.

How do you intend to clarify this for all stakeholders?

30/8/13

As a parent of past, present and future pupils at the above school phase treat this email as my formal rejection of the proposed amalgamation.

I wish to lodge my very serious concerns regarding the closure of Middleton Park School. I can appreciate that the Council require to make savings but to do so at the expensive of our children's education is deplorable.

To merge both schools into an existing building will have it bursting at the seams and not only will the children suffer but the teaching staff will also.

It's quite a distance for many of the existing children who currently go to Middleton Park to then travel on to Glashieburn and more parents will end up using cars etc which will have the effect of putting more vehicles on our already congested road system and the children will get less exercise as a result. For by, there is so little parking at Glashieburn that safety will be compromised.

Our children are precious - we should be doing everything to get it right first time for their education and not relying on consultation documents which are definitely not fit for purpose.

30/8/13

We are very concerned about the proposed closure of Glashieburn and Middleton Primaries. Glashieburn will have no space for the extra classes which will mean that there will be no room for a Library or space for active learning as there will be so many children in each area. How will each class get 2 hours of P.E. in the gym hall when there will be so many classes? Another concern is the traffic around the school on a wet day as there is no parking beside it. Surely in a few years there will be more places needed as so many new houses are being occupied and there are so many toddlers and babies in local groups coming up for school age. Please reconsider this proposal before it is too late.

I am a parent of two Glashieburn pupils and a member of Glashieburn Parent Council.

I have been absolutely astonished and upset by the actions of ACC over the past few months which culminated on Friday when I was advised by a work colleague that there was a public notice in the P&J regarding the dates of the public meeting on this proposal.

Both Glashieburn and Middleton Park Parent Councils seem to have been ignored regarding planning for the statutory process. It is discouraging, that the officers felt unable to update the PCs on developments, including the planned meeting dates etc. This is despite e-mailing the officers on a number of occasions for an update on progress. The PCs were completed in the dark until Friday morning once we discovered the dates of the public consultations in the P&J.

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It has shocked me that this is the type of information that you, our councillors, are presented with to make key decisions affected the future of my/our children. I urge you to question the information in this report and also whether there is additional information that should be considered - please review with your "parent hat on" , ie as if you were a parent of a child within these schools as well as our councillors. What benefit could there be to any child being educated in a school with the least space in ACC school estate, approx 7m2 per pupil?

My grand-daughter is a primary 2 pupil at Middleton Park - a school which she loves and is thriving educationally.

I am extremely concerned about the proposed merger of Middleton Park primary school pupils with Glashieburn primary school pupils into the existing Glashieburn school.

I can see no educational benefit to the children by being shoe-horned into an existing school which cannot possibly cope with an influx of over 200 children from Middleton Park. In addition, the first report classified Glashieburn with a "C" suitability rating (Poor: Showing major problems and/or not operating optimally (the school buildings and grounds impede the delivery of activities that are needed for children and communities in the school), but mysteriously, with no improvements made it has been re-classified in the consultation document with a "B" suitability rating (Satisfactory: Performing well but with minor problems (the school buildings and grounds generally support the delivery of services to children and communities)).

Apparently, there are no plans to develop or extend Glashieburn over the 25 year planning period, so obviously the situation will only get worse.

Currently, in each school there are 2 lunchtime sittings, a merged school would therefore need 4 lunchtime sittings due to space restrictions and this would mean 50% less time available for pupils to eat their lunch. Similarly, the available playing field will be too small to allow children to play games like football at lunchtimes.

If this merger goes ahead, the amount of space per child will be the smallest across the whole of Aberdeen, leading to severe problems arranging lunchtime, physical education, playtime, flexible learning spaces, library facilities, computer rooms and nursery provision. None of these problems have been addressed properly and cannot possibly lead to any educational benefit.

Middleton Park is a great school and it does not make any sense to close it, especially since planning permission has been given for several thousand new houses in the area, meaning additional school capacity will be needed, not less. If the council are serious about providing an excellent education for all children, then emphasis must be placed on building new schools, rather than shoe-horning children into existing old buildings and closing good schools.

Please would you consider my concerns outlined above for the public consultation and allow Middleton Park School to continue with their excellent provision of education for our children.

31/8/13

I have recently sent my son to start school at Glashieburn, when I did this I thought his schooling future was certain. Glashieburn may not be a brand new fancy school but what it lacks in ascetics is made by Teachers and other staff that are 100% dedicated to the pupils and parents they serve. The teacher know each child and parents from the start of there school life to the time they leave. The people of Bridge of Don voted these councillors and politicians' in in order to serve this community and yet they stab them in the back with this ill thought out plan and destroy schools that have been part of that very community for over 30 years.

As a parent we all want to provide the best for our kids, adding more pupils to a school is not going to help anyone from teachers to the children who's education seems to matter so little to the people that are purposing this amalgamation. As a parent I want my child to be able to be taught in a classroom that is safe, bright and not overcrowded and every resource stretched even further. I DO NOT WANT my child being taught in a space the size of a corridor. What happens whist this amalgamation goes a head children being force to deal with disruptions to what is one of the most important time in there life. Both schools will also am sure have different ways of doing things which these children are just expected to deal with. The children also learn from a young age part of a certain community or a group by which school they come from. They will be then asked to lose that identity and adopt a new one may be harder on some Children. Glashieburn is also rate according to your own report as in a worse state than Middleton Park so why is adding more pupils really the way to go. There is also no mention of the nursery or nursery facilities, this means the possibility of having your child at a private nursery where that child is not going to form friendships with other children in their future p1 and will not benefit from the school environment. It also may mean a child going to school nursery else where than attending the new amalgamated school later again it would be the child that suffers as they lose friends etc. Your reports highlight that Glashieburns' Car park was rated C meaning it is adequate. This increases the danger of getting to the school may dangerous roads and existing traffic congestion on Newburgh Road and surrounding area. Middleton park also appears to rate better in area called fixed fixtures and fittings and environment factors. They also do better in parts of the school as dining room and private study areas. There are heaps of areas on the report carried out this year which are rated C its simple, more pupils more stress on these resources. Instead of destroying two great schools invest in improving them from B and in some cases Cs to A. To my mind this exercise is just a cost cutting all the way, if it the case amalgamating the schools what happens to some of the staff pay cuts for some and the prospect of higher pupil numbers adding stress to the staff. For the pupils an overcrowded classroom, limited resources and attention leading to more disadvantaged pupils, playgrounds packed. This is probably another area that Aberdeen City council forgot to look at when purposing this. Bridge of don resources are already stretched (for example the local Doctors surgery) In the last 10 years we have seen new housing at Grandholm, Dubford and Jesmond Drive but appears to be a lack of funding for education and community facilities. This Area is still growing and within 10 years I predict that you will be all for building two new schools as Amalgamated Glashieburn won't be fit to increased numbers May I also ask why you added solar panels to these schools when you new you were thinking of getting rid of one of these schools. Why also are some schools catchment areas seem so small such as Forehill, Yet the new Glashieburn/Middleton Park area takes in so large an area and an area of fields earmarked for development. In one of your reports going back to 2009 1/3 of children were not from the catchment area. This was back in 2009 this was the case so within 4 years how much has this increased or decreased. How many people I really struggle to get my head round the size of the catchment area and the distance some pupils will face simply to be educated I strongly think this decision needs to be re thought and the best idea would be to scrap it- Safeguard our kids future and say no to amalgamation and Closure of Middleton Park.

I am writing to express my sincere concerns of the proposed closure of Glahieburn Primary and Middleton Park Primary school consultation.

The report is shocking to say the least. There are mutiple errors and many parts make no sense at all and many of the supposed facts within the report do not add up.

Why do Aberdeen city council believe this is a fair proposal is beyond unreasonable. I cannot fathom why parents have been left to wait for 6 months to be presented with what only can be described as complete shambles.

It is clear that many parts are cut and pasted from a proposal that received a new school and was an academy. I have spent the whole of the last week going over both the "preview" and now what we are told is the actual report. This is both time consuming and very confusing in many parts. Despite parents told we would be given the report before the start of the consultation. Yet it is still as clear as mud in both relation to the facts and the reasoning within these documents.

I fully intend to engage in all the meetings. I will revert back with my thoughts in writing after attendance as even with the intention of attending all the meetings I would sincerely doubt I will scratch the surface within my 3 minute time slot at each to communicate my views on the most ludicrous plan that has been dreamt up by Aberdeen City Council to date.

01/09/13

Proposed Middleton Park Primary School Closure & Merger with Glashieburn Primary

I wish to protest at the new that Middleton Park has been threatened with closure and being merged with Glashieburn Primary School. This proposed action raises a number of concerns that I feel have not been fully addressed.

1. Attainment level

The attainment level of Middleton Park is the highest of the three primary schools on Jesmond Drive. Table 1 shows how Middleton Park Primary compares with the rest of Aberdeen City. This will be affected by the proposed merger of Middleton Park to Glashieburn Primary. It is also better than the city average, strange that the stated goal is to increase the attainment level of Aberdeen to that being achieved by Edinburgh and Glasgow by closing one of its higher attaining schools

Percentage of pupils attaining or exceeding minimum levels for their stage (P3 to P7) 2010/2011		
	Middleton Park	City
Reading	88	80
Writing	96	73
Maths	94	82

Table 1

2. **School site safety**

The position of Middleton Park Primary compared to Glashieburn Primary is actually better suited as Asda Car Park is nearby which allows parents to safely drop off and pick up their children. The situation at Glashieburn is more dangerous as there is no suitable parking on Jesmond Drive. With around 200 extra pupils going to Glashieburn Primary, Jesmond Drive will become gridlocked in the morning.

3. **School building suitability**

There is little to separate the schools on Jesmond Drive regarding this. All that I have been told is that Glashieburn is large enough to accommodate Middleton Park school as is, no additional building work is required. This means rooms that are currently being used as computer room and library and for extra-curricular activities will be earmarked for closure and put aside for the use of Middleton Park. This will have an effect on attainment levels of both the affected schools of Middleton Park and Glashieburn.

4. **School building capacity**

Currently the capacity figures are quoted at 60 to 70%. (Although I dispute the 71% figure quoted for Middleton Park as this figure includes the temporary classes housed in portacabins.) With the proposed future housing developments there will be very little spare capacity left for the children from these new developments as the combined Middleton Park/Glashieburn School will be at 100% capacity. In the short term the schools are under capacity but in the medium to longer term with the increasing birth rate and future housing developments will acquire this spare capacity. I wonder if the main reason to close and amalgamate these schools is just a ploy to get the remaining amalgamated school to full capacity forcing any future developers to pay for the creation of a new school. Meanwhile in the interim period the amalgamated school which council officers branded "poor" condition in January 2013 will result in a period where education standards are bound to drop as no new major alterations are due to take place. Only new uniform and new staff are provisioned for.

5. **School timetable**

With the amalgamated school running at full capacity and rooms currently used for computer study, library functions being converted to class rooms the time tabling of playground time and lunch time will be complex. It will require 3 different sessions to accommodate this number of pupils at the school canteen for example, a logistical nightmare.

6. **Nursery provision**

There is no mention of a nursery at the amalgamated school in the consultation document. Does this mean there will be no provision made for nursery places? Where will the 3 to 4 year olds then go for nursery?

I urge you to re-consider your position and fight to stop the closure and merger of Middleton Park with Glashieburn.

I am surprised to hear of the proposal to amalgamate Glashieburn and Middleton Park primary schools.

Apart from the cramped areas present pupils will have to work in, the new house builds which will be completed in the surrounding areas will add substantially to the school rolls. Surely crowded conditions are not suitable for the Curriculum for Excellence?

I hope the council will for once, look at the "bigger picture".

I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this communication.

I am mailing you to express my disbelief at the proposal to close Middleton Park & merge with Glashieburn in the existing school building.

I have 2 children at Middleton Park & a third starting nursery after Easter 2014.

You are proposing to squeeze the children into a school which, from what I understand from your own reports, is not fit for purpose & has nowhere near the space needed to give these children a proper education.

Another questions also springs to mind:

There is no mention of nursery provision in your consultation document, does this mean there will be no nursery ??!

Where will the 3-4 year olds go & how will this effect their transition into P1 ??

Don't get me wrong, I am not against change or a merger between these two schools if you were proposing a facility that would benefit with space & equipment that our children deserve for their education.

2/9/13

I wish to strongly object to the quality the statutory consultation document. This reads like a sales pitch for school closures and not like the objective evidence of the need for change and educational benefits statement that is required. It is filled with factual inaccuracies and misleading information skewed towards false benefit from the proposed closures. In short is THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT ITSELF IS NOT FIT FOR PURPOSE.

I will email again, once I have managed to decipher the gobbledygook from the document.

Can I ask why 3 of the consultation meetings have been organised during the week of Offshore Europe ?

My husband cannot attend any of these meetings because he is at OE as I'm sure are many other concerned individuals.

Dear all

I attended this afternoon the first consultation meeting for the statutory consultation of Glashieburn and Middleton park primary school.

I cannot understand why a strategy plan is not already in place for the "new school" being proposed and am enquiring for you to be more specific for a date when this information will be available for parents as surely this should be a priority to ensure this plan will even work for the children and staff.

I am particularly anxious about this given the answer to my question today regarding how gym will be structured for the children.

I know that you are all busy people but a response before the meeting on Wednesday would be very much appreciated.

Many thanks in advance

I have a child in Glashieburn School, Bridge of don and I would not like the school to be merged with Middleton Park School. This is because I am very sure it will not be good for the children and it will not be good for the teachers either. Last year, in my child's class, there were 32 pupils and the teacher could not cope because the children were too many. The teacher who is normally very kind and nice because she was overworked started snapping at the children. They came home saying they were snapped at by the teacher and also questions were not being answered, they started feeling afraid to ask questions or even to answer when asked a question because the same teacher who was nice to them the previous year started snapping and shouting at them and getting angry, not answering questions, not teaching them properly, even homeworks were not given out and when they are given out, not marked. The class was really tense, and even after some time, the groupings were not good enough because children with different levels of understanding were grouped together and this made them flounder.

I do not see that adding the pupils from Middleton Park to Glashieburn will be constructive, rather, it will make these children who will be leaders of tomorrow become half-baked, not taught well, and even their confidence eroded by teachers who are over-worked.

I was shocked today to hear it was revealed that the children would be EXPECTED TO TAKE GYM IN THEIR CLASSROOM. Surely this has not been thought through in the open plan adjacent classrooms. Have the officers even visited the schools?

Are the officers trying to make Bridge of Don the most obese suburb in the most obese nation in Europe.

I continue to be shocked by these fatally flawed proposals.

During the first consultation meeting today, Gayle Gorman commented along the lines of that it is "better having large schools for educational benefit" - this doesn't sit right with me - if this sharing of information/developing teachers within larger schools is so vital to a child's education why is ACC not facilitating this throughout their school network especially at ASG level - they employ all teachers - that's what any business model would be doing - tapping into expertise wherever it is & not shutting divisions that are performing well just because employees can speak to each other daily because it just might benefit the end customer whether that customer wants it if not.

Where are the facts behind this statement and where is the evidence?

Also I would like to highlight that communication from Gayle Gorman via Education or Burst reveals that when we asked for details of the evidence in July 2013, she replied as follows - I have emboldened some of the text to highlight that there is little evidence, so why is she continuing to use this as justification when there is no concrete evidence?

In response to your question regarding research and evidence being made available to you.

There is **no definitive UK research on this topic**. Several sources of research are regularly used by officers of the council. These include:

Primary Review Research Briefing 9/1 - University of Cambridge, 2008.

The Structure of Primary Education: England and other Countries, by Anna Riggall and Caroline Sharp.

'There is **very limited evidence** available on the effectiveness or impact of different primary school structures.

Two aspects of school structure have attracted more evaluative consideration in England and elsewhere: school size and the starting age for formal schooling. The **available evidence suggests that neither of these has a strong positive impact** on children's attainment or progress at school.'

Permanent Expansion of Primary Schools - Background Paper: School Size and Effectiveness, by Tina Herring, Kingston Council

'the most compelling evidence about school effectiveness **does not relate to size**. Educational research repeatedly finds that school leadership, ethos and the quality of

teaching and learning are the greatest determinants of children's success at school.'

'**Very little British research** has been carried out on the impact of school size and school effectiveness in the primary sector.'

Plus See Bibliography from this document.

To whom it may concern,

I have just returned from the first public consultation meeting and I have to say I was disappointed at the lack of floor plans that would help illustrate the councils proposal on how you plan to accommodate all these children within the existing Glashieburn site?

enhanced within a larger school’.	
<p>‘The amalgamated school will be able to offer more flexibility in terms of class and group configuration. This will allow for a broader range of learning activities, from individual and paired work, to group and whole class work.</p> <p>The increased number of pupils will allow better grouping of children with similar needs. It will enable more opportunities for team teaching, sharing of expertise and greater flexibility.</p> <p>There will be a greater range of more flexible areas where the available space can be used for investigative work and active learning’.</p>	<p>I Disagree. More children per cubic meter than what is currently available in each school therefore leading to less space. In addition the increase in pupils will dramatically impact on Glashieburn capacity to accommodate flexible teaching/learning. Therefore I believe interactive and creative learning will be significant affected.</p> <p>Furthermore there will be no additional flexible space other than the current 2 gym halls. I am under the impression the multipurpose area is ear marked for a class room, therefore in fact we lose a flexible area!</p>
<p>‘Greater pupil numbers will result in classes to be structured in such a way to offer greater opportunity than smaller schools by providing more age-related classes and more options for grouping by ability, in particular providing enhanced opportunities for gifted and talented pupils’.</p>	<p>Sounds good in theory; however I am to believe that Aberdeen City Council/Education uses a formula that calculates how many teachers and classes are constructed per school population. Therefore I am unconvinced as to how achievable your argument would be for flexible learning. Current provision for children with additional needs and support for learning has been significantly affected with the reduction in pupil support teachers and the limited spaces within specific educational bases for children with additional needs/support for learning needs. Therefore I am less convinced.</p>
<p>‘The amalgamated school will be able to deploy and maximise resources to ensure the highest quality learning experience. This will widen pupils’ access to enhanced opportunities for global learning, integrated technology, interdisciplinary learning, and active learning. These opportunities will motivate learners and ultimately provide them with a 21st century learning experience’.</p>	<p>I disagree. Both schools currently embrace new technologies in education and support interdisciplinary learning, with outside speakers and educational trips. Furthermore the current flexible space within Glashieburn allows for greater creativity and flexibility in their approach to learning. Furthermore, the Library is currently located in an area that is potentially earmarked for 2 classrooms, therefore where will the library go?</p> <p>I do recognise that some teachers may bring additional skills and expertise to Glashieburn that Glashieburn may not currently have. Although it would be helpful if you could stipulate what they would be.</p>
<p>‘The amalgamated school can provide a stimulus for improvement and a catalyst for change. The</p>	<p>I disagree. You don’t need to amalgamate schools to enthuse staff to promote change.</p>

<p>ethos of the amalgamated school can be revisited, enhancing the best elements of the existing schools and new priorities where appropriate’.</p>	<p>Both Glashieburn and Middleton Park are more than capable at adapting to change and promoting a curriculum of excellence in both a creative and imaginative way if enabled to do so in their current locations! In fact they are currently addressing some recommendations identified in the HMIE report.</p> <p>In fact this proposal is doing the opposite. The uncertainties are having an emotional impact on staff, pupils and parents. Deflating the most enthusiastic and conscientious teachers. Furthermore, there will be duplication in management staff leading to possible re-deployments/retirements and /or redundancies. A new purpose built school would possibly provide a stimulus for change as the new school would provide a new identity within the community enabling the school to create a new ethos.</p>
<p>‘The opportunities provided by an amalgamated school will assist in this improvement by having larger numbers of pupils attending a more appropriate range of educational experiences. Where these experiences are more interesting and relevant to pupils, motivation will be increased, leading to better outcomes for learners and enhanced performance. This will be achieved through staff improving their practice and experience through more opportunities for team teaching’.</p>	<p>Very speculative and most definitely not scientifically based. Where is the ‘evidence based’ figures that categorically proves that larger numbers of pupils receive better learning outcomes? I recognise that some of the highest attaining private schools benefit from smaller class sizes. Stated within the ethos of private schools they articulate that smaller class sizes benefit pupil learning, leading to better academic attainment! Private schools frequently out-perform state schools.</p> <p>If the formula used to generate staff numbers per pupil population gave consideration to staff continues professional development then Aberdeen City Council would enable staff greater indirect class contact time to prepare materials for class and attend essential training. This is a</p>

	significant flaw in Aberdeen City Council Education. Teachers rely on in-service days to access multi agency training or professional specific training.
‘Collaborative learning is an important opportunity which is more easily achievable in a school with more flexible learning spaces. This will provide more opportunities for active learning, open plan learning, independent learning and cross fertilisation of teaching ideas and delivery which is central to successful implementation of Curriculum for Excellence. There will also be more opportunities for the development of skills based learning’.	Very misleading! As stated above. Glashieburn will potentially have to sacrifice the multipurpose area for a class room. Furthermore with the School almost doubling its capacity there will be less opportunity to access either gym hall. Glashieburn school strives to achieve in all aspects of the curriculum. I am led to believe that it is currently falling short of the recommended 2 hours a week of physical education that National and Local Government recommend. This recommendation is in order to address the significant obesity crisis that the united kingdom is enduring. Recent evidence suggests that there has been a significant increase of overweight primary aged children! In addition to the increase of PE demand and other potential flexible space access, the school would need to develop a programme therefore I believe this would lead to less opportunity to access flexible learning space.
‘Pupils are likely to experience a higher quality learning experience because of the enhanced facilities which will be available, improving the experience of all pupils’.	What enhanced facilities? All I heard today was the plan to configure the current floor space at Glashieburn to accommodate more classroom areas which I interpret would be the provision of room dividers.
‘There will be an emphasis on innovation and personalisation rather than on standardisation. Learners and teachers will have more opportunities for challenge and inspiration, this being made possible through the existence of more flexible and non-standard spaces of different dimensions and configuration’.	Again, I must disagree. There will be less flexible space which will be over-subscribed. I would like to think that both Glashieburn and Middleton Park Head teachers would agree with me, that the current pupil roles at each school gives greater opportunities for teachers to personalise pupil learning than BURST Primary will!
‘There will be more opportunities to work in partnership to develop individual or extended transition programmes as required for particular pupils and groups of pupils, due to the larger cohorts of pupils in the amalgamated school’.	Both schools currently access collaborative learning with associated schools in the area.

As a result of the meeting today can you advise what sports the children are to be doing in the classroom.

Tiddlywinks

I spy

Arm wrestling

Im DISGUSTED at this suggestion. On the plus side if kids are to be doing pe outside half the class will be absent due to injuries (ask the mum who ended up in hospital after running at sports day) or with hypothermia.

Dear all,

I am a parent of two children at Middleton Park Primary, I am still utterly baffled and confused as well as shocked at the council even attempting to close both Middleton Park and Glashieburn Schools.

To then sardine them in to one school in the current site which up until a couple of weeks ago was at category D in some places of Glashieburn Primary, to all of a sudden be changed suitability grading to a C with NO significant work been done! Just in time for the consultation, to add a bike shed and a flag post is NOT educational to our 7 year old and 4 year old daughters education as well as the couple of hundred others!!

Our Eldest daughter is now in her third year at school and has never lost golden time in the time she has been at the school, never been in trouble and received girl of the year at Girls Brigade. Not only have we as parents raised her this way but her education has played a detrimental part in her personality and education to behave this way and make her the person she has become. To uplift her would disturb not only her personality but her quality of education. To say it will be equal or even better is utter rubbish!

Our youngest daughter has only just started primary 1 and for those in that year to be there for 9 and a bit months out of the new school year, to then be moved at the summer holidays is NOT an educational benefit and a total shambles, the figures don't add up, the layout is totally wrong and it makes no sense what so ever!!

I am very concerned about the closure of Middleton Park Primary School and the proposed merger with Glashieburn. As usual nothing has been mentioned about how the special needs and autistic children will be looked after? They need a minimum of one year to process the change. They don't do well in large classrooms and they need a special time-out and teaching room, which do not appear to be mentioned in any plans for the merger. Aberdeen is already so far behind in the treatment of autistic people, we are practically in the dark ages. Saying that larger classrooms will work just proves how nobody has seriously researched all the impacts of this merger.

I would like to know how this closure of a fantastic community spirit school known as Middleton Park is on the list to be closed?

Have the council been door to door, to community places like the sheltered accommodation to ask the older generation how they feel on losing the youngsters visiting them and singing to them during festive periods or even just when they decide to do special shows?

How the schools are going to manage Christmas shows when the hall or local church can not hold enough people as it is with only Glashieburn in it, doing shows over so many days more than once a day? How is this educational to the children to not have this? As it stands there will be no shows as to many pupils!

Also why should our pupils of Glashieburn and Middleton Park be punished by being shoe horned into a school NOT fit for purpose, to have around 3 or 4 dinner sittings and not the adequate hours of exercise during school, while the children of the new Grandhome Estate get rewarded with a new school?! Why should our children's education suffer?

Also these " estimated travel times" to Glashieburn from Middleton park school is completely unfounded! Have any of the council come into a home of a child/children that travels to school? Have they come into the home, gotten two or three children dressed and ready to then trail these children down a VERY busy main road at that time Of the morning in the Summer let alone Winter? Completely underestimated and I can guarantee that any member of the council probably DO NOT have children doing this!!

Why ruin a highly respected school with excellent reports and pupils that do just as well as the bigger and " better newer " schools to squeeze them in to Burst Primary!! Educational Benefit is nowhere to be seen! As a parent of two children at this school I am extremely angry and in no way agreeing with my children to suffer like this!

3/9/13

I find it scandalous that the oil capital of Europe - this week in focus because of offshore Europe - find it acceptable to ruin the education of Middleton park and Glashieburn children by cramming them in to a school that by lack of indoor and outdoor space will be seen then struggling in cramped conditions with the least floorspace / child in the city. Where by council officers own admissions kids may be forced to do PE in classrooms! Where lack of space will hamper CfE learning.

Why ? To push developers at the grandhome estate to build a new school faster. A development that appears to be at the heart of closure plans. A development that has yet to go through planning. A development whereby children will be bused to a school miles away.

Aberdeen city council. Claiming to be doing the best for education across the city. As long as you do not have the misfortune to stay in the bridge of don.

Scandalous.

Will the merge comply with Workplace regulations (1992 No. 3004) if the merge takes place and is at full 420 capacity?

By introducing more pupils to Glashieburn primary this inevitably involves either (a) increasing the number of teachers or (b) increasing the class sizes.

- (a) An increase in teachers could lead to violations of the Workplace regulations (1992 No. 3004) where the minimum acceptable space per employee is 11 cubic meters. Given that Glashieburn was built well in advance of 1992 will it comply with the legislation given the Role Capacity of four hundred and twenty? **(We need square footage and projected staff numbers to calculate this number)**
- (b) An increase in class sizes will reverse the Scottish government's progress of reducing class sizes; particularly for P1 where legislation was introduced from effect of August 2011 which reduced the class size of all P1 classes to 25, all other class sizes remain limited to 30. **(I need to know exact figures of all current years to prove class size requirements which in turn provides the number of teachers required)**

With the limit of 25 for P1 consider the following examples and illustrations this 25 limit perpetuates into subsequent years.

# P1 Pupils	# Required P1 Classes (class size 25)	# Ongoing Class (class size 30) P2-P7	# Total Classes	Required Cubic Meters Work Space
20	1	1	7	77
40	2	2	14	154
50	2	2	14	154
60	3	2	15	165
61	3	3	21	231
75	3	3	21	231
80	4	3	22	242

If we have 61 pupils in primary 1, then this will demand 3 classes per year for the entire 7 years they are within education. In this scenario the school role number will be breached by seven pupils.

$61 * 7 = 427$ pupils breaching the Roll Capacity of 420 pupils.

$3 * 7 = 21$ Classroom teachers (not to mention support teachers, head teachers, etc) means that 231 Cubic space of work place would be required for Just those teachers alone. ([read more here](#))

Given that there is probably a Head Teacher, Assistant Head Teacher, Gym, Music, Drama, Pupil Support Staff, School Nurse, Receptionist Office staff etc that further increase the Work Space Requirements of the school. Is that number going to be within limits?

If it were 60 pupils then we are bursting at the seams at full capacity of 420 pupils. Here we still need would still need 3 primary 1 classes, but 2 subsequent classes for P2-7 but it would only require 1 extra pupil to

1. Go over Capacity
2. Increase the required number of teachers
3. Increase the required Cubic Meters of work space required.

Given that the population of Aberdeen city is growing (by ACC's own statistics shown on the website below) we can only deduce that the number of children attending the school is only likely to increase.

http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/tourism_visitor_attractions/tourists_visitors/statistics/stt_home.asp

Population Estimate 2011 - 220,420
Population Estimate 2012 - 224,970
Population Growth (4, 550 or 2.02%)

It is absolutely unacceptable to propose a school merger without detailing how the classrooms will be configured. To say that this detail will be worked out later when the proposed merger date is August 2014 questions the validity of the consultation process. At the education culture and sport committee in February when the decision was made to proceed the statutory consultation the parents were promised in the committee meeting that the details that were missing would be included in the statutory consultation process. While I realise the elected officials have not been involved since the committee meeting the officers who were tasked with delivering these promises have simply not delivered and I believe this means they are hiding the fact that the OFFICERS ARE FULLY AWARE THAT THE MERGED SCHOOL WILL NOT BE FIT FOR PURPOSE.

STOP BURST PRIMARY

I have lived in the catchment area for Glashieburn since the school was built. My daughter who is currently at Oldmachar Academy went to Glashieburn Primary and it was and still is an excellent Primary school.

I have friends with children in both Glashieburn and Middleton Park Primary schools and I simple do not see how you can even be considering merging the two schools together. Both do an excellent job as it is but if they are merged in Glashieburn Primary there is simply not enough room for all the children to be comfortably accommodated and educated to the standard currently provided.

Glashieburn Primary had to be extended before it was even opened to accommodate all the children in the catchment area so how can it now be expected to have room for a whole extra school full of pupils? It just does not make any sense.

As I said I have lived in the area since the school was built and have seen neighbours come and go but those with children who move tend to move within the catchment area and are only moving to a larger house to have room for their children to grow. They move within the catchment area because they value the current standard of education provided in both Glashieburn and Middleton Park.

I just can't believe that anyone would think that a school merger would benefit anyone other that the financial coffers of the council and if that is the only reason for even considering a merger then I'm sorry but the council needs to think again. The education of our children is by far more important.

The consultation document has so many errors and inconsistencies that it is a joke. It is obvious that there has been no effort to start this document from scratch and that it is just a copy and paste job. It makes it obvious that the council do not care at all for the education of the children which should be a the forefront of any decision regarding education.

Yours in disgust,

Many thanks for your response. I did not ask a question about the gym I stated this was one of my concerns. Should you read my email again I actually asked when a strategy plan would be available for parents for the the proposed "new" school. By this I mean a clear plan of where classes, Library and IT will be within the building. Also the strategy of time for PE, Lunch, recreational time, assembly and any other activity included in the pupils weekly timetable within school time. You stated at yesterday at the meeting the strategy plan would be available later in the consultation. What I am asking is for you to be specific of the date this will be available to parents.

I feel it is important these fine details are worked out now given that Mr Penman stated that some children could do in Hall / outside or in class as an alternative it did not need to take place in the hall. This concerns me on a number of levels. Firstly there is no room and secondly how is this creating educational benefit for the children. Well really it is not is it how can doing gym in an open plan school to the disruption of other classes and has many health and safety issues surrounding this proposition too. If we cannot see this clearly and what you have planned how do you know this is going to work for the children.

If you can let me know at your earliest convenience the date which these plans as I describe above will be ready I would be extremely grateful.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

I am writing to confirm that I am totally opposed to the planned merger between Glashieburn and Middleton Park Primary schools. I have 2 children at Glashieburn, with another one starting next year, and I cannot see how all the combined pupils of Glashieburn and Middleton Park will fit into the current school if no extension to the building is made.

There does not seem to be any sensible argument put forward to merge the schools, other than to save money, which is not an acceptable reason when you are talking about a child's education.

4 /9/ 13

I am sure that I am not the first person to have emailed you with regards to the proposed merger between Glashieburn Primary and Middleton Park Primary and I am certain that I won't be the last. As a parent of a current Glashieburn primary pupil and a current Glashieburn nursery pupil I am most concerned with what is being planned for my children's school.

Initially a capacity of 420 pupils was spoken about for the Glashieburn site but detailed in the consultation document issued by the council last week it now appears that the official capacity has inexplicably increased to 460 pupils? How all of sudden can the roll jump by an extra 40 pupils? This just further confirms my opinion that the children are going to be 'shoehorned' into Glashieburn and it appears that little or no real thought whatsoever has gone into this proposal. Despite this increase in the number of potential pupils and no significant work having been done, the suitability rating of Glashieburn has increased from a C 'poor' rating to scraping a B 'satisfactory' overnight....how is this possible?

Glashieburn primary school in its current state with no extension plans etc is not fit for the nearly 500 children that would use it. The pupils within the merged primary would have the least amount of space per pupil within the whole of Aberdeen City. The amalgamation would have our children BOTTOM OF THE LEAGUE in Aberdeen. Believe it or not, the Council plans will give our children a school with the lowest internal area per pupil than any other school in Aberdeen. Children at the merged Glashieburn/Middleton Park school would be taught in what are essentially corridors and there would be little or no space for significant active learning / moving around / group and project work. There would also be no flexibility for different class sizes etc. This situation would lend itself better to a 1920s style of teaching than the Curriculum for Excellence in the 21st century. We also have to remember that they need to find space for the merged nurseries and the ASN base.

I should also mention that the external space per child will also be very poor if this merger is allowed to take place. The grass area (which the children are only allowed to use in dry weather conditions) is only just big enough for a 7 a side football match. How on earth do you propose that in region of 400 children have space to play and play safely at break times and lunchtimes? The Curriculum for Excellence places much more emphasis on delivery of some elements outdoors. I agree wholeheartedly with this but struggle to see how the current Glashieburn facility will be in a position to deliver this for 420+ children.

I believe that this proposal will have a devastating effect on the ability of both of the schools to deliver the high level of education that they do at the current time.

In Glashieburn at the moment there are areas for play, a generous library area and music rooms all of which would most likely have to make way for the additional pupils from Middleton park. I also worry about the potential for larger classes sizes which I believe would have a detrimental effect on the pupils and the teachers ability to deliver the Curriculum for Excellence & provide support and help to each and every pupil.

I also have friends who have children in the ASN base unit at Glashieburn. These parents are extremely anxious about the impact of the addition of all the Middleton Park children to the school would cause. These children thrive on a small number of children in a quiet area of the school. It would be very unsettling for these children (some of who in Primary 2 have now settled in and adjusted to being at the school) to be dealing with 420-460 pupils.

I'd also like some clarification as to whether the merger takes into consideration the nursery pupils. My youngest is due to start at Glashieburn nursery this August so I would be interested to hear if the nursery pupils from Glashieburn and Middleton Park are included in the numbers? From my oldest having been through Glashieburn nursery I was always so impressed with the nursery and the area that the children had which allowed lots of activities to be available to them.

In addition although I am a Glashieburn parent I would feel extremely sorry for the pupils and parents at Middleton Park who would have to walk a considerable distance (perhaps only 600m between the two schools as noted in the consultation document but significantly more from some of the Middleton Park households) to get to their school if this merger were to go ahead. The chances are very high that lots of parents would drive their children to school which totally goes against the

Active Schools programme. To read in the consultation document that the Also I live in close proximity to Glashieburn school and already there is very limited parking for parents taking children to school by car I can only imagine how bad this would be (and potentially dangerous for children crossing roads between parked cars/increased traffic) if the merger went ahead. Also the Glashieburn car park is already full to capacity with staff cars so I can only imagine an additional set of cars would result in staff parking on the nearby residential streets which is unacceptable. All things considered I don't think I've ever seen such a badly thought out proposal. It show Aberdeen City Council to be incompetent and not at all considerate to the people of Aberdeen. Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

- > I have just attended my 2nd school consultation meeting & would like to raise a question which I did not get the opportunity to do at the meeting.
 - >
 - > There were a lot of questions today about parking, time to get to school etc, these are all issues but I have to take this back to basics, this is about our children's education.
 - >
 - > There is nothing in your document that shows me my children will get a better education at the "new" amalgamated school, quite the opposite.
 - >
 - > Can you advise what the education benefits are if any ?
 - >
 - > Thank you for your time.
 - >
 - > A very concerned & angry parent
-

Please note communication below to Mr C Penman further to discussion and request for information at a meeting today 4/9/2013 at the Jesmond centre for statutory consultation of Glashieburn and Middleton park primaries. These are a result of my anxiety that there is no detailed plan available to parents for the "new " school being proposed.

Charlie

Many thanks for taking on board what I said at today's meeting.

Just to clarify I am asking for a strategy plan for the school timetable- PE /structure /times for lunches and breaks using the current number of pupils combined from Glashieburn and Middleton park. Also for all other events such as assembly, drama ect. Where the designated teaching areas will be with in the school. Where the ASN/nursery will be. Lastly safety for car park and traffic in the surrounding area would also be helpful.

If you could possibly let me know the outcome of today's meeting with Margaret Winton I would be grateful.

Kind Regards

Today I attended the second meeting for the Statutory consultation of Glashieburn Primary school and Middleton park primary schools - 04/09/2013 at the Jesmond centre Bridge of Don

I highlighted at the meeting the following

Referring to page 33 of the consultation report the first paragraph states –

The building surveyor identified costs associated with repair, maintenance and replacement works which would be required to bring the school up to a standard of the 3R's school when handed over to the council for occupancy.

Yet in the next paragraph it states-

For Glashieburn school this equated to 2.5 million. Not all of this would be required imminently but over the period of time, this would require to be invested in the school. - what time frame is this in reference to does not stipulate here. Totally contradicts the previous paragraph which states it would be required when handing over for occupancy - which is it I am totally confused will this be done for occupancy or will it be done later?

This also implies that there is the space to upgrade to a 3r establishment when there is not.

Braehead 3R establishment has 70% more space internally and externally

Dedicated rooms for – Library, IT, Music and quiet rooms.

Large cloak room area's

Externally 2 football pitches, Huge play area's with modern equipment

Nursery has it's own large enclosed garden and playground along with external storage for outdoor equipment.

Within the report for suitability for the Glashieburn site - with reference to external social space section

States- spaces are concentrated in one area of the school tend to be crowded at break time.

How will it cope with 400 plus children if it is already crowded as it is with staggered breaks in place.

Also says Some area's are unsuitable for some of the functions/activities that are conducted within them on a regular basis.

I assume this makes reference to the grass area that is not accessible during the winter months and when wet which is not highlighted in the plans. Making the 2 small courtyard the only available area's to the children within the playground.- Mr Samson said the grass may be tarmacked as an option but again to plan for that is decided.

There are no measurements for the outside area's within the report and the plans make it look bigger as neither the fence nor the grass area are highlighted.- I requested this.

The overall rating for suitability for external social space is a C.

A break down is required as to how we will the existing Glashieburn site be upgraded to the standard as a 3r establishment with 2.5 million. when we have no room to extend really throws it out the window that PE can be conducted outside? and the playground will be further crowded. So no room there. Yet this was a suggestion at Monday meeting along with they do not have to do gym in the hall

it could perhaps be done in class. - which would be to the disruption of adjacent classes as we are open plan and what type of PE could be conducted in a class ?

I Stated at the meeting - While I realise this is not accessible right at this moment at your finger tips measurements/plans should be provided of one of the 3r's establishments for a clear comparison of the difference in space. Which will display it is impossible for the existing glashieburn site to be upgraded to a 3r standard. Also a breakdown of work required and how this equates to 2.5 million pounds? I stated would be helpful.

I also stated at the meeting that I thought the reason that parents seemed stressed and anxious was that there was no actual time plan/structure/configuration for the pupils and how this will work within the new school proposed. I stated that options were being spoken of but with no depth or definite plan in place to back this up to reassure parents that this will work for the school or children.

I spoke with Charlie penman after the meeting had finished. He asked what in particular I was referring to and would like clarified. I told him I had particular concerns around the gym halls for PE Lunches/ identify teaching areas and where they would be placed within the building, Car park/traffic safety, where ASN/Nursery,/library/ICT would be within the building and the timetable of how time would be strategized for children and staff for all other activities such as assembly, drama and anything else that would be required to fit in to the timetable. Mr Penman did express that there will be time for gym and that would be no problem. There it should be no problem to display this information for parents to have a clear vision of what is planned for their children in order to alleviate the current stress and anxiety that is being caused by not having access to the actual plan of what Aberdeen City plan. I am certainly confused at this surely this proposal can not be presented without clear plans in place. On a professional level this is utter madness if I my staff presented me with a report with no strategy/planning/clarity which was half baked I would not require them on my team.

I also asked that the plan they displayed today of the existing Glashieburn building be a hand out for Thursday evening meeting.

closing Middleton Park school is not of an Educational Purpose and these children will not fit and be squashed into the site proposed!

I wish to express my concerns regarding and object to the proposed merger of Glashieburn and Middleton Park schools.

As a parent in the Bridge of Don area, I have concerns about how it may affect my own child as well as other future and current pupils - class size, lack of space, discouraging walking to school - with consequences on child health and further increasing traffic, congestion and CO2 emissions to name a few. The site is far too small to accommodate the likely numbers of children attending.

I also have concerns regarding the provision of nursery education at Glashieburn due to the increasing numbers of school pupils as a result of the merger.

In addition to this, as a Bridge of Don resident, I object to the likely increase in congestion around Glashieburn school.

Furthermore, should Danestone primary be used as the school for children living in the new Grandholme development near Shepherd's nursery, I would be concerned regarding the need to cross the Parkway - an obvious safety issue - as well as the knock on effect on the already terrible

traffic and congestion in this area with more pedestrian crossings, especially at peak times.

I am writing with regards to the proposed closure of Middleton Park School and the merger of it's pupils with those of Glashieburn School. I object to this proposal for a number of reasons.

Firstly, the high number of pupils at Glashieburn and Middleton Park schools merging into Glashieburn school would create a scenario whereby Glashieburn school would be at maximum capacity. Moreover, this doesn't include the number of children attending nursery at the Glashieburn site. This would raise a serious health and safety concern, not only due to overcrowding caused by a school not fit-for-purpose, but also due to the increased level of traffic and pollution in a concentrated area around Glashieburn school, which furthermore lacks in car parking space and no safe drop off point for children attending the school.

Additionally, the class sizes would increase due to the merger which would detrimentally affect the education of school pupils. Unemployment is already far too high; don't cut off or damage the valuable education of pupils at a vital stage in their development which could potentially affect their educational ability later in life.

With the thriving community of Bridge of Don expanding all the time, there should be a greater emphasis on keeping the number of schools the same as a minimum. The increased level of housing in the area is attracting more and more people, including those with young families. A prime example is that of the proposed Energetica Grandholme Residential Development Zone by ACSEF (see attached). In it's plans, the press release says and I quote:

[Bridge of Don/Grandholme Residential Development Zone](#)

[Support/facilitate the development of up to 2000 hectares of residential development land North of current Bridge of Don residential area, stretching Westwards from the A90 to the river Don, East of Dyce. Potential to accommodate up to 12,000 new family houses.](#)

[Ensure a global Section 75 agreement is in place to ensure basic road and social infrastructure \(schools, shops etc\) are constructed during phase 1, with the remainder phased to match future provision.](#)

[Ensure the development incorporates 50 hectares of economic development land to service a range of commercial requirements from community centre incubator and small business space to Grade A office pavilions and green sheds.](#)

[Require the development to incorporate substantial element of public open space, parks and open leisure facilities \(golf courses, sports parks etc\).](#)

With the potential building of 12,000 new houses, where are all the children going to attend school? Danestone? Where children have to cross a very busy road of fast moving traffic and a road which already suffers from traffic congestion problems. Wouldn't it be a more sensible and far safer idea to locate these children at the Middleton Park school instead? As I have stated previously, with Bridge of Don expanding all the time, it is imperative that enough fit-for-purpose, safe local amenities including schools are available for residents of Bridge of Don.

This a an e-mail expressing my concern at Aberdeen city councils proposal to close Middleton Primary moving the pupils to Glashieburn.

May I first start by saying never have I felt the need to appeal against a decision made by the council. Such are my feelings regarding this latest proposal I feel compelled to write this. My son is in P6 so will have limited disruption to his schooling. If this proposal goes ahead he'll be in a new school for one year only before moving onto academy, albeit P7 is an important final year before making that move.

I attended the public consultation this morning at The Jesmond Centre with a completely open mind, I left less than convinced.

It came to light during the meeting that the report, which admittedly I haven't read, contains numerous inaccuracies. Grammatical errors and typos, though very unprofessional, aren't my main concern. The most worrying aspects of the report is what appears to be overcrowding or near overcrowding of Glashieburn primary.

Already in the report the head count of both Glashieburn and Middleton Park are wrong, both figures lower than the actual. The reason given for this was the numbers were taken from a previous year. This surely shows the amount of pupils attending both schools are on the increase. If this increase continues, and there's no reason to suspect it won't, Glashieburn will in no time be full to bursting with no room for expansion. Figures are, as admitted at the meeting, estimated.

I take on-board both schools are running below capacity however this gives room for greater expansion ? Something closing Middleton Park does not provide. Below capacity arguably gives a higher standard of education. The fact Glashieburn and Middleton both excel further suggests this. A good education is one thing, a great education another.

The question was asked is this closure for cost cutting reasons. The answer given was no. At this point there was a chorus of laughter, and I don't blame the mothers (I was one of the few fathers there). Does the council honestly expect us to believe it isn't ? Do they think we, the public, are that naive ? The right school in the right area we were told. The fact there's a huge saving is merely coincidental we'll be told next.

If the council can't at the very least be honest with us how on earth are we expected to believe in, but more importantly trust, them to deliver the best possible education for our children ?

This whole situation smacks of cost cutting, selling our children short and going against mounting public opinion.

There are many more concerns I have which will be well covered in the meeting minutes so I'll keep this as short as possible.

I appreciate the council can't bend to public opinion all the time and unpopular decisions have to be made however when they regard the education, development and welfare of our children (who incidentally are the future of this city) surely that's the time to actually listen to what the people want, even if it does cost a bit more.

In closing all I'd like to say is this.....if it ain't broke don't fix it.

I would like to express my anger at the ridiculous idea of merging Glashieburn Primary & Middleton Park Primary. The idea of squashing all our children into one school, which, it is clear to ALL involved, except the council, simply far, far too small. There have be NO satisfactory answers to any of our concerns regarding adequate space for a Nursery, which the 2 Zoned areas for these schools CANNOT possibly do without, a Library, which I currently am a parent helper once a week, and which our children absolutely SHOULD NOT have to do without, and a Base, which is a VITALLY IMPORTANT amenity in our community that we DO NOT WANT to do without.

Add to that the fact that we have been informed that due to the lack of Gym space & time, our children, if unable to do sports outdoors, would have to do Gym in their CLASSROOMS!!!!!! This has to be against all the Governments Anti-Obesity Campaigns, not to mention our kids Human Rights to have at least hours of quality gym time in an appropriate Health & Safety correct environment - I would love to see your Risk Assessments for Primary School age children doing Gym in a room with Tables, Chairs, Cupboards, Shelves, Computers, Electronic Equipment, Cables, Boxes, Bins, Trays, etc, etc, etc, and without any Gym Equipment.

I could go on & on & on in this vain, but the fact is I should not have to, because you should be putting the needs and welfare of our children and considerations of us parents first in ALL instances. It seems as if the council just want to go ahead regardless of our concerns & frustrations, but where will they be when it all goes wrong?????

One more thing I would like to raise, is if Middleton Park was to close and raised to the ground and the land sold, what may I ask would go on the land???? I can tell you, it will be houses and flats, and who will be buying them, again I can tell you, FAMILIES with children who will need places at an already OVER CAPACITY school & nursery.

Please, please think logically about this, it CANNOT and SHOULD NOT go ahead.

A Very Concerned Parent

5/9/13

I am writing to note my concern over the proposal to merge the two schools in my area. I have two boys, aged 4 and 2 who would be attending Glashieburn Primary. My concerns are as follows:

- Nursery places – my eldest son attends the nursery and I am concerned that the merger will affect the number of nursery places available, specifically as I want my younger son to attend the same nursery in a couple of years time
- Traffic issue – already on the way to nursery, there are a lot of parents park in the surrounding streets making crossing roads hazardous. Increasing the number of pupils and distance to travel is only going to increase the amount of traffic and parking issues in the area.

I'd appreciate a timely response.

I am so upset following this evening's consultation meeting. How one of the officers had the audacity to say my question was full of assumptions when quite the frankly the whole document is an assumption I do not know. There is no evidence behind their statements. And if there is they have not provided it.

Excellence. We are striving for excellence and this (the proposed amalgamated school) is not it.

"We are striving for excellence. THIS IS NOT EXCELLENCE". I email with bitter disappointment that the officers continue the bullish defence of a proposal that has no evidence for educational benefit. There is a requirement by law to provide evidence for the educational benefits statement. The provided document does not provide evidence so is unlawful.

So. Gym in the classrooms, toilets in portacabins, cloakrooms miraculously suspended in mid air, and roofs over the courtyards. This seems to be what the officers are suggesting and it is unacceptable.

We are still asking for documentation showing us how the space will/could be configured. They've had seven months to prepare this document. Why don't they have this information?

The detail provided in the consultation proposal is simply not sufficient to provide the stakeholders with the evidence that this proposal is of educational benefit. The Suggestion that this detail will be worked on after the decision to proceed is simply offensive. It has taken almost 7 months to produce the shockingly substandard proposal document. How can the same department possibly produce the necessary detail between the final decision and proposed merger date.

Derek Samson indicated tonight the detail of the 2.5 million spend was available on the website. I have spent the last hour searching for this information. It is simply not accessible as part of the consultation despite the assertions in the public meetings that it is. Perhaps it is available elsewhere but it is not accessible. Either the department is not functioning as it should or there is deliberate deception. I hope it is the former.

Again I am bitterly disappointed by the lack attention to detail in the evidence.

As stated this evening the consultation proposal and the supporting documentation is simply "not fit for purpose".

The demonstration that the numbers of pupils may just fit into the building is NOT evidence if educational benefit

6/9/13

The brush off that the senior management team will sort out the numbers and size of the ASN base is simply not acceptable. The officers should be aware of the pupil numbers so to be able to plan for 2014 and therefore include these plans in the consultation document.

I can only express my disappointment at tonight's meeting. The officers are not listening to us. They are brushing off our valid concerns with jargon and babble.

I cannot explain how this process is affecting us all. We have had 11 days to study and prepare questions on this document - so vitally important as it affects our children's education - while maintaining family and work life. We have been surviving on 5 hours sleep. Our children are suffering. The officers have had seven months (paid to do this) and cannot answer simple questions with a straight answer. They offer us individual meetings etc but realistically when do we have time do to that.

When we came home from a meeting the babysitter reported that our 6 year old daughter had been upset and said "if the council weren't trying to shut our school my daddy would be here to cuddle me"

We're meant to be "getting it right for every child". Let me assure you we are not. This ridiculously prolonged process, unfit for purpose document and patronising council officers have resulted in unnecessary stress for every child, family and no doubt member of staff involved.

With regards to the Glashieburn Middleton Park consultation, please can you confirm:

- The anticipated number of teachers there will be at the amalgamated school, identifying how many will be dedicated to the ASN base, how many to the Nursery and if any will be split between the different areas of the school?
- How the numbers of teachers are derived?
- What adjustments will be made to take into account areas of deprivation in the proposed new Glashieburn Middleton Park zone?
- What adjustments are made to take into account any particular special needs of the children?
- What adjustments arising from any other factors are involved in deriving the staffing requirements?
- Is there potential that two or more teachers could be teaching in the same teaching area to ensure statutory limits on class sizes are not breached, and if so, how many such instances of this you anticipate?

Providing these numbers for the first year of the amalgamated school will be sufficient.

 Following the meeting last night I am no closer to realising any educational benefit for my children within this document.

Nothing has been identified as to HOW they will fit and have this amazing learning experience that they are missing out (in your opinion) at the moment.
 Notwithstanding this I am sure there is a way they will fit in but NOT to their benefit and therefore this is fundamentally flawed.

Staggered lunches will be essential and therefore the opportunities to interact with their peers will be greatly reduced as when one group is playing the other will be eating. This is to their disadvantage not seeing how the older children behave at lunchtime or indeed teaching the younger ones through play. They have this at the moment at Middleton Park.

The undisputed fact is that many more children will be within the SAME four walls and the space per child will be significantly reduced even if you do not compare this to the 3R's school. I ask therefore for you to provide us with the figures for the internal space per child for the proposed school and others across the city - We cannot be increasing their space and therefore flexibility of learning and therefore where is the BENEFIT??

Traffic is a nightmare and the residents surrounding Glashieburn will have constant complaints regarding parked cars. I am both a mother and a professional, as the government encourages I both work and take my children to and from school. If I have to walk an extra 10 minutes to school... I also have to walk the extra 10 minutes back to my car assuming ASDA doesn't crack down on those parking there and no longer having time to nip into the store. Twice a day this adds an extra 40 minutes minimum onto the time and therefore must reduce the hours I can work as I would have to take account of this extra time. This, if agreed with my employer would also result in less money for my family.

I urge you as a parent to reject this proposal for being unfair and unjust and absolutely to the detriment in terms of space for my children.

 I wish to make my feelings known about the proposed merger of Glashieburn and Middleton Park schools. Why close two perfectly good schools? Why squeeze too many pupils into one unsuitable building?

Why spoil children's education to save a few pounds?

Both schools have a great community spirit and educational reputation.

I personally have knowledge of Glashieburn, with my children having attended there over an 11 year period, from nursery, through to primary 7. I was an active PTA member for around 10 years. I know how big the school is and it can not cope with more classrooms - well, it could if you give no thought to space required for learning. When my eldest son was at nursery, Middleton Park didn't have a nursery and they all went to Glashieburn. My son's class was in a corridor! It was ridiculous.

Luckily Middleton Park now has a nursery and this class space has reverted back to a corridor/storage area. It would be a step backwards to start utilising these types of areas as classrooms.

Glashieburn spent a lot of money and effort into developing their library. What a shame if this great facility and use of space had to be turned into two small class areas. Please don't do this to the pupils and teachers.

My niece resides in the Valentine Scheme and is due to start at Middleton Park nursery in the next 12 months. It takes me 25/30 minutes to walk to her house (I reside next to Glashieburn). How on earth can a small child walk that twice a day? It's ridiculous to even consider it, especially with Glashieburn starting at 0840 hours. A young child walking that distance in the dark mornings and after school is not acceptable. If my sister chose to put her to Danestone, which is nearer, it would involve crossing the Parkway, one of the busiest, and fastest, roads in Aberdeen.

A number of new houses developments are already in the pipeline for the Bridge of Don - how on earth are all the schools going to cope if one of the schools is closed?

Traffic problems is a major consideration for me personally. Our home is situated very close to Glashieburn in the Newburgh scheme and we are bothered with cars parking around our house. Sometimes getting in and out of our driveway is difficult. I can't even begin to imagine what it will be like if all the parent's from Middleton park drove to the school. I would envisage that most would take their cars as it may be too far for their young children to walk.

I realise this may not be popular with parents and pupils of Middleton Park, but if the decision is taken to close this school, why not rezone them to more than one school. There is Forehill and Danestone to consider, although as earlier alluded to, crossing the Parkway is a definite safety consideration.

Please put children's education at the heart of any decision taken.

I attended last night's meeting for the consultation at Oldmachar church 5/9/20113.

Again I am in shock think that has been my feeling all week having attended every meeting. Gayle Gorman could only provide 1 answer when challenged regarding which element of educational benefit that is applicable to amalgamation of the two schools. It was a very generic answer that seemed well rehearsed. Practically identical to the words in the document, There has been no other benefit stated through out the three meeting I have attended this week. Space will be taken not added, there is no strategy at all for what the children will be doing or how their school life will have anything enhanced or how this will enhance the children's social experiences at school. Surely this cannot be the only educational benefit to the children and be a valid one? when it has been presented to the officers that what she dictates in her wording is currently already done at both schools.

We were told this evening that the fire safety evaluation has not been done. I presume the reason for this is because no strategy has been worked out and since they don't know what they are doing with them yet. There has been 7 months passed and there still seems to be a lot undone by means of preparation or planning. I was told this Evening by Charlie Penman that they were trying to arrange an architect to come into the building to evaluate to evaluate and that we should have at least one option by the 1st of October which will give very little time to evaluate the work is to be presented to the public. This is unbelievable 8 months they have had and we will get 11 days to give our opinion within the consultation period. How can that be justified as fair time.

We are no further forward in how we will be upgraded to a 3R establishment in a 33 year old building. I am led to believe the life span of the building is 40 years? please clarify if this is the span. A parent made one of the most valid points I have heard to date- we are suppose to be striving for excellence for education yet we are being dragged back to the 80's seems a huge injustice with all the work still required regarding safety, planning and deliverance of curriculum within the proposed NEW SCHOOL but again nothing new, this seems an after thought they have decided we will fit and no other planning or strategy has been fulfilled seems the children have not been considered at the fore front as they should be, they are being left until last within the frame for consideration and how this will impact them.

I fully understand that the officers working on these proposals on how to logistically work out sufficient school places within the city as part of the bigger picture. However I think this is the only part that has been looked at prior to the meeting this week this is evident as there is no detail from the children's point of view and feel they are the last being considered. Derek Samson stated last night they could have put in more detail so why is it not there? he stated they didn't want the report to be any larger. I don't know why this is case surely presenting parents with as much facts as possible gives a clearer picture. had they taken out all the sweeping statements and presented more fact this would have been better.

My children are not a business plan this is their education and future the report shows no personalisation to them included at all in what is presented, in neither the report or the answers given to questions asked this week. My conclusion is that the meetings have produced very little to reassure parents that this is by any stretch of the imagination the best option for the children, staff and the future/careers. There have been no other options presented to us they say this is the only one but the others are not up for discussion as there are none in the report. The meetings have given the parents anything constructive from the wider forum it seems to have created more worry and anxiety. It certainly has for me.

Please could you inform me if you have completed an Equality Impact Assessment? I am aware that this should have been completed prior to the proposal being put forward and would therefore like it to be made available on the website for myself and other parents, who have children in the ASN base, to read.

Also, following last nights consultation meeting, I would like to know what a standardised ASN base looks like and which schools in Aberdeen currently have this, so that we can make an informed decision on if this is suitable for our Children at Burst Primary.

The only educational benefit that has been stated is generic and not a benefit as already established in both schools regarding CPD.

We have nothing of what will be a loss to the children - sq m per child, external social space per child, experiences they currently participate in and anything else that needs to be manageable for children. this is not a gain for all this may seriously affect and potentially be damaging due to larger social environment.

Again in not looking at this how can the detail given in the report give a true reflection of educational benefit been portayed.

Nothing has been evaluated for the children just that the roll has fitted before and can fit again.

Why was the capacity roll previously reduced to the number we currently have. Has been stated it has been 600 at one point in time - explanation required.

I attended the public consultation meeting last night and am even more confused over this proposal.

Nursery space

I was glad to see that you had the plans now and proposed, of particular interest is the nursery space. At the moment, there are two morning nursery classes at Glashieburn and one at Middleton Park, so there will be three in total for the 'new school'. However, the plans showed that the nursery space available for the new plan would be the current space reduced by three fifths. The impact of this would be less messy play area (currently there is sand, water, painting etc), no room for the physical area & a very tight space to hold up to 100 children. Young children need space to develop and I do not think the proposal for nursery space is viable.

Practical implementation

There were a number of things mentioned that the panel considered would be up to the management of the school to implement. With limited resources (mainly space and funding), how will the management be able to effectively implement the change without key areas being considered in the proposal? Real issues need to be dealt with and resolved now – not after my son arrives in P1 in August next year. Two particular areas of interest to me were:

- Number of toilets – this did not appear to have been considered by the panel in the proposal
- Flexible lunchtimes – not ideal – children need to be fed at lunchtime and they should not be rushed to finish their meal if they have to be straight back into class after

Other areas:

- Risk assessment for HSE- it is imperative that contingency planning is considered now, not after any final decision is made. This is the safety of our children that we are talking about, and to say that this will be considered only a few months before implementation is ridiculous.
- School roll projections – after speaking to a panel member, he considered on average classes of size 30 and the school roll to be around 460 – but what sensitivity analysis has been conducted on this? If the figures are as low as 10% out for the Glashieburn area, that is 46 children – there is a risk that my younger son may not be able to get a place at the school. I do not think the projections have allowed for a reasonable margin of error or conducted sensitivity analysis.

This is real for the parents and everyone is concerned about the effect on their children. I did not feel that the panel were able to reassure the parents last night and are still unable to provide any benefit to the children for the merger. I feel that the panel lacked any empathy and seemed to be just going through the motions of the process. The people of Bridge of Don deserve better and our children should not suffer from cost cutting. There are two perfectly good schools providing adequate education at the moment, so why are you trying to change this?

We all pay our taxes and are entitled to good services.

After attending the meeting last night, I am confused why it is considered that a new development at the grandholme estate would get brand new schools but existing residents are being expected to all cram into one?

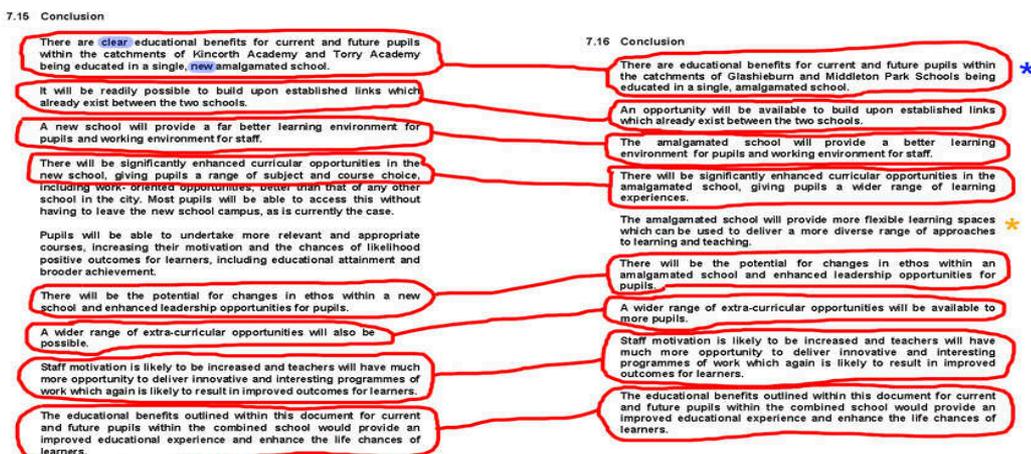
As a parent of a Glashieburn pupil, I sat and read your lovely fair tale filled report on the amalgamation of Glashieburn and Middleton Park. The report is pages long, full of jargon and contains diagrams and maps of the catchment area so poorly printed it is unable to be made any sense of. The report also contains pages and pages of repetition and contradiction. They also showed how little they value our children or any of the community they are affecting by the fact they copied and pasted parts from Torry and Kincorth report. Here's the thing if you are going to copy someone else's work at least attempt to change some of the language contained. Sorry did some copying and pasting of my

Section 7.15

Conclusion of Kincorth Academy and Torry Academy Educational Benefits Statement

Section 7.16

Conclusion of Glashieburn and Middleton Park Educational Benefits Statement



own.

The people of this community will not be fooled by this report that makes this notion seem a wonderful exercise on all levels to offer our kids the best education. **RUBBISH !**

Aberdeen City is unwilling to consider any other option than this merger. The reason why you are planning this merger is as a result of you allowing houses to be built and not considering the impact on existing developments. It was Aberdeen City council which has decided to allow Grandhome a development the size of a small town to be built and our schools and pupils must suffer as a result, figures talked about are **7000 homes**. They aren't taking about the inhabitants of these home with 7000 homes each possibly with two children on average that adds up say 14,000 children in that development. The Grandhome Trust vision of this new development was that it would join with easy into existing community which these two schools have been part of for 30 years. The council are taking that vision, trampling it as they suggest this development is self-contained. Recently Scotia Homes got planning to create approximately 500 homes in the Dubford area, the school in that area is not have the capacity however this school is not closing instead they will rezoned to other schools with further plans to develop both new and old estates. It is also deeply troubling how you expect this all achieved by August 2014 less than a year. A year to get our kids future sorted and in the mean time the worry these kids, parents and all that have a connection with face is a strain. Aberdeen city council can also carry out this ridiculous proposal so quickly as they doing no significant or exterior alterations. The summer holidays 7 weeks to be prepared we know how good ACC in the past have been meeting deadlines. Is Aberdeen city Council for real, they expect a school that is doubling in size over a short period of time just to manage and need nothing new to improve the current school. Time to take off the rose tinted glasses the build need 2.5 million spent on it. Plus the pupils have some of the lowest cost in providing education to, The new school is small in size than existing brand new 3R schools but still force our children to accept the lack of space to.

The reports for Glashieburn state that at its current level it was deemed needing improvement, With your own report point 2.52 A larger school needs delegated area of study, can they see this being the case with the added number of places. The already small library area that Glashieburn have will no doubt be lost as to the area for the Nursery I foresee will be given over as a class room. From August 2014 there is no mention of Nursery provision at Glashieburn, may I enquire where the council suggest where these pre-school go.(Proposals now for 100 place) Pre school children perhaps will be asked to start nursery life at say for instance Forehill then attend the Glashieburn/Middleton Park School meaning they lose the continuity of One school environment, knowing there teachers and fellow pupils. Aberdeen City Council has a statutory duty to provide pre-school education places. I found placing my child in a school nursery environment so beneficial as I was able to have a bond

with the teacher, my child knew what was expected of them and transition to Primary one was so much easier for them being with other kids they had been with throughout nursery. Going back to an earlier point on the condition of the building back in January 2013 ACC officers said the School in some parts was rated a D deemed poor no work has been carried out in the last three years been other than solar panels (which was a waste of cash for Middleton since that's been earmarked for closure) yet it is Now deemed Satisfactory how can this be the case? The school has the higher amount of pupils 261 with 14 places for ASN pupils. A large school the council stated would make it easier for providing support and staff for these children. However would it not be the case that there will also be children that need ASN support in Middleton Park. The council will fit them to a space, fit them in these are children with specific needs it will not be as easy as fitting them in. There will be approximately 429 pupils in the first year alone, this number will not decrease. The area is growing Birth rates increasing, immigration again only set to rise with inclusion of two new EU member states in January next year so rolls will not decrease. The New Amalgamated will have less room in the whole school and outdoor space. Every resource in the school will have to be split two, I have nightmares of my child trying to get on a computer for example and sitting round it with 6 other kids. How can ACC say there is enough resources when last year before Easter holidays parents got a letter asking for paper and pencils for pupils? Aberdeen Council says there is un-filled space for children in Amalgamated school we may need to move resources about but that will be discussed later (Don't worry there is no urgency about it, the children's' education at stake) . Amalgamated school will have least space of all Aberdeen schools, all flexi areas of activity based learning will go. The gym hall that suppose to provide 2 hours of activity a week for each child, tell me how will that be for filled? How long will a child in Amalgamated school have to wait for Lunch ?. Middleton park also used by the community for other activities after school so not only do the children at that school face moving school but losing there after school activities or going else where. I can also see the amalgamated school being unable to host the events that Glashieburn currently host such as school discos, plays etc due to the new capacity. Middleton also got 74% in zone not as many as Glashieburn in zone but we have 94 pupils out zone. There has been nothing purposed to what happens to these pupils if amalgamation goes ahead. The council would be interfering in a important parental decision that parents alone should have the choice to make, for whatever reason some Child that should be at glashieburn are at Middleton Park and vice versa. According to your own report 14 Glashieburn and 19 attend Middleton that should be attending the other Amalgamating this school will remove that choice. The ACC are only concerned with saving themselves money at the expense of our children. Amalgamation means cutting staff and those staff members re-applying for there post. Some of these staff member were at the school when these childrens parents were at school, ACC wants to destroy the bonds and trust that have developed over many years with the school, with no regard for the children or parents they effect. Each teacher would be under more pressure not less having to look after larger amount of children. Middleton would apparently be offer to be used by different groups or worse still sold so who gains from this ACC no doubt? I am a single parent I bought items all bearing the schools logo, I also bought larger sizes of jumpers and a couple of spare items to last won't need them now, at a cost to parents you want to rebrand the new school. How much does it also cost for rebranded stationary and other things. This is monetary value but you are taken the identity and things associated with the school that the child is currently attending and wiping that all away. They will lose that sense of there small school community there in. Again I suggest its about cost cutting, figures published in this report suggest on average 220,000 a year will that be ploughed back into education or to cover Aberdeen city councils debts. May I also raise the question of traffic you will have 220 extra children heading to the Glashieburn sites, many busy dangerous roads and the new school in the new Grandhome development will face crossing the parkway to attend Danestone. The is nowhere to park currently, the Newburgh Area of Aberdeen already is congested with cars and Middleton Park using Asda car park, will this local business continue to be happy with situation. But according to the council its the parents responsibility to get there child to school safely. In Newburgh the junction just a few meters from the school is absolutely dangerous with cars. flying round corners and over taking buses, overtaking park cars, its an accident waiting to happen. Bridge of Don already

has enough problems with congestion a problem highlighted by having such events as Off-shore Europe with tailbacks an average drive increase by 45 minute. There will be insufficient teacher parking and no spaces for coaches taking the children to activities such as swimming .May I also raise the example that a parent in Valentine Drive has a walk of 21 minutes to get to Glashieburn but two smaller p1 will take longer in the report it says there is buses two and four. That's lies as the service two runs no where near the Valentine Area and the four is practically a hour service. So they expect people to take a bus again for example in winter at before 8am and its around a ten minute journey so there outside waiting in the cold. Plus this is an added expense of bus fares to be educated on top of costs already occurred sending a child to school. But the councils have all our kids will be healthier if they have further to travel, this will be the only outdoor activity going as they will be sharing a space no bigger than a 7 a side football pitch.

I wrote the first section of my views and opitions before I attended a consultation meeting but had done internet research from both ACC site and educationburst web site. I attended the meeting hoping to find clearer information than that which is in the 75 page proposal booklet. May I point out for you DANESONE is actually spelt DANESTONE, I am not an expert in English nor claim to be but as an organisation as your this and other typos should have been checked.The council representatives were still as sparse with details, again the map handed out show me a nice teaching area with 24 coloured squares(is it current or proposed) but what is exactly going to happen in these coloured squares? Plus the people on that board repeated over and over the word "likely" and "Potentially" word to me that doesn't sound they are based in fact. They also brushed over a lot of the questions people were asking with either another question or **DID NOT ANSWER** what was being asked. They also came across poorly as they did not have certain information to hand, they also expected us the community to contact them. They have months to prepare this information. Instead of being informed I feel I went away more confused than ever. Page 10 of your report "AN AMALGAMATED SCHOOL WILL PROVIDE IMPROVED OPPERTUNITIES TO MEET EMERGING EXPECTATIONS OF CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLANCE" in a few words HOW will you do this in with increased numbers or will it be the case only the brightest gifted children will be heard and the rest ignored. The education service manger can't decide how many teaching spaces there are and how may hours of teaching hours there are. I also am certain at one point remember in that meeting last night that one of them said, that existing courtyard could be used as a flexible area for learning, a courtyard is a courtyard you can change the lesson being taught but you can not change the area. Page 11 "Larger schools with larger staff which will allow teacher expertise in particular specialisms to be exploited giving greater opportunity" sounds good on paper but also sounds a like cost cutting so a teacher that say has studied preschool education and also studied to teach English would be doing two things for the price of one, like for example a Nursery teacher being shared for nearly a year plus between therefor nursery and also as Primary seven teacher as was the case last year. Page 12 in report 2.3 ensuring Aberdeen's pupils and teachers have school buildings fit for 21st century AGAIN more contradiction as the school is not exactly fit for purpose, its was build in the 80s over 30years ago, at the meeting no one want to answer the life expectancy of the school when built in 1981. The school was built in the 20th century. Also further down on that page the bullet point says "increasing the number of pupils attending new or refurbished school but again ACC aren't building a new school and haven't quite sure or got round to telling us what refurbishment they are willing to carry out. Last night they also prattled on about if a pipe bursts for example they would have funds to fix it. but by the sounds of it if this scenario happened they expect the children to be in class while to be fixed as they don't seem to know given that happening where children would go. Page 13 2.5.1 Local authorities are expected to provide an efficient and suitable education for the children and young people in the area. Again eh? Maybe to existing pupils currently at Glashieburn but ACC aren't sure about brother and sisters going in the future going to the same school. It also can't be efficient as the class that they may be in is huge(some classes will be the size of actual schools in Aberdeenshire). Bottom of page 13 what on earth does this mean "Whilst arrangements are in place for the current cohorts of pupils , the nature of curriculum for excellence means that it will evolve over time, being amended and adapted to meet local circumstances" to my mind this means that because

of what is happening locally (no fault of the kids) their education and social circles will need to change and they just have to get on with it. I also started to believe after last night that you may also have to think about cutting either lunch or play time. This is a time when social skills, manners and interaction work are developed equally important as ABCs etc. They also said they have visited the school at Glashieburn, funny they were not telling us when this visit occurred. Did they go to the school in the morning, lunchtime or perhaps they went while the schools were In-service or on Holidays. There is enough room then, when the school is empty. Page 15 2.6 The main drive for this not financial. then in point 2.6.1 it is important , therefore to carefully manage the limited budgets sounds like a contradiction again. Page 18 pupils from the early phases of the development at Grandhome estate will be accommodated at DANESTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL until the first school is delivered in the development so what has this really got to do with our schools if you will sent people to there. The proposal goes to the education and sports committee in January 2014 with reports going to Scottish government in March, between march 1st and 1st august is 6 months say, but say from the end of March to start of august about 122 days to sort the amalgamation in time for August start with 400 plus kids does that not work out as each pupils attending Burst Primary education is being basically decided and considered in two/three days? I also feel mislead by the map 5.1 for Glashieburn school site looking large and then the further map for Middleton Park appears to be small in size, it looks as though it was done in order to convince people that Glashieburn is a fair size. Page 44 The proposal to amalgamate Galshieburn and Middleton Park Schools within the existing Glashieburn building on the Glashieburn Campus is part of the long term strategy , the aim of which is to create the most beneficial and positive leaning environments for our children. Its is not looking at things long term the school **WILL** be over capacity instantly and that will not benefit the pupils, the existing pupils will be sharing teachers and equipment with a greater number of fellow pupils this is not a benefit. They will not have a space to do Gym for instance properly or have a lunch, am certain for some children with low income families this gym time will be really all the time the pupil gets to take part in physical activity or have a descent nutritional meal. Page 63 All the current staff will have the opportunity to transfer to the new amalgamated school, with the exception of the head teachers, as described above .This would bring together teaching staff and support staff with a broader range of experience than currently available in either school. If I was a teacher reading this I would be fuming that statement is highly disrespectful. May I also suggest how they go about deciding who is basically worth keeping, An older teacher for instance that has worked many years in the one school maybe seen it change and has life experience or a younger teacher maybe just started out but has travelled in a Gap year, took the to study different things maybe child psychology how do you decide?

I strongly urge ACC to listen and take in, consider what we in this community are telling you. We live in this community, we have seen it change we have seen it grow and the numbers swell. We as parents know how our children work how they manage in certain situations and as parents we take our children to the different schools effected everyday we see it on a daily basis. I don't care about fancy figures and projections I as a parent want excellent and the best education for my child, this isn't what that you are offering. I only get one chance to get my child the best, there are no second chances. Please I urge you really consider what you are asking to people of this community to sit and take, then think again as a pupil how you would feel, think how you would feel as a parent that new amalgamated school that you are taking child to when years down the line their in Secondary and there not at the same levels as others because you put them to an overcrowded and badly resourced school because that was the only option available to them in that area that doesn't mean going miles away to be educated. If amalgamation goes ahead is ACC willing to send the people at that meeting to apologise to every child, parent, teacher, support teachers, cleaners janitors and anyone else with a link to the school for failing to provide a school and education fit for purpose. I do not support this proposal

I want to write to express my disgust at the plans to merge Middleton Park (MP) and Glashieburn (GB) primary schools into a renamed school on the GB site. Not only has this been a ridiculous idea

from the start (I have not met a single person who support the plan) but to make matters worse, the consultation document that has been issued is a complete and utter disgrace.

As a parent of two children who are rightfully proud of attending MP, I was initially concerned over the plans to close a school with such a consistently high record of attainment. However, I tried my best to set aside my own personal opinions and keep an open mind while I waited for the full facts to be made available by the city council, as I thought that there may well be a number of benefits from this that I was not aware of. HOW WRONG I WAS!

If I'm honest (which is something I would like the council to be), I don't actually know where to start with my list of issues with this but I'll give it a go and will start with the anomalies from the consultation doc.

1 – Somehow information has been changed to make this sound like a more suitable proposal. Statistics have been changed since the first batch of information was released:

- The alleged capacity of GB has increased from 420 to 460
- The suitability rating of GB has been changed from C to B, despite the alleged increase in capacity and with no works being done on the school
- The suitability rating of MP has been changed from B to C despite nothing having changed there either (how strange)
- The number of teaching areas inside GB has mysteriously increased from 18 to 24 since the previous study in 2009 (Reminder that no significant work has been carried out)

2 – The document has large sections copied and pasted from a previous consultation document and badly copied & pasted at that! The council have put in so little effort into this piece of work that they can't even be bothered to provide someone to review typos, clerical errors and downright blatant lies! At one point, the schools are even referenced as MP & GB **Academies!!!** I only hope that they haven't put a lot of effort in as they realise that this is at best a flawed idea and at worst a complete and utter waste of everyone's time.

3 – There seems to be a significant focus on the forecasted rolls of each of these schools where the council are trying to demonstrate with a handful of graphs that the roll at GB will be falling and (depending on which section you read), the roll at MP will either be rising significantly or falling (which is it)? The problems with this are:

- Roll forecasts are wildly inaccurate (as proven by the 2008/9 forecasts)
- The birth rate in the catchment areas increased 17% in the 4 years to 2011 (in case you hadn't worked that out, these children will have just started or will be about to start school in the next 3 years)
- The graphs are scaled to show what looks like a large deviation, but in actual fact the numbers involved are tiny percentages

4 – We are continually being told that the main driver for this proposal is “not financial”, yet much of the document is used to highlight suggested financial benefits. However, one of the key points that seems to be glossed over is the fact that even just to bring GB primary up to standard for 420 children is a MINIMUM of £2.5m. Yet now, we are told it is sufficient for 460 kids with no money being spent!! Wow! Lets also not forget that both MP & GB are among the lowest in the table of cost per pupil.

I could go on, but I think you get the message.

Now, I would like to outline the other issues that concern me about going ahead with this plan:

GB is already on the outside of its own catchment area, which is the furthest end from the MP zone. By squeezing these children into this school, you will be forcing the majority of them to have to stop walking to school as it will become completely impractical. I have infact mapped this out and calculated that my children would have to walk for 1.1 MILES to get from home to school, which at their age would likely take around 30 - 40 minutes. This not only goes against Education Scotland's "Walk to school" initiative, but also introduces significant issues with safety due to the lack of adequate parking around the GB site. The suggestion that parents will continue to park in the local supermarket car park and walk to the GB site is a nonsense! Parents who drive their children to school usually do so due to time constraints as they have to get to work as soon as the children start school. If the car is parked half a mile away, this becomes impractical again.

There is nowhere near enough outside space to play for almost 500 children that will be located there.

There is insufficient staff parking NOW, let alone with almost double the amount of staff.

The new school zones that form part of this plan include zoning academy pupils in the new Grandhome development to **Bucksburn** Academy! Really? How do the council plan to transport hundreds of pupils almost 4 miles across one of the biggest traffic blackspots in the country at morning rush hour?!?

The space per pupil in the new school will be by far and away the smallest of any school in the city

Finally I close with this thought: The elected city council were voted in to manage the city for the good of its people. If they can find me 100 people in this city (less than 0.5% of the population) who support this idea, then I will listen. If not, I will continue to fight this by every means possible until it is denied.

I am emailing regarding the proposed closure of middleton park school. I have two children at glashieburn primary school, my eldest child is in p6 and my youngest is in p1. I am highly concerned as to how you propose to fit all of the Middleton park children into glashieburn. I have a few questions which regard my children's education and safety which I would appreciate an answer to.

Glashieburn already uses all classroom space, where are you putting the additional children?

Glashieburn car park is full every day with teachers cars. Where will the additional teachers park?

Residents living beside the school have complained on numerous occasions regarding parents parking on their streets at 8.40am and 3pm. The extra children who will have further to travel to get to school will greatly increase the volume of cars. Where are parents supposed to park to safely drop of and pick up their children?

There are only 2 small gym halls at glashieburn, how do you intend to provide the children with sufficient space for PE?

All the children will not fit into the gym halls for lunch? How do you propose the children are able to have the space/time to eat their lunch?

How do you intend to provide a safe environment for my children in a small play ground with 460 children running around?

Thank you in advance for your prompt response.

I attended the first public consultation meeting held on the 2nd of September. I was hoping that Aberdeen council would have prepared some well thought out counter arguments and plans so as to convince me why this is a good thing should it go ahead. I was very disappointed. There was very little information available, only a couple of graphs and a few maps showing catchment areas. There were no plans available at all showing how Glashieburn looks now and how they propose to change it so that all the new pupils will fit in.

I was very discouraged to hear the planning officer talk of there being 25 teaching spaces within the school, but that he was counting the gymhalls, library, ICT room and music room within this number. Where then are the children going to do PE, play instruments, have their school music lessons, read books and go on the computers?? It was talked of how it is better for children to make better use of outdoor spaces and that this would be a healthier environment for them to take part in PE lessons, not when it's -5 degrees and knee deep in snow it isn't!! Aberdeen is famous for it's rain and long, very cold winters. Yes it's nice for kids to get outside for PE when it's sunny, but it should not be relied upon as a teaching space!!

Several questions were asked about how on earth they were going to manage to accommodate so many children in such a small space and the answers were always vague. We were told there were three current configurations that could be used depending on how many children were in each class, however no specifics were given whatsoever. How are the public supposed to make an informed decision and what is the point of a consultation if there is no real information available to base that decision on?

How can the council possibly say that there will be "more widespread and flexible learning spaces" when it is the same amount of space the Glashieburn pupils have now, but with double the amount of children in it. The walls do not move. No matter how you configure it, there will be LESS room. At the moment the queues for school dinners are very long and they have to do it in two sittings. How many sittings will be needed and how long will they have to queue for if this proposal goes ahead? Will our children get any real time to eat properly, play and not come home with indigestion every day from being rushed so someone else can have their seat?

I understand the council's argument that there will be more teachers with a wider range of experience all able to collaborate together to come up with better learning plans for the children, but both schools do that anyway and have excellent teachers so although it wouldn't be a bad thing it wouldn't necessarily be any better than what they have now and I certainly don't think this one point alone proves that this merger will bring about educational benefit when there are so many disadvantages

This merger will put Glashieburn right at the bottom of the table for space per pupil out of all the schools in Aberdeen. Why should it be allowed that some children are getting put to brand new state of the art 3 R schools and our children are going to be shoehorned into an unsuitable school with not enough space (indoors and out), not enough facilities and rated poorly by the council's own suitability scheme. Surely this is discrimination and is putting our children at huge risk of not receiving a high enough standard of education and going onto maybe fall behind and struggle when it comes to moving up to academy and further education.

The council say there is no financial motivation whatsoever and they stand to make no money out of it at all. So what is the motivation then? Why go ahead with it? It will lead to a whole host of problems when the new developments start shooting up. Where is everyone going to go? Children will end up being bussed to school or having to put their lives at risk by crossing too many roads due to all the re-zoning that will have to take place. Why can't it just stay as it is. I know they are under populated at the moment, but this WILL change as all of these developments start up and it is not that long into the future until they do.

In conclusion I did not hear any evidence at all that convinced me in any way that this merger would benefit my two children or any one else's children for that matter. I can only see bad points coming from this - no room to move, no room for extra curricular activities such as PE or music, no room to eat properly and no time to do it in, poor facilities, heavy traffic congestion at drop off/pick up times, no room to play properly at play/lunchtimes, not enough space for quiet rooms for ASN pupils, nursery space shrinking drastically - it just doesn't work!!

I hope my views will be taken into consideration as part of your consultation period.

The Schools Consultation Act 2010, requires the proposal document to be evidenced.

Quoting the Act

- “(1)The education authority must prepare a proposal paper which—
- (a)sets out the details of the relevant proposal,
 - (b)proposes a date for implementation of the proposal,
 - (c)contains the educational benefits statement in respect of the proposal,
 - (d)refers to such **evidence** or other information in support of (or otherwise relevant in relation to) the proposal as the education authority considers appropriate. “

The proposal document itself even states that evidence is lacking. The document does not contain evidence but makes a number of assertions, presents them as fact, attempting to give the appearance of evidence. This is not evidence or fact, IT IS DECEIT. This is not acceptable as part of a process that is meant to be a consultation but the reasoned discussion has been thwarted by the unreasonable declaration of opinion as fact by the council officers.

For example the statement on page 11 using the is presented as fact “*This is proposed as the roll at Middleton Park will fall when the new schools at Grandhome begin to be delivered and there is more than sufficient capacity at Glashieburn to accommodate the pupils from Middleton Park*” **This statement is opinion** and not fact, the roll projections are just that projections. There is no evidence to demonstrate how these projections are derived and the numbers presented in the document are already inaccurate for this year by a margin greater than the predicted fall over 10 years. The birth rate and house sales in the catchment area are rising so the available evidence (ie birth figures and house sales) demonstrate that the Middleton Park catchment will be self sustaining for the foreseeable future. Indeed in 2008 the officers presented a falling roll as fact when again at that time it was opinion. Based on the actual and predicted roll in 2012 these projections have now been shown to be inaccurate by a factor of 33%.

Perhaps the authors of the report felt that last five words of section 4 1 d above were of utmost importance rather than actually presenting the evidence. Again this makes a mockery of the consultation process.

THE COUNCIL OFFICERS ARE NOT LISTENING TO THE PARENTS, THEY ARE NOT CONSULTING WITH THEM, THEY ARE **ATTEMPTING TO INTIMIDATE** PARENTS INTO SUBMISSION WITH A LONG BADLY PREPARED PROPOSAL THAT HAS NO EVIDENCE OF EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT.

Please can you advise where with 26 teaching spaces and children needing 2 units per every week are going to go.

There are 6 hours x 5 (days in week) equals 30.

26 x 2 = 52.

I hear you cry, there are 2 gym halls.

I haven't taken into account LUNCH! So let's do the maths again.

If there are two sittings (please don't all laugh at once) that's 2 hours (giving staff time to set up, tidy and put tables away again) so we are now down to 4 hours, so

4 hours x 5 = 20 x 2 (number of halls) = 40.

NOPE, WE DONT FIT

I must raise my concerns regarding this obscene proposal to force all the pupils from Middleton Park primary school out of their excellent school and squeeze them into a renamed school in the Glashieburn primary building. I simply cannot see the benefit in any way shape or form in doing this for a multitude of reasons.

Based on your web site, Middleton Park school has a suitability rating of 'B' and Glashieburn has a rating of 'C' yet the council's proposal is to close the higher rated school and re use a lower rated school that needs in their own words, at least £2.5 million to bring it up to standard!! Strangely though, in your consultation document, the Glashieburn rating has increased to a 'B' despite no work having been done on the school! This is nothing but blatant lies.

The children's wellbeing and safety will be put at risk by trying to squash these children into a school that has somehow had it's total capacity increased from 420 to 460 with again, no building works having taken place! More lies. The school drop off and pick up is simply going to be at best a farce but in reality is more likely to be like a game of frogger being played with our children's lives.

The consultation is billed as being part of one of the most important education reviews in our city's history, yet the council can't even put enough effort into this document to work on using the facts on this specific proposal. Instead they copy and paste huge sections (including the most important - Educational Benefit) from a previous consultation!! Utterly disgraceful.

If this council is to try and regain ANY sense of credibility in this city, it needs to throw out this proposal as soon as this consultation is complete. No one in their right mind would force this through.

4/9/13

I would like to express my anger at the ridiculous idea of merging Glashieburn Primary & Middleton Park Primary. The idea of squashing all our children into one school, which, it is clear to ALL involved, except the council, simply far, far too small. There have be NO satisfactory answers to any of our concerns regarding adequate space for a Nursery, which the 2 Zoned areas for these schools CANNOT possibly do without, a Library, which I currently am a parent helper once a week, and which our children absolutely SHOULD NOT have to do without, and a Base, which is a VITALLY IMPORTANT amenity in our community that we DO NOT WANT to do without.

Add to that the fact that we have been informed that due to the lack of Gym space & time, our children, if unable to do sports outdoors, would have to do Gym in their CLASSROOMS!!!!!! This has to be against all the Governments Anti-Obesity Campaigns, not to mention our kids Human Rights to

have at least hours of quality gym time in an appropriate Health & Safety correct environment - I would love to see your Risk Assessments for Primary School age children doing Gym in a room with Tables, Chairs, Cupboards, Shelves, Computers, Electronic Equipment, Cables, Boxes, Bins, Trays, etc, etc, etc, and without any Gym Equipment.

I could go on & on & on in this vain, but the fact is I should not have to, because you should be putting the needs and welfare of our children and considerations of us parents first in ALL instances. It seems as if the council just want to go ahead regardless of our concerns & frustrations, but where will they be when it all goes wrong?????

One more thing I would like to raise, is if Middleton Park was to close and raised to the ground and the land sold, what may I ask would go on the land???? I can tell you, it will be houses and flats, and who will be buying them, again I can tell you, FAMILIES with children who will need places at an already OVER CAPACITY school & nursery.

Please, please think logically about this, it CANNOT and SHOULD NOT go ahead.

A Very Concerned Parent

6/9/13

Thank you for your response and apology. I accept that this was a genuine reflection of functions within the department rather than deception.

While I understand it was said in good faith, I would expect for what Derek described at another point of the meeting as "a high profile consultation" that he would not make assertions that are inaccurate even if it was said in good faith. It would have taken less than a minute to check, in fact it took me approximately 15 seconds to look on the consultation site during the meeting and see it was not there. The more detailed searching later was a result of the definitive assertion of the fact that it was available on the website, when in fact this was erroneous.

Again this reflects the lack of attention to detail that is being applied to this process.

7/9/13

I write to protest against the proposed merger of Glashieburn Primary with Middleton Park Primary. The travel congestion around the Glashieburn school during the periods of dropping off and picking up pupils is bad enough as it is but the increased number of pupils would make the congestion unbearable. It would also make it a lot more dangerous for the pupils with the amount of traffic that would inevitably be on Jesmond Drive at key times.

Where do you propose that all the additional staff park their cars. The car park at Glashieburn is at capacity at the moment so any additional staff would have to park in the surrounding street again adding to the congestion but not just at dropping of and picking up times.

I attended the public consultation meeting last week & one of the comments made was regarding the amount of square foot per child of the amalgamated school. This was compared to Braehead school. The Director of Education, disputed the figures being quoted. I would like to know exactly what the anticipated square footage is in the new school in comparison to what it is now in both schools, what other schools are in Aberdeen & what the legal requirement is. Also, does this include nursery & do the same rules apply?

8/9/13

Thank you for your reply. Can I firstly point out to my knowledge there was no meeting on Tuesday or can you clarify this ? Perhaps so given there was no attempt to inform the general public that any kind of child care provision was in place to accommodate them to attend the meetings. My son was in the crèche on the Monday but prior to that I thought he would have to come into the meeting with me on that day as I had already called the Jesmond centre prior to going and was told that nothing was organised. I asked staff in the crèche when I was giving my contact details when they had been told of this arrangement? They informed that they were contacted one hour previously at the Alex Collie centre and told to close the crèche there and make their up to the Jesmond centre where they were required to provide child care for the meeting. why had the public not been told before and since then surely it would have been recognised by yourself that this would have meant more people would

have attended the meetings ? and still there after you did not advertise anywhere that child care would be available. I cannot make up my mind whether this is intentional or another display of incompetency. Perhaps both.

With reference to my statement at Wednesday's meeting- I feel that a lot of anxiety is being created as there was no strategy, configuration, plans for the school, classes or anything else the children would involve the children within school- P/E, breaks. I also said I was not adverse to change but I wanted to know what you would be doing with my children. Yourself, Ms Lang, Mr Laing, Mr Samson & Mr Penman were all unanimous in agreement that I had a valid point and options and stated this could be done and would be provided.

After the meeting I was approached by Mr Penman and he asked what I was referring to. I stated that I was looking for a plan of where the resources and classes could be. Also to configure classes with the current combined roll from both Glashieburn and Middleton park school so that there was an example of how this could work. He said he was about to go to a meeting with the head teacher at Glashieburn school. I then backed this up in an email to clarify exactly what I meant by this so it was clear. My request was to see a strategy for the school timetable and where classes would be using the current combined roll of Glashieburn and Middleton Park.

I requested within the email that if he could let me know the outcome of the meeting I would be grateful.

Mr Penman did approach me prior to the start of the meeting starting on Thursday evening and advised me that he was trying to arrange architects to look at the court yard areas within the school to look at further options. When I asked about the strategy and timetable configuration he did not reply. I note that you say that you would not want to limit options regarding the configurations and wish to consult with as many professionals as possible, I am in full agreement that this is both appropriate and essential. I cannot understand why given you and your department have had 7 months to do this has not been done and why you do not view this as information as a priority that should be both shared with parents and be within the statutory consultation document prior to the start of the consultation ? An example of how could work could have been provided and could have been made clear to parents this was just an example of options.

In particular educational Psychologist should have been consulted for the children that are in the base in order to review how this would affect each individual going into a larger environment and what will be a huge change to them. Has this been done as this would be required to create the template for the equality impact assessment ? I cannot see a copy of this within the consultation document.

Parents who have children in the base are not aware of any assessment being made and details of the assessment have certainly not been shared. I am of the understanding that this should have been done prior to the consultation. I feel the children are the last to be considered and at no point in any of the meeting have you made any reference to how they will be affected at all or where they will fit in, making it clear that only numbers have been looked at.

I had felt relieved on Wednesday when I thought that you and your team had listened to me which I fully appreciated. However now I have more fears than ever and it makes it more than evident that the children are the last to be considered. We were told that you were going to prove educational benefit for the children of both schools which has now proved to be just talk and no evidence to back up what has been presented.

While I am full agreement that CPD is important you have not worked out how this will benefit the children otherwise at all when looking at your master plan I understand stand all the other factors but to me as a parent this is my priority and cannot understand why it would not be to you and your staff also. I feel this is morally wrong the children are the last to be considered.

There fore I am still requesting some kind of strategy. while I appreciate your points at the very least you could do is work out how PE/Lunches/Breaks and other activities will be worked out for the highest figure of 460 which will be the roll number surely can not be difficult in order to see if it will work. This should not require any one specialist this is just to show that there is time within the school week to fit this in would be a satisfactory example.

Could also advise which schools have standard ASN provision.

I am grateful that there will at least one option to look at for the plans of classroom within the school but will express again my disappointment at this being an after thought.

I look forward to hearing from you .

My grand-daughter is a primary 2 pupil at Middleton Park - a school which she loves and is thriving educationally.

I am extremely concerned about the proposed merger of Middleton Park primary school pupils with Glashieburn primary school pupils into the existing Glashieburn school. I can see no educational benefit to the children by being shoe-horned into an existing school which cannot possibly cope with an influx of over 200 children from Middleton Park. In addition, the first report classified Glashieburn with a "C" suitability rating (Poor: Showing major problems and/or not operating optimally (the school buildings and grounds impede the delivery of activities that are needed for children and communities in the school)), but mysteriously, with no improvements made it has been re-classified in the consultation document with a "B" suitability rating (Satisfactory: Performing well but with minor problems (the school buildings and grounds generally support the delivery of services to children and communities)).

Apparently, there are no plans to develop or extend Glashieburn over the 25 year planning period, so obviously the situation will only get worse.

Currently, in each school there are 2 lunchtime sittings, a merged school would therefore need 4 lunchtime sittings due to space restrictions and this would mean 50% less time available for pupils to eat their lunch. Similarly, the available playing field will be too small to allow children to play games like football at lunchtimes.

If this merger goes ahead, the amount of space per child will be the smallest across the whole of Aberdeen, leading to severe problems arranging lunchtime, physical education, playtime, flexible learning spaces, library facilities, computer rooms and nursery provision. None of these problems have been addressed properly and cannot possibly lead to any educational benefit.

Middleton Park is a great school and it does not make any sense to close it, especially since planning permission has been given for several thousand new houses in the area, meaning additional school capacity will be needed, not less. If the council are serious about providing an excellent education for all children, then emphasis must be placed on building new schools, rather than shoe-horning children into existing old buildings and closing good schools.

Please would you consider my concerns outlined above for the public consultation and allow Middleton Park School to continue with their excellent provision of education for our children..

While the proposal for a merger has definite potential as a proposal . The prospect of doing this in what will be an overcrowded open plan school designed in the 1970s is simply unacceptable. If the teaching spaces were entirely enclosed then this could be a possibility but the teaching spaces in Glashieburn run together as the open plan design dictates and is not suitable for this proposal. I would suggest that as the current birth rates in the proposed new catchment are rising that the 2 current schools continue until the new schools on the Grandhome development are built and then as the lifespan of the Glashieburn building reaches an end that there could be consideration of an amalgamation and a new build on either the Glashieburn or Middleton Park site at that time.

My good friend has just shared the content of her email with me and I would like to express similar views regarding my anxiety over the space & internal constraints over this proposal. I too asked a question to the panel on Thursday night - the Educational benefit statement part 7.3 repeatedly referred to "more", "variety", "space" and "enhanced". However no-where in your report is there any evidence of where "more" , "variety or "space" is coming from

- the children are to be "housed" in the SAME building with the SAME M2 AND there will be over 200 MORE children than at the moment AND you propose increasing the schools capacity to 460. Can you tell me where exactly this extra space is coming from?
- The other repeated term in 7.3 is "enhanced". However, the report states at 4.1 that "enabling works so far identifiedare likely to be relatively minor and could be completed over the summer holiday period in 2014". Please explain what works are planned? 6 weeks is such a short period of time and granted not much works can be completed within this timescale
- you already know how many children will be "housed" within the school given the existing school roll plus Middleton Park school roll or even use 460 and split year groups in the same ratio as per now (as an estimate).
- you also already know how much M2/ space at the school

Do the maths???? Use your ACC architects/space planners - you have had 7 months to look into this so why had this not been done? WHAT AND HOW EXACTLY will all these children fit in???? Surely this is crucial to any proposed plan to try and fit more than an agreed capacity of people into a space,

never mind having to prove how this will benefit the people involved -this is what you have to do by law? ?

The response to this question on Thursday was that it would be up to the HT to decide on where all the children went after the proposal - this is unacceptable. Given that it is an ACC officers proposal, including increasing the schools capacity, it is up to you to prove that this proposal works and is of Educational Benefit to the children. We need to know NOW. It is totally unacceptable to leave this headache for a new HT to deal with and take the rap for an ill thought out proposal.

I would also direct you to the last schedule of accommodation for the school drafted in June 2009 - it suggests that for 11 classes there would be a requirement for 14 teaching spaces given Curriculum for Excellence. We have estimated that following the introduction of the Middleton Park roll there will be a requirement for at least 16 classes, computing to a required 20 teaching spaces. Derek Samson stated on Thursday that there were 24 teaching spaces in total in the school so this leaves 4 teaching spaces for 3 am nursery and 2 pm nursery classes and 14 ASN children - SURELY NOT???

The second part of my question queried the £2.5m expenditure required for the school to meet 3rs standard -Derek mentioned that the plan for expenditure was available for public view - I cannot see this and have emailed Derek for the details.

This is an area of great concern for all parents I have spoken to and welcome your comments and look forward to see your plans.

Derek/Charlie,

You may remember that during the meeting last night I asked a question, part of which related to the the timing of the £2.5m planned expenditure in order to bring the Glashieburn site up to 3Rs school standard. Derek took the question on behalf of the panel and stated that the timetable for this expenditure was available on the website - I have just looked into the proposals part of the website and cannot locate this document - can you please direct me to the document or email it to me? Another parent requested back up to the financials re costs of both MP and GB AND for the combined schools. Can you provide me with this information? I am interested in seeing how the costs are split into categories such as salaries for teachers, teacher support staff, admin staff and kitchen staff, along with repairs, paper stationery etc, books/ jotters,etc, it expenses (splitting out capex and opex), heat & light, equipment hire, training, and any other expenses. FOR MP and GB as is and for BURST Primary. Can you also add assumptions so that we can understand the basis behind the predicted figures for both schools and in particular the GB/MP joint case?

One of GB parents queried the ASN teaching space and would be grateful if you could provide details of the teaching space available to ASN pupils in all other ASN primary schools in the city along with the number of ASN pupils in each school and the ASN capacity of each school.

You will have heard from the meetings that we have calculated that Burst Primary will have the least internal space of any school within ACC. This is based on internal space figures via School Estates Stats 2012 for Scotland. However, we are aware that some schools do have facilities within their gross space that may not be for school purposes such as Mile End which hosts a community facility and is a base for school nurses, etc. Do you have internal space information on all ACC primary schools excluding community space/non school space?

I also look forward to an updated plan of the school highlighting where the 460 capacity primary pupils and 3 morning/2 afternoon session nursery children could fit into the GB site.

9/9/13

Another question regarding the proposed closure of middleton park school. Has a risk assessment been carried out to ensure that in the result of a fire, that all the children will be able to safely exit the glashieburn building? If there is to be 460 children plus 100 nursery children and therefore classrooms in corridors, does this not pose a huge fire hazzard! Is the fire assembly point big enough to accomodate 560 children plus staff and still have all personnel a safe distance from the building?

We request to City government not to merge the Glashieburn school with Middleton school.

We request to City government not to merge the Glashieburn school with Middleton school.
Thank you,

Dear whom it may concern

I am writing to voice my opinion and concerns at the proposed merge of Glashieburn and Middleton Park Primary Schools.

After attending the third consultation meeting, I was left angered, bitterly disappointed and even disgusted at the proposal. There appears to be no REAL reason to go ahead with this ludicrous idea, other than the Council trying to redeem funds, to supplement other shambolic areas where accounting skills have failed.

If the Council are saying that Danestone is the "zoned" area for the new Grandholm Estate, prior to new schools being built, then I fail to see where on earth the pupils are coming from to predict an overcapacity situation, unless of course you foresee a baby boom!

Curriculum for Excellence, what is that? We unfortunately may never know as Glashieburn (new name), will be so full that our children will be totally deprived of a fantastic education as they are receiving now. My two children who attend Glashieburn are thriving in a spacious, happy and well educated school, and I cannot bear for that to change. As my 9 year old son said, "Mum, why do the schools have to merge, why can't they leave it as it is?" How can I possibly answer?

To have potentially the smallest pupil ratio for space in Aberdeen City is deeply concerning, health, safety and well being is surely a measure not worth playing about with.

The Director of Education's response to the reason behind this beggars belief, that the school will have more diverse teachers and education. What's wrong with the excellent teaching staff we have already?? Where will all the teachers park??

Three lunch time sittings, never heard such rubbish, my children don't always get their planned meal as it is! What about PE, not enough school hours in a week to accommodate pupils, as for the suggestion of outside, it's Aberdeen City we live in! As for PE in classrooms, not only is this a health & safety issue, it means disruption for adjacent classrooms whose pupils are trying to work.

I hope the Council seriously reconsiders its proposal and leaves our schools alone. Our children are our future and need the best possible start in life especially their education. They cannot be punished on the grounds of saving money, this proposal has not got one iota of educational benefit and MUST NOT go ahead.

I have now viewed the floor plan for the proposed Glashieburn/Middleton Park merger.

The proposed merger for Burst Primary would ironically put our children BOTTOM OF THE LEAGUE for internal area per pupil in Aberdeen schools. I can not believe that Aberdeen City Council could consider this to be acceptable. Deliberately creating a school environment with the lowest internal area per pupil than any other school in Aberdeen. This is in stark contrast to the recent announcement from Aberdeen City Council regarding roll capping and subsequent re-zoning of seven schools to address serious space constraints. The schools that were capped would have greater internal space per pupil than our children would!

I am trying to draw some sense for merging both Glashieburn and Middleton Park Schools on to the Glashieburn site and I am struggling to comprehend the rationale for this proposal.

I am sure when this proposal was being generated, consideration would have been given to the number of classrooms that would be required to accommodate all 443 pupils? I would be grateful if you could supply the number of class rooms/configuration of years and pupil numbers per class please.

I wonder if Aberdeen City Council will be striving to meet the commitment made by Education Scotland in the concordat to reduce class sizes as soon as possible to a maximum 18 pupils for P1-P3!

10/9/13

I'm writing to express my disgust at the merge of Middleton Park & Glashieburn Primary Schools. My son is in P3 and attends the base as he has autism, Glashieburn has been a live safer for us because of the base area, my son will never cope in an over crowded school. We were given a place at Glashieburn as Forehill had no funds to support him, so we came to Glashieburn as it has a brilliant base (asn) area, not for 4 years later for my son to be at an over crowded school with a much smaller base area - it's a joke. Also I have a 4 year old in nursery at Glashieburn, if the school is full next summer & my son doesn't get a place as we're out of catchment area - how am I suppose to get my sons to 2 different schools at the same time??????

Glashieburn & Middleton Park are brilliant schools that work brilliant in the area, we're all well aware in the area you are doing this to us because of the new houses being build - IT'S NOT FAIR
Is anyone aware also of the rising numbers of children with autism, where are the children meant to get support if the base area is to get smaller????
Please to do not do this to our kids, they don't deserve it.

Can you tell me the internal square metres that each child will have within the amalgamated school? There has been some talk that the amalgamated school with have one of the lowest, if not the lowest, square metre per child in Aberdeen city & I believe it would be quite close to the bottom of the table if we look at all Scottish schools.

I have recently been in Marsichal college (refurbished for the council at a cost of goodness only knows how much....funny how there was money for that but not money to keep two well performing highly thought of primary schools open).

Anyway my thought was I wonder how the members of the Education, Sports & Culture committee would feel if they were restricted to the square metres that our children are going to have to put up with if this merger goes ahead. Somehow I imagine that might not be accepted so I wonder why you feel it is acceptable for the children of our two great schools?

If you could reply with the current square metre per child at both Glashieburn & Middleton Park & also the square metre per pupil if the schools were to merger I would be most grateful. From the information I have it appears that the staff at Marsichal college have 12.5 square metres each....somehow I think the number for our children will be significantly less than that.

Fantastic email(Subject: BURST PRIMARY Date: Mon, 2 Sep 2013)

with clear points and issues raised that must be addressed by the council to justify the proposed merger. As you quite rightly say t is very difficult to see where the educational advantage is for the children if they are crammed into a space not fit for the number of children. Curriculum for Excellence is built around learning in a more expressive way and not just about sitting in a class room. It is difficult to see how this can happen if more children are moved into Glashieburn and flexible spaces are taken up for classrooms. Also the hall is currently too small for events where the whole school takes part. Parents have to come in in shifts to be able to fit in. Gym time is going to be even more of a premium at a time when children should be doing more PE not less. Thanks for taking the time to do this Nicola. Regards,

11/9/13

Who ever thought up of the scheme to merge Glashieburn and Middleton Park Schools.
Cannot live in the area.

At present between 0830 to 0900 hours the traffic build up is very dangerous to the children and the general public.

I wish a NO vote on this proposed merger.

I am writing to strongly object to this ludicrous merger. I was shocked to hear that our children's health and safety will only be discussed during the 6 week summer holiday - this is a shocking revelation and I for one having 3 children at Glashieburn School am seriously considering where their future will lie certainly not at a school with no thought to their safety in the event of a fire should this crazy merger go ahead.

Also the toilet facilities will be severely lacking for the quantity of children proposed to attend this school.

The facilities for music, extra activities are also looking to be taken away. I wonder the logic in the proposal as their does not seem to be any.

Also the noise level with all this children / extra classrooms please tell me how the children are going to concentrate and learn anything in this type of atmosphere in fact please tell another more settled environment for my area as think will just take them away from this school??????

I have been sent the attached which shows the amount of floor space that our children would be expected to learn, develop and grow in after the merger of the two schools. How on earth can this be classed as an educational benefit for all concerned - which is the reason you give for the merger to take place. The new schools that have been built recently are now at the top of the table and I appreciate that there may be a lack of budget for a rebuild but you cannot justify making our children worse off with the merger than what they were before. If the two schools are to merge this cannot be done unless the children are better off. Please can you explain your rationale for this - as a parent of a pupil at Glashieburn I am extremely unhappy about this. Regards, Karen

Internal Space League Table
(Based on Dec 2012 government figures)

Rank		Gross internal m2 Per Pupil
1	Sunnybank School	23.0
2	Seaton School	21.0
3	Braehead School	20.8
4	Kaimhill Primary School	20.2
5	Hanover Street School	17.4
6	Tullos School	16.4
7	Abbotswell School	16.1
8	Heathryburn School	15.9
9	Dyce Primary School	15.6
10	Hazlehead Primary School	15.3
11	St Joseph's RC School	15.1
12	Manor Park	15.1
13	Kittybrewster School	14.2
14	Fernielea School	14.1
15	Newhills Primary School	13.5
16	Airyhall School	13.4
17	Scotstoun School	13.3
18	Mile End School	12.9
19	Glashieburn School	12.8
20	Westpark School	12.6
21	Holy Family RC School	12.3
22	Quarryhill School	12.1
23	Riverbank School	12.1
24	Bucksburn School	12.0
25	Muirfield School	11.9
26	Kirkhill School	11.9
27	Cornhill School	11.6
28	Cults Primary School	11.5
29	Woodside School	11.4
30	Skene Square School	11.1
31	Walker Road School	10.8
32	Milltimber School	10.7
33	Stoneywood School	10.2
34	Danestone Primary School	10.2
35	Gilcomstoun School	9.6
36	Culter School	9.5
37	Forehill School	9.2
38	Loirston School	9.1
39	Bramble Brae School	9.1
40	Broomhill School	8.9
41	Greenbrae School	8.9
42	Charleston School	8.7
43	Ferryhill School	8.6
44	Ashley Road School	8.4
45	Kingsford School	8.1
46	Middleton Park School	8.1
47	Kingswells Primary School	7.9
48	St Peter's RC School	7.5
49	Burst Primary	7.4



I am writing following on from the meeting last Thursday at Oldmachar Church regarding the above.

I have previously emailed my views but after this meeting I am shocked by the attitude of the Aberdeen City Council staff who attended. The Director of Education, appeared to tut and roll her eyes at various comments that were raised. I understand that this is a job for her, however it is our childrens education that will suffer if this ridiculous proposal goes ahead.

I look forward to seeing the plans at the next meeting of where they plan to put all the children - should be interesting.

I attended the meeting at Oldmachar Church on 5th September 2013 as a Glashieburn parent and on behalf of my family. This raised a number of concerns and issues for us and we wish to take the opportunity to comment on some below and ask further questions. We do appreciate this is a lengthy letter but trust that you will take the time to review and respond accordingly. The issues from the meeting and the proposal itself that really stood out for us, and were of most concern, included: No floor plan - prior to the 1st October and final consultation meeting, please email us an accurate floor and class space plan, using your own predicted roll expectation of almost 440 children plus 100 in nursery and the appropriate number of staff based on your allowable ratio – these are KNOWN quantities according to the Officers at the meeting. I have been unable to find this on the ACC website.

We are very concerned about the sheer size of this school and the impact the size will have on cohesiveness and inclusion – there is no way that the school will be able to have ONE assembly or ONE Xmas production for example – sheer numbers will prevent this which is a real shame and goes against all that our child enjoys about inclusiveness and feeling part of the whole school ethos. We appreciate that “other schools manage” – the point is why should we have to “manage”?

You are proposing to replace more with less –we see no justification or benefit to our child in that. We agree that it is the Headteacher’s role (agreed) to sort classes and assist in space planning whilst managing competing demands for the same space such as gym halls – the Headteacher can work out lunches, PE, classrooms, teachers, best use of resources etc, etc – so it is not up to the Officers or the Council – but it was implied that if it all goes wrong (when it will be way too late), then the blame can be attributed to their “colleagues / Headteacher.” That is absolutely appalling. We look forward to hearing the thoughts of the staff at the schools on this issue – perhaps you could advise which, if either, Headteacher will be appointed.

Actual space planning and basic logistics such as cloakrooms, bathrooms, playtimes, gym, lunchtimes etc – there is nothing in place yet to review – architects are now going to be needed to work it out. Why is this not in place already? This was announced in February 2013! We appreciate competing demands for time being in employment ourselves, but sufficient time has been available to ensure all relevant plans should have been in place before the process started- it is a crucial decision affecting hundreds of stakeholders !

Realistically, all the changes the school are going to need will not be managed within 6 weeks of Summer holidays as they are not as “minor” as Officers suggest – they will linger on and on, adding to the upset and disruption. This is not an easy merger regardless of what the proposal may claim.

CPD appears to be the primary concern of the Director... All of the teachers we have spoken to have said that they already work closely together ... geographical logistics will not make much difference to this. Being in the same building will provide little additional opportunity to increase or continue their professional development as they will be spending all their time trying to manage and control maximum sized classes in minimum available teaching spaces with no additional resources. The staff we have spoken to are clear that they do not think that there is any benefit to the children (or themselves) from this proposal – many however are worried about airing concerns or saying anything in the process, either by email or in their meetings with Officers, for fear of being targeted by their “employers”, ie, the Council.

CPD should be of secondary importance in this proposal – whilst it is laudable to wish to develop your own staff, the children’s EDUCATION should be the primary driver in this instance and this proposal does not support this.

We will have less teachers as a whole in the amalgamated school based on Council allowable ratios of pupils to staff – how then can it be possible to choose and match the “best” teachers for each activity / age groups / ability ? Realistically, staff will just be trying to cover the numbers – they will be matching space, not skills.

We have heard nothing concrete, hand on heart, credible, specific or just plain morally acceptable on the whole topic of “Educational benefit” which is meant to be the main force behind this entire process. Clear educational benefit is meant to be the reason for this – it is not meant to be a cost-cutting exercise, designed to now fit in with the Council’s local plan and approved housing developments.

We plan to email on the critical “educational benefit” issue separately but in the meantime, given our child’s real and unadulterated enjoyment of reading, we would really appreciate it if you could please clearly explain exactly how our child’s education, literacy, understanding, appreciation of the English

language and nuances of the written word, as well as their ability to concentrate, will be enhanced by a massively reduced library, with less choice, potentially positioned in a corridor, surrounded by an enormous number of children, some of whom will be constantly walking past (or through) to go to the bathroom, some of whom will be doing gym or trying to have a lesson in the “teaching area” right next door ?”

Getting it right for every child except :

- Those in the ASN, who will be catered for but not without massive change, movement and huge disruption – are they considered acceptable collateral damage given the Officer’s assertion that the space they have just now could be considered to be “excessive”?

- The ASN children again if you are planning to use the courtyards (!) as teaching areas – will the ASN children be required to dig up their therapeutic garden for this purpose?

- The 100 children in nursery over 5 classes who will be crushed into a much smaller space – is this to prepare them for reality of Primary 1 to 7 in the “new” school?

- Those children who occasionally benefit from quiet areas and sometimes really need one-to-one time with a teacher who has time to get to know and understand them (such as my own child)

- Those kids who pretty much only exercise at school lunchtime as they are addicted to PS3 games at home and have little exercise outwith the school environment ... we absolutely appreciate how much exercise children receive outwith school is not your problem but we believe that as a society, we have a moral obligation to provide every opportunity for a healthy upbringing – sometimes we have to recognise that it falls to schools provide this in a suitably large available space.

Are these the examples of the “losers” from the statement we have heard from Officers at a previous meeting who actually stated that there will always be winners and losers in this type of situation ?

There should be no losers, only winners – is this not the whole point of educational benefit?

Space per pupil, internal and external, based on 460 P1-7 children – what a huge culture shock for existing children suddenly crushed into one school building compared to what each child enjoys just now. Cultural change is hard enough to cope with as an adult never mind as a child with less emotional maturity. And that does not even consider the impact of the loss of identity of losing the longstanding names of Glasbieburn and Middleton Park...

Why is it so OFFENSIVE to the Officers that the children have space and freedom – is it jealousy, anger, irritation? Repeatedly at the meeting, it seemed that this was unacceptable as a fact on its own ... surely, the whole purpose of this proposal is educational benefit – so what if the children have space – is that a crime ? It appeared to be a real sore point and we are uncertain and perplexed as to why?

OK, one positive - more children equals more friends which is very good news in our child’s view – but as the space available to play with new friends will be massively reduced, not so great – in fact, our child says this will be “rubbish” and our child is already worried about how all these new children will have to share the 2 small pieces of playground equipment, a small bike shed and the already small playing field that they can only use on dry days – ie – for limited periods in Scotland.

Children will suddenly find themselves with serious personal space issues, both internally and externally, with the resultant potential for conflict and poor behaviour- this is a real concern for us and our child.

If space is such a problem, and the Officers are really so offended by Middleton Park having the lowest occupancy in the future, remove the portacabins, problem solved. You could move the portacabins to Greenbrae Primary School, thereby eliminating the need to build a costly extension to accommodate the children from the Dubford development – a win, win financially sound, minimally disruptive and stress free situation all round.

The savings ... possibly 460 primary children + 100 nursery = potentially 560 children affected – average annual saving of @ £230,000 = £7.89 saving per affected child per week – we will put our hands in our pockets and pay this ourselves ... cheaper than Albyn, St Margaret’s or Gordon’s College which have small class sizes and are academically very impressive ... From a CSR perspective, we’ll even pay for another child weekly from a less fortunate background. This is minimal expenditure to allow the retention of two excellent schools.

Local area demographics – you are possibly correct to state that the number of children in our area may well be affected... a potential reason- who in their right mind wishes to purchase a family home in an area where the only school is already at maximum capacity, is old and of poor structural quality, requiring £2m+ to be spent on it and has one of the lowest (or indeed least) space per pupil in the whole of Aberdeen City? Would you buy here knowing this? We look forward to reading future property schedules – “only one primary school in the area, unlikely to be allocated a space as it’s full ...”

And if more houses are built on the existing MP site in the future as mentioned as a possibility, where will those children go to school - the only local school in zone will probably be over capacity or indeed full in many year groups?

And yes, it is an enormous concern that safety of children on roads, local parking problems for families and staff and safety within school in the event of an emergency hasn't been addressed yet. And it is not acceptable that this hasn't been planned IN ADVANCE of the end of the consultation period for parental discussion and interrogation – it is part of the whole issue.

As we were told, and as per Press coverage, we appreciate that parking “isn't your problem” and you have “no obligation” to provide or help with staff parking – realistically however, this must be addressed and resolved for both staff morale and safety reasons if nothing else.

And moving so many very young children in an emergency fire situation is a real concern – it is not acceptable to take anyone's word that this will just be sorted out.

Removing a local school reduces options – two children in a family for example with only one place available in the school (as has happened in the past) – at the moment, the whole family may well be accommodated in the alternative school. We understand that the Officers have stated that it is “ridiculous” in their minds that there are 3 schools on Jesmond Drive – why is it ridiculous? Please explain this?

Out of zone families are very worried that their sibling children, not yet in school, may not get a place in the same school as their older children – a huge logistical nightmare for those families affected.

There would be no need to worry if the school wasn't going to 94%+ capacity! The school attracts out of zone children due to reputation – again, why is this so offensive?

Grandhome development – zone these children to Danestone or Brimmond if you wish – it's up to you – you approved this plan - why should this mean that Middleton Park and Glashieburn have to close?

One decision does not have to lead to the other. How do the parents at Danestone and Brimmond feel about this – has anyone consulted them or are they also collateral damage?

Grandhome developers think their early entrant children will be crossing a “new improved roundabout” and not being bussed to Brimmond – it is a 50mph very busy main road and a rush-hour rat-run – let's be realistic – as a Council, you agreed to thousands of more houses as part of your plan so you

should be able to manage this new town internally without affecting the larger Bridge of Don population even more and effectively punishing so many children. How will Grandhome property purchasers feel about no local school capacity or being temporarily “housed” at Danestone or Brimmond, then uprooting children, disrupting relationships and friendships and moving them back to their “local” school – not a commercial positive selling point for the development or local economy?

Absolutely, some of the above are general comments and concerns reflecting a wide range of issues. A proposal such as this will naturally touch on many aspects and issues of concern from housing to safety to road awareness and so on.

However, we firmly believe that this proposal has NOT been considered for the children's benefit – they should be the primary concern in this whole situation and this proposal is NOT an honest workable solution which will enhance our child's education.

The report appears to contain many errors, inconsistencies and contradictions – the proposal itself gives us no faith in the process as a whole - it is a poor basis for an educational decision to be derived from and a therefore critical decision to be made from with such far reaching implications for so many.

Little has changed from 2008 when this proposal was last rejected – for example, travel and lunchtime arrangements will be no easier now than they were then - there are no material differences that would lead to a conclusion that this is NOW in the best interests of 560 children – if there are, please advise us exactly what they are (apart from housing developments and the local plan). Even the arguments for more opportunities for extracurricular activities bear no weight given that out of school options are available already independently of the schools.

Indeed, the sheer number of children being affected by this just staggers us. I have spoken to Officers on many occasions since February 2013. During the Donside by-election, we spoke to a number of candidates and party representatives – throughout, we have been given verbal and written assurances that the EC&S committee would only vote to close the schools if they could see clear, relevant, specific and measureable educational benefits to our child and every other child affected by this proposal, both now and in the future. Quite frankly, apart from a few more friends, we can identify NONE.

The claims in this document, both educational and otherwise, are just broad sweeping, non-specific and generic – they are not identifiable or justifiable. Putting aside party politics, and we sincerely hope that the EC&S committee can do so, we believe that the members of this group are very able to apply common sense and an educated view to the “benefits” statement and dismiss it.

Thus, every single member of this committee, regardless of political stance, role or background, should therefore be able to draw exactly the same conclusion as the affected population of the Bridge of Don area, and reject this as morally wrong, totally unacceptable and educationally detrimental to an enormous number of children and their families, our own included. Putting this into place will not have an educational benefit to our child, or any other child affected – please reject this proposal.

I am an Aberdeen resident and I have some concerns about the proposal which has been put forward by the Council in regards to Glashieburn/Middleton Park School amalgamation. Firstly the proposal is poorly written. There are grammatical errors on almost every page and many sentences sound like they have been constructed by someone who didn't pass primary school. I would think that the Council would proof read a proposal which is being made public, especially when it deals with education. There seem to be several conflicting statements within the proposal. In section 4.1 you mention that the work needing to be done to Glashieburn is minor and could be carried out in a summer, but in section 5.1.21 you detail that the one rating for the school was C and that 2.5 million pounds would be needed to eventually upgrade the school. In Section 7.3 you say 'Learners and teachers will have more opportunities for challenge and inspiration through the existence of more flexible and non-standard spaces of different dimensions and configuration.' This makes it sound like children will be able to learn better because they will be oddly shaped rooms. Where is the citation to support this statement. My last point is about statement 7.15- Research, where you state that there is very little evidence to support a the size of the school influencing the educational outcomes. So why would a bigger school be better for these children. Please be aware that there are many people against this proposed amalgamation. Thank you for reading my comments.

"Learners and teachers will have more opportunities for challenge and inspiration, this being made possible through the existence of more flexible and non-standard spaces of different dimensions and configuration"
How do children learn more effectively in funny shaped spaces?
All the teaching areas in the floor plan look rectangular. Where are the odd shaped questions?

I am writing in response to a recent report outlining the present state and future plans for education in Aberdeen City. One passage particularly interested me:
Section 7.2 reads "Learners and teachers will have more opportunities for challenge and inspiration, this being made possible through the provision of flexible and non-standard spaces of different dimensions and configuration."
Do teachers need more opportunities for challenge? Granted I've not seen every teaching staff protest, but I've never seen a teacher holding a placard exclaiming, "I want more challenge!" or "I'm bored to the teeth in my job!"
However, in short, I agree. Teachers will have more opportunity for challenge, as they will indeed be more challenged. When thinking about what a "flexible and non-standard space" is, my first image was of a parachute. This makes sense, as every school is in possession of them already and they are cheaper than walls of Play-Doh. Teachers will no-doubt relish the opportunity to teach long-multiplication with an excitable class under a parachute.
One may suspect that I'm being facetious by suggesting a parachute and Play-Doh as potential candidates for the walls. This is not so. If I was to suggest a TARDIS - by far the best candidate - then I would be being silly. Unfortunately it is its fictitious being that disqualifies it from widespread use, rather than its credentials.
The problem I have in thinking of a solution is that surely the plans must involve existing schools? Building new schools with these spaces incorporated will obviously work. But how are the spaces (lay folk call them 'rooms', sometimes 'classrooms' when being formal) going to be incorporated into schools with rectangular spaces with solid walls? Knocking the walls down is almost an option, but some of them support the building structure, and children (despite what they say) really do appreciate their schools maintaining their sound structure. Is every school being completely rebuilt? That would be nice of you.

One final note. I am sorry to say that the grammar was below standard for a Council report. I don't expect the standards of a linguistics scholar, but publishing grammar of that calibre does not encourage public confidence in one's abilities - no matter the content. Please proof-read future publications. Any student at AU or RGU would probably do it for the cost of a Pizza Hut. In case my own grammar is haphazard, I am not a linguistics scholar, nor am I a student at AU or RGU. I'm also not writing a Council publication, just a semi-serious email with satirical undertones plopped in for free (you're welcome), so I would hope you'll allow me a misplaced comma or unruly hyphen. I deliberately stayed away from semi-colons though - I doubt anyone really knows when and where to use those
I digress.
I would very much appreciate a response with what the answer is. What are these flexible and non-standard spaces actually divided by?

12/9/13

I would like to enquire regarding the closure of Middleton Park Primary school and the merge of Middleton Park with Glashieburn.
I have 2 children in Glashieburn and am very concerned about their safety in relation to these changes. As a Glashieburn parent I'm at the school and have been inside the classrooms several times. I have seen the appropriate documents and plans and I cannot see how the additional children from Middleton park will fit into Glashieburn school. This raises concerns in relation to the children's safety as they are being crammed into a space that is far too small. I'm concerned that in the event of a fire or another emergency cramming into this space endangers the children. I'm worried that my children will not get appropriate exercise at break and lunchtimes. I'm concerned about the number of children that will be running around the playgrounds, more chance of accidents.
I'm extremely concerned that in January 2013 your office advised that Glashieburn was 'poor' if at capacity that no changes are being made to Glashieburn for this school merge and as a parent I'm now being told it's 'satisfactory'. This is my children's safety and welfare 'satisfactory'.
I'm concerned as there doesn't appear to be a nursery and that my niece and should I have another child, won't get to attend the same school. Plus, my children are currently out of zone so I'm not sure in general what will happen or what I'm supposed to do.
I do not think that it is safe or appropriate that children will be forced into the corridors and expected to be able to pay attention, learn and develop their full skills. I don't believe my child can possibly get the full benefits of education by being taught like that. There are several houses being built in bridge of don, I don't understand how all the children will possibly fit.
I would like to understand how gym will take place given the complete lack of space and volume of children. How can focus be on any of the children when required in sports with that amount of children and no space?
Working in IT myself and in this day and age – learning computing is extremely important and mandatory for children. How will this be taught in the new school with the space for PC's being used up? Children will be leaving Glashieburn without basic skills required to move onto secondary school. What extra precautions will be in place for the sheer volume of cars being in and around Glashieburn? All those cars squeezing in and parking in and around the school, small children not paying attention or older children, there's room for accidents. What about all these additional 'unfamiliar' adults around the school before and after. It's going to be so busy what extra precautions are being taken to ensure children's safety? Anyone could turn up at school and attempt to purposely take a child that is not theirs in the confusion and sheer volume of adults/children going in and out. What extra precautions are in place to guarantee my children's safety?
How are Christmas concerts, sports days, choir concerts going to be managed or will my children just not have these anymore?
My eldest gets music lessons, my youngest can't wait. How will these be managed or, will these just be cancelled too?
I'd appreciate it if you could clarify what will happen to my children should these changes take effect. I have a serious concern for the safety, welfare and general lack of education that can only benefit from these changes.

I have serious reservations about the proposed closing of Glashieburn and Middleton Park Primary Schools.

I attended one of the recent public meetings and I have also read through the Public Consultation Document.

Leaving aside the issues of parents from the Middleton Park catchment having to travel to the Glashieburn site and the traffic issues which that will no doubt cause, my main concern is with the educational benefit to the pupils.

I understand the point of view put forward in the document, that a larger school can offer more variety and support for its pupils and this is not my concern.

My main concern is that there is no plan to enlarge the Glashieburn building in any way. I cannot see how cramming 460 pupils into the existing building could possibly be of educational benefit to the pupils. I would be perfectly happy with the amalgamation plan if the size of the building was being increased in a proportionate way. I have regularly visited Glashieburn and I know how busy the school can be with its existing numbers. I understand that there is room to expand to a certain extent, however, I cannot see how cramming all of Middleton Parks pupils into the building can be seen as a step forward.

The document repeatedly refers to the educational benefits of having a larger school, without ever pointing out that they won't actually have a larger school, they will just be cramming more pupils into an existing school, and renaming it.

Can you please explain to me how the existing building is going to increase the number of its flexible teaching areas while still cramming in all the extra pupils?

Also the proposal does not explain what area the nursery will take up in the existing building.

These important issues seem to have been brushed over by the people planning this amalgamation, and even when asked directly at the meetings they simply misdirect

and avoid giving any factual answer. Clearly they have no real idea of how this is all going to work.

Not a very good way to plan for the future educational needs of the children...

I must say, that I am left with the very disappointing opinion that this is being done purely for political and financial reasons. There have been suggestions that the council is only planning this action so that it can force a building contractor to build a new school as part of a new housing development, and so avoiding having to pay for it themselves. If this is true then surely disadvantaging the children from Middleton Park and Glashieburn is not morally the way forward.

What has changed since 2008 when this was first proposed? It was decided then it was not a viable proposition and was halted.

Please provide plans and display directly beside plans of the Glashieburn site and show sizes and spaces per child in classroom areas for all 3 schools and explain what is standard for a 3 school establishment and how we compare and how Glashieburn the existing site will be brought up to the same standard. Also compare external space in particular and how this will match. Display the differences in nursery playground space and how this will be created for the new school. Please also reference facilities, resources and cloakroom areas and the comparison of sizes also and floor to ceiling measurement for a clear view for all of all space that is to be created.

I am a very concerned grandmother of two boys at Middleton Park Primary and plead with not to go ahead with the folly of closing this excellent school. I have been following what has been happening on Facebook and can't believe how much incompetence has been shown. Have some sense and don't go ahead with this closure. The children deserve better.

I email to highlight that it is virtually impossible to expect parents to digest the gobbledegook in the consultation document. Academic research must have an abstract summarising the important points and business papers would have an executive summary. The proposal document does nothing but confuse.

The literacy trust promotes readability and suggests among other things a readability scoring system referred to as S.M.O.G (Simple Measure of Gobbledygook). The proposal document scores 19 which is an exceptional poor level of readability. To expect decisions to be based on such a difficult to understand document is outrageous.

Unlike the proposal document I have included a reference for the statements made in this email. (McLaughlin, G. Harry (May 1969). "SMOG Grading — a New Readability Formula". *Journal of Reading* 12 (8): 639–646).

13/9/13

I object to the closure of Middleton park school. it's a crazy proposal from the council that has no benefit to the children what so ever. Why would anyone gamble with children's futures like that. There simply isn't enough room at glashieburn school to accommodate the current children and the forecasted school roll increases.

I am a parent of 2 Glashieburn pupils and am an ex pupil of Middleton Park Primary. I am writing to you to express my views on the proposed merger. As like many others feel this will be an utter shambles if allowed to go ahead. In fact as like everyone else in the community, because as far as I am aware not one person is for this merger!

I have attended 2 of 3 consultation meetings and your panel have not managed to answer 1 single question with a satisfactory answer. At meeting number 1 we asked why floor plans were not available, I believe they were made available at meeting 2 and were on show at meeting 3 – HOWEVER they did not show us how the school would be laid out. I have requested by the next meeting that this becomes available with the current role's as they stand this year, because at present I cannot see how all these children can fit in the Glashieburn site as it currently stand's

Can you please provide me with the current roles in each school with a breakdown of how many pupils in nursery/P1/P2 etc – I would like to compare what the plan says to ACTUAL numbers.

There has been absolutely no effort made by anyone to show us how this would work.

I am appalled at the fact that the only educational benefit we are being told of is CPD – rubbish there is no educational benefit. Both schools are brilliant establishments and to merge them into 1 will impact on my children's education.

When asked how the 'new' school could provide PE for 460 pupils for 2 hours per week (as per guidelines) we were told that PE does not have to be done in a gym hall but outside (acceptable in the nicer weather) or in a classroom – can you tell me how 30 pupil's in an already cramped class can do PE in an open plan classroom? Are they expected to move tables/chairs etc themselves and then put it back???

Why does this need to happen? Is it a cost cutting exercise (this is not acceptable) Is it so the developer of the grandholm estate has to provide a new 3R's school sooner? That our children will not be able to attend, Why do our children need to suffer?

I hope that all these comments are taken seriously and you listen to the voice of the community, because we say this is utter nonsense

Curriculum for Excellence..... (does not apply to Burst Primary)

Having just passed both schools just now and seeing the kids running about freely playing. Please can you confirm they will ALL have the same outside space as both schools currently have. Didnt think so.

To whom it may concern

It is with great emotion that I write today on the sad news about the proposed closure of Middleton park!!!!

I came into the Aberdeen with my family in 2010 and my 3 children have been attending the school and coming home every day with stories to tell and good values they learn from school.

I stopped having and course for concern because support of the school staff has made it easy for them to settle into school as whole.

My kids feel comfortable and part of Middleton park!! because of this I have cancelled several attempts to change house because they love there playground, teachers, friends....

I would be very happy if my children will have Middleton park to complete their learning! Please re consider!!!! 1

I am writing to air my views on the Councils proposal to close Middleton Park School and merge with Gladhieburn.

I am a parent living in the Glashieburn catchment area and I am very concerned that my son will be attending a grosly over crowded school and will therefore not receive the caliber of education he and every other child deserves.

The addition of 200 extra children to an already full school is beyond belief, these children will be sitting being taught in corridors!! Is this really how Aberdeen City Council think the children of the city should be educated?!!

Nothing has been mentioned about a nursery? Are these children to just be put wherever there is a space? Is that fair? It's certainly not how I want my son to be treated!

As if all that wasn't enough the amount of traffic will increase and cause mayhem in the area, this can only be dangerous for all those children coming and going from school!

The council are yet again proving what a disaster they are making of running this city and are living up to their reputation of being the worst council in the country!

Putting money savings before the education of the children of this city is a disgrace!

In relation to the proposed merger of Middleton Park and Glashieburn, would the council please publish the current suitability ratings of both Middleton Park and Glashieburn, and note the expected suitability rating of the new merger Glashieburn school by each of the 25 weighted elements?

In relation to the proposed merger of Middleton Park and Glashieburn, would the council please publish the current condition ratings of both Middleton Park and Glashieburn, and note the expected conditions rating of the new merger Glashieburn school by reference to each of the 24 weighted elements?

Per section 5.3.3 Sufficiency of the school estate report, the nursery & primary school population is forecast to increase. However, I thought at the public consultation meeting that the forecast population was considered to stay constant for a number of years.

Is this correct?

If the population is to increase, surely it makes more sense for both schools to remain open to accommodate the increase in population? I am worried that my two sons end up at different schools, or having to be moved as in a couple of years, Glashieburn will be full.

Throughout the document insulting comments are made about how "small schools" can't do this and can't do that. Insulting to the staff who work so hard trying out innovative ventures, engaging youngsters in outdoor learning, pupil led events , active learning and groupwork.

The consultation document makes continuous assumptions / scathing comments without backing any of this up with fact.

I would suggest those who want to actually see what these schools do could do worse than watching Middleton park's weekly news videos on Vimeo.

Made by pupils these show exactly what kids in school are doing in each week.

<http://vimeo.com/m/user18272725>

A very different picture to that formed from reading the consultation report.

Burst primary is an appalling bad idea. And one that really does need fully investigating. Rather than providing kids an education for the 21 century it is moving them back in time. I have continually heard comments from officials and officers about need for education that is fair across the city.

Only this is not fair to Bridge of don kids. 9 new builds with amazing facilities. And burst primary. Sadly lacking.

Perhaps leaving the schools as they are until funding becomes available to build a new school is a more appropriate action.

Why?

Because of the 7000 housing development nearby? And the want to push developers to build a new school for these houses sooner.

Lastly. About the document

1. Why was a draft copy not stamped draft
2. Why was this not proof read - numerous errors and misleading information remains
3. Cut and pasting from a consultation for a new build secondary is only correct if the information transferred is still relevant. It is not.

Why?

Because this is a done deal? Does the lack of care in the consultation document reflect the utter lack of care for educational development in the bridge of don?

Dear Aberdeen City Council,

My son is at Middleton Park Primary school and will have his education disrupted should Aberdeen City Council (ACC) be allowed to merge Glashieburn and Middleton Park Primary Schools. I read through the ACC Public Consultation Document (PCD) hoping that it might put to rest of some the concerns I expressed to my local councillors following the announcement of the merger at the start of the year and the publication of the Review of Aberdeen City School Estate Engagement document. It did not.

I find it hard to believe that ACC expect people to have any sort of belief in their actions when their consultation documents are full of inconsistencies and assumptions rather than facts. The report intimates that the main driver for this proposal isn't financial but about providing suitable and efficient accommodation for pupils across the city. Efficient in which way? Financial perhaps? Surely any proposed merger of schools should be about the education of children. The excellent education of children.

There are many points that shock me including:

- Although the initial document says that Glashieburn is rated 'C' - poor for suitability and Middleton Park is a B. ACC think it is acceptable to alter that without changing the site. It wasn't a school fit for purpose – but now it is.
- The rolls for both schools outlined in the initial document were not correct. The Education or Burst Team proved that the school would be over capacity. But what does this matter when ACC can increase the capacity to suit.
- The PCD states that the children will benefit from increased flexible learning spaces and that Glashieburn is clearly a larger establishment with a more open environment. But there are no increased flexible learning spaces – in fact no spaces at all once both schools are amalgamated.
- It is considered advantageous, in the longer term, to squash pupils from two schools into one poorly rated school.
- The noise in a filled to maximum capacity, open plan school, with the least space per child in Aberdeen, doesn't matter to the ACC.
- The report states that the existing Glashieburn School has more than sufficient space to accommodate the pupils from Middleton Park, without there having to be any significant interior or exterior alternations. The newly announced covering over of the courtyard area at the centre of the school contradicts the report.
- ACC can change the zoning areas of an existing well performing, well attended school, and disrupt children's education in order to suit their financial plans to shut that school down. Effectively moving the goalposts.
- Not one statement in the Transformation Programme Objectives section of the PCD could possibly be applied in the amalgamated school.
- The children of Middleton Park and Glashieburn Primary School's education has to suffer in order for ACC to afford to pay for the education of children in the 3R's schools.
- The proposal is full of inconsistencies such as; if Middleton Park stays open this will result in the children from the new 'self contained' Grandholm development having to be educated outwith the Grandholm site, but should Middleton Park be closed the children from the new 'self contained' Grandholm development will be educated outside the development in Danestone Primary – or Brimmond?? (Depending on which part of the PCD you read).

- The rationale for the proposals in the PCD all seem to be based on assumptions and not actual facts.
- It is suggested in the PCD that parents dropping their children off at school by car, park their cars in the Adsa Car Park opposite the Middleton Park site and walk down to the new amalgamated school. Who would actually do that? It is also suggested that there would not be an increase in the amount of parents taking their children to school by car. Even though for many, myself included, walking to Middleton Park is quicker than driving. Driving to Glashieburn is quicker than walking.
- The Education Benefits Statement is confusing and vague. Lots of words .. not much substance. Yes all these statements sound good – but how will they be applied in the amalgamated school? The PCD doesn't say.

As I mentioned at the start of my letter these are only some of my concerns. I could go on to mention the answers given at the Public Consultation sessions – which again did nothing to reassure me that the amalgamation of the schools would be of any kind of benefit, educational or otherwise, to my child or any child at either of the schools.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of information request FOi-13-0159 education benefit part 10

10. Will the local authority make progress towards achieving a maximum class size of 18 in p1-p3 during the course of financial year 2013-2014. YES

I would like to know how these plans will impact on already cramped space at the planned "new campus" / old Glashieburn.

Whilst I appreciate several local schools will struggle with these planned changes, in the case of burst primary, the council have the opportunity to make informed choices knowing what the future may hold.

I certainly hope they do.

Particularly as Glashieburn has no room to expand. And any expansion will have a detrimental effect on an already limited playground.

See Part 2 for 14 (2013 >>>>>)