

## Notes from school review workshops

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### Sighthill Primary School: Workshop held on Thursday 22 February 2018

The following notes have been categorised by subject discussed. The notes taken are not verbatim. We have not included comments which may identify an individual who is not a Council Officer.

#### Discussion Group

Item	Discussion / Comments
<b>Published Proposals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Concern about loss of good community facilities – hundreds of clubs use them every night</li><li>• Council should tackle the negative stigma attached to WHEC – new name?</li><li>• Undoes the work WHEC has already done to improve the school's reputation – people are proud to say they go/went to WHEC</li><li>• 1200 school is too big – children with ASN will not cope, WHEC provides a supportive environment for pupils with ASN because of its low class numbers</li><li>• Big schools don't tackle bullying as quickly as small schools</li><li>• What will happen to the WHEC site?</li><li>• Difficult to engage people in the issue – need to knock on doors, walk the street</li></ul>

Summary of Published Proposals:	
<p>Sighthill Primary School feeds into Forrester High School</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current and recent P7's have not chosen Forrester High School over WHEC</li> <li>• Children that do choose Forrester High School over WHEC are attracted to the better sports facilities at Forrester High School – if WHEC had more attractive facilities more people would chose to go to WHEC</li> <li>• Forrester High School is further away than WHEC, route not as desirable – need to cross dual carriageway, walk through an industrial estate.</li> <li>• Others choosing WHEC because their friends go there already</li> <li>• Will not benefit children who struggle to get up for school</li> <li>• Bullying at Forrester High School - children have moved from Forrester to WHEC because of bullying</li> </ul>
<p>Canal View, Clovenstone, Juniper Green and Nether Currie Primary Schools feed into a new South-West Edinburgh High School in one of three locations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each site presents logistic problems for the areas affected: crossing bypass, dual carriage roads, Gillespie Crossroads</li> <li>• Difficult to merge the two different communities (WHEC and Currie)</li> <li>• Children from WHEC will get bullied</li> <li>• People from middle class areas will look down on children from Wester Hailes</li> </ul>

Alternative Proposals	
<p>Retain all schools on their existing sites refurbishing or rebuilding as require.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WHEC needs investment and support from the council to make it more attractive</li> <li>• WHEC has suffered from parental choice – parents don't realise curricular choice is determined by the school roll</li> <li>• Retain existing leadership, teaching staff and support networks, including family support</li> <li>• A small school roll is an advantage</li> <li>• Curriculum at WHEC is centred on the child</li> <li>• WHEC has good IT, Art, Drama and Music departments that could be developed and expanded into a specialism (existing relationship with Whale Arts)</li> <li>• Doesn't split communities</li> <li>• Council needs to explain what exam league tables mean – in a small school where there are fewer children taking exams, the league tables skews the good exam results the school achieves.</li> </ul>
<p>Move school function from WHEC but retain community facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern whether the facilities would be affordable. Edinburgh Leisure is not affordable. Potentially run as a social enterprise</li> <li>• Integrated community and school facilities provide a better experience</li> </ul>