

**MEETING IN RELATION TO CATCHMENT AREAS OF SIR E SCOTT AND LEVERHULME MEMORIAL SCHOOLS< ISLE OF HARRIS**

Sir E Scott School, Tuesday 16 December 2014 at 5.30pm.

Bernard Chisholm

Welcome everyone to this meeting. All one of us but none the less an important meeting for the purposes of consulting on the boundary for Leverhulme Memorial School and Sir E Scott. I am Bernard Chisholm, Head of Service for Children's Service and Resources. The Chair of Education Committee, Catriona Stewart, would normally Chair this meeting but due to illness is not able to hear tonight and to other appointments and illness other staff are not able to be with me so I am going to do the best I can to record the meeting so there is an accurate record. So welcome to everyone.

The background to this meeting is that we had a previous consultation subsequent to the school estate review where we agreed the boundary on the west side of the island but during the consultation there was some discussion about the east side where historically the townships of Manish, Geocrab and Lickisto were in the catchment of Leverhulme primary but they had always attended at Sir E Scott. Parents at the meeting drew this to our attention and asked that they continue to be associated to Sir E Scott and we agreed to do that. However, there was concern that maybe people on the east side of the island did not fully appreciate the boundary being set there and it was advised that we would run this consultation for the boundary on the east side of the island and that is the purpose in being here..

You should have received a copy of the proposal document which is being provided to those whom it affects. It is on the council website and was advertised in the local press. The length of the consultation runs from Thursday 20 November to Friday 23 January which includes a period of 34 school days which we are required to do. The public meeting is being held tonight and this proposal and the outcome of this meeting will be shared with Education Scotland who would be asked for any opinion and view and they will receive any oral or other submissions provided. They will then prepare a report to be received by the Council no later than 20 February and then the Comhairle will review the proposal having regard to the Education Scotland report, written representations and all other representations orally or otherwise given at these meetings and a report will be published and advertised in local newspapers and the consultation report will be published three weeks prior to the Comhairle making a decision and the final consultation report, together with all other documentation will go to the Education and Children's Services Committee on 14 April 2015. This will be then considered by the full Council on 22 April 2015.

If there are any errors or anything I am happy to make any adjustments if anybody noticed anything in the report. Otherwise, I would open the meeting to the general discussion. Just to reiterate then, the reason we are here tonight is to consult on the proposal that the townships of Manish, Geocrab and Lickisto would be incorporated in the catchment area of Sir E Scott school and not as currently within Leverhulme Memorial school catchment and I am happy to take any questions on this from anybody. Ok. Are there any questions in relation to that?

**UNKNOWN FEMALE**

When I registered my two girls there was no awareness that Leverburgh was the catchment so when I registered here nothing was flagged up at Croileagan and nothing was flagged up here so I suppose it has always been a grey area but I never even questioned it.

**BERNARD CHISHOLM**

I think after the previous consultation meeting because the bus came up both sides of the island people historically from those villages always sent their children to Sir E Scott and therefore it was really an acceptance in custom and practice, I would say. And so on the night of the previous consultation there was a little bit of a surprise one some of the Report and so they were quite happy to be reassured that we were sympathetic to that and that's the purpose for this now and in the event that that's the view of parents when I undertake the discussion at Leverhulme then that is the proposal we are making and will take to Council.

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APPENDIX B

**UNKNOWN FEMALE**

I am happy with that.

**BERNARD**

Thank you very much. OK. On the basis that there are no other folk here and that I had written representation indicating from families who have children in the area that they are happy with the proposal then I will take it from the Sir E Scott side that all the parents actually in the three townships have given indication that they are happy with the proposal- those represented and those who were here at previous meetings and so from this meeting I would take a positive recommendation in favour of the proposal. OK. Well.

**UNKNOWN FEMALE**

I think it is good to formalise what has actually been happening as you said, traditionally over a number of years. I think it is good to have that formally written up now, and indeed if and when future parents move in to the area then they will know immediately which school.

**BERNARD**

I think it is important as the head teacher has indicated that we do clarify this because the Council has a Home to School Transport Policy and if we don't align the catchment to the preferred areas for parents bringing their children to school then any parents with their children in the catchment of another school would have to make a placing request and would be liable for the payment of travel so I think the purpose that we undertook these consultations the last time was, having rationalised the school estate, we had to look at the boundaries and we had to take recognition that some children were closer to one school than their actual catchment school and that it was a logical thing to do to try and make it as easy as possible for parents of children to access the school nearest them and to take any barriers away and this is what this seeks to do.

So can I say on behalf of the authority, thank you for coming out tonight for this and do appreciate you taking the time so thank you very much.

**UNKNOWN FEMALE**

Okay. Thank you.