

Agenda:

- **Welcome and Introductions IJ**
- **Overview of the PC , plan and aim of the meeting IJ**
- **Overview of past PC work and ongoing projects SH**
- **Overview of key issues for this term and coming year from Schools' perspective FD**
- **Comfort break-**
- **Discussion of issues of interest to parents and ways to prioritise and take forward tasks/ projects**
- **Election of formal role bearers to support the functioning of the PC**
- **Date of next meeting**
- **AOB**
- **Close of meeting.**

Welcome and introductions chaired by Ima Jackson (IJ) as temporary chair until subsequent election of role bearers anticipated during the meeting. Over 40 parents attended the meeting which was a delightful turnout. The PC welcomed Andrew Robson (SR) (Senior vice head) who will support Francis Donaghy with this remit.

Overview of meeting plan and aims

The aim of the meeting was to pull together the PC in to a more workable force, which responds and supports issues identified by the school but also begins to look at how, as parents we can contribute to what is already provided for our children.

There are lots of ideas which people have spoken about informally and we can as a PC work with the school to see if we can support our children's school experience. For example:

- people to support playing in the very young
- parents coming in to the school and speaking about their jobs or culture to small classes
- having more dance and music
- supporting sports day
- taking advantage of the park
- outside schooling in all weather clothes
- a film club

Overview of past PC work and ongoing projects (SH)

Uniforms: Susie Haigh reported that the ongoing system organised by the PC uniform working group is functioning as planned and that the relevant information is available on the Hillhead primary website. They will continue to seek to increase fair trade items for sale within the school.

Road safety: coordinated by Senga Minte and Francis Donaghy reported that although the majority of parents participate in the spirit of the Otago street and Otago gate drop off agreement which requires no cars drop off and that it remains a pedestrian access : there is a persistent small

number of parents who use this access in their car, idle in their car, double park and reverse towards the children's exit which endangers lives and ultimately jeopardises pedestrian access for all.

Action: It was noted and strongly agreed that this was a serious matter and that the community police will now be involved to prevent accident or injury to children.

Website: coordinated by Margaret Mitchell reported that the website is functioning well and that admin staff training had begun to enable intra school updating of the website. Sean Rankin (SR P6 teacher) has been identified as a staff link to support this initiative. Further developments will be reported to PC subsequent to a first meeting with SR.

ECO group: coordinated by Andrew Pidgeon was reported on by SH and AR. Some initiatives such as composting of food waste, separation of waste (eg plastic, paper, glass) at point of disposal are already in place. The size of the school and the subsequent volumes of food wastage, is placing extra demands on the system and may have to be reviewed. Due to ill health support from other parents may be required this coming year.

Fair trade cafe : coordinated by Ingrid Sigerson, Kirsty Maslan and Andrea Fisher. Ingrid reported that the fair trade cafe ran several times last year and experienced both overwhelming attendance and another month non attendance. The group feels that they now have a workable system in place and look forward to running out further cafes this year.

Book club: coordinated by Gordana Nestorovic Evelyn Arizipe, Sylvia Warnecke. SH and IJ reported that this had been a resounding success and rather oversubscribed. However they have plans to reorganise the club in a way to align ages and books in a more scheduled manner. They anticipate authors attending to give readings this year too.

Please note all these initiatives rely on parent volunteers – if you are able to help out please contact the PC in the first instance – hillheadprimaryparentcouncil@gmail.com We would be delighted for any support.

Overview of key issues for this term and coming year from Schools' perspective

Francis Donaghy welcomed the support of all parents in the school and outlined how some parents were happy to simply support in spirit, the work of the school and others felt able to engage with the parent council. Key issues were as follows – though not discussed in priority.

Playground: the inability for the school to use the grass and tree corner play area due to poor drainage and unsafe tree pruning, building debris and poor maintenance. This issue has been in discussion with the landscape architects, the builders and the council since a month or two after school opening last year. It is now a legal situation with both parties claiming work was done to spec. In the meantime the 600 children in the school have very limited play space. We discussed best action.

Action : PC to ask councillors to act on our children's behalf to get the issue resolved- in the first instance this will be done through a formal letter to the councillors formally raising our concern as a complaint and asking for a visit.

Football pitch access: Hillhead primary football pitch is within the Kelvingrove park. Two issues

1. Walking to and from the pitch requires parental volunteers, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday lunch times.
2. There is not locked access and no signage to state it is the schools pitch - others are free to use the pitch if school not. Several concerns exist: e.g. if non school players are using the pitch negotiating their leaving at school use time would be complex and potentially unpleasant and dog fouling on the pitch. These concerns have been proved correct.

Action:

1. **PC to create a Parent volunteer database for football escort but also for other initiatives.**
2. **PC to formally ask Glasgow City Council for signage to state that the pitch is Hillhead primary's and ask that a turnstile which can be locked is located at its entrance.**

General questions and discussion with FD and AR:

Fitness Friday – an exercise based fund raiser which ran successfully last year will need volunteer support to run this year.

Winter Fair: ? to coordinate with St Silus and GOW residents on the 17th of November or do or own or delay until spring.

Action: PC committee will decide in near future .

Kelvin walk way access: the route to school under Gibson street remains blocked off – there were restoration plans circulated last year – **FD will update the PC on any developments**

Trees overhanging pathway on route to school : FD will update the PC on any developments

Roundabout at Woodlands Road, Eldon Street and Park Avenue : although it is recognised that this is not a recommended crossing point within safe routes to school, it was asked if there might be ways for traffic calming initiatives to be introduced to reduce the speed of traffic at this difficult junction.

Action: PC and FD to approach roads department with request.

After school clubs using the school premises: It was asked could the after school child care clubs be housed at an alternative location nearby, to enable the school to use its premises for after school social clubs. It was noted that this is a complex issues with parents with strong feeling about this issue from a range of perspectives. Ongoing discussions will continue FD.

Discussion of issues of interest to parents and ways to prioritise and take forward tasks/ projects

Parents raised the following issues – not necessarily in order of priority.

Pick up and drop of juniors: parents report that the current system of benches to demarcate handing over of children unpleasant and unsatisfactory. There was a strong demand for the long discussed circles/ flower shapes to be introduced in the immediate term.

Action: PC to ask FD if there is a reason for the circles not being introduced. If it was financial we agreed to fund a council approved painter to instigate the circles/ flower shapes as soon as can be arranged.

General discussion included the following issues

- Discussion on maximising on the skills, diversity and enthusiasm of parents.
- Making the PC effective and inclusive.
- Supporting sports day
- How generally event based projects such as the school fair were well supported by parents
- Ways to innovate on curriculum excellence programme such as inclusion of dance into the teaching day – bearing in mind constraints on teachers time.
- Identify what is the school music instrument provision / per year and see if the school might be interested to gain more?

Action: as first step it was agreed that an all school database of parents who wish to provide anything from an hour to a day once a week, a month a term or a year. This would be developed by the PC and would be given to the school to support their “formal ” and “informal” planning of activities, as well as the PC’s own activities and need for volunteers. The school will be asked if they could send out a request in school bags from the PC for email and mobile phone numbers of willing parents.

Election of role bearers.

The PC currently has no formal role bearers. The new school first year was very kindly carried by Barrie Bryson. Her children have finished their education at primary and the PC needs to elect members. After a brief discussion the following role bearers were elected.

Chair: Ruth Downes (supported by SH and IJ)

Secretary: Julia Boswell

Treasurer: Amelia Theodorakopoulos

The PC thanks them for their willingness to take up these roles. Those remaining (and those who have supported the PC last year, are asked to become informal “ committee” members whose role will be to advise and support the PC within whatever capacity they have.

It was agreed:

- that subsequent meeting dates will be arranged for the whole year at the next meeting
- the next meeting will be a morning meeting in late October and subsequent meetings will alternate between day and evenings
- that the first hour of future meetings will be for parents to meet and discuss pending issues and then invite Staff representatives to attend for the subsequent 45 mins/ hour. It was felt that this would maximise on the efforts of all attendees.

Thanks was given to all who attended – please feel free to come along to any future meetings.

Tea and coffee will be provided next time!

Action points: from PC meeting 26 September 2012.

<p>Road safety: the majority of parents participate in the spirit of the Otago street and Otago gate drop off agreement which requires no cars drop off and that it remains a pedestrian access : there is a persistent small number of parents who use this access in their car, idle in their car, double park and reverse towards the children’s exit which endangers lives and ultimately jeopardises pedestrian access for all.</p>	<p>Action: It was noted and strongly agreed that this was a serious matter and that the community police will now be involved to prevent accident or injury to children.</p>
<p>Playground: the inability for the school to use the grass and tree corner play area due to poor drainage and unsafe tree pruning , building debris and poor maintenance.</p>	<p>Action : PC to ask councillors to act on our children’s behalf to get the issue resolved- in the first instance this will be done through a formal letter to the councillors formally raising our concern as a complaint and asking for a visit.</p>
<p>Football pitch access: Hillhead primary football pitch is within the Kelvingrove park and requires escorts and securing of the pitch for school use</p>	<p>Action</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PC to create a Parent volunteer database for football escort but also for other initiatives. 2. PC to formally ask Glasgow City Council for signage to state that the pitch is Hillhead primary’s and ask that a turnstile which can be locked is located at its entrance.
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<p>PC to develop a database for the school to support their “formal ” and “informal” planning of activities, as well as the PC’s own activities and need for volunteers.</p>	<p>Action</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The school will be asked if they could send out a request in school bags from the PC for email and mobile phone numbers of willing parents. 2. PC to develop a form for parents to identify their availability