

Record of Meeting

Proposal to Build a New non-denominational Primary School with Nursery and Early Years services in Hunter's Hall Park, Craigmillar

Public Consultation Meeting held at 6.30 pm, Thursday 25 November 2025, Greengables Nursery, Edinburgh

Present: 5 members of the public

In Attendance:

Tom Wood (Independent Chair);

City of Edinburgh Council Officers: Robbie Crockatt (Strategic Asset Planning Manager), Donna Murray (Head of Education Early Years Parents & Operations), Gui Martins (Learning Estate Planning Officer) and Carolanne Eyre (Assistant Committee Officer).

Apologies: Councillor James Dalglish (Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee)

1. Introduction

Tom Wood introduced himself and advised that he had been invited by the City of Edinburgh Council as an independent person to chair the public consultation meeting. Mr Wood thanked everyone for coming along, explained his role and introduced the key officers in attendance. It was explained that the consultation would continue until the 09 December 2025, and the public had the opportunity to feed in comments until then.

The Schools (Consultation Scotland) Act 2010 required the Council to conduct a public consultation. The public consultation would provide people with the opportunity to express their views and feed directly into the consultation process.

2. Presentation/Proposal

The Learning Estate Planning Officer presented on the proposal for the building of a new primary school with Early Years services at Hunter's Hall Park, which incorporated the relocation of the existing Greengables Nursery and the closure of its current building, along with the associated proposals for catchments changes and removal of Common Good status to some sections of the park.

The presentation showed an artist's impression of the proposed plan which depicted the joining of the existing community and sports centre, the creation of the combined

education buildings, the opening up of the park including improved surveillance and lighting along with the proposed competitive standard BMX track.

The consultation period is to remain open until 9 December 2025 and to date more than 5000 leaflets have been distributed to houses, and local partner organisations, there has been newspaper and social media advertisements and lampposts wraps installed.

From the feedback received, Jack Kane's integral part in the local community was noted as was its current signs of degradation and room for improved facilities. Similarly, in relation to Greengables Early Years and Castleview Primary School the degraded conditions of the buildings and need for improved facilities and increased spaces was noted. The need to consider safety along with improved conditions in relation to Hunter's Park was also noted.

The existing primary school catchment areas were presented; specifically, it was noted that Castleview Primary School currently provides the community with the temporary capacity required while the catchment for Niddrie Mill Primary School currently exceeds the school capacity. The increased housing in the community along with the need to create capacity for the additional pupils this development would generate was underlined and a proposal to create a new catchment area along with the realignment of boundaries was presented. The objectives of the proposals aim for a balanced capacity across the local primary school estate.

The Common Goods consultation is to remain ongoing in relation to making changes to the 3 areas with Common Good Status referred to as Community, Sports and Education Centre, Landscape Play and Parking area and the cycling facilities. The Landscape Play and Parking area could return to Common Good status.

The timeline which spanned from 2005 to present day, of the area redevelopment was also highlighted in the proposal. This included the Craigmillar Urban Design Framework from 2005 alongside the revised Craigmillar Urban Design Framework from 2013.

It is anticipated the outcome of the Statutory consultation reports would be considered: on 12 February 2026 at the Culture and Communities Committee in relation to Common Good, and on 19 March 2026 at City of Edinburgh Full Council in relation to Establishment of the new school and closure / relocation of Greengables Nursery. Should the proposal progress, the need for further community engagement prior to a planning application being lodged was noted.

3. Questions/Comments

Question 1:

Why has there been no mention of St Francis Primary School – what will happen with that.

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Answer: 1

The proposal / presentation is focused on non-denominational schools. There are no plans to make any changes to St Francis Primary School.

Question 2:

Why was a site not reserved at the New Greendykes area for a school, or why was the site at Greendykes Road identified as a possibility in 2005 not used instead.

Answer 2:

The Craigmillar Urban Design Framework of 2005 was revised in 2013 proposing that a new primary school be built on the site of the existing Greengables Nursery School. We are unable to provide the reason for that decision today but will look back to determine.

Question 3:

Can the proposed BMX track be moved to the area right of the Greenland – at the old Quarry, with access from car via City bypass and access from foot/bike from within the community.

Answer 3:

All suggestions and alternatives are welcome; officers would investigate this option.

Question 4:

What will be done about all the extra traffic, Niddrie Mains Road is already busy all day every day.

Answer 4:

The new school catchments are designed under “active travel”. The plan is to make the journeys for pupils shorter and safer, which may reduce traffic on the roads as cars would no longer be required to reach school.

Question 5:

Why was a site not reserved for a new school when land was sold to developers instead of the council having to use land with Common Good Status.

Answer 5:

We are unable to provide an answer at this time, officers will look further into the matter and get an answer on that question.

Question 6:

Can the location be moved to another area to avoid the removal of common good status

Answer 6:

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The area south of the burn also has common good status, which ever location is used, there would be a need to apply to remove common good status.

Question 7:

The key issue relates to location and placement of the Jack Kane and how accessible it is. Those walking with kids and buggies will struggle, the journey needs to be considered.

Answer 7:

Jack Kane is loved but accessibility is challenging in terms of lighting and personal security. The rationale is most users come from the South and from the West over the bridge. The Council want to make it more accessible and attractive with suitable facilities. This is one reason why the proposal is to invest in Jack Kane

Question 8:

The BMX track is competition standard; the locals won't get to use it.

Answer 8:

The BMX track is a real asset to draw people in, it is a competition standard track. The council want local people and local children to have access. A range of options will be available within the 9am-9pm, 7 days a week opening hours. Programmes are being considered to include free school use as part of the curriculum, as well as other sessions for a BMX club, coaching sessions and peer sessions. Many options are being considered.

Question 9:

The proposed area for the BMX track is in a very well used section of the park, why not locate to a completely different part of the city. If it is built, a bigger car park will also be needed.

Answer 9:

The car park size will be assessed and be built to match requirements. It will not be built any bigger than required.

Question 10:

The concern is the BMX track would not get much use in the winter; kids will be at school and adults at work. Will it be redundant.

Answer 10:

The BMX track is an all-year-round facility – with an all-weather track and floodlights. It has never been known for a track to see usage drop in the winter months.

Question 11:

Could we utilise AI for capacity concerns and use portacabins as buffers until everything is up and running. I have an 82 page document with information. There was a case study that had shown how 2 years of learning could be condensed into six weeks. Could the curriculum be reduced to 3.5 days per week with teachers still working 5 days. This would help with capacity issues.

Answer 11:

It would be good to see the information in detail, please send in an electronic version.

Question 12:

How many people have engaged in the process, as I feel a lot more people have come to the White house and moaned about it than the amount of people who have attended meetings.

Answer 12:

Lots of people make comments online, and this is not the end of the process. Public engagement is not for moaning – it is for radical ideas. 5000 leaflets have been issued, posters are in schools, the library and Tesco's. 50 lampposts have been wrapped, social media posts made and newspapers ads issued. The council is trying to spread the word while trying to not spend too much of public funds on advertising.,

Question 13:

How will I get an answer to my question about the site not being some where else.

Answer 13

Please leave contact details with the minute taker – the answers will also be shown on the outcome report.

Question 14:

There is a piece of land at Greendykes not being used, at Milligan Drive next to the number14 bus terminus. Can we use that instead?

Answer 14:

Officers will have a look at this suggestion and also will look at all other sites that have already been considered, providing a response as to why they are not being proposed in the consultation response.

5. Conclusion

Mr Wood brought questions to a close and thanked everyone for all their contributions which were extremely valuable. Mr Wood reminded everyone that they had until the 09 December 2025 to make any further contributions on the website or in writing.

Mr Wood thanked everyone for coming and for their contributions.

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