



Peebles High School Parent Council

Our Journey To Excellence

March 2020

November 28th 2019



Every parent's worst nightmare

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Executive Summary

- On 28th November 2019 a significant fire destroyed a large section of Peebles High School, requiring pupils to be educated at alternative premises during December and January. All pupils returned to site in early February 2020, utilising a combination of temporary accommodation and areas of the school that were unaffected by the fire or able to be reinstated or adapted to allow education to continue on site until a permanent solution is achieved.
- Scottish Borders Council (SBC) committed an initial £100k to carry out a feasibility study for providing a permanent solution for secondary education in Peebles. It has been made clear that the current site is the only viable option for rebuilding the school community within the timetable and budget required.
- SBC have allocated a budget of £30m to the rebuild project over 4 financial years (2020-2024). The expectation is for the planning stage to be completed by April 2021 followed by a building phase of up to 2 years with an expectation that the new building will be open in early 2023.
- The Parent Council have identified their overarching vision for the rebuilding of our school and created a building sub-group to ensure that parents views are heard throughout the project. The sub-group will work closely with the Liaison Officer provided by SBC and other stakeholders to secure the best solution possible for our young people.
- This document aims to share with the wider parent forum and community groups our medium and long-term vision for the site. Moving forward, we wish to work with SBC and other stakeholders with shared values of honesty, transparency, open communication and partnership working with mutual respect.

Executive Summary

- We believe that the site should remain dedicated to education and have the following aims:
 - Modern facilities for all curricular areas that allow us to continue to be the best performing secondary school in the Scottish Borders and enable best use of the new Inspire Learning Programme.
 - Modern facilities that deliver a complete educational journey linked to Developing Young Workforce (DYW) opportunities.
 - A role model for neurodiversity and promoting good mental health
 - Sports facilities that meet SportScotland guidance for a school with our projected increased future roll
 - A sustainable project built around the newest 'millennium' building, sports facility and if possible historical buildings on site to create a "Hybrid school".
 - Tertiary education provision that allows access for cross curricular working in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Maths) and other sectors with vocational partners on site to provide a full range of learning opportunities and high value positive destinations for ALL pupils and the wider community.
 - Energising our local economy through education that facilitates the digital, environmental and new economies with high value learning and employment opportunities in Tweeddale for future generations.

PEEBLES HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL VISION

1. The replacement facilities should be no less than would have been provided for Peebles High in the Council's original school building strategy.
2. The interests of the current cohort of 1330 pupils, who will now remain on the constrained site and adjacent to building works for a significant part of their education, must be protected and continuously monitored to ensure that they receive the learning and social experience that will support them to achieve their full potential.
3. For speed, and because modular buildings cannot be more than a temporary option for the current pupils, only the existing site should be considered and there should be a tandem build of a new school which may include the millennium building (newest building housing the library and classrooms) and Sports centre.
4. The new building and wider school site should give scope for additional community facilities and any specific needs for Peebles High e.g. links with Further & Higher Education providers, learning support facilities and STEAM specific opportunities. (STEAM is an approach to learning that uses Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking)
5. Full Sports Scotland guidance Sports Facilities must be included in the new build and the early purchase of additional land should be made to accommodate this if necessary.
6. It should not be an "incremental" build except for improved pitches, as access to these has been and will be further compromised during the re-build process.
7. The future projected increase in the school roll MUST be factored in to the project. This should include figures from the forthcoming Local Development Plan 2021-2026 (due to be published in May 2020).

What do we value in our current building?

- Inclusive ethos – provision for all pupils, including those with additional support needs
- Amazing size of assembly hall and performing space
- Excellent, modern sports facilities
- Excellent music teaching facilities - we are a role model in music and drama provision which is accessible to learners of all abilities
- A building that allows for a diverse curriculum (STEAM, English, languages, humanities, business, health and wellbeing)
- Millennium building - if the 'millennium building' meets the required specification it would be more environmentally sustainable to retain the building and library but refurbish it to meet modern learning requirements, provide improved heating and develop the enclosed garden to provide an outdoor learning area
- Teacher centric spaces respecting their professional needs
- Outdoor space and land
- Parking for staff – this has allowed us to attract great teachers from across the Borders, Edinburgh, the Lothians and Forth Valley

What do we not have but would like?

- We aim to build further on our inclusive ethos to become a role model for neurodiversity and promoting good mental health – celebrating and supporting all learning styles without exception with physical spaces that support this ambition. Consultation with relevant charities could help to design a cutting edge, best in class facility for all pupils.
- First class secondary provision for all curricular areas for all students
- Environmentally efficient and sustainable structures that satisfy current and forecasted new building regulations
- Flexible learning spaces (eg tiered flexible seating which could be used in assembly spaces)
- Dedicated study spaces for senior pupils
- Capacity for projected increased school roll (approx. 1450 pupils)
- Sports Scotland recommended outdoor sports facilities for the size of school (full running track and combination of all weather and grass pitches to accommodate hockey, rugby and football)
- Safe outdoor recreation spaces for all pupils
- Mindfulness spaces (inside and outside, eg horticulture)
- Improved catering design to reduce lunchtime queues
- Improved changing and toilet facilities
- Improved bus drop off/pick up area
- Eco-technology to support green transport solutions for staff and visitors

What could Peebles Campus look like in 2030?

- A dedicated education site.
- Facilities that enables the school to provide learners with the tools and experiences needed to make the successful transition to work, further or higher education.
- Vocational facilities in collaboration with employers and Further Education providers offering a range of pathways for pupils locally.
- A STEAM* facility in collaboration with Higher Education providers offering shared access and a future complete learning pathway of learning in the west of the region.
- Opportunities for intergenerational learning to provide enriched choices for pupils and local residents.
- Business support for Young Entrepreneurs.
- Supported accommodation for young adults with additional needs.

*Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Maths

What are the challenges?

- 1330 students on a site constrained by demolition/building works
- Loss of 26 classrooms and a large PE facility
- Loss of art and modern language facilities
- Loss of purpose designed music facilities (repurposed for languages)
- Library space significantly reduced (repurposed to accommodate a classroom)
- Temporary modular buildings (6 classrooms, changing and toilet facilities)
- Maintaining the previously high level of attainment
- Preserving positive transitions for primary pupils
- School roll projected to rise to 1450 within the life of the project
- Potential loss of new families or staff who are currently attracted by a high performing school
- We require investment ahead of schedule which may impact other school communities

RETAIN
HOCKEY PITCH'S AND CONSIDER
CONVERTING SOME SPACE
TO '2G'

RETAIN
SPORTS HALL
AND
SPORTS COURT

PHASE 1
AREA FOR REPLACEMENT
BUILDING

RETAIN
MILLENNIUM
BLOCK

PHASE 2
(2023-2030)

AREA FOR
TERTIARY/STEAM
YOUTH SKILLS
EDUCATION

PHASE 1
AREA FOR '3G' PITCH
(INCLUDING RUNNING TRACK
AND FLOODLIGHTS)

KEY:

- AREA OF ADDITIONAL LAND PURCHASE
- AREA FOR SECURE OUTSIDE PLAY SPACE - FOR ADDITIONAL NEEDS STUDENTS
- EXPLORE IF OLD SMOKE BUILDING COULD BE RETAINED/REFURBISHED

P.H.S.
BIRDS EYE VIEW
OF
PARENT COUNCIL
VISION

Provisional Timeline for Project

Planning & Design Stage (£2.1m funding across 2019/21)

- Feasibility study commenced - February 2020
- SBC initial Community Consultation - mid March 2020
- Feasibility study completed - early April 2020
- SBC submission to Scottish Government for funding approval - April 2020
- Architects create design proposal for formal consultation – Summer/Autumn 2020
- Parent council activities to seek views of parent forum and community – Summer/Autumn 2020
- Funding decision from Scottish Government - September 2020
- Final design developed and planning application submitted – by end of 2020
- Planning and tendering process completed – Spring 2021

Build Phase 1 (£27m funding across 2021/23)

- Commencement of building works to create new secondary education facilities alongside current facilities – Spring 2021
- Commencement of building all weather pitch and reinstating grass pitches and recreation areas – Winter 2022/23
- Completion of new building and move in – Winter 2022/23
- Commencement of refurbishment of existing atrium, millennium building Winter 2022/Spring 2023

Build Phase 2 (£1m funding in 2023/24)

- Completion of refurbishment of existing buildings and removal of temporary modular buildings – Spring/Summer 2023
- Completion of reinstatement of grass pitches and outdoor recreational areas – Summer 2023

Build Phase 3 (no funding allocated, 2023-30)

- Creation of long term vision of a range of tertiary and vocational education facilities on site and potential for additional facilities to support young people with additional support needs

Useful Links

Examples of modern learning facilities:

<https://www.scottishfuturetrust.org.uk/storage/uploads/shapingscotlandslarningspaces.pdf>

SportScotland planning and design guidance for schools:

https://sportscotland.org.uk/documents/resources/ssc0100192amendedplayingfields_playingfields_web.pdf

Example of creating inclusive environments:

<https://www.scotsman.com/business/barclays-new-glasgow-campus-to-build-inclusive-workplace-for-autistic-employees-1-5082488>

Example of using greenspaces to develop environmentally efficient energy solutions:

<https://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/Pages/Category/energy>