

New School

West Lothian Council Education Executive agreed that there was a need to undertake a formal consultation, in line with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, on a proposal to relocate West Calder High School. The Council had previously agreed on 28 October 2014 to replace West Calder High School with a new school building. West Calder High School serves the community of the Calder and surrounding areas. The current Physical Education (PE) provision at the school is largely unchanged apart from the recent addition of the all-weather playing field. The school has been variously extended to replace temporary units and to improve curricular provision. The school currently has capacity for 1100 pupils. Constraints on the site have prohibited any further extension to the school. The Council has agreed that a new build project would represent a more appropriate solution.



The opinions of the 850 pupils who currently attend West Calder High School were sought through questionnaires issued to pupil council representatives and then discussed within register groups of around 25 pupils. Responses were collated by class tutors and fed back to the school Senior Management Team representative. In all, 15 register groups responded representing the views of approximately 380 pupils. 373 pupils (98%) of responses thought the position of the new school was good. 6 (1.5%) pupils were

undecided 1 (0.26%) pupil thought that the site wasn't a good position for the new school (please note that the survey is from West Lothian Council.)

The main good points of the proposal identified by pupils were: the new school in West Calder will be closer for a larger number of pupils from Polbeth and West Calder, meaning more pupils can walk to school; the new school will be bigger with new things; pupils can't wait to have more chilled out areas at the new school.

However there were some negative comments. It means it is further away for the communities of East and Mid Calder and the catchment area may change in the future. The Health and safety issues regarding the proximity of a railway line and increased traffic in that area with potentially more road accidents were also raised.



To build the new school building they need to make room so what they need to do is cut down a lot of trees which means the loss of green space. A range of comments were made about the location of the replacement high school having a negative impact on the green space, loss of trees, walking paths and loss of children’s play areas. It is still not known how much green space is needed to be destroyed to build the new school. This is not a good sign, the loss of this green area means that wild life will be lost. Because of the size of the building this means that a lot of space will be needed.

The new school will be placed near the existing Parkhead primary school. This means this could affect the daily paths to the school. The old school building is getting knocked down for housing which could be a good or bad change to the community.

WCHS BBC School Report Team conducted a survey recently and these were the results.

The Question was: Do you think the new school should be environmentally friendly? (9/3/16)

| | S1 | S2 | S3 | S4 | S5 | S6 |
|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Yes | 68 | 42 | 82 | 43 | 19 | 35 |
| No | 3 | 1 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Survey from West Calder High School.

From these results we can clearly see that a lot of people do want the school to be environmentally friendly

The Question was: Do you like where the new school is being built? (9/3/2016)

| | S1 | S2 | S3 | S4 | S5 | S6 |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Yes | 29 | 21 | 40 | 6 | 0 | 15 |
| No | 38 | 17 | 11 | 13 | 3 | 4 |
| Don't Know | 26 | 25 | 55 | 22 | 18 | 23 |

Survey from West Calder High School.

From these results you can see that almost all the years had said they liked where the new school building was located.