

APPENDIX 1

Tell us what you think about the current suitability, condition and capacity of your secondary school?

GALASHIELS

- The overall view is that the school is dated, tired and run down. It was designed for a 1960's curriculum and is not suitable for modern learning.
- Concerns were raised about the fact that buildings are not fully accessible, with some parts being totally inaccessible to wheelchair users.
- The stairwells and corridors are crowded, the lunch hall too small and there is a lack of social areas.
- Concern was raised about the road running through the campus and the security issues arising from different buildings.
- PE facilities and toilets were highlighted as being in particularly poor conditions. The games hall is not suitable for use in poor weather.
- Many pupils reported problems with heating, with many areas being too hot or too cold.

HAWICK

- Again, the overall view is that the buildings are outdated and run down with a view that many parts are no longer fit for purpose.
- The building is sprawling and difficult to navigate and is not fully accessible with some areas being impossible for wheelchair users to navigate.
- The condition of the building is reported to be having a negative effect on pupils (and staff), affecting morale and sense of worth.
- Concerns were raised about security and safety with so many entrances and exits and with crowding in the lunch hall and corridors.
- Heating and ventilation were highlighted as again being problematic.

PEEBLES

- It was recognised that the new sports facility is excellent, however the majority of respondents considered that most of the rest of the building is tired, outdated and not suitable for 21st century education.
- There was a lot of concern about the size of the school, as many respondents consider that with an increasing population that school will reach capacity soon.
- Again, the issues of security, cramping in corridors and lack of social spaces were consistently raised. Time taken by pupils to navigate around the disjointed, haphazard mix of buildings, was highlighted as impacting on learning time.
- Accessibility has been highlighted as a significant concern. Music, for example, cannot be offered as a subject to anyone in a wheelchair without an unacceptable route through the car park having to be taken to access the department.
- The maths tower was highlighted as being the worst condition and most unsuitable building.

SELKIRK

- Feedback showed that the building is felt to be tired and in need of modernisation and upgrading with some parts needing replaced.
- The building is not felt to meet the needs of modern learning and teaching.
- Issues common to other schools such as heating and ventilation issues, limits on social spaces, canteen facilities being too small and accessibility to some areas were again raised in Selkirk.
- The proximity of the A7 and the narrow pavements were highlighted as being of concern.
- The responses suggested that there is a feeling that Selkirk does not have the same facilities as other Border schools.

What would you like to see in the future?

GALASHIELS

- The consensus of opinion was for a new school to be built on the existing site.
- It was suggested that better use of the outdoor opportunities on the campus could be made.
- The responses advocated a core facility for the town, in the heart of the community, of which the community could be proud and which would offer opportunities for all ages of learners.
- Opportunities for work experience were viewed to be important.
- Views were strong that the facility should be equipped to support and enhance innovation in learning.
- Some responses suggested that opportunity to incorporate other provisions such as the library, swimming pool and even primary accommodation could be explored.

HAWICK

- There was a very strong demand for a new school to provide a 21st century learning environment for the children.
- Equally strong demand for the school to be more integrated into the community was reported.
- Responses requested more vocational opportunities and improved facilities for sports and arts.
- A new school was believed to be important in inspiring the children and attracting new staff.
- Many responses considered that there is a need for improved social spaces for teenagers out of school hours.
- Many responses placed high importance on a new school being designed to ensure pupils feel safe and nurtured.

PEEBLES

- A significant majority of the responses want to see a new secondary school to replace the existing building.
- Some responses suggested a second High School in the west of Tweeddale could be a solution to capacity issues.
- A small number of responses favoured a refurbishment of the existing building, this view was as a result of concerns relating to a belief that a new school would be detrimental in size and layout.
- Responses highlighted concern that there may be redrawing of catchments for Innerleithen and Walkerburn and while not a proposal, this would be strongly opposed.
- All views wanted to see improved facilities in almost all departments.
- There was strong support for the retention of the new and much appreciated PE facility.

SELKIRK

- There was strong appetite for a new school, however some respondents believed the existing school could be successfully upgraded.
- There is a demand for out of school social spaces.
- Many of those responding urged the inclusion of primary provisions in the review.
- Views that there is scope for a different model, possible including part of the primary stages or the merging of some primaries and a desire to explore this further was expressed.
- Improved ICT and modern facilities featured highly on many of the responses offered.

Tell us what you think about the Education and Learning provision currently available to young people in your secondary school area?

GALASHIELS

- In general responses were very positive about teaching and learning.
- Responses praised a broad range of opportunities for young people with a good balance of academic and vocational offerings.
- The school was viewed to be inclusive and was described as having a positive vibe.
- A few responses alluded to some issues with behaviour, but were clear that incidents were in the minority.
- Some responses suggested that the standard of the facilities gave an unjustified impression of an educational experience which was not as high as schools with newer facilities.

HAWICK

- Although many of the responses referred to low morale caused by previous bad press, most clearly stated that the school is working hard to do the best job for the young people.
- There was clear feedback that the curriculum offering is not yet broad enough and there are some restrictions on subjects available. However there was clear acknowledgement that staff shortages are the reason for this and there is further recognition that this is not an issue unique to Hawick.
- Many responses highlighted the good job being done by staff and regarded that teachers are making the best of conditions that they have.
- Some responses mentioned behaviour, but equally positive work in dealing with any issues was recognised.

PEEBLES

- Almost all the respondents were happy with teaching and learning and noted considerable pride in the attainment levels across the school.
- There was consistent recognition that teaching staff do the best job they can, but there was recognition that the environment, facilities and resources, including ICT can limit this.
- Some responses suggested that there is too much emphasis on academic achievements and highlighted a need for more vocational opportunities.
- Many respondents were parents of primary school age children and were able to report that the reputation of the school was high in the community.

SELKIRK

- Many of the responses believed that teaching was good and that overall the learning experience was positive.
- A significant number of responses referred to the lack of breadth in the curriculum and many would like to see a wider choice of subjects. It was recognised however that staff numbers were a factor in the offering available.
- A lack of some facilities was also seen to be a barrier to offering some opportunities.

What would you like to see in the future?

GALASHIELS

- Most of the responses to this question focused on the physical building rather than learning experiences.
- Suggestions were made to have specialist learning facilities for science, sport, technology and music.
- There is a desire for flexible and multi-use spaces, as well as places for pupils to relax and spend free time as well as improved spaces for study.
- There was a clear desire to see technology permeating learning.

HAWICK

- Many of the responses highlighted real ambition for learning in the future. There is a drive for young people to be inspired to learn and to be given every opportunity to reach their full potential.
- There is an agreed view that the learning experiences offered should be as broad as possible and not just focus on university as a goal. Opportunities should be relevant and vocational.
- Opportunities for drama, theatre and the arts were desired and opportunities to fully use technology to support learning was a strong theme.
- There was consistent feedback that attracting more high quality staff to teach in Hawick will be key in broadening the learning opportunities.

PEEBLES

- Again, the overall majority of the responses focused on how improved and modernised facilities would be key to improving the learning experience.
- A desire to have more open, flexible and modern spaces as well as improvements in technology was consistently noted.
- Many of the responses suggested a desire for a broader curriculum offering to include vocational and FE opportunities.
- As well as breadth in the curriculum offering, many of those responding expressed a desire for more focus on wider interests and achievements and extra-curricular opportunities – beyond sporting – to improve mental wellbeing.

SELKIRK

- As well as many responses requesting improved and broader facilities, there was a consistent view that increased staff numbers could bring wider subject choices.
- A desire to improve links to business and the community in order to broaden pupil experience was expressed by several respondents.
- Again, there was a strong view that ICT has a huge role to play in learning and teaching going forward.
- Some of the young people expressed a wish to have more responsibility and choices in decision making about learning.

Tell us what you think about the Social and Learning Opportunities for young people in your local community?

GALASHIELS

- The overall view is that there are not many places for young people to meet up or socialise.
- Some responded that the only real opportunities are in sporting activities.
- There is a view that there are not enough events held at the school, and in particular a lack of disability sports opportunities.
- Some feel that social opportunities are very limited and nowhere private for young people.
- There is a concern that there are not enough safe places for children to meet.
- There seems to be a distinct lack of social opportunities and this has not helped with anti-social issues within the community.

HAWICK

- The overall view is that there are very few opportunities.
- There is a feeling that there is very little to do socially and absolutely nothing for children with additional needs.
- There seems to be a distinct lack of social and learning opportunities for children attending Hawick High School at the moment.
- There is a concern that youths end up walking the streets as there is nowhere for them to go.
- There are some opportunities in the local community, but they lack diversity for all different levels of abilities.

PEEBLES

- The overall view is that there are a fair range of opportunities, however they are not always accessible due to financial or geographical reasons.
- Some of the responses indicate that there are no social opportunities other than sport or music.
- There is a feeling that there are limited opportunities for young people once they become teenagers.
- Some feel that social opportunities are not visible or communicated to everyone who may benefit.
- Lack of transport for young people attending events was a common theme.

SELKIRK

- There is an overall view that there are limited options for young people in the community.
- There is a feeling that there are significant barriers which are linked to social inequality so not everyone can achieve their full potential.
- Some feel that there are more opportunities than ever before, but young people need to be encouraged to take steps towards using the facilities.
- There is a concern that many opportunities are not accessible to all.
- A general comment was made about more options for sport for all genders.

What would you like to see in the future?

GALASHIELS

- There is an overall view that community facilities should be linked to the school.
- There is a need for disability sports clubs.
- Respondents would like to see modern sports and community facilities which could be accessed by both adults and children.
- People would like to see areas where youths can socialise safely to get them off the streets.
- A central hub at the heart of the community providing learning and social opportunities, as well as providing employment experience for young people.

HAWICK

- There is a strong view that local businesses should be involved in future opportunities for young people.
- People would like more opportunities for young people to integrate in their local communities.
- A common theme is the involvement of local community groups within the school to encourage young people to participate in new things.
- There is a view that the school should be used outside of the school day as a central point for information about local groups in the community.
- Some of the respondents would like opportunities for vocational learning with the support of industry, creating valuable work experience for our young people.

PEEBLES

- There is a view that local businesses should be involved in the school to equip the pupils with learning for the world of work.
- There is a strong view that there are already good links in the community and these should be continued and enhanced.
- People would like to see safe spaces for youths to socialise and interact with each other.
- Some respondents would like a community hub within the school to encourage young people to do new things.
- Some would like to see more involvement between the Primary Schools and the High School to encourage young people to interact with each other.

SELKIRK

- There is a strong sense of the need for community involvement in Selkirk.
- People would like to see more opportunities for young people to have work experience and gain employment.
- There should be more vocational opportunities for young people than there is currently.
- There is a concern that facilities may be made available, but still not affordable for all to access.
- People would like to see up to date advice for youngsters in terms of technology.

Thinking about future provision of secondary schools, would you like to see something on the existing site, or a new site, please tell us your reasons why?

GALASHIELS

- The predominant view was that current site would be the most suitable site, as it is:
 - A central location for the town and close enough for community access to facilities.
 - Large and could accommodate other facilities.
 - Well located for access and transport links.
 - An attractive location which would provide an attractive learning environment.
- Other views were that the school should be located on a site:
 - Closer to the centre of town; or
 - Closer to Tweedbank/Netherdale/Kingsknowes.

HAWICK

- The majority view was that the current site would be the most suitable as it is:
 - Close to the town centre with sport facilities close by.
 - There are good transport links.
 - The site is large enough to accommodate other facilities.
- Others considered that a new site would be preferable to start afresh and minimise disruption, with some suggesting that a more central site would be preferable. The potential sites suggested included:
 - The Haugh
 - Wilton Centre
 - Galalaw
 - Site near Burnfoot
 - Ground in front of the Convent.

PEEBLES

- The majority view was the current site would be the most suitable as it is:
 - Centrally located and easily accessed from the town.
 - Where the new sports hall is located.
 - Probably the only site a school could be located given the infrastructure, topography and flood risks within the town.
 - Attractive site with great views.
- Many considered that the current site was too small for redevelopment and that it was not well located for buses and access.
- Other sites suggested included:
 - Kittlegairy
 - Cavalry Park
 - March Street Mill
 - Victoria Park
 - Haylodge Park.
- Some respondents suggested that a second Secondary School should be considered in either West Linton or to serve the south side of the cluster.

SELKIRK

- Many considered a new site should be identified as the current site:
 - Is too close to the A7.
 - Is too small.
 - Has limited outdoor space for sports, recreation or outdoor learning.
- Some suggested the Old Mills at Riverside as a location or a site to the west of the town.

If your ideas were to be developed, how could we get the community behind us to take these forward?

GALASHIELS

- There were several suggestions including:
 - Media campaign – TV, radio and social media
 - Posters and leaflets
 - Involve pupils and primary parent councils
 - Engagement events, meetings with community groups
 - Involve local businesses
 - Engage and seek feedback at every stage
 - Set up working parties from across the community to support the parent council

HAWICK

- There were several suggestions including:
 - Community engagement meetings and focus groups
 - Media campaigns – TV, radio and social media
 - Public forums ; contact with all community groups
 - Engage with local businesses
 - Leaflet communities
 - Make the process accessible – with multiple venues for idea sharing and information flow
 - Create a vision and make it real for people

PEEBLES

- There were several suggestions including:-
 - More public consultation and the public voting for options.
 - Make the school more integrated into the community with more community facilities forming part of the school
 - Ensure there is a forum for all voices, not just a vocal minority. Encourage community stakeholders to work with the Council
 - Media campaign – TV, radio and social media
 - Engage with local community groups with targeted communication with key stakeholder and key user groups, particularly primary school and nursery parents
 - Demonstrate the benefits of the proposals – costs benefits analysis and pros and cons of new versus renovation
 - Involve the community at all levels of the process – initial concept to opening, tendering for work
 - Videos

SELKIRK

- There were several suggestions including:
 - Community engagement meetings and focus groups
 - Media campaigns – TV, radio and social media
 - Public forums ; contact with all community groups
 - Leaflet communities
 - Surveys and votes

Please tell us if you have any final comments or suggestions?

GALASHIELS

- Many comment highlighted wider economic development needs of the town and the links to a new school campus with all the opportunities this would bring.
- It was highlighted that there has been talk of a new school in Gala for a few years.
- Respondents were particularly keen to end the situation where there is a “split” in the community where high numbers of families opt to send children to a school with newer and more up to date facilities.

“We need a new school with international ambitions that embodies new thinking, ambition, architectural merit and a centre for learning for the next 100 years. It should be connected to the world and grounded in Galashiels and the Borders....”

HAWICK

- Responses from Hawick consistently referred to a new school being an opportunity for the whole town and a benefit to the whole community.
- Many comments were made about the need for young people to experience a sense of pride and to be inspired.
- The need to build for the future and to be modern in thinking was highlighted in several responses.

“The possibility of a new high school with a huge emphasis on community is such an exciting prospect. I actually don’t mind where they put a new school as long as we get one! ...Let’s give them (pupils) a High School to be proud of and that will inspire them and future generations to be the best they can be.”

PEEBLES

- There majority of comments referred to the need to modernise – to think and plan for the future.
- There was acknowledgement of the wide range of views which will exist in a community of this scale, however, respondents further urged that the needs of the young people be key in future decision making.
- Some comments were made in relation to the process and mistrust of Scottish Borders Council in previous consultations

“The school remains a high achieving school for results and pupil engagement.....I can only imagine how much more success could be achieved with a more modern environment.”

SELKIRK

- The responses from Selkirk consistently referred to the potential benefit to the town and wider community.
- There was a view that Selkirk as a community needs to be promoted and offered any opportunity to grow and flourish.
- A number of concerns were raised about the potential impact any changes to the education model might have on the rural schools in the cluster and there was a clear message that the education provided in these settings is valued highly.

“The delivery of education needs to be re-envisioned to make it fit for the current and future generations.”