**BONNYRIGG PRIMARY AND NURSERY PARENTS’ GROUP**

**Tuesday 24th January 2017**

**Present:** Jennifer Allison (HT), Caroline Findlay (DHT), Sarah Stark (DHT), Colin Wilkinson (chair), Lesley Burrell, Fiona Gardner, Susan Greig, Louise Elrick, Helen Lessels, Susan Henderson, Angela Bowman, Caroline Sneddon, Justine Jones, Cat McDermid, Nicola Donaghey, Gillian Bathgate, Chiraz Sellami

**Apologies**: Angie Ogden

**1. Intro from Colin Wilkinson**

Colin opened the meeting with introductions to the school management, attending councillors Ian Baxter and Derek Milligan and also the travel plan councillor Gillian Bathgate. He thanked everyone for attending.

Colin recapped at the last meeting a communication app was discussed. An app has been looked at and there are plans to run a demo of it at a future meeting.

**2. Fundraising update**

Susan Greig thanked all those involved in the Christmas Fair. After all expenses had been accounted for the fair made £4,249.15 which is an increase of £172 from the previous year. The cost of making class crafts was £260 less than the previous year so this also contributed to the increase in profit. The class hampers raised £1000 before the fair and more tickets were purchased on the day. Donations of home baking and chocolate for the chocolate tombola were down on previous years and it was noted that the Secret room could have sold double the amount of gifts. However, this would necessitate a rise in the number of volunteers, both for preparation before, and on the day. There was initial reservation given the negative reaction to the change of day and time but on the day the fair was a success.

There was an email sent out requesting feedback. This is currently being collated and will be passed on to next years’ organisers.

Dress down days will continue for the rest of the school year with half the funds going to the fundraising group (and therefore the school) and half to charity.

There will be a fundraising meeting soon (no date set at the moment) to discuss further fundraising efforts this year and to discuss using the monies currently in the account.

**3. HT Update**

Jennifer Allison gave an update on various topics:

Lifelong Learning & Employability free courses are running in the Lasswade cluster area. Raising children with confidence is running in Bonnyrigg Primary. Information has been emailed to parents. We also have parents within the school who are trainers of similar courses so we hope to be able to arrange and offer an evening course in the near future.

The school is closed on the 4th of May as it will be used as a polling station.

Assessing Children’s Progress leaflet is available on the website. This leaflet contains information regarding new testing plans.

Governance Review recently took place. Bonnyrigg Primary gave feedback as part of the review.

Staffing is still an ongoing issue with no supply teachers being available.

It was agreed the Parent consultation booking system had been successful and will be used again for the next parents consultations.

The number of complaints being sent by parents has increased. These are becoming more personal and some are aggressive. The complaints regarding the perseverance talk were mentioned. The Scottish cup visited over 100 schools and the only school to receive complaints regarding it was Bonnyrigg Primary. The staff feel apprehensive to organise events for the children as they are regularly up against complaints that then take up a lot of time to deal with, and distracts from what they should be doing. Following on from the perseverance talk complaints, the photographic permission slips were discussed and changes suggested. These have now been issued to parents.

Angela Bowman asked if Gold reward treat can be looked at to allow the children the choice of different rewards. Jennifer Allison acknowledged Gold reward treat is not as big an event as it was in previous years due to lack of staff time. It was suggested parents could be involved in assisting with this.

**4. P7 School Camp Update**

Sarah Stark is currently organising and looking forward to the P7 school cluster camp. It was previously agreed that P7 children would no longer attend a camp as the cost was prohibitive to many parents. Instead, activity days would be organised to allow all children in the Lasswade cluster to spend time together before high school. However, after the rest of the schools in the area agreed to go ahead with the camp the decision was made that Bonnyrigg would also attend. Bonnyrigg has organised the camp for many years and have reached out to other schools to take on the organisation going forward as it takes up a lot of Sarah Stark and Moira Hearns time.

**5. Road Safety**

Gillian Bathgate, the travel plan councillor joined the meeting to discuss road safety. Bonnyrigg Primary Schools travel plan is due to reviewed. Gillian has provided travel surveys that have been emailed to parents. The surveys are anonymous and Gillian asked that everyone be as specific as possible when completing them. For example, ‘too much dog mess on the route’ might be a reason people give for not walking but if there isn’t a street name provided Gillian can’t get someone out to clean the area. Laird Terrace was mentioned by various parents. This is a street that has been a concern for some time. Parents and carers park on the grass, on double yellow lines round the corner and reverse round the corner to get back out of the street. It’s also the main route for the many children walking to school from Gladstones Gait, Brixwold and Bairds Way and it is very dangerous for them crossing the road in between all of the cars. The situation seems to be worse during nursery pick up and drop offs so specific communication for nursery parents was discussed. Parents would like police to ticket people parked dangerously. There is currently a trial of ‘school streets’ running around Lasswade Primary and Kings Park Primary where some surrounding streets can only be used by residents during school traffic times. If this is successful, Gillian said it could be looked at for Laird Terrace. The speed of drivers on Cockpen Road is also a concern. Suggestions were made of a slow down campaign with posters created by the children. A suggestion of cut outs of children positioned alongside the road which would be eye catching and really impact drivers. Jennifer asked if the travel department would be willing to work with the school on these issues and ideas.

The lack of safe crossing on Sherwood Drive was raised. This is the route car drivers are encouraged to take to access the parking spaces at Sherwood View, this creates a busy road with no safe crossing for anyone from South Chesters area, Parsonspool and Myreside. Gillian requested parents mark this on the travel survey and it can be looked at.

It was raised by a parent that the lights on the crossing further down Cockpen Road are regularly not working. Gillian encouraged parents to contact the school who will advise the council if the lights are ever out on a crossing and they will get them repaired.

**6. Update on Housing Situation from Councillors**

Derek Milligan and Ian Baxter provided an update on the housing situation in Bonnyrigg. Bonnyrigg is having to build 1200 new houses and the current proposal is waiting to be approved. If agreed, the proposal would see houses built at HS10, HS11 and HS12 sites along with a joint school campus proposed for the HS12 site to cover intake from the Hopefield area, the new houses and also St Marys Primary. There will be a three streamed school built as part of the HS10 and HS11 build which will be filled by the new houses. Parents expressed concerns about a repeat of Burnbrae School which wasn’t ready when needed as Bonnyrigg Primary is already very full and could not take on additional pupils. Additional concerns were raised regarding how other areas will cope with these additional houses such as High school places, Doctors surgeries and transport.

**7. AOB / close**

Colin Wilkinson closed the meeting.

The next meeting is Tuesday the 7th March at 6.45pm