

KEMNAY ACADEMY

Submission by Kemnay Community Council to Inverurie Schools Council Meeting
at Alehousewells School on 15th October 1979

1. K.C.C. deprecates the procrastination which has led to a three year delay in starting building the Academy and which has resulted in 'circumventing the local consultative process', so that building will 'proceed with all convenient haste'.
2. K.C.C. considers that the stage has now been reached when a Kemnay Academy School Council should be formed, or at the very least there should be a sub committee of either Inverurie School Council or the Kemnay & Kintore Community Councils on which parents and others are represented. This to ensure that local views are recorded and transmitted to the education authority.
3. We are concerned that a five hundred pupil school may not be large enough for the catchment area presently envisaged. The five year old intake in Kemnay alone was almost 100 pupils this year and this if maintained is enough to fill 500 secondary places. Can the proposed design easily be extended to accommodate larger numbers of pupils
4. The building has been described by one Gordon District Councillor as a 'glass gascometer'. We are not convinced that such a structure would take full advantage of the Kemnay site, nor does it seem likely that it could possibly be insulated to the high standard desirable in these times of high energy cost. The present education committee seems to consider only the capital cost and not the annual outlay which must accumulate to more than this after a few years.
5. We are concerned that the establishment of the playing fields and the planting of trees shrubs etc should be contemporary with the building operations. It is important that such amenities be available to the initial pupils. At Alehousewells there has been a gap of at least two years.
6. A cycle track to the school should be provided, certainly round Bremner way and along Aquithie Road. Cycle sheds will be needed.
7. Supervised locker rooms must be incorporated. The first action of the Inverurie Academy P.T.A. was to raise funds for lockers.
8. The floor covering in a particular area must be suited to the activity carried on there. We pressed for this before Alehousewells was built, we were ignored and now the cleaners are not paid for enough hours to clean paint off the carpets.
9. The toilet accommodation must be accessible from the outside. At Alehousewells children are excluded from the school during lunch time because of its open plan construction and thus cannot get access to the toilets without summoning the janitor.
10. Adequate storage must be provided for furniture, gym equipment, stage sets and equipment belonging to community groups.
11. We understand that there is a medical room and would emphasise the need for accommodation for children taken ill during school hours. This is essential when so many mothers are out at work.
12. Every effort must be made to ensure that at lunch time children either go straight home or stay within school premises. Gangs of children wandering around the village would create a bad impression. Efficient service of attractive school meals will achieve this result.
13. The K.C.C. consider that a swimming pool should form part of the complex in view of the serious shortfall of such facilities in Grampian Region. If it is at present impossible to provide this it must be built at the earliest opportunity.
14. The K.C.C. expect that there will be maximum provision of community facilities to serve the greatly expanded population. Within the school there must be community access to rooms for further education with audio-visual facilities, to language laboratories, music rooms, the gymnasium and an auditorium with stage. The whole community must have out of school hours access to all recreational and sporting facilities including changing rooms and showers.
15. Enough Janitors must be appointed so that the facilities described above may be used to the full
16. Because of the high cost of private houses in Kemnay intending teachers at the Academy should be offered either local authority housing, or assistance with house purchase. This will enable them to live in Kemnay and make a maximum contribution to the corporate life of the community.
17. The C.C. is disappointed that the School Council has adopted standing orders handed down from the Region and suggests that these be amended to allow more open discussion.