

**Written Statements from Councillors to letter dated 15 June 2007 from the Chief Executive**

- ♦ Councillor Eileen Baxendale
- ♦ Councillor Tommy Gilligan
- ♦ Councillor Gordon Clark
- ♦ Councillor Hamish Stewart
- ♦ Councillor John Murray
- ♦ Councillor David Baillie
- ♦ Councillor Anne Higgins
- ♦ Councillor Graham Simpson
- ♦ Councillor Bill Holman
- ♦ Councillor Graeme Campbell
- ♦ Councillor Peter Craig
- ♦ Councillor George Sutherland
- ♦ Councillor Anne Higgins
- ♦ Councillor Archie Buchanan
- ♦ Councillor Anne Maggs

## Request for review of plans for Strathavan Academy

Note of concerns that need to be addressed during a review.

### 1) Unsafe transport arrangements:

Some of the children, particularly those in rural areas, are to be picked up at a point some distance from their homes and would therefore have to walk along a road without a footpath. Currently these children are picked up from their homes. The new arrangements are clearly unsafe and I cannot believe they will be Council policy and I presume they will be changed whatever else is decided by a review.

There are also health and educational concerns about the transport arrangements. For some children, those furthest away, the proposed pick up time is before 10 to 8, but it will need to be even earlier if these children are to be picked up from their homes. So some children will travel around 2.5 hours a day. This is not a good plan in terms of children being alert in the morning for school and also will mean they are more tired when they arrive home. Personally I suffer from travel sickness and if I had to travel over 1 hour each morning to school I would not be able to take part in the first lesson. I am also not aware of any health needs assessment that has taken place to determine if some children might find the longer journey time difficult to manage.

### 2) Statistical information.

There is a need to clarify conflicting demographic information. The new school is expected to cater for 750 pupils, a decrease from the present role. Other statistics from Council staff suggest there will be an increase in the population of Strathavan. This seems more likely as land round the periphery has been released for house building. Moreover there is currently a level of occupancy of family houses by older residents and these houses may well come on the market as family homes in the next 5 to 10 years.

A new detailed assessment of population projections would be welcome.

### 3) Provision of alternate community facilities

Most of the 25 or so clubs and groups that currently use the leisure facilities at the Strathavan academy site have not been offered alternative facilities in Strathavan.

### 4) Loss to the local economy

There will clearly be a loss of business for the local economy from both the pupils and teachers purchasing items at lunchtime and after school. This may be critical for small local shops.

### 5) Lack of local consultation

There is dissatisfaction about the process of local consultation. It appears that there was consultation about a proposed refurbishment of Strathavan Academy but not about the proposal to rebuild on the same site and bus the children to East Kilbride for two years. There is a perception that the decision was made by early 2005 and the community events that followed were information rather than consultation. As I was not aware of the issues at the time I do not know the details of this but this is an issue that needs to be looked at in a review.

6) Best value

I consider this issue last because a consideration of whether the current plan is best value must include reference to the concerns noted above.

Any assessment of best value must give considerable weight to the children's educational needs. As a Council we surely must act in the best interests of the children who attend Strathavan Academy.

My main concern is the transport of children from the outlying areas to East Kilbride. The time they will spend travelling is too long and their educational progress will suffer.

In general it would be better educationally if the children currently at Strathavan Academy could continue to be educated in Strathavan. A plan to rebuild within Strathavan but on a different site from the current Strathavan Academy would avoid the difficulties involved in transporting children to East Kilbride. It would also diminish the cost of transport, which would be substantial, and of keeping the Ballerup facilities open. It would be helpful if the Council could have a breakdown of these costs.

It also may be the case that the plan to rebuild on the same site would not allow sufficient space for the expected need, in which case the present plan is clearly not best value.

Eileen Baxendale  
June 2007



COUNCILLOR TOMMY GILLIGAN HAMILTON WEST & EARNOCK

AS/CB

Our ref :

TG/AB

Date : 21/6/07

If calling please ask for

Mrs. Beaton Ext. 4703

Dear Archie,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of 15 June. I would rather not give my answers to the six issues identified in your letter, as I would see this as anticipating the debate, which would be better conducted at the requisitioned Council meeting.

As the six points contain argument, does this make the motion incompetent?

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL	
21 JUN 2007	
NAME	
ADDRESS	
POSTCODE	
TELEPHONE	

Yours sincerely

Tommy Gilligan



**Cllr. Gordon Clark**  
Rutherglen Central & North

45 Princes Gate, Rutherglen, G73 1LS.  
Tel: 0141 647 0513 Mobile: 07825583907  
Email: Gordonclark01@aol.com



Mr A Strang  
Chief Executive  
South Lanarkshire Council  
Floor 2 Council Offices  
Almada Street  
Hamilton ML3 0AA

19th June 2007

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL CHIEF EXECUTIVES DEPT	
	22 JUN 2007

Dear Mr Strang,

**Strathaven Academy Redevelopment  
Special Council Meeting**

Thankyou for your letter of the 15th instant acknowledging the request of 22 councillors for a special council meeting.

My understanding is that a special meeting should be called within 14 days of the request however given that a special council meeting has been arranged for June 28th I have no objection to this issue also being dealt with on that date.

The signatories objective is to request the council to defer any physical works or removal of students and, or equipment from the school whilst an independent 2 month review of the proposals is carried out.

A closer examination of points raised could then be made at review level allowing the council to make a fully informed decision on the best way forward.

It is my understanding that any decision taken by the council can be reviewed after six months. Due to the time elapsed since the decision was originally taken and allowing for changing factors which can influence such decision, I believe that the signatories request is reasonable and within Council Standing Orders.

As it is only right that all decisions taken by the council should be subject to scrutiny our request should have no impact on either the Council or individual councillors.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Gordon Clark.

SOUTH  
LANARKSHIRE  
COUNCIL

COUNCILLOR HAMISH STEWART BIGGAR/SYMLINGTON AND BLACK MOUNT

Our ref : HS/AB  
Date : 21 June 2007  
If calling please ask for Mrs. Beaton Ext. 4703

Archie Strang  
Chief Executive  
South Lanarkshire Council  
Almada Street  
Hamilton



Dear Mr Strang

**Strathaven Academy Redevelopment  
Special Council Meeting**

I refer to your letter of 15th June and thank you for your acknowledgement.

It was not my intention to infer that council officials have been less than competent in the performance of their duties and I do not make that inference now. I am confident that all officials will have acted from the best of motives and in a highly competent manner. There is however a great deal of public concern that the Council may have made the wrong decision regarding the siting of the new Strathaven Academy and the consequent decant. A full airing of the facts and issues at a special meeting of the Council will therefore give the new Council the opportunity to either ratify the decision previously taken or else to call for a review to properly establish the correct course of action.

The obvious time for such a debate to take place would be 28th June at the already arranged Special Meeting.

Yours sincerely

*Hamish Stewart*  
pp AS  
Councillor Hamish Stewart



COUNCILLOR JOHN MURRAY HAMILTON SOUTH

Our ref : JH/AB  
Date : 20 June 2007  
If calling please ask for Mrs. Beaton Ext. 4703

Archie Strang  
Chief Executive  
South Lanarkshire Council  
Almada Street  
Hamilton

Dear Mr Strang

**Strathaven Academy Redevelopment  
Special Council Meeting**

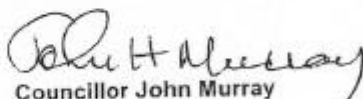
Thank you for your acknowledgement for the request for a special council meeting. My understanding is that it should be called within 14 days of the request. However, given that there is already a special council meeting on June 28 it would make sense for this issue to be dealt with at that time.

The issues raised in our request for a meeting can be debated by councillors at that meeting and a decision reached then. It may well be that the council will vote to go ahead with the transfer of Strathaven pupils to Crosshouse Campus or they may vote for a review, so that the other options like building a new school at Kirkland Park or a modular village there can be examined.

It is certainly not my position that council officers have been less than competent. They are highly-qualified professionals, paid to give impartial advice so that councillors can make informed decisions.

What we are seeking here is a review of the original decision on Strathaven Academy and I look forward to a robust exchange of opinions at our special meeting.

Yours sincerely

  
Councillor John Murray

Council Offices Almada Street Hamilton ML3 0AA Telephone: 01698 454424 Fax: 01698 454659  
Home Address: 3 Eriskay Ave Hamilton ML3 8QB Telephone: 01698 282580 Mobile: 07825 583 922  
e-mail John.murray@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

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COUNCILLOR **DAVID BAILLIE** CAMBUSLANG WEST

Our Ref: DB/LB  
Your Ref: AS/CB

21 June 2007

Archie Strang  
Chief Executive  
South Lanarkshire Council  
Floor 2, Council Offices  
Almada Street  
HAMILTON  
ML3 0AA

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Dear Archie

**STRATHAVEN ACADEMY REDEVELOPMENT - SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

Thank you for your letter of 15 June 2007. I trust the following will clarify my position.

Since the new Council has come into being, the Councillors most concerned about the proposed redevelopment have been assiduous in putting their point of view across to others. The detail of the argument will undoubtedly be made to you by others, but I was sufficiently impressed by the general points made to believe that re-visiting the issue would be helpful.

In relation to Best Value a proposal to build on another site owned, I believe, by the Council and on the face of it a less cramped location seemed worthy of more serious consideration than it appears to have received.

Acceptance of this site would have eliminated the need for what will be extremely complicated (and expensive) travel arrangements to the decant facility. This will considerably add to the journey time of at least a proportion of pupils in what can be unpredictable rural terrain.

It would also ensure that the considerable spending power of the pupils was not removed from Strathaven. Businesses will certainly suffer.

I am well aware that there will be counter-arguments to these and other issues raised. Given that the redevelopment is obviously of concern to a considerable proportion of the population of the Strathaven area and Councillors have been elected, at least in part, to reflect this concern, I believe they are entitled to have a Council meeting where both sides of the case can be heard by all concerned. That was my intention in signing the request.

My decision on which way to vote will be determined by the discussion at the meeting.

Yours sincerely

Councillor David Baillie

Council Offices Almada Street Hamilton ML3 0AA Telephone: 01698 455084 Fax: 01698 454659  
Home Address: 80 Greenlees Road Cambuslang G72 8DX Home: 0141 642 0366 Mobile: 07748 114 594  
E-Mail: David.Baillie@southlanarkshire.gsx.gov.uk



Mr A Strang  
Chief Executive  
South Lanarkshire Council  
Floor 2 Council Offices  
Almada Street  
Hamilton  
ML3 0AA.

21<sup>st</sup> June 2007

Strathaven Academy Redevelopment  
Special Council Meeting

Dear Mr Strang

Further to your letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> June 2007, acknowledging the request of 22 Councillors for a Special Council Meeting. Our understanding is that it should be called within 14 days of the request. However, given that there is already a Special Council Meeting on June 28, it would make sense for this issue to be dealt with then.

The 22 Councillors objective is to ask the council to stop any physical work towards the removal of students, equipment, fixtures or fittings from the school or to start any demolition to the property and to seek an independent 2 month review of the proposals. Then a closer examination of the points raised would be required at review level and the Council can make an informed decision on the way forward.

It is our understanding that any decision taken by the Council can be reviewed after 6 months has elapsed. Due to the time elapsed since the decision was taken and the many material factors which may influence such a decision, we believe that the request is reasonable and within Council Standing Orders.

It is only right and proper that decisions taken by the Council are subject to scrutiny and therefore should have no impact on Council Officials or individual Councillors.

Yours sincerely

*Anne Higgins*

Councillor Anne Higgins

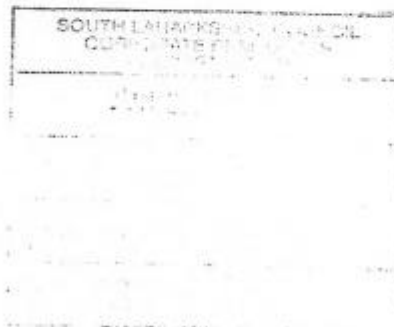
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COUNCILLOR GRAHAM SIMPSON EAST KILBRIDE WEST

Our ref : HS/AB  
Date : 19 June 2007  
If calling please ask for Mrs. Beaton Ext. 4703

Archie Strang  
Chief Executive  
South Lanarkshire Council  
Almada Street  
Hamilton



Dear Mr Strang

**Strathaven Academy Redevelopment  
Special Council Meeting**

Thank you for your acknowledgement for the request for a special council meeting. My understanding is that it should be called within 14 days of the request. However, given that there is already a special council meeting on June 28 it would make sense for this issue to be dealt with then as well.

The issues raised in our request for a meeting can be properly debated by councillors at that meeting and a decision reached then. It may well be that the council will vote to go ahead with the transfer of Strathaven pupils to Crosshouse Campus. Or they could vote for a review, so that the other options - building a new school at Kirkland Park or a modular village there - can be examined.

It is certainly not my position that council officers have been less than competent. They are highly-qualified professionals, paid to give impartial advice so that councillors can make informed decisions.

What we are seeking here is a review of the original decision on Strathaven Academy and I look forward to a robust exchange of opinions at our special meeting.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Graham Simpson

Council Offices: Almada Street Hamilton ML3 0AA Telephone: 01698 454422 Fax: 01698 454659  
Home Address: 5 Culzean Place East Kilbride G74 4BG Mobile: 07825 583 924  
e-mail [Graham.simpson@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:Graham.simpson@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)



COUNCILLOR **BILL HOLMAN** AVONDALE & STONEHOUSE

Mr. Archibald Strang  
Chief Executive  
South Lanarkshire Council  
Floor 2, Council Offices  
Almada Street  
Hamilton, ML3 0AA

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL CORPORATE RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION	
21 JUN	
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COPY COPIES FOR INFORMATION	19 <sup>th</sup> June 2007

Dear Mr. Strang,

I refer to your letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> June 2007, acknowledging the request of 22 councillors for a special Council meeting. My understanding is that it should be called within 14 days of the request. However, given that there is already a special Council meeting on June 28 it would make sense for this issue to be dealt with then as well.

The objective for this meeting is to obtain the approval of the Council to a 2-month independent review of the decisions surrounding the Strathaven Academy so that the Council can make an informed decision on the way forward. We also ask the Council to stop any physical work towards the removal of students, equipment, fixtures or fittings from the school or to start any demolition to the property.

It is obviously open to the review to conclude that, notwithstanding the issues raised by ourselves from discussions with concerned parents, the present decision was the only one which could have been taken. In that case the review will have gone a considerable way to assuage community concerns and allow future decisions to be taken without continually reprising past issues.

It is my understanding that any decision taken by the Council can be reviewed after 6 months has elapsed. Due to the considerable amount of time elapsed since the decision was taken, and the many material factors which may have influenced such a decision, I believe that the request of myself the other 21 members is reasonable, responsible and within Council Standing Orders. It is only right and proper that decisions taken by the Council are subject to scrutiny and therefore should have no impact on Council officials nor individual councillors.

Yours sincerely,

Council Offices Almada Street Hamilton ML3 0AA Telephone: 01698 454537 Fax: 01698 454659  
Home Address: 9 Meadowbank Avenue, Strathaven, ML10 6JS Telephone: 01357 521950 Mobile: 07825 583 915  
E-mail: Bill.Holman@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

COUNCILLOR **GRAEME CAMPBELL** AVONDALE & STONEHOUSE

Our ref : **GFC/AS/Strathaven Accademy/200607**  
Date : **18<sup>th</sup> June 2007**  
If calling please ask for **Mrs. Beaton Ext. 4703**

Mr. Archibald Strang  
Chief Executive  
South Lanarkshire Council  
Floor 2, Council Offices  
Almada Street  
Hamilton, ML3 0AA

**Strathaven Academy Redevelopment  
Special Council Meeting**

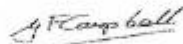
Dear Mr. Strang,

Further to your letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> June 2007, acknowledging the request of 22 councillors for a special council meeting. My understanding is that it should be called within 14 days of the request. However, given that there is already a special council meeting on June 28 it would make sense for this issue to be dealt with then as well.

The 22 councillor's objective for this special council meeting is to obtain the permission of the council to stop any physical work on the removal of students, equipment, fixtures and fittings from the school or to start any demolition to the property and to seek an independent 2-month review of the proposals and decisions taken by the council. It is certainly not my position that council officers have been less than competent. They are highly-qualified professionals, paid to give impartial advice so that councillors can make informed decisions. What we are therefore seeking here is an independent review of the decisions made so that the new council can make an informed decision on the best way forward.

It is my understanding that any decision taken by the council can be reviewed after 6 months has elapsed. Due to the time elapsed since the decision was taken and the many material factors, which may have influenced such a decision, we believe that the request is reasonable and within Council Standing Orders.

Yours Sincerely



Councillor Graeme Campbell

E-mail: [SLC@GraemeCampbell.co.uk](mailto:SLC@GraemeCampbell.co.uk)

Council Offices: Almada Street Hamilton ML3 0AA Telephone: 01698 454416 Fax: 01698 454659  
Home Address: 10 Fortrose Gdns Strathaven ML10 6FH Tel: 01357 528554 Mobile: 07625 583 905  
e-mail [Graeme.campbell@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:Graeme.campbell@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

Rec'd 26/6/07  
(sent 25/6)  
Acknowledged  
receipt

Cllr Peter Craig  
7 Tinto View Road  
Ashgill  
Larkhall ML9 3AY

Mr A Strang  
Chief Executive  
South Lanarkshire Council  
Almada Street  
Hamilton ML3 0AA

25<sup>th</sup> June 2007

Dear Mr Strang

In reply to your letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> June 2007, requesting a response to the points mentioned.

The Council has undergone a material change in its political makeup, and what could have been considered Best Value before, would not automatically now, be seen as such.

I feel that the because of this change that the decision to review is necessary, and has no implication on the Council officials or individual Councillors

What the 22 Councillors have asked is that no work be carried out on the destruction or dismantling of Strathaven Academy until an independent review of the current proposals can be carried out.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Craig

Mr A Strang  
Chief Executive  
South Lanarkshire Council  
Floor 2 Council Offices  
Almada Street  
Hamilton, ML3 0AA

24th June 2007

Dear Mr Strang

**Strathaven Academy Redevelopment  
Special Council Meeting**

Further to your letter dated 15th June 2007, acknowledging the request of 22 councillors for a special council meeting, my understanding is that it should be called within 14 days of the request. However, given that there is already a special council meeting on June 28, it would make sense for this issue to be dealt with then.

The councillors objective is to ask the council to stop any physical work towards the removal of students, equipment, fixtures or fittings from the school or to start any demolition to the property and to seek an independent 2 month review of the proposals. A closer examination of the points raised could then be conducted and the council could make an informed decision on the way forward.

It is our understanding that any decision taken by the council can be reviewed after 6 months has elapsed. Due to the time elapsed since the decision was taken, and the many material factors which may influence such a decision, we believe that the request is reasonable and within Council Standing Orders.

It is only right and proper that decisions taken by the council are subject to scrutiny and therefore should have no impact on Council officials or individual councillors.

Yours sincerely

Councillor George Sutherland



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COUNCILLOR **ANNE HIGGINS** RUTHERGLEN SOUTH

Our ref : AH/AB  
Date : 25 June 2007  
If calling please ask for Mrs. Beaton Ext. 4703

Archie Strang  
Chief Executive  
South Lanarkshire Council  
Almada Street  
Hamilton

Dear Mr. Strang

**Strathaven Academy Redevelopment  
Special Council Meeting**

Thank you for your letter of 15 June acknowledging the request by 22 Councillors for a special Council meeting which, as I understand it, such a meeting should be called within 14 days of the request. It would appear appropriate that the above issue be dealt with as the Special Council Meeting.

It was never my intention to question the competency of any Council Official.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anne Higgins".

Councillor Anne Higgins

Council Offices Almada Street Hamilton ML3 0AA Tel: 01698 454543 Fax: 01698 454659  
Home Address: 45 Lilybank Avenue Cambuslang G72 8QP Telephone: 0141 641 7004  
Mobile: 07825 583 913  
e-mail Anne.Higgins@southlanarkshire.gsx.gov.uk



COUNCILLOR ARCHIE BUCHANAN EAST KILBRIDE SOUTH

Crimestoppers 0800 555111

Our ref : AB/AB  
Date : 25 June 2007  
If calling please ask for: Mrs. Beaton on Ext. 4703

Archie Strang  
Chief Executive  
South Lanarkshire Council  
Almada Street  
Hamilton

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL	
CORRESPONDENCE FILE	
DATE	25 JUN 2007
TIME	
BY	
FOR	
REMARKS	

Dear Mr. Strang

**Strathaven Academy Redevelopment  
Special Council Meeting**

Thank you for your letter of 15 June acknowledging the request by 22 Councillors for a special Council meeting which, as I understand it, such a meeting should be called within 14 days of the request. It would appear appropriate that the above issue be dealt with as the Special Council Meeting.

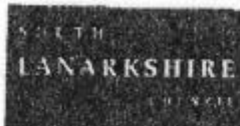
It was never my intention to question the competency of any Council Official.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Archie Buchanan", written over a horizontal line.

Councillor Archie Buchanan





COUNCILLOR ANNE MAGGS JP EAST KILBRIDE CENTRAL NORTH

Our ref : AM/AB

Date : 25 June 2007

If calling please ask for: Mrs. Beaton on Ext. 4703

Archie Strang  
Chief Executive  
South Lanarkshire Council  
Almada Street  
Hamilton

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL	
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Dear Mr. Strang

**Strathaven Academy Redevelopment  
Special Council Meeting**

Thank you for your letter of 15 June acknowledging the request by 22 Councillors for a special Council meeting which, as I understand it, such a meeting should be called within 14 days of the request. It would appear appropriate that the above issue be dealt with as the Special Council Meeting.

It was never my intention to question the competency of any Council Official as I regard them extremely competent.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Anne Maggs