

Rezone of Hillside School Online Survey Results

The statutory consultation period regarding the Rezone of Hillside School ran between 10 February and 28 August 2020. During the consultation period parent/carers, stakeholders and community members were invited to take part in an online survey to express their opinion on the proposal.

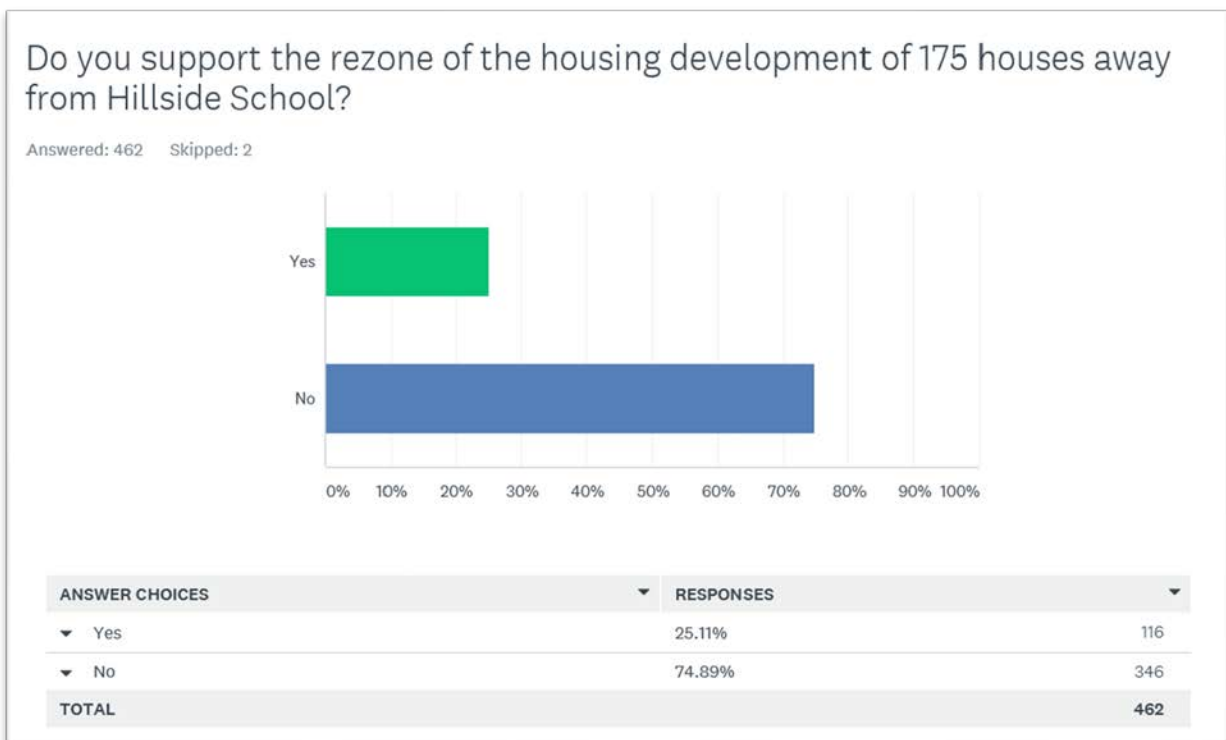
The survey provided a summary of the proposal to rezone the Leathan Fields site from the catchment area of Hillside School to either Fishermoss School or Portlethen Primary. Various maps were also provided highlighting the Leathan Fields site as well as the catchment areas of Hillside, Portlethen and Fishermoss Schools. Participants were also given the opportunity to leave comments.

A total of 464 people took part in the survey and all responses have been analysed and are summarised below.

Q1 - The respondents were asked if they supported the rezone of the housing development (Leathan Fields site) of 175 houses away from Hillside School?

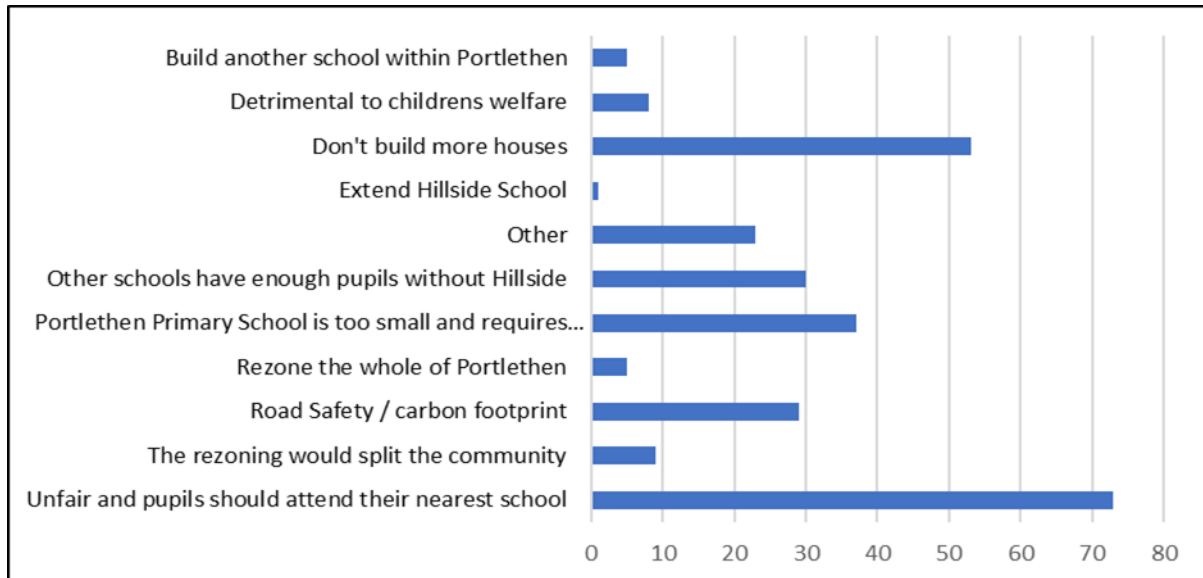
Chart 1 below shows the results from the above question. A total of 462 people chose to answer this question, with 346 people (74.89%) not supporting the rezoning and 116 people (25.11%) supporting the rezone.

Chart 1



Participants were also given the opportunity to leave comments or feedback for the council to consider. These results have been analysed and displayed in Chart 2 below.

Chart 2 – Q1 Comments



As can be seen in Chart 2, the most common theme from the responses was that it would be unfair for pupils who lived adjacent to Hillside School to be rezoned to another school within Portlethen.

Respondents also commented that if Hillside School does not have the capacity to accommodate additional pupils, then the houses within the Leathan Fields site should not be built.

Some commented that Portlethen School was too small to accommodate additional pupils, and the school itself requires some repair and modernisation. Concerns were also expressed that this would have a negative impact on the pupils currently attending Portlethen School with additional support needs.

It was suggested that both Portlethen and Fishermoss Schools have adequate pupils from their own catchment areas and that the proposed rezoning would increase the rolls to near capacity.

Concerns were raised regarding road safety, if the rezoning was approved, respondents suggested that pupils would be more likely to be driven to school due to the distance, and pupils should be encouraged to walk to school. This would have a negative impact on health and wellbeing of the pupils as well as a negative impact on the environment.

It was also thought that additional staffing would be required at either Portlethen or Fishermoss if the rezoning was successful.

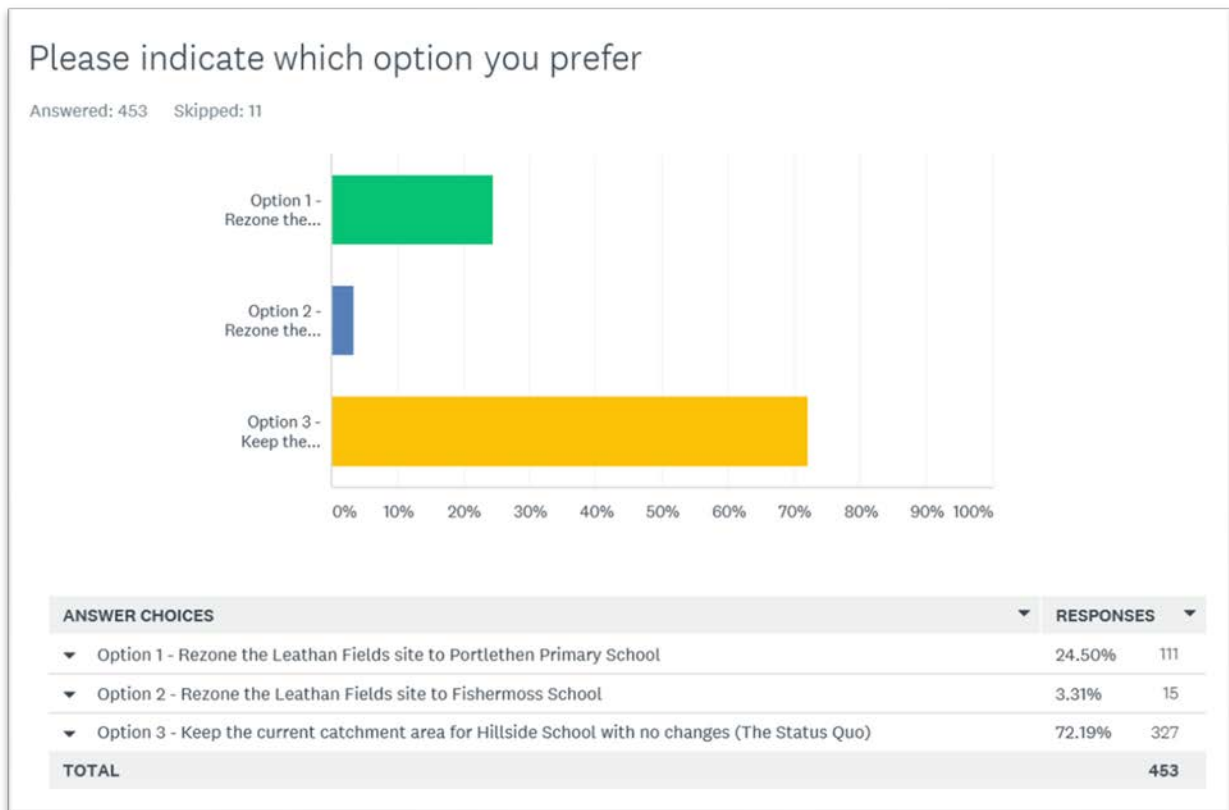
Q2 - The participants were asked to indicate their preferred option.

The options were;

- Option 1 to rezone the Leathan Fields site to Portlethen Primary School
- Option 2, to rezone the Leathan Fields site to Fishermoss School or
- Option 3, keep the current catchment area for Hillside School with no changes (The Status Quo)

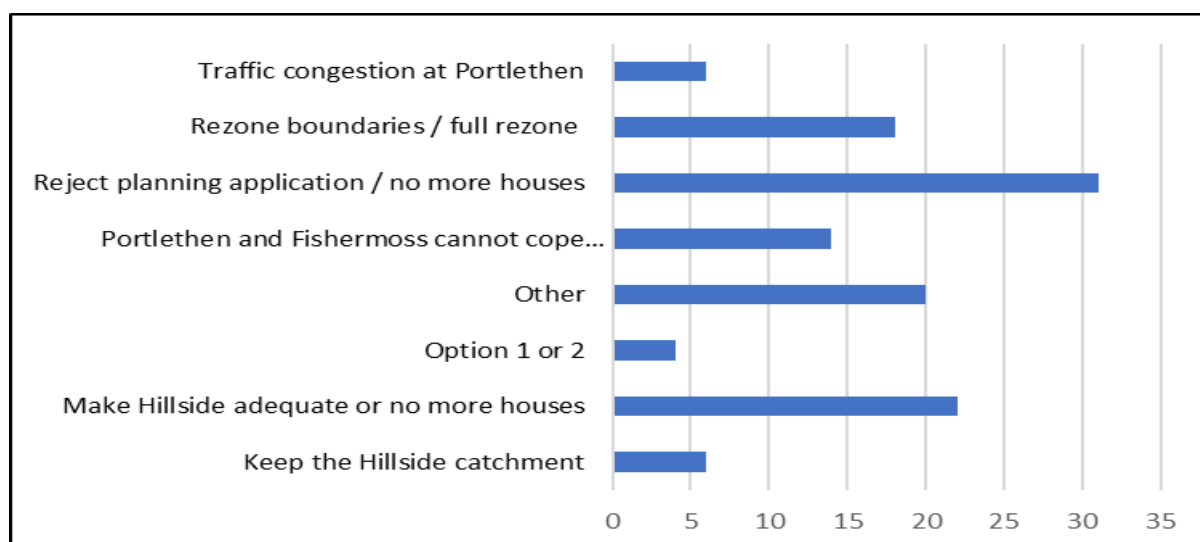
Chart 3 below shows the results of the question. A total of 453 people responded to the question. As indicated in Chart 3 below the majority 327 (72.19%) chose Option 3, to keep the current catchment for Hillside School with no changes. A total of 111 (24.50%) chose Option 1, to rezone the Leathan Fields site to Portlethen School, and 15 (3.31%) chose Option 2, to rezone the Leathan Fields site to Fishermoss School.

Chart 3



Again, participants were given the opportunity to leave any comments or feedback for the council to consider. These results have been analysed and displayed in Chart 4 below.

Chart 4 – Q2 Comments



Many of the comments reiterated those made in response to Q1. Other comments are detailed below.

Rezoning an area from within the catchment area was an impractical solution and either a change should be made to current boundaries or a full rezoning of the three schools within Portlethen should be carried out.

Other comments relate to the P7 pupils at Hillside being education at Portlethen Academy, this option was discounted, and pupils will remain at their school for their primary education.

Other comments were that it was unfair for pupils who lived adjacent to Hillside School to be rezoned to another school within Portlethen with the perceived lack of amenities within the area. There were also concerns raised in relation to families moving into the area and the lack of spaces available at the school.

The following positive comments were also received;

- “Rezoning to Portlethen Primary meant that children could walk easily to school and they will be close to friendship groups.”
- “The children should go to the school with the facilities to accommodate them.”
- “It would be easier for children to walk to Portlethen rather than Fishermoss.”

Conclusion

The community at Portlethen have voiced strong concerns against the rezoning of the Leathan Fields site to either Portlethen or Fishermoss School, they are of the opinion that the site should remain within the catchment for Hillside School.