

# Future Facilities for Drumoak Primary School

Public Meeting

14 June 2005

# Speakers

- Paul Wilson
  - Headmaster of Drumoak Primary School
- John Hopkins
  - member of local Community Council
  - deputising for Donald Keith.

# Agenda

- Describe meeting with Education Department on 7 March
- Describe interim comments made by Drumoak School Board and CDDCC for Education & Recreation Committee prior to 26 May
- Collect feedback from today's meeting
- Decide next steps.

# Meeting of 7 March

- Under Aberdeenshire Council's Schools Improvement Programme, some 24 projects (affecting 50 schools) are proposed
- Financing depends on:-
  - Scottish Executive releasing funds
  - Where Aberdeenshire ranks within Scotland
  - Where Drumoak ranks within Aberdeenshire
- Education Department want to pre-plan their proposals so that they are ready to bid as soon as Executive releases funds.

# Meeting of 7 March (cont'd)

- Drumoak and Crathes Schools both deficient in security, health & safety and facilities (particularly Drumoak)
- Drumoak has been operating in excess of capacity for 10 years
- Both schools affected by housing growth
- Short-term measures proposed by Drumoak School Board (DSB)
- DSB and CDDCC agreed to provide comments in time for 26 May meeting.

# Drumoak School - Two Basic Options

- Two options presented at 7 March meeting
  - Upgrade the **existing** school site to 120 pupil capacity
  - Replace the existing school with a 120 pupil capacity on **a new site.**

# Existing Site?

- Constricted site
- Would probably have to move pupils offsite to alternative location (where?) whilst rebuilding.

# New Site?

- Several possibilities
- Cannot really decide which is best without considering the future development of Drumoak itself.

# Does Drumoak WANT more housing?

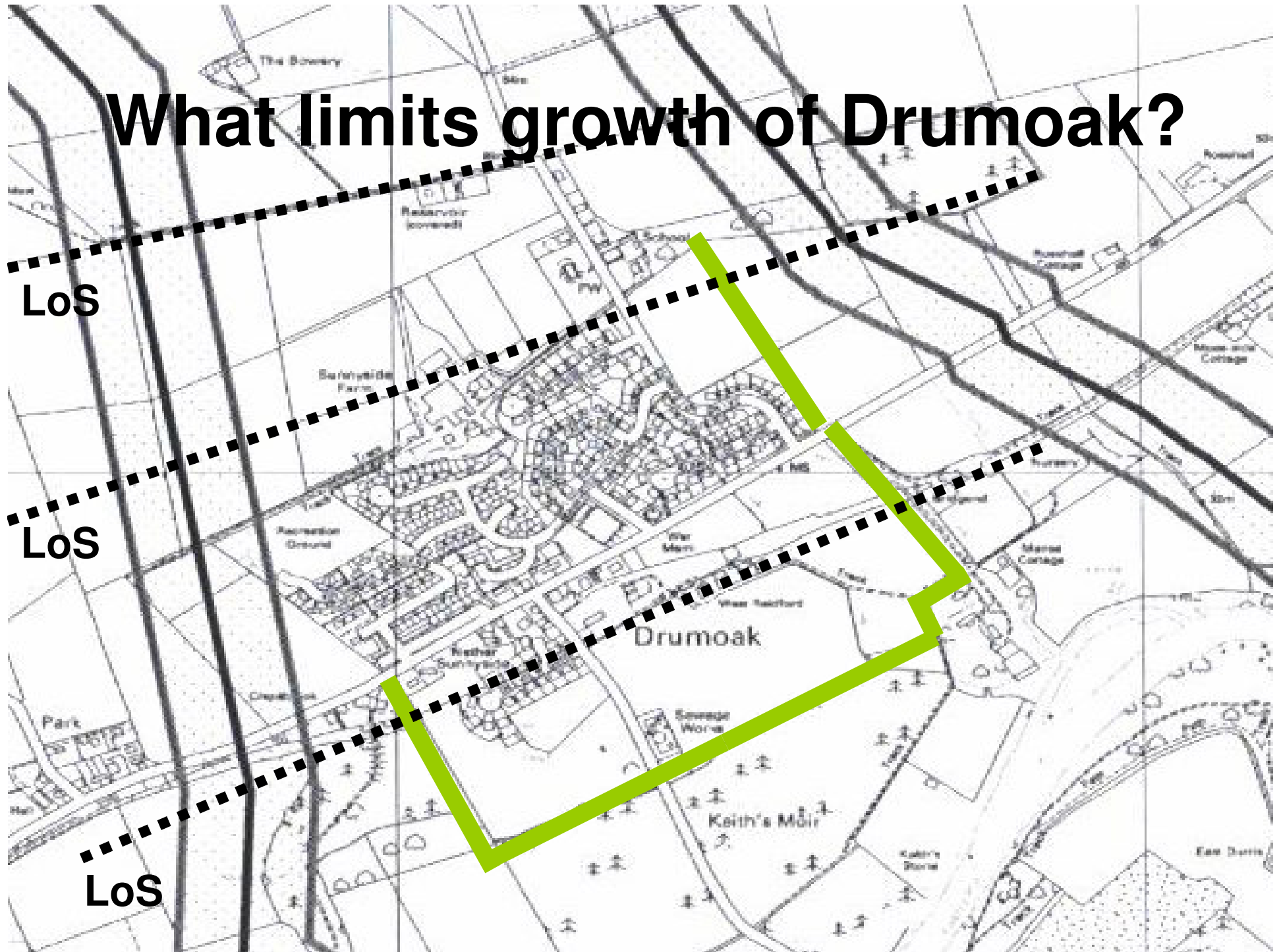
<b>How many more houses for Drumoak?</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>None</b>	<b>49%</b>
<b>20 more</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>50 more</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>100 more</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Much more</b>	<b>13%</b>

Source: 2000 Survey of Drumoak residents by CDDCC

# Is more housing likely?

- Housing demand along the North Deeside Road will continue to be high due to the quality of the local environment, as already reflected in the local plans for the Crathes and Drumoak settlements
- Drumoak will continue to be under development pressure for the foreseeable future, and in the light of the Reporter's findings during the CALP local enquiry, there is some boundary expansion capability
- Drumoak is bounded by two pipeline wayleaves - one to the east and one to the west of the settlement - hence another Westhill or Kingswells will not be possible.

# What limits growth of Drumoak?

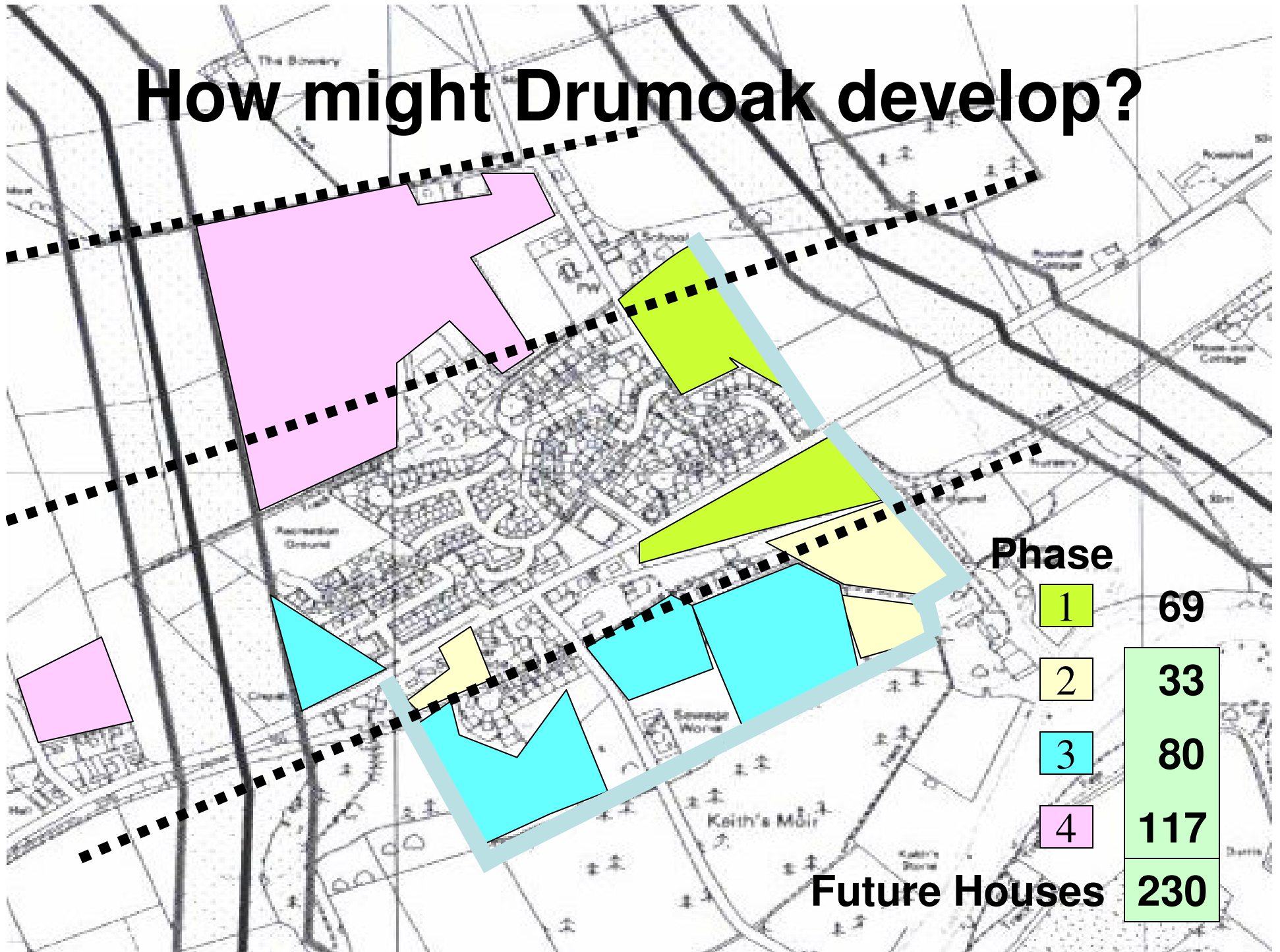


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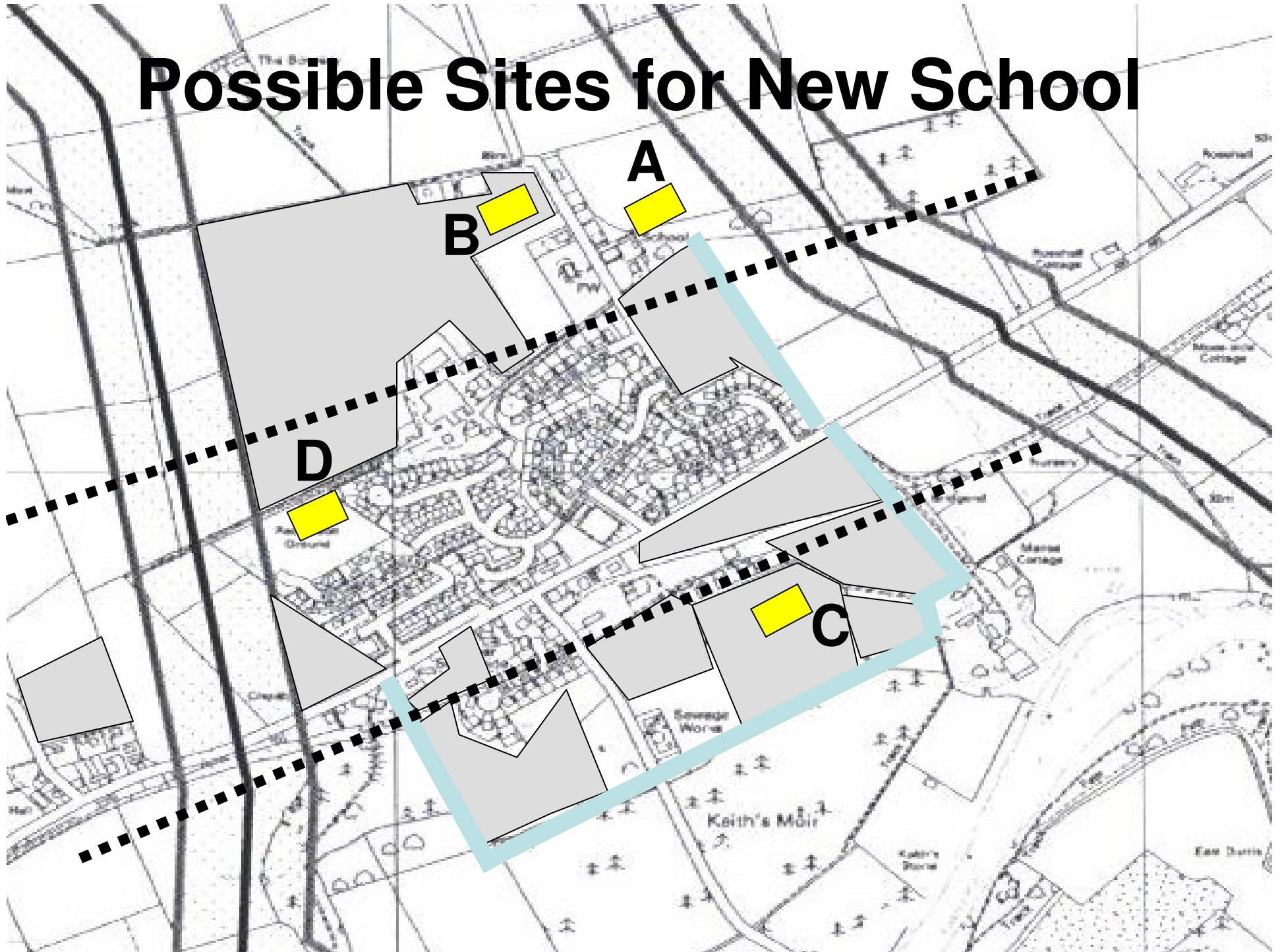
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# How might Drumoak develop?



# Possible Sites for New School



# Site Comparisons

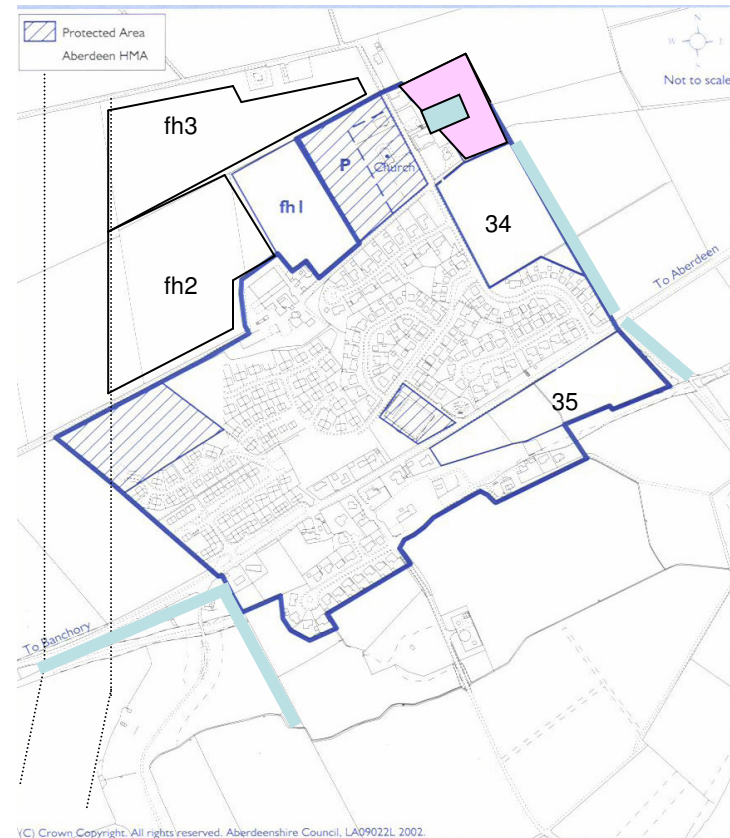
## Pros

## Cons

<b>A</b>	<b>Close to existing School Does not Utilise Housing Land</b>	<b>Requires Land negotiation Potential Disruption during Construction</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>Commanding Site</b>	<b>Requires Land negotiation Utilises Potential Housing Land On periphery of settlement</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>Attractive site</b>	<b>Requires Land negotiation Utilises Potential Housing Land Requires A92 Crossing</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>Council owned Central to settlement Early Implementation Does not Utilise Housing Land</b>	<b>Alternative public park required New Road access required</b>

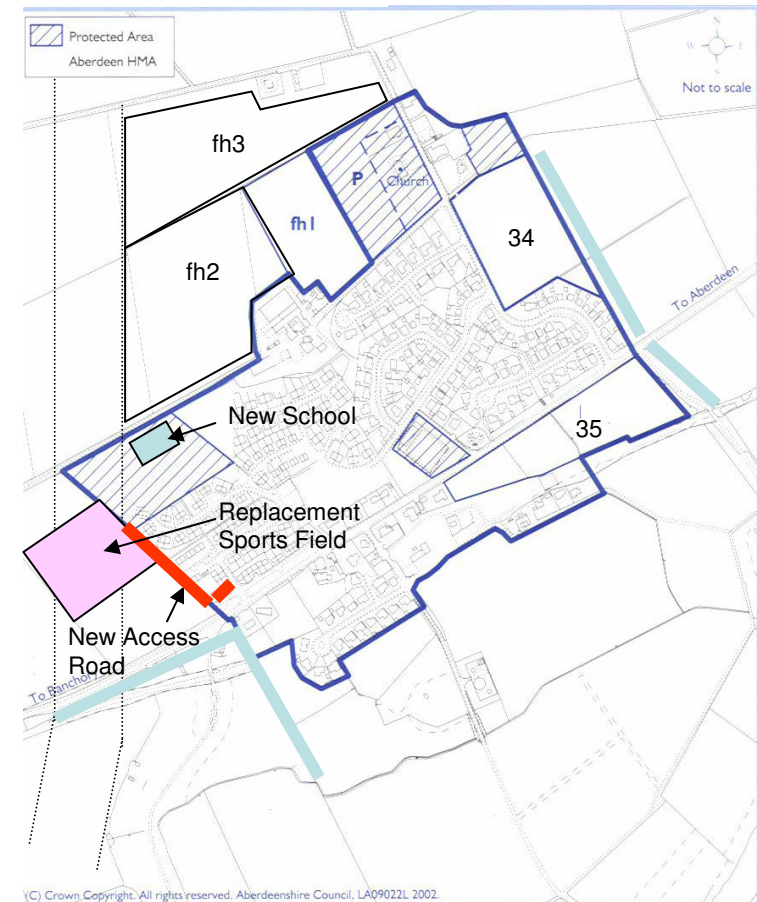
# Existing Site

- Additional land (pink) would be required for school/recreation
- Close proximity of new school to existing school may provide cost savings, e.g. by converting existing permanent facilities into a nursery or by utilising the hall as a dining room
- However, building a new school adjacent to the existing school would be disruptive. It is likely that any such gains would be offset by measures taken to minimise the educational disruption, e.g. moving pupils temporarily during phases of the construction.



# New Site

- Siting the school on the existing Keithmuir Park (owned by Council) eliminates time and cost of land negotiations, thereby allowing early construction
- The level site (a football pitch) and the mature nature of the rest of the park will minimise levelling/site clearance costs and speed up construction
- Not all of the site would be required for the school
  - the existing children's playground areas could be retained to provide recreational facilities for the pupils
- The location is very secure as it is sited in the heart of the community and any further housing developments (fh1 – fh3) will enhance this
- Most pupils will be able to walk to school without using or crossing main roads
- Against these advantages, the community – and the school – would lose a football pitch
  - However a replacement sports ground (shown in pink) could be made available in the pipeline wayleave area
  - Transco have no objection, provided access is available in the event of an emergency, and cite the cases of other sports grounds and golf courses etc.
  - Since no building development is permitted in the wayleave, the cost of the land should be in line with agriculture rather than development land prices.



# Wider Benefits of New School

- ❖ Incorporation of modern indoor sporting facilities which are available to the community generally will greatly add to its well being - particularly for youth and senior citizens. It will also help to integrate the large number of incoming residents into the community
- ❖ Currently the only such local facility is the Drumoak Community Hall at Park. This hall is in need of major renovation to bring it to an acceptable standard; consequently it suffers from low utilisation. It also requires major fabric maintenance as the roof is verging on an unsafe condition
- ❖ The hall is actually owned by Aberdeenshire Council, hence its disposal for redevelopment could provide the funds for the establishment of the replacement football pitch.

# Conclusion

- CDDCC/Drumoak School Board
  - supported the proposal for a **new Drumoak school** on a **new site**
  - submitted that consideration should be given to **Keithmuir Park** as the preferred site, since it:-
    - places the school at the heart of the community
    - will enhance the indoor recreational facilities for the entire community
    - causes minimal disruption to children's education
    - is likely to be the most economic location
    - is quickly "do-able"

# Next Steps

- Individuals to write to Mike Rumbles (local MSP)
  - Mike Rumbles MSP, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP ([Mike.Rumbles.msp@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:Mike.Rumbles.msp@scottish.parliament.uk))
- Individuals to write to Sandy Wallace (local councillor)
  - Cllr. Sandy Wallace, Spyhill Cottage, Durris, Banchory AB31 6DH ([cllr.a.wallace@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.a.wallace@aberdeenshire.gov.uk))
- DSB/CDDCC to write to Education & Recreation Committee with feedback from this meeting
- Set up communication/feedback method for residents
  - email, website
  - post.