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Huge turnout for new school meeting

If evidence of the strength of feeling of local parents about school provision in the area was ever needed then the outcome of the recent meeting to set up a new Educate Together School to serve the Carpenterstown area speaks volumes.

Over 300 people attend-

ed the Saturday morning public meeting in the Castleknock Hotel organised by the new Carpenterstown Educate Together committee and over 200 children were pre-enrolled for the school which has not yet been sanctioned by the Department of Education and Science. Indeed an

application to have the school approved has yet to be made.

According to Maggie Hyland from Riverswood, who is chairperson of the start up committee for the school, "while this campaign grew out of the problems with local school places last year, it is now less to do with St Mochtas and St Patricks and more to do with education. During our campaign we found that we really had no options available to us - it was either a catholic school or nothing.

Educate Together has to offer," she said.

Pointing to the huge attendance at the meeting, Ms. Hyland told *Community Voice*, "people have been very supportive of our campaign and they are very critical of what has been happening locally. Parents are also becoming much more savvy about what they want for their children and are considering their options at a much earlier stage. We have parents here today whose children were only born six weeks ago and already they are looking to enrol them in this new school."

As they arrived at the meeting parents were given pre-enrolment forms for their children. The forms were numbered on a first come, first served basis and by the end of proceedings 202 completed forms had been returned to the organising committee.

According to Amy Mulvihill, New Schools Officer with Educate Together, "it was one of their best attended public meetings in the history of the organisation, confirming the contention of the



Maggie Hyland addresses the meeting

"It's not that we are anti the other options, it's just we want more choices and we feel that this is what



Fr John Daly PP Porterstown pictured with Eileen Ring and Colm Hannon at the launch of the St Mochta's Golf Classic (see page 7)

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