



Nordaal,
Sandwick,
Shetland.
ZE2 9HP.
16th April, 2011.

M/s Rosemary Bridge,
Education, Culture and Sport Service,
Camaghael Hostel,
Camaghael,
Fort William.

Dear M/s Bridge,

I am enclosing a copy of a letter my wife, Alma, and me have written in support of our daughter, and her family who have recently moved into Highland Region. We have read the consultation document and are very concerned by the possible closure of the Special Class at Banavie Primary School.

Jennifer is writing to you separately, and we hope you will use your best efforts to help keep this facility open.

Thank you,

Yours sincerely,

Tom Stove.

Nordaal,
Sandwick,
Shetland
ZE2 9HP.
16th April,2011.

Cllr. Bill Clark,
Darag,
Wilson Way,
Tomonie,
Fort William,
PH33 7LX.

Dear Mr Clark,

Proposal to Close the Special Class at Banavie Primary School.

We are writing to you as the local Councillor in connection with the above proposal by Highland Council. We write on behalf of, and in support of our daughter, Jennifer Ridland, her husband Paul McLean and our 3 grandchildren who live at Brentwood, Tomonie. They have moved there from Edinburgh recently.

Their 5 year old son, Rory has enrolled at Banavie School, and is enjoying the experience very much. Their 3 year old daughter, Esme unfortunately has Down's Syndrome and it is expected that she would benefit very considerably from being at Banavie School in the Special Class. Indeed one of the major factors in considering the move to Fort William area, was the quality of the School. Jennifer has started a job with Chest, Heart and Stroke covering a large area of the Highlands. She is a qualified Occupational Therapist, but is enjoying the challenge of the new Stroke Therapist job. Her husband works offshore in the North Sea, and is obviously away for weeks at a time.

After being brought up in Shetland, then spending a lot of time in Glasgow and Edinburgh, the whole family are really enjoying the peace and beauty of the Fort William area. They have purchased Brentwood, and that in itself is a challenge! We have been there twice already and will visit regularly.

We feel that the savings estimated by this closure are very small in relation to the benefits our grand daughter, and possibly other similar children could have. She has already had one to one help at Nursery in Edinburgh and we felt she benefited considerably from that.

We appreciate that all Local Authorities are under pressure at this time. I spent 16 years as a Member of the old Shetland County Council and Shetland Islands Council, 4 of these as Convenor. I was also Chair of the Lerwick Harbour Trust for 13 years, and am still involved as a Board Member of Hjaltland Housing Association. I am also Chair of the Shetland Branch of

the Multiple Sclerosis Society. My wife runs the local garage, and volunteers with the WRVS.

We trust you will use your influence to have this proposal reversed.

If you would like to discuss this further, we are sure Jennifer and Paul would welcome a visit from you.

Thank you,

Yours sincerely

Tom and Alma Stove.

cc. Cllr. Eddie Hunter.
11, Glendessary Street,
Caol,
Fort William,
PH33 7BT.