
From:
Sent: 18 May 2014 16:07
To:
Cc: Norma Young; Ron MacKenzie; Bren Gormley - Member; Brian Murphy - Member; Thomas MacLennan - Member
Subject: Fwd: Weblink: Education, Children and Adult Services Committee - 21 May 2014
Attachments: image001.gif

- as a key stakeholder, it is disappointing that as Chair of the ASMC I only receive this via the NHS.
Can you please circulate this to the ASMC members. We will need to meet to provide a comprehensive response.
Ron and Norma:
In the background information, there are a number of serious factual errors:
AHS was designed for 250 and the venue for 220, not over 318.
Strontian was the favoured site by the campaign group, the Council consulted on 7- Salen did not have a viable site.
Thanks.
PS Ron, could you please phone me, when convenient, about Portree HS and WHC. Thanks.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From:
Date: 16 May 2014 12:09:01 BST
To: Board Member

Subject: FW: Weblink: Education, Children and Adult Services Committee - 21 May 2014

Board Members – for information.

E-mail:



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

From:
Sent: 16 May 2014 11:56
Subject: Weblink: Education, Children and Adult Services Committee - 21 May 2014

Good morning

For information, the agenda and reports in respect of the **Education, Children and Adult Services Committee on Wednesday 21 May 2014** are now available on the Council's website and can be accessed by using the following hyperlink:-

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourcouncil/committees/strategiccommittees/acs-comm/2014-05-21-eca-ag.htm>

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NHSmial is approved for exchanging patient data and other sensitive

information with NHSmail and GSi recipients
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accessed anywhere

From: Ian Jackson
Sent: 21 May 2014 07:40
To:
Subject: Fw: Fwd: Statutory Consultation on the future education provision to serve the Strontian Primary School Catchment area

Please save email as a response to the consultation.

From: Norma Young
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 06:44 AM
To: Ian Jackson
Subject: Fw: Fwd: Statutory Consultation on the future education provision to serve the Strontian Primary School Catchment area

See below

From:
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 06:30 AM
To: Norma Young
Subject: Fwd: Statutory Consultation on the future education provision to serve the Strontian Primary School Catchment area

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Statutory Consultation on the future education provision to serve the Strontian Primary School Catchment area

Date: Tue, 20 May 2014 18:35:42 +0100

From: ≥

To: norma.young@highland.co.uk

CC: bren.gormley.cllr@highland.gov.uk,
eoghan.carmichael@highlifehighland.com,
ron.mackenzie@highland.gov.uk

Dear Mrs Young,

RE: Document entitled 'Statutory Consultation on the future education provision to serve the Strontian Primary School Catchment area'

Having read and had time to reflect on the above document being taken to the Education, Adult and Childrens Services Committee tomorrow (21/5/14) I wish to make the following comments. (I must clarify that I make these comments as an individual parent not as part of the parent council or any community committee.)

1. **The document is misleading.** It shows in appendix 5 - the table of benefits - that there are significant differences between the options of a school build partially integrated into the Arainn Shuainert/AHS building (option 2) over a separate building (option3) that are **not true**. The 'significant benefits' stated are

'transitions' and 'staff professional community'. Transitions across the peninsular are excellent. Moving a matter of metres closer to the AHS school building will not significantly change them for either option. To show this as a significant benefit (to HC's preferred option 2) in your report is misleading to the members. Staff Professional Community again would not be significantly different between the options - **neither option 1,2 or 3 is located in Ardnamurchan High School** - a clear mistake on the chart. It is located on the end of the community part of the building and would have a separate secure entrance. With either option 1, 2 or 3 staff only have to cross the AHS threshold to access other staff and resources. Therefore the benefit status should be the same for each option. **Again, your chart is misleading to members and would clearly lead them to the conclusion that HC's preferred option provides significant benefit when this is not the case.**

2. My second comment surrounds the **lack of transparency** that has appeared via this document. Appendix 2 shows a new reconfiguration of the existing primary school that **has not been seen** by parent body, school or community before. You have lead discussions based on a very different plan of upgrade to the primary school. Appendix 4 details a building or prefab buildings at a location **never before discussed** with parents or community. At meetings we discussed an option of a site adjacent to the nursery doors not next to the fire station. (This again skews the information on appendix 5 - which shows a greater benefit to option 2 for safe transport - if located where discussed this would not be an issue, nor would we need a carpark. **Misleading.**) The document itself has not been circulated to key stakeholders, hence my untimely response, again a lack of transparency in proceedings. This lack of transparency is unacceptable, and does not bode well for further consultation and discussion.

The observations I have made have left me with feelings of mistrust about the whole process to come.

We need to consider this situation carefully, with full, and transparent information, in order make positive, fair, sustainable changes for both the school and wider community.

I hope at your meeting tomorrow the above issues will be discussed so that consultation can go ahead with a true representation of the options available.

Yours sincerely,

Statement from Strontian Primary Parent Council regarding the statutory consultation of future education provision for Strontian.

The Strontian Primary School parents are pleased that the statutory consultation is moving forward as this process has been going on since 2012, and the existing primary school facilities have been labelled as poor and not fit for purpose for many years.

However the parents have major concerns that that Highland Council (HC) are basing their consultation on an option that is **not supported by the majority of the parent body**, and that the whole consultation document is tremendously biased towards an option which is not in the best interests of this school, its partner schools or the community as a whole.

The message given to the Primary School parents at the meeting of the 29th April, was that this would be a statutory consultation about **all the options** available, not just the Highland Councils' preferred one, especially when the parent's preferred option at the meeting was option 3. (No drawings or details were available at the meeting, and HC were unable to back up any figures quoted). The parents are concerned that the summary does not even acknowledge that other options are available.

Specific Concerns

- The document states that at the initial meeting parents supported a move to AHS, but this support was for a temporary measure not a permanent move. This isn't clear from the presentation or the appendices.
- Item 3.0 – The options considered. The options highlighted in 3.2 are not the same as those detailed in the proposal Appendix 1 of the report. This calls into question the accuracy of comparisons made between the options - exactly which option are they comparing with which?
- Appendix 1 - Notes from 16 January meeting, A2 "There is also a grassed quadrangle outside at the rear of AHS, that could be developed as a playground for the primary age pupils" This is an area of boggy ground shaded by high buildings and a hill on three sides, and therefore completely unsuitable as a play area for primary school children and is therefore NOT an option. The parents have raised the unsuitability of this area as a playground a number of times at meetings with HC.
- Appendix 2 – The plans for option 1 have been radically changed, and have been unseen until this document was published.
- Appendix 3, - The drawing for option 2 shows, given the two lengths of access ramp shown to get up the building that not much excavation is expected, so this building is likely to sit up much higher than the level of the nursery. Is this split level what is wanted for the next 25 years of Strontian Primary School?
- Appendix 4 – Why has the Highland Council located option 3 out near the fire station, on the opposite side of the road when there is development land adjacent to the existing Strontian Nursery, about 5 metres away from the Option 2 proposal? To the best of our knowledge HC have not discussed this with landowners (the Housing Trust themselves are only meeting landowners this week) so to choose the 'wrong' side of the road when either side is presumably potentially available skews the comparison. HC have also added a separate car park which would be unnecessary if Option 3 was sited in the correct field and accessed in the same way as the nursery. This goes some way to explain the HC's **inflated costs for this option**.
- The building shown for option 3 (appendix 4) would easily fit on the land opposite the existing childcare centre entrance. We'd have the best of both and none of the disadvantages - ie requirement for supervised access for catering and other AHS facilities, disruption to existing nursery and playgroup facilities.

- Appendix 5 - Options 2 & 3 are practically very similar yet the comparison table suggests that for some aspects one option provides no significant benefit and yet the HC preferred option provides significant benefit (ie opposite extremes). They would **clearly** have very similar benefit status. Teachers and pupils only have to enter the AHS building to access other staff and future fellow pupils, and we should remember that the part of the building HC are proposing to doctor is NOT part of AHS either. It makes it look though option 2 is very much better, when the actual difference between the options is negligible or in fact nil.
- Plans for both Option 2 & 3 would appear to have been drawn by someone who has not visited the site and has thus made completely impractical choices.
- There is general agreement amongst the Parent Body, that the facilities shown for option 2 (appendix 3) would be inferior to option 1. It would still present operational difficulties and appear to be a temporary measure. The village would find itself going through this again in 10 to 15 years time.
- Any job losses for local people are also a concern with a move to AHS.

The parents have been assured in meetings with the Highland Council that the consultation will be fair and that Education Scotland will form a view on the educational merits of the proposals. We trust that these concerns are listened to, and that any suggested community solutions are considered as part of the consultation. The parents expect that the Highland Council will be prepared to make alterations to the current options should cost effective solutions materialise as part of this process.

The parents feel that an Option 4, in the correct field, would be the most cost effective, and educationally beneficial solution for the next 25 years of Strontian Primary School. In addition, this option is the one that we have been discussing with Norma Young and Ron MacKenzie. The option 3 you see on the table is again unseen by the parent body/community and has not been discussed.

Chair, Strontian Primary Parent Council

20th May 2014.

Attachments

1. Appendix 5 Revised showing benefits of 'Option 4' DWG/App5/Rev1
2. Local Development plan 'DWG/HT/building locations', showing HC location for 'Option 3', and the parents preferred location for 'Option 4'

APPENDIX 5 REVISED SHOWING BENEFITS OF OPTION 4

Options	Enhanced Facilities		Age Appropriate Peer Group		Wider Activities		Travel Times		Safe Transport and Traffic Management		Key - Professional Community		Key - Transition Arrangements		Summary	
	No Significant Improvement	Some Improvement	No Significant Benefit	Some Benefit	No Significant Benefit	Some Benefit	No Significant Benefit	Some Benefit	No Significant Benefit	Some Benefit	No Significant Benefit	Some Benefit	No Significant Benefit	Some Benefit		
Option 1 - Improve Existing Primary School	Some Improvement	Some Improvement	Some Benefit	Some Benefit	Some Benefit	Some Benefit	Some Benefit	Some Benefit	Some Benefit	Some Benefit	Some Benefit	Some Benefit	Some Benefit	Some Benefit	Would the Option Allow for improved Transition between nursery, primary and secondary?	No other significant changes
Option 2 - Refurbish in AHS with additional classrooms	Moderate Improvement	Moderate Improvement	Moderate Benefit	Moderate Benefit	Moderate Benefit	Moderate Benefit	Moderate Benefit	Moderate Benefit	Moderate Benefit	Moderate Benefit	Moderate Benefit	Moderate Benefit	Moderate Benefit	Moderate Benefit	Would the option allow staff to become members of a professional community comprising at least 3 persons located within the same facility?	Would the option allow staff to become members of a professional community comprising at least 3 persons located within the same facility?
Option 3 - New School in Park Avenue	Some Improvement	Some Improvement	No Significant Benefit	No Significant Benefit	No Significant Benefit	No Significant Benefit	No Significant Benefit	No Significant Benefit	No Significant Benefit	No Significant Benefit	No Significant Benefit	No Significant Benefit	No Significant Benefit	No Significant Benefit	Would the Option Allow for improved Transition between nursery, primary and secondary?	Would the option allow staff to become members of a professional community comprising at least 3 persons located within the same facility?

Option 4
 new school on east side of road, next to Nursery (preferred option by VAST majority of parents)
 * Same modular class rooms as Option 2 so should be the same.

Would generate improved arrangements in terms of transition & prof. learning comm. Classes located together. No issues crossing to AHS building.

Significant benefit (next to nursery, same as Option 2)

Significant benefit (next to nursery same as Option 2)

Moderate Benefit (no road to cross)

No significant benefit

Moderate benefit

No significant benefit

Moderate benefit

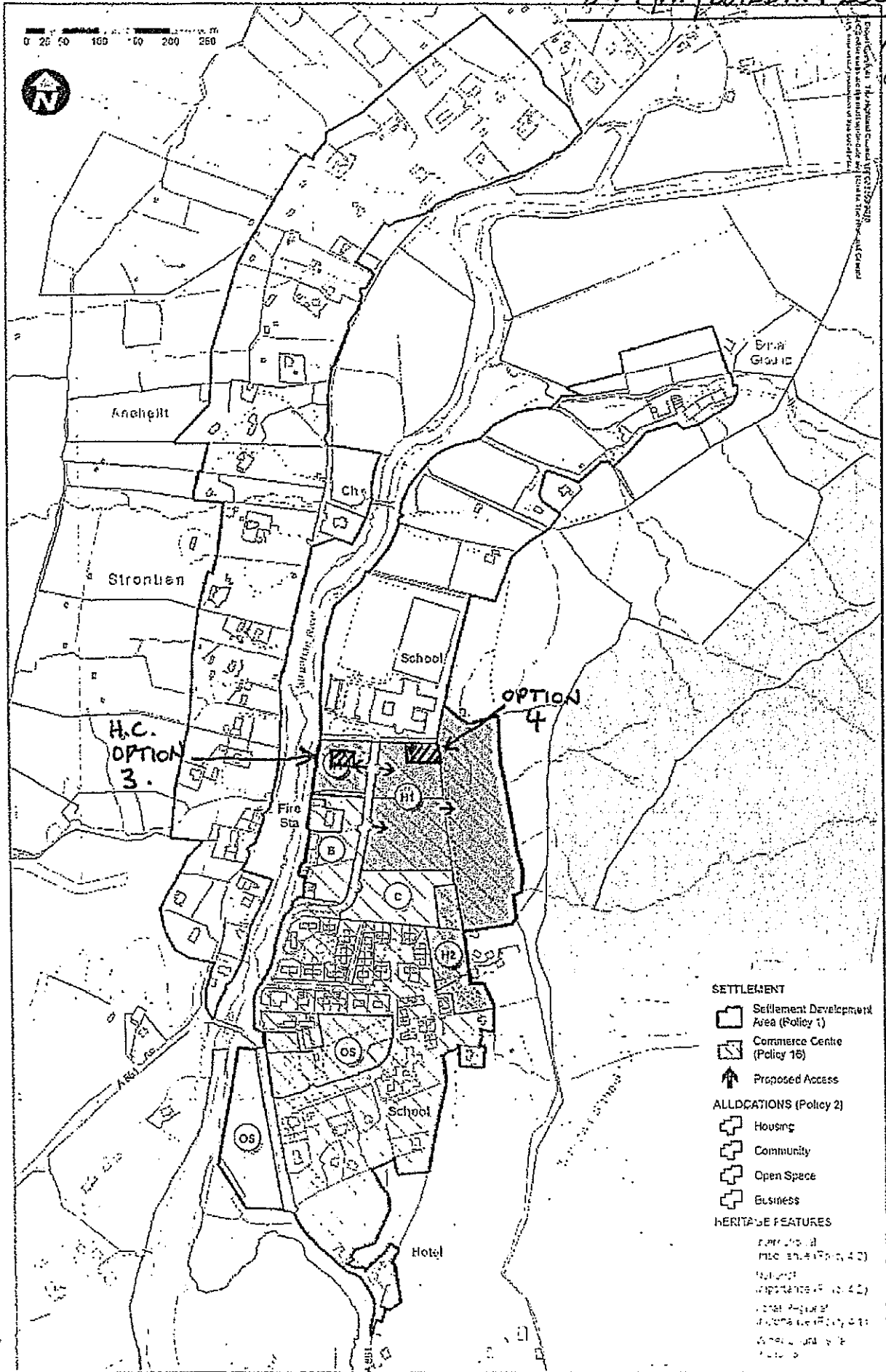
No significant benefit

No significant benefit

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

DWG 11/ BUILDING LOCATIONS

MAY 2014



- SETTLEMENT**
- Settlement Development Area (Policy 1)
 - Commerce Centre (Policy 18)
 - Proposed Access
- ALLOCATIONS (Policy 2)**
- Housing
 - Community
 - Open Space
 - Business
- HERITAGE FEATURES**
- National Monument (No. 42)
 - National Monument (No. 42)
 - National Monument (No. 42)
 - National Monument (No. 42)
 - National Monument (No. 42)

(As Continued in Force) (April 2012)

INSET 13 : Stronlian and t-Sithein

From:
Sent: 26 May 2014 12:47
To: Norma Young
Cc: Ron MacKenzie; Janice MacKinnon - Strontian Primary; Mindy Ogilvie; Andrew Baxter - Member; Thomas MacLennan - Member; Bren Gormley - Member; Ian Jackson
Subject: Strontian Primary School consultation

Norma

Letter and full package received both as chair and as a parent, thank you. I also recieved in the library today a copy of the letter to go with the documents, again many thanks.

Whilst the letter does have a couple of sentences in it referring to option 4, I am concerned that without option 4 being marked on a drawing, or mentioned anywhere in the main text of the document, this may be confusing to those without intimate knowledge of the sites in question. I am also concerned that 'the educational benefits and financial implications of option 4 will be presented in **November** to the Education Committee'. Again I worry that the lack of inclusion of this information during the consultation period, will lead to unbalanced discussions, and could make the whole consultation process irrelevant.

Whilst I understand your need to get documents out so as not to miss the 30 school day window.... I request that the full cost details, and educational benefits for Option 4 are brought to the public meetings so that they can form part of the discussions.

Please consider the above a personal opinion, as the Parent Council hasn't met in full yet this week.

Regards

On 23 May 2014, at 13:12, Ian Jackson <ian.jackson@highland.gov.uk> wrote:

Hi

The documents sent to the library are really just spares in case anyone requires further copies. As a parent, you will be receiving a full set of papers with a covering letter that explains how the consultation now includes Option 4 and how the detailed information on that option is to be developed.

The letters to parents were posted first class yesterday so should arrive today.

From:
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2014 12:26 PM
To: Norma Young; Ron MacKenzie; Ian Jackson; Janice MacKinnon - Strontian Primary; Mindy Ogilvie
Cc: Andrew Baxter - Member; Thomas MacLennan - Member; Bren Gormley - Member

Subject: Strontian Primary School consultation

Following the outcome of the meeting on Wednesday, please can you explain why Option 4 is not mentioned in any way in the public consultation document received in the library this morning.

Many thanks

Chair - Strontian Primary Parent Council

Unless related to the business of The Highland Council, the views or opinions expressed within this e-mail are those of the sender and do not necessarily reflect those of The Highland Council, or associated bodies, nor does this e-mail form part of any contract unless so stated.

Mura h-eil na beachdan a tha air an cur an cèill sa phost-d seo a' buntainn ri gnothachas Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd, 's ann leis an neach fhèin a chuir air falbh e a tha iad, is chan eil iad an-còmhnaidh a' riochdachadh beachdan na Comhairle, no buidhnean buntainneach, agus chan eil am post-d seo na phàirt de chunntadh sam bith mura h-eil sin air innse.

Listening * Open * Valuing * Improving * Supporting * Partnering * Delivering
Èisteachd * Fosgailte * Luach * Leasachadh * Taic * Com-pàirteachas * Libhrigeadh

From:
Sent: 25 June 2014 15:50
To: Ian Jackson
Cc: Mindy Ogilvie; Janice MacKinnon - Strontian Primary; Norma Young; Ron MacKenzie
Subject: Strontian Primary School Relocation
Attachments: Strontian primary parent proposal for new build adjacent to AHS , June 2014.pdf; ATT00001.txt

Dear Ian

Since the public meeting on the 9th June, I have drawn plans up for discussion of what I think we as parents would like to see as an option for Strontian Primary School. I was going to send through as part of the consultation process in a more complete form, however since we are now meeting this Monday, I thought it was important you knew how we were thinking, and hopefully we are close to how you are thinking as well?
By sending through now, hopefully your team will have a chance to look at them in more detail, before we meet.

These plans have the backing of the parents, but haven't gone out to the wider community yet. We think they provide both a 15 and 25 year solution, and reduce your land purchase needs.
The one thing I forgot to mention on the drawing is the possibility of biomass heating, which was discussed on the 9th June.

Please do not hesitate to contact me before the meeting if needed.

Kind Regards

Strontian Primary Parent Council Chair.

From:
Sent: 25 June 2014 12:47
To: Ian Jackson
Cc: Christopher Millar-Craig; Norma Young; , Patricia Kennedy; Eoghan Carmichael
Subject: Strontian Primary school relocation to AHS proposal 2014

Dear Iain Jackson,

At our meeting of AHS parent council on Monday 16 June we discussed the proposal to relocate Strontian Primary School into the AHS building. We note that the Options have increased from 4 to 6? since the initial consultation papers were issued and that it is quite possible the new Option 6 may be most suitable for our PPP building.

Ardnamurchan High School Parent Council are supportive of other local school Parent Councils generally and partnership working in principle. In particular we would like to, and have already offered support to Strontian Primary Parent Council as they work towards a viable solution with the Highland Council. We are respectful of both the Community Wing use as a community resource for the wider peninsula and the Nursery and Toddler group's current successful use of their space.

Yours sincerely

AHS parent council

Mr Ian Jackson
Area Education Officer, West Ross, Skye & Lochaber
Highland Council – Education, Culture and Sport
Camaghael Hostel
Fort William
PH33 7BR.

9th June 2014

Dear Ian

Parents Meeting with Highland Council Tuesday 29th April 2014. Request for amendment to meeting minutes (Appendix 1 (c) in Statutory Consultation document).

Following a review of the Highland Council minutes, received as part of the consultation document, the parents think there may be an error in part of the minutes taken.

The queries relate to the questions and answers to items 17 and 18.

On question 17, we believe no one felt able to answer Mrs Young's question about a choice between option 1 and option 2, because the hall was in agreement that the finances for option 1 were not realistic, and there was therefore no choice available (rather than most choosing option 2 which is implied in the minutes).

On question 18, my question requested an additional member of staff to join the lunchtime team on health and safety grounds on a temporary basis until the school is modified or relocated. As you are aware, lunch is currently undertaken in cramped conditions on an elevated stage, and the primary school teachers do not currently get a lunch break because they have to act as waitresses. The floor recalls Mrs Young saying yes to this.

Please can you amend the minutes.

Yours sincerely

Chair- Strontian Primary

cc. Mrs Mindy Ogilvie. Strontian Primary Head Teacher

Strontian Parent Council Discussion Folders
prepared for the Primary School Consultation –
June 2014.

Contents

1. Letter to Ian Jackson dated 26th September 2013 detailing concerns and proposing solutions for Strontian Primary accommodation, prior to Highland Council meeting with the Àrainn Shuaineirt Management Committee.
2. Letter of support from Sunart Community Council, October 2013.
3. CADISPA report extract detailing community feeling about the primary school – April 2014
4. Statement from Parent Council to the Education Committee regarding the statutory consultation of future education provision for Strontian. 20th May 2014.
5. Letter from Mindy Ogilvie to all parents 8th June 2014.
6. Photographs of the existing playground provision at Strontian Primary.
7. Aerial photograph of Ardnamurchan High School
8. Option 2 location photographs.

Chair, Strontian Parent Council 9th June 2014.

Mr Ian Jackson
Area Education Officer, West Ross, Skye & Lochaber
Highland Council – Education, Culture and Sport
Camaghael Hostel
Fort William
PH33 7BR.

26th September 2013

Dear Mr Jackson

Ref het/pc/004. Strontian Primary School Accommodation Review.

We understand that the Highland Council is currently preparing a report to put towards Council concerning the proposed relocation of Strontian Primary School to Ardnamurchan High School / The Sunart Centre (AHS/SC).

The Parent Council and Head Teacher have engaged in extensive discussions about the idea. The current Primary School premises are not fit for purpose in a modern age of education, even though Strontian Primary School has a supportive parent body and dedicated school staff. We have drawn up and attach a list of problems for your consideration, along with our preferred solutions (Table 1: Parental concerns about existing facilities at Strontian Primary School).

At the present primary school, the Council has plans to build two extensions to the existing premises: a Head Teachers office, and a kitchen to address some of these problems. These plans will reduce a small playground space further, which is a major parental concern. We believe that these two extensions would not address many of the long-term issues with the present school building and the Council would be wasting a substantial sum of money. This proposal has been rejected by parents as a workable long term solution. The Parent Council have agreed that the best solution for Strontian Primary would be a new school building.

The proposal to transfer Strontian Primary to AHS/SC is considered to be the next best solution, provided the arrangements address all the problems outlined in our attachments (Table 1, and Table 2: Core requirements and concerns raised at Parent Council Meeting 26th August 2013). The Parent Council feel strongly that any relocation should have minimal impact on the existing community facilities at the Sunart Centre.

On Saturday 21st September, Strontian Primary parents had a tour of the Childcare Wing and the Community Rooms at the Sunart Centre. From this, we feel that the best and most cost effective solution to house the Primary School would be the construction of a single storey extension on the end of the Child Care Centre to provide two new classrooms. We attach an annotated ground floor plan (DWG/HET/9/13/001) showing how we think that this could work. We feel this is achievable for around £180,000. This calculation is based on a rate of £1500 per m² for a high specification finish. Was provision made in the original building plans for a future extension in this area?

The present Primary School playground does not meet statutory requirements, and was the reason parents first became concerned about the plan for extensions to the existing building. Purchase of land adjacent to AHS for school and community use is essential to address this requirement, and is shown on the annotated Strontian development plan DWG/HET/9/13/002 attached.

A move for Strontian Primary School to AHS/SC is possible but it does need to provide the best facilities for all concerned.

We hope the attached documents are useful.

Yours sincerely

Chair, Strontian Primary School Parent Council.

c.c. Mindy Ogilvie, Strontian Primary School

- Enc. Table 1. Parent Council concerns about the existing facilities at Strontian Primary School.
Table 2. Core requirements and concerns raised at Parent Council Meeting 26th August 2013.
DWG/HET/9/13/001: Possible location for a Strontian Primary School extension.
DWG/HET/9/13/002: Possible land purchase area for Strontian Primary School playground.

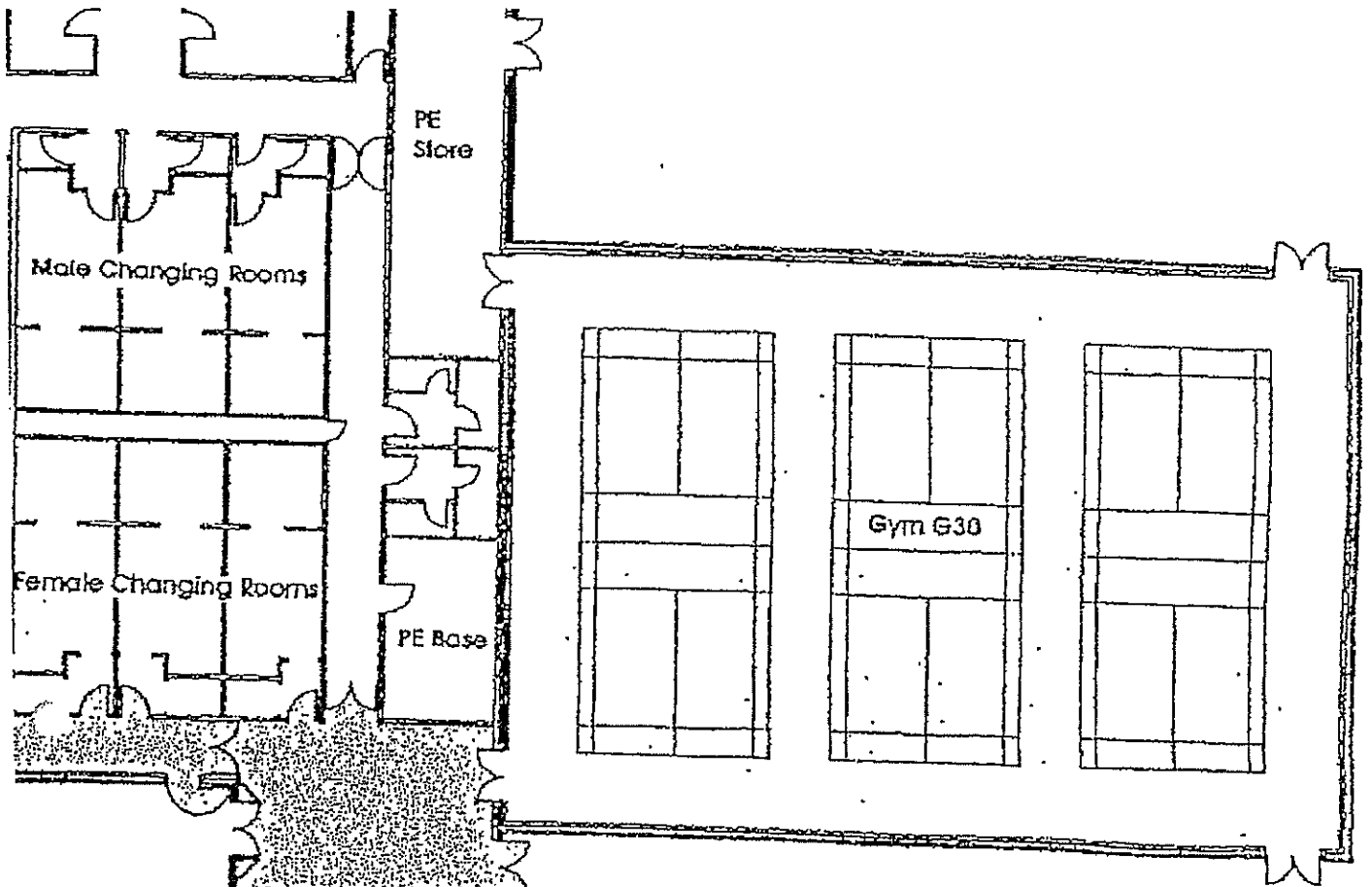
Table 1. Parent Council concerns about the existing facilities at Strontian Primary School

Building issue, or Highland Council policy issue?	Problem at Existing Strontian Primary School	Proposed Solution
Building	The outside playgrounds are small and oddly shaped. The P1-3 playground has a small paved area (about 9mx9m) which the children are restricted to for much of the year, as the rest of the playground is sloping grass, which can be dangerous when wet. Both areas are way below recommended playground sizes, and there are no team playing fields nearby.	There must be a dedicated outside play space adjacent to the primary school, with easy access to and from the primary school building. By purchasing land to the east of AHS/SC, a play area of adequate size can be realised. (DWG HET/9/13/002) The use of the existing AHS play area is not a solution, as it is too far from primary school toilets, and would be shared with much older children.
Building	Because of the failings in the existing playground, the Primary School has created and made full use of a wood school and school garden, within the Community woodland. The area allows the school to take active learning and learning for sustainability outdoors. This fulfils CfE outcomes and experiences and Education Scotland and Highland Council guidelines.	Purchase of land adjacent to AHS/SC for school and community use is essential to address this requirement. (DWG HET/9/13/002)
HC Policy	There is no provision for playground supervision in the school staffing complement.	Provide playground supervision
Building	No staff room facilities means that teachers have nowhere to even sit down when not teaching, and class management time must take place in the cloakroom in the centre of the school (next to the toilets and the photocopier).	Allow for a staff room area within the new building.
Building	No Head Teacher's office means that any private /sensitive calls need to be made from the staff toilet.	Allow for a private Head Teacher's office within the new building.
Building	Only having one office (shared between head teacher and clerical), means that the school is only allowed one computer for administrative purposes, which must be shared.	Allow for a private office and staff area within the new building.
Building	There is no room available for additional pupil support, so any one-to-one or group support with pupils has to be conducted in	Additional pupil support could be given in the existing nursery, quiet room, or playgroup room, when not in

	the cloakroom in the centre of the school.	use by others.
Building	There is little storage, and the construction of a disabled toilet (for school use) in the village hall has meant the loss of the PE cupboard.	A new build extension would allow adequate storage areas to be easily incorporated into the design. Squeezing the school into existing community rooms within the Sunart Centre would not address this issue.
Building	There are no facilities for the Cook 1 to change prior to serving lunches (or even wash hands).	Existing catering facilities could be shared/timetabled with AHS
Building	Pupils eat lunches on the stage in the Village Hall. The area is so cramped that children are unable to get up to clear their own plates. Currently school staff have to act as waiters, which doesn't encourage responsibility, co-operation and independence in pupils.	Existing dining facilities could be shared /timetabled with AHS.
Building	Music lessons are popular with a number of children, and have to take place in the village hall, which makes it out of bounds for other activities for large portions of the week. The village hall is used for classroom projects needing a large area, concert and pantomime rehearsal (including for the Gaelic mod), and for PE lessons.	Existing music facilities could be shared /timetabled with AHS. Existing venue and sports hall space could be shared/timetabled with AHS. The nursery and playgroup rooms could be used for large scale classroom projects and rehearsal space when not in use by others.
HC Policy	Strontian Primary does not currently qualify for an on site janitor. This means that immediate janitorial concerns have to be undertaken by either the Head Teacher, or the cleaner, whose time and dedication could be better spent. These can include clearing of the flat roof and gutters following snow melt to avoid flooding, changing of light bulbs, and unblocking toilets.	By being part of the AHS/SC complex, the schools janitorial needs could be met.
Building	The building, although not doing so at the moment, has a tendency to leak. The heating system is temperamental. There are plans to undertake further repairs on the heating, but this will not address the long-term issues. Class time was lost last year due to failings in the heating system.	School relocation would resolve this issue.

Table 2. Core requirements and concerns raised at Parent Council Meeting 26th August 2013

Parent Council core requirement, or core concern	Requirement/Concern
Requirement	There must be dedicated outside play space, adjacent to the school, with easy access to and from the school building. The dark and soggy area next to the transformer to the back of the high school, is not fit for purpose.
Requirement	The school must be provided with a single campus space (i.e. not split between different buildings or in different parts of a building).
Requirement	There must be a staff room and adequate office space for staff.
Requirement	There must be dedicated toilets – to be used only by Nursery/Primary School pupils.
Requirement	There must be provision of a better lunch area.
Requirement	The Head Teacher requires a separate office.
Requirement	There must be adequate storage within the campus.
Requirement	There must be adequate capacity for possible future increase in school rolls.
Requirement	The name 'Strontian Primary School' must be retained along with the school's identity (e.g. retaining the current school uniform, etc.).
Requirement	There must be a dedicated teacher for each class – i.e. P1-3 and P4-7.
Requirement	There must be a dedicated Primary School Head Teacher, or Depute Head Teacher within AHS with dedicated <i>timetabled</i> primary school responsibility.
Requirement	There must be timetabled access to the AHS gym hall, venue, home economics room, computer suite etc.
Requirement	There must be adequate computer facilities within the classrooms.
Requirement	There must be a spare room to be used for music tuition/ additional support needs, etc.
	The Parents do not want any changes to result in reduced access to facilities to the community. The key concerns about a primary school move to within AHS/ the Sunart Centre are noted below.
Concern	The impact on community use of the Sunart Centre/AHS.
Concern	The impact on the income/revenue for the Sunart Centre.
Concern	Any impact on the current playgroup/mother-and-toddlers.
Concern	The Sunart Centre Management Committee must be kept fully informed throughout the process of consultation/decision-making.
Concern	All other Parent Councils in the area must be kept fully informed of the process.
Concern	That Strontian Primary School does not become 'Junior AHS', but retains its current identity.
Concern	That the Village Hall continues to be a village resource – used in the same way that it is at present (a consultation with user groups and the Hall Committee should take place).



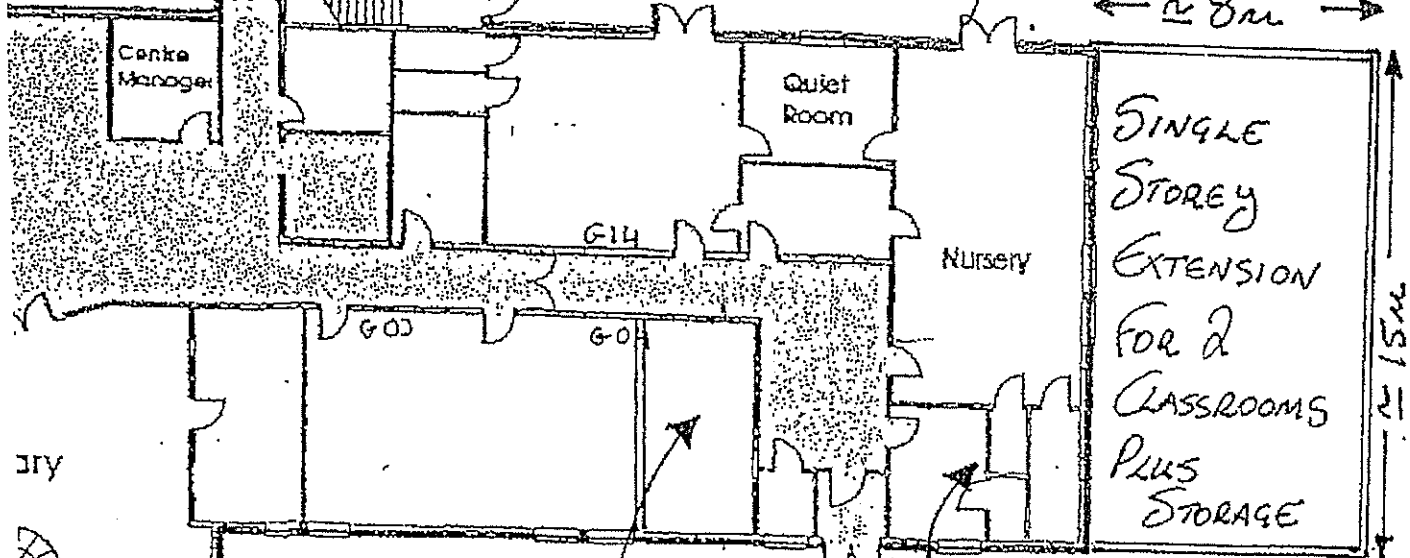
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Dwg/HET/9/13/001

POSSIBLE LOCATION FOR A
STRONTIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL
EXTENSION

(NOT TO SCALE)

← 8m →



try

STAFF ROOMS ?
 OR TOILET BLOCK :

Nursery
 Entrance

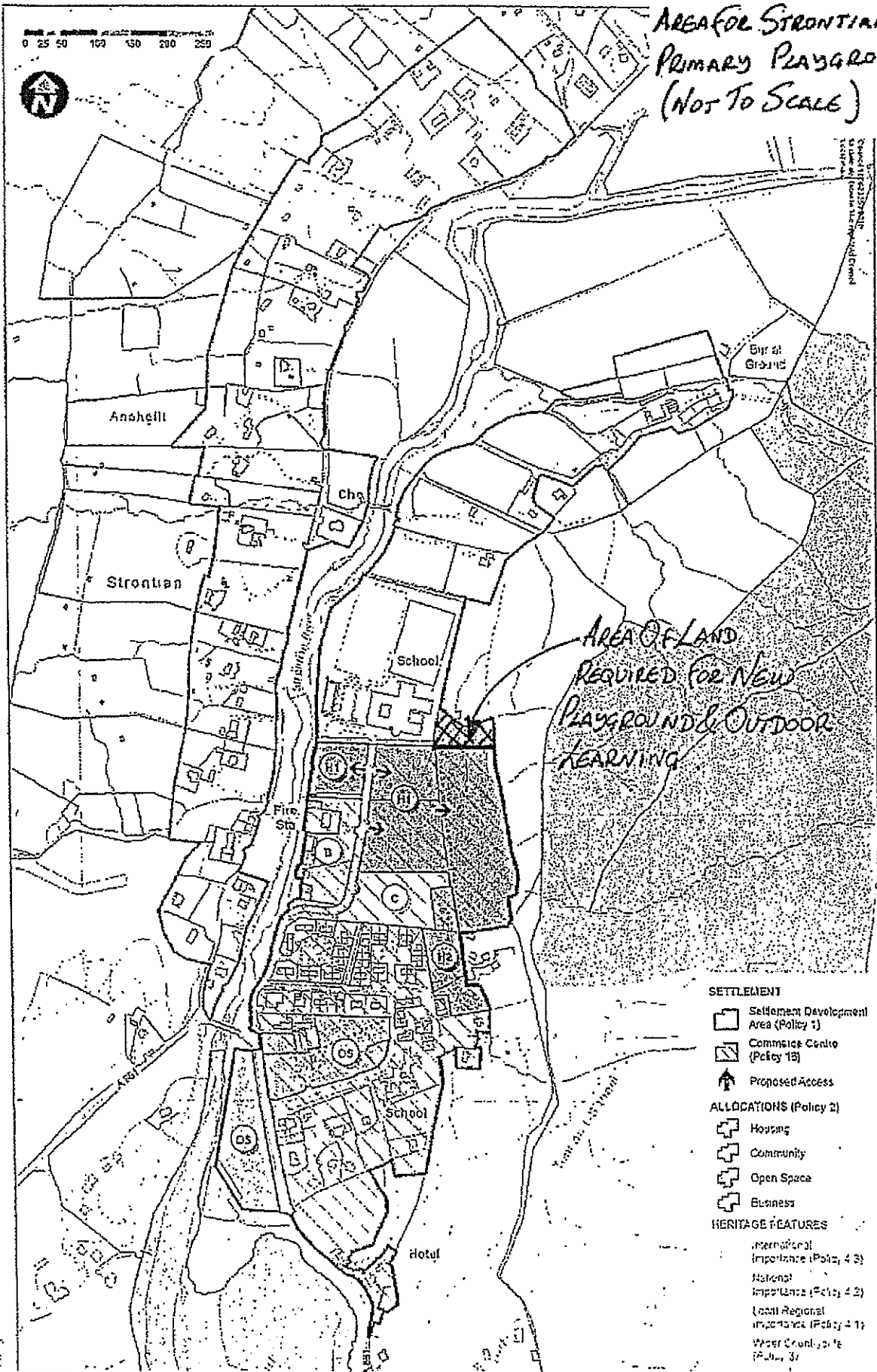
PRIMARY TOILET BLOCK OR
 STAFF ROOMS ?

DWG/NET/9/13/002

POSSIBLE LAND PURCHASE

AREA FOR STRONTIAN
PRIMARY PLAYGROUND
(NOT TO SCALE)

As continued in force (April 2012)



INSET 13: STRONTIAN
Inset 13: Stron an t-Sithein

INSET 13: SYRONIAN

Inset 13 : Srón an t-Sithein

Position in Settlement Hierarchy	Area centre
2007 Estimated Population	246
Housing Completions 2000-2005	17
Primary School Capacity (nonphysical capacity)	57%
Water Capacity (allocations versus capacity)	spare capacity
Sewerage Capacity (allocations versus capacity)	limited spare capacity

Objectives

- To consolidate the core of the village by reaffirming the long term commitment to development at Drimnatorran.
- To acknowledge possible opportunities in future for improved community facilities notably primary school, health centre/surgery, business accommodation.
- To secure land for a swimming pool and additional cemetery provision.
- To promote redevelopment of "brownfield" sites notably the former hotel and encourage its redevelopment for business.
- To maintain the grain of the community, its overriding linear form and shape and the balance of development and in-bye croft land through Anabhall.
- To protect and enhance the character and architectural merit of the 1970's planned village, its layout and open spaces.
- To safeguard the village setting including rising land, the open and wooded seaboard, river margins and community woodland.
- To protect the Tree Preservation Order within the settlement.
- To ensure drainage to land.
- Access improvements will be necessary to allow limited development north of Ardnamurchan High School.

Site Allocations

Site Ref.	Site Area	Location	Indicative Capacity	Developer Requirements
H1	4.9 ha	Drimnatorran	40 units	Accommodation suitable for the elderly. Protect existing trees. High quality designs in keeping with the important woodland setting/built environment. Retain & integrate watercourses as natural features within the development. Home zone or equivalent. Any development on the site should include a connection to the public sewer where it is technically and economically feasible to make a connection.
H2	0.8 ha	Former caravan site	12 units	Accommodation suitable for the elderly. Protect existing trees. High quality designs in keeping with the important woodland setting/built environment. Retain & integrate watercourses as natural features within the development. Any development on the site should include a connection to the public sewer where it is technically and economically feasible to make a connection.
C	0.9 ha	Drimnatorran (south-east)	-	Any development on the site should include a connection to the public sewer where it is technically and economically feasible to make a connection.
B	0.8 ha	Drimnatorran (west)	-	Observe statutory distance for overhead lines. Any development on the site should include a connection to the public sewer where it is technically and economically feasible to make a connection.

Dear Mr. Jackson,

Members of Sunart Community Council attended an "informal" meeting in the Sunart Centre on 30th September 2013, at which the possible move of Strontian Primary School to the High School building was discussed.

As is quite clear to everyone the current Primary School building is not fit for purpose, the reasons for which are very clearly laid out in the letter which you received from the chair of the Parent Council. Council members were horrified to learn that confidential phone conversations have to take place in the toilets due to lack of office space, a computer is shared between the HT and clerical staff, one to one teacher/ pupil time takes place in the cloakroom---the list is endless.

SCC understands and accepts the financial constraints under which Highland Council is operating, but feels that a solution is urgently needed. Without flourishing primary schools there will be a reduction in numbers at the High School which must ultimately impact on its viability.

We acknowledge that the community rooms are important, but surely in a school which was built to accommodate 240 pupils and has fewer than half that number, there must be room for manoeuvre.

As was pointed out at the meeting the building is Ardnamurchan High School and the Sunart Centre, it just happens to be in Strontian. Fair enough, but Strontian children are being seriously disadvantaged by being overcrowded in a building which is not fit for purpose, and playing in an area which does not meet statutory requirements. SCC offers its support to the parents, pupils and staff of Strontian Primary School and hopes that with goodwill and compromise on all sides a satisfactory solution to this problem can be found in the very near future.

Yours sincerely,

Sec Sunart Community Council.

CADISPA REPORT

As part of a Community wide Development plan, in 2013 the Sunart Community Company engaged an organisation called CADISPA to carry out a community consultation. The executive summary was launched on the 26th April, and the full report will be ready imminently. A copy of the executive summary was presented to Norma Young at the meeting with parents on the 29th April 2014.

Over 49% of the population responded to a very lengthy survey which is a huge number, as typically a return of 20% is considered good. The key issues generated from the report were – transport – education – housing- jobs- health

Overwhelmingly 79% of all respondents identified an upgraded school building as the main source of improvement needed for the primary school.

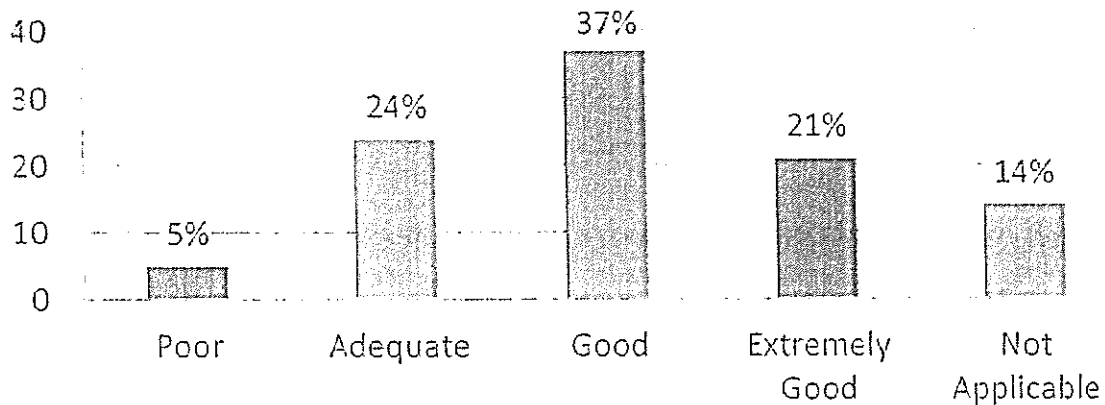
This is not just a primary school parents issue, but a whole community issue. When people move to an area they look at educational provision. We need to ensure that the solution for Strontian Primary school is one which is attractive and long term.

Attached is part of the report regarding our schools, which will become part of the main report, to be published in due course.

9th June 2014

School Education

f. What is your opinion about the provision of school education in Sunart?



The overall results from this question indicate that the vast majority of respondents feel positive about the provision of local school level education that is available in Sunart with only 5% highlighting classifying it as 'poor'. The highest proportion of people (37%) responded that school education locally was 'good' with a further 21% classifying it as 'very good'. Comments have been made, however, both throughout this questionnaire and within group discussions that wished to examine the local Nursery, Primary School and High School individually and the issues concerned with these separate educational entities have been examined in more detail in the following sections.

c. Education for children and young adults could be improved by:

When examining potential improvements Ardnamurchan High School, Strontian Primary School and the local Nursery (situated within the same building as the High School) respondents were asked to examine these facilities separately.

- **High School:** 58% of respondents felt that the main concern for the local high school lay in their lack of ability to attract and keep teachers for the longer term. A further 37% felt that the limited course choice available for pupils at Ardnamurchan High School was something that could be improved upon, a number of individuals recognised the difficulty associated with this (especially when linked to the previous issue of teacher retention) and suggested the possibility of further links with other local schools, colleges or even online courses to overcome some of these issues. 12% of respondents specifically mentioned the possibility of incentive schemes to attract local teachers to live and work in the area with the lack of affordable housing options identified as one of the main barriers facing the High School.
- **Primary School:** The teaching at the Primary School was largely praised as excellent with the majority of the suggested improvements revving around the school building itself. Overwhelmingly, 79% identified an upgraded school building as the

20.	Move into High School
21.	Better facilities for the children. Play area.
22.	A new building. The one they have is very old, falling apart and with new 'baby boom' younger pupils, not really fit for purpose any more.
23.	new premises
24.	New Premises
25.	New primary school
26.	Provision of an adequate school building. School building which reflects the local, highland setting of the school. More gaelic. Links with community 'elders'.
27.	A bigger school with a proper playground
28.	Improved/new school premises, additional staff.
29.	I feel there is no improvement needed regarding education. Fantastic school and nursery.
30.	Very good

Statement from Strontian Primary Parent Council regarding the statutory consultation of future education provision for Strontian.

The Strontian Primary School parents are pleased that the statutory consultation is moving forward as this process has been going on since 2012, and the existing primary school facilities have been labelled as poor and not fit for purpose for many years.

However the parents have major concerns that that Highland Council (HC) are basing their consultation on an option that is **not supported by the majority of the parent body**, and that the whole consultation document is tremendously biased towards an option which is not in the best interests of this school, its partner schools or the community as a whole.

The message given to the Primary School parents at the meeting of the 29th April, was that this would be a statutory consultation about **all the options** available, not just the Highland Councils' preferred one, especially when the parent's preferred option at the meeting was option 3. (No drawings or details were available at the meeting, and HC were unable to back up any figures quoted). The parents are concerned that the summary does not even acknowledge that other options are available.

Specific Concerns

- The document states that at the initial meeting parents supported a move to AHS, but this support was for a temporary measure not a permanent move. This isn't clear from the presentation or the appendices.
- Item 3.0 – The options considered. The options highlighted in 3.2 are not the same as those detailed in the proposal Appendix 1 of the report. This calls into question the accuracy of comparisons made between the options - exactly which option are they comparing with which?
- Appendix 1 - Notes from 16 January meeting, A2 "There is also a grassed quadrangle outside at the rear of AHS, that could be developed as a playground for the primary age pupils" This is an area of boggy ground shaded by high buildings and a hill on three sides, and therefore completely unsuitable as a play area for primary school children and is therefore NOT an option. The parents have raised the unsuitability of this area as a playground a number of times at meetings with HC.
- Appendix 2 – The plans for option 1 have been radically changed, and have been unseen until this document was published.
- Appendix 3, - The drawing for option 2 shows, given the two lengths of access ramp shown to get up the building that not much excavation is expected, so this building is likely to sit up much higher than the level of the nursery. Is this split level what is wanted for the next 25 years of Strontian Primary School?
- Appendix 4 – Why has the Highland Council located option 3 out near the fire station, on the opposite side of the road when there is development land adjacent to the existing Strontian Nursery, about 5 metres away from the Option 2 proposal? To the best of our knowledge HC have not discussed this with landowners (the Housing Trust themselves are only meeting landowners this week) so to choose the 'wrong' side of the road when either side is presumably potentially available skews the comparison. HC have also added a separate car park which would be unnecessary if Option 3 was sited in the correct field and accessed in the same way as the nursery. This goes some way to explain the HC's **inflated costs for this option**.
- The building shown for option 3 (appendix 4) would easily fit on the land opposite the existing childcare centre entrance. We'd have the best of both and none of the disadvantages - ie requirement for supervised access for catering and other AHS facilities, disruption to existing nursery and playgroup facilities.

- Appendix 5 - Options 2 & 3 are practically very similar yet the comparison table suggests that for some aspects one option provides no significant benefit and yet the HC preferred option provides significant benefit (ie opposite extremes). They would clearly have very similar benefit status. Teachers and pupils only have to enter the AHS building to access other staff and future fellow pupils, and we should remember that the part of the building HC are proposing to doctor is NOT part of AHS either. It makes it look though option 2 is very much better, when the actual difference between the options is negligible or in fact nil.
- Plans for both Option 2 & 3 would appear to have been drawn by someone who has not visited the site and has thus made completely impractical choices.
- There is general agreement amongst the Parent Body, that the facilities shown for option 2 (appendix 3) would be inferior to option 1. It would still present operational difficulties and appear to be a temporary measure. The village would find itself going through this again in 10 to 15 years time.
- Any job losses for local people are also a concern with a move to AHS.

The parents have been assured in meetings with the Highland Council that the consultation will be fair and that Education Scotland will form a view on the educational merits of the proposals. We trust that these concerns are listened to, and that any suggested community solutions are considered as part of the consultation. The parents expect that the Highland Council will be prepared to make alterations to the current options should cost effective solutions materialise as part of this process.

The parents feel that an Option 4, in the correct field, would be the most cost effective, and educationally beneficial solution for the next 25 years of Strontian Primary School. In addition, this option is the one that we have been discussing with Norma Young and Ron MacKenzie. The option 3 you see on the table is again unseen by the parent body/community and has not been discussed.

Chair, Strontian Primary Parent Council
20th May 2014.

Attachments

1. Appendix 5 Revised showing benefits of 'Option 4' DWG/App5/Rev1
2. Local Development plan 'DWG/HT/building locations', showing HC location for 'Option 3', and the parents preferred location for 'Option 4'

APPENDIX D REVISED SHOWING BENEFITS OF OPTION 4

Options	VAT Transition Arrangements							Summary
	Age-Appropriate Peer Group	Writer Activities	Travel Time	Safe Transport and Traffic Management	Key-Professional Community	Key-Transport Mode	Key-Transport Mode	
Option 1: ...	Would the Option enhance the prospect of youth being in an age-appropriate peer group?	Would an Option improve Access to Music, Sports, Drama, and Art?	Would an option reduce travel time?	Would an Option Create Safe Transport and Traffic Arrangements?	Would the option allow staff to become members of a professional community comprising at least 3 persons located within the same facility?	Would the Option Allow for Improved Transition between nursery, primary and secondary?	Would the Option Allow for Improved Transition between nursery, primary and secondary?	Would the Option Allow for Improved Transition between nursery, primary and secondary?
Option 2: ...	No Significant Benefit	Moderate Benefit	No Significant Benefit	No Significant Benefit	No Significant Benefit	No Significant Benefit	No Significant Benefit	Would the Option Allow for Improved Transition between nursery, primary and secondary?
Option 3: ...	No Significant Benefit	Moderate Benefit	No Significant Benefit	Moderate Benefit	Moderate Benefit	Moderate Benefit	Moderate Benefit	Would the Option Allow for Improved Transition between nursery, primary and secondary?
Option 4: ...	No Significant Benefit	Moderate Benefit	No Significant Benefit	Moderate Benefit	Moderate Benefit	Moderate Benefit	Moderate Benefit	Would the Option Allow for Improved Transition between nursery, primary and secondary?

Would generate improved arrangements in terms of transition & prof. learning course. Classes located together. No issues crossing to AHS building.

Significant benefit (next to nursery, same as Option 2)

Significant benefit (next to nursery, same as Option 2)

Moderate Benefit (no road to cross)

No Significant benefit

Moderate benefit

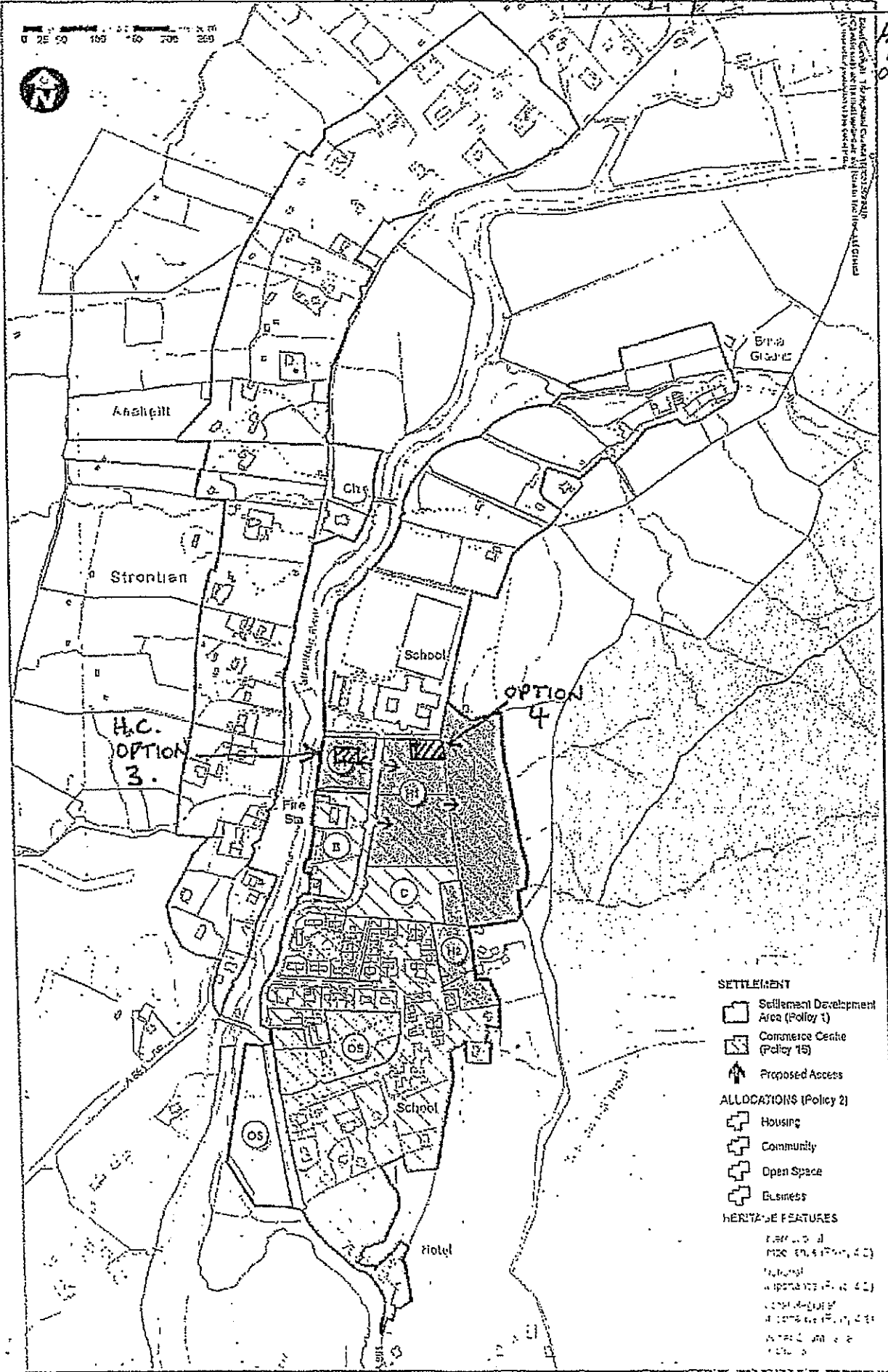
No Significant benefit

Option 4: New school on east side of road, next to Nursery (preferred option by VAST majority of parents) or same modular classrooms as Option 2 so should be the same.

Thurs/Augs/Nov

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN DWG 1/MT/BUILDING LOCATIONS

MAY 2014



As continued in Force (April 2012)

(As Continued in Force) (April 2012)

Inset 13 : Stron an t-Silbheinn

Strontian Primary School - Letter to all Parents

Dear Parents,

Options for Improved Facilities for Strontian Primary School

I am sorry I was unable to attend the Parent Council Meeting on 2nd June. Please find enclosed the comments I was going to share with you at that meeting, about Highland Council's proposals to upgrade the accommodation of our school. Now that detailed drawings have been issued, you have no doubt been considering the various options. This is a summary of how the existing building is used and I hope it will help you critically assess all the alternatives put before you by Highland Council.

Facility	How it is used at present	Advantages / disadvantages
P4 – P7 Classroom	Lessons for 23 pupils; all resources for core curriculum stored in room, plus large library of fiction and non-fiction books that children use constantly. 4 laptop computers, projector.	Advantages: All core curriculum resources in class; light and airy. Disadvantages: Lack of separate storage (e.g. stock cupboard). Quite a cramped space for 23 pupils and all resources. Heating can be erratic – hot in summer, sometimes cold in winter. Need to draw curtains when sun is too strong. Display boards awkward to reach.
P1 – P3 Classroom	Lessons for 14 pupils; most resources for core curriculum stored in room, plus small library of fiction and non-fiction books; role play area, reading tent, sand tray, art area, carpet area. Interactive whiteboard and one computer. School bags kept in classroom.	Advantages: Nearly all core curriculum resources in class. Large classroom with plenty of space for various activities. Direct access to playground for outdoor learning. Disadvantages: Nursery is in separate location. Transition to P1 difficult. Split does not fit Cf E Early/ 1 st levels.
Corridor & Toilets	All children's coats, shoes, PE kits and P4 - & school bags stored here. Photocopier, broadband pathfinder cabinet, cupboard for jotters etc; table and 4 chairs – used by clericals when HT is in office or by HT when clericals are in office, teachers do planning and preparation there during their CCR time, also used as learning support area where children / groups work with Mrs Lawson or Carol, sometimes used as overflow for P4 – P7 class. Toilets: Girls have 3 cubicles + 3 hand wash basins; Boys have 2 cubicles, 2 urinals and three hand wash basins; Staff toilet is one cubicle with hand wash basin.	This is a small area used for many different purposes! What we need: a separate office for the Head teacher, a separate staffroom for the teachers, a separate area adjacent to the classrooms that can be used for learning support and a separate cloakroom. Adequate toilet facilities for up to 50 pupils – at least equal to what we have now.
Hall & Stage Serving hatch. Disabled toilet. Chair Store. Cupboards.	The hall is used up to 21 hours a week during the school day: PE lessons, assemblies, class music lessons, Fets tutor music lessons, Kodaly singing lessons, chanter, piano and violin. In addition we use the hall for active learning e.g. maths, science, drama. The stage is used as an extra teaching area for groups and for learning support. We put on end of term concerts and Christmas Shows here and use the hall for regular rehearsals for these and for the Mod and Music festival. It's a large hall, with a sprung wooden floor and excellent acoustics and grand piano. Topic resources, musical instruments, science and technology resources, art resources are all stored here. The cubby hole next to the stairs to the stage contains PE equipment, large items are kept in the hall. The stage doubles as our dining room. The hall is also used extensively by the Community.	If these facilities do not appear in the plans, what does Highland Council propose for the future of our present office staff, the management of the school and the provision of learning support? Advantages: We can choose how and when to use the hall, working round the timetabled music sessions (Monday am, Wednesday pm, Thursday all day). This flexibility allows us to provide many varied experiences for the pupils across the curriculum, including working with the whole school and activities provided by other organisations (Blas Festival workshops; Caledonian Thistle Youth Team; Youth Leader training etc.) Access is restricted when the hall / stage is being used for music lessons. However, pupils can come and go to these lessons quickly and independently. The hall is close to the classrooms and part of the school, so children can use the facility with some independence when it is appropriate. Disadvantages: The stage is a cramped and not a suitable dining area. The serving hatch is too small and a difficult space to serve meals from. The hall is shared with the community and hired out for ceilidhs.

<p>dances. Before these events staff at school (and their husbands/relatives!) have to move large equipment into the school on a Friday night and then put it back on Sunday. They do this in their own time. Carol has to clear out her cleaning cupboard in the hall for those running the bar.</p> <p>The heating system is expensive and inefficient – it's either too hot or too cold. The extractor fans in the hall sound like jet aeroplanes, so are permanently switched off. The hot water pipes run under the stage and hall floor to the cleaner's cupboard and are part of the same system as Dailmhor. The hot water is constantly circulated, so residual heat from the pipes make the stage and hall very warm in summer.</p> <p>The disabled toilet is very well equipped and has been essential. However, it opens directly into the hall and is quite a distance from the classrooms.</p> <p>What we need: access to a large hall for all the purposes listed above; a separate dining area and better kitchen / serving facilities; a room for music instructors that pupils can go to easily and independently; a separate area for learning support; storage for PE equipment (large and small); two separate cupboards, one for the cleaner and one for the community; a janitor who is paid to move furniture and set up venues; more sustainable and eco-friendly heating systems.</p>		
<p>Disadvantages: There is no separate staffroom. Staff take their breaks and eat lunch etc in the classrooms. Head teacher or clericals are 'hot desking' in office, and someone often has to go into corridor or work in the corner of a classroom. Office is small and cramped. <u>What we need:</u> Office accommodation for both clerical and head teacher within the school. Clerical is first point of contact for the school. Staffroom for teachers and support staff, if these are not provided in the plans, what are Highland Council's intentions for the future management and clerical provision at Strontian Primary School?</p>	<p>Small office shared by two clericals and Head teacher. One office computer and Head teacher now has a separate laptop, (that isn't set up for emails yet!)</p>	
<p>Advantages: Playgrounds are adjacent to the school. Opportunities for outdoor learning at Community Garden, Wood School and woodland are close by.</p> <p>Disadvantages: Playgrounds are too small. The P1 – P3 playground is mostly grass and not suitable during wet weather. There are no outdoor, all weather PE facilities. Dog dirt is a hazard on the green.</p>	<p>Playgrounds are used for playtimes and sometimes for lessons. We go to the Community Garden regularly; last year we used the Wood School every week through the Summer; we go to the play park or use the green for outdoor activities and PE.</p>	<p>Playgrounds and out door areas e.g. Community garden. Wood School / Community Woodland. Play park / green</p>

If you have any questions you would like to ask me before the Public Meeting on Monday 9th June, I will be available after school at 4pm on Monday.

Kind regards,
M. Ogilvie
Head teacher

Strontian Primary School – Existing Playground Provision, June 2014

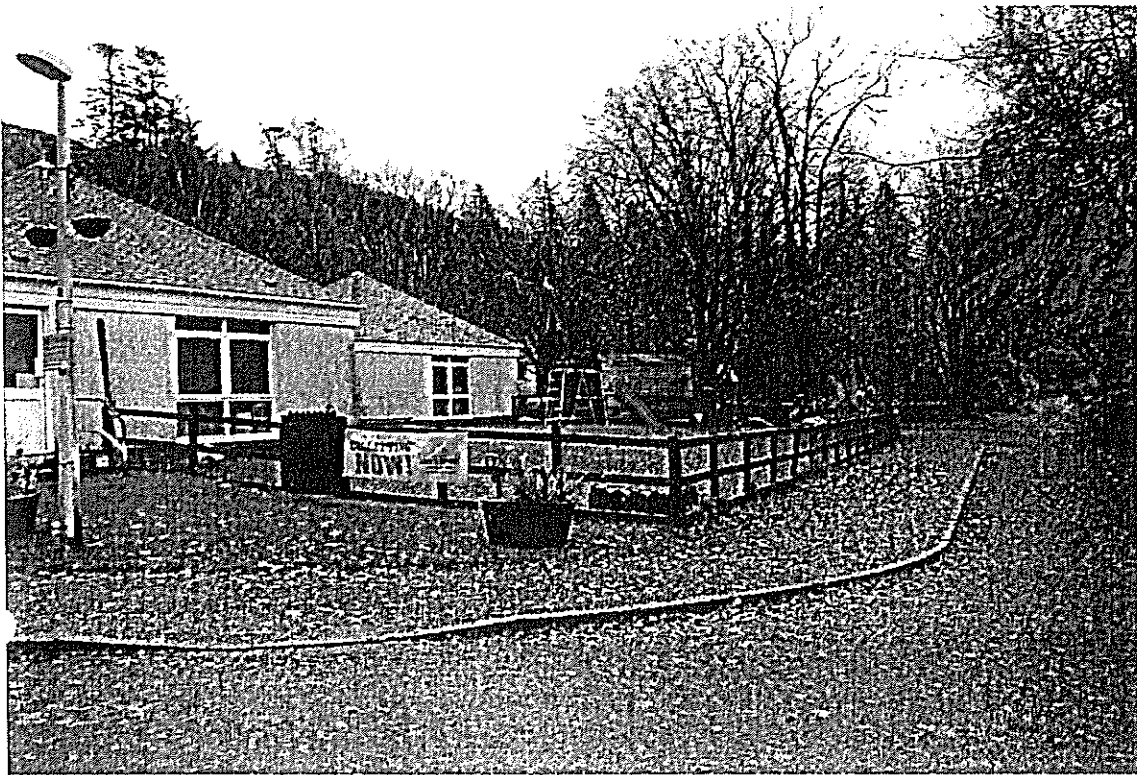


Photo 1. P1 to P3 playground viewed from the main road



Photo 2. P1 to P3 playground hard paved area.

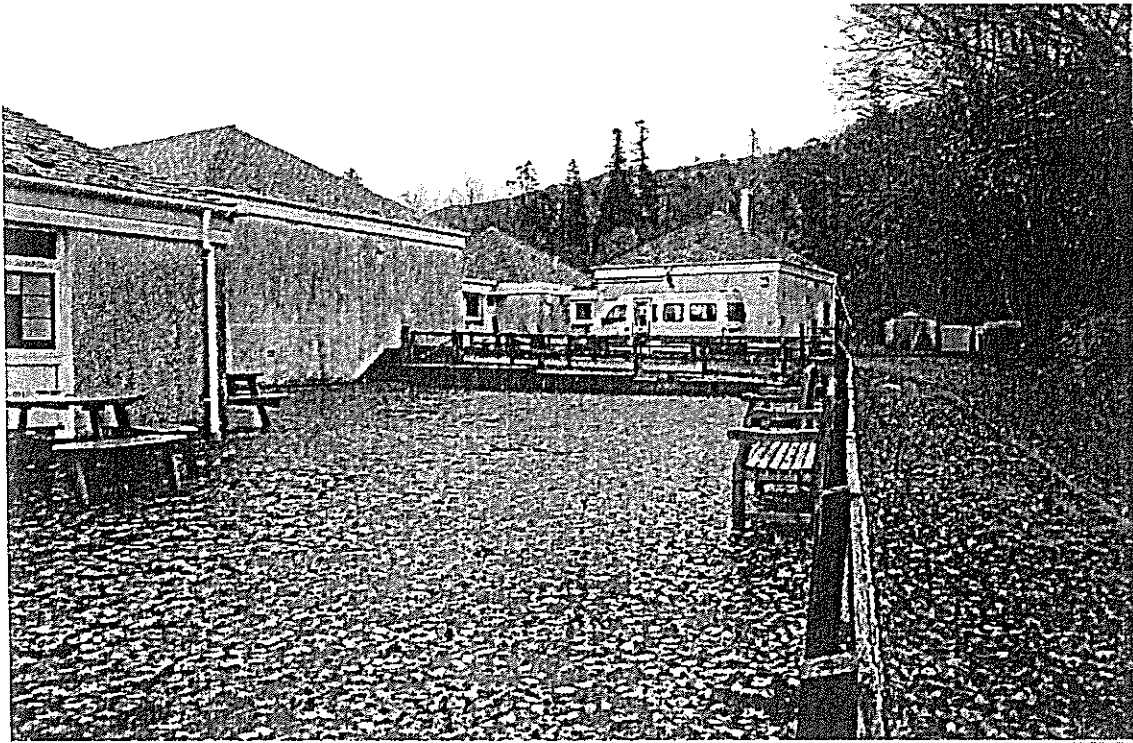


Photo 3. P4 to P4 playground from lower end. The retaining wall and fence which cuts the playground in half is visible. The access road to Dail Mhor house is also shown.

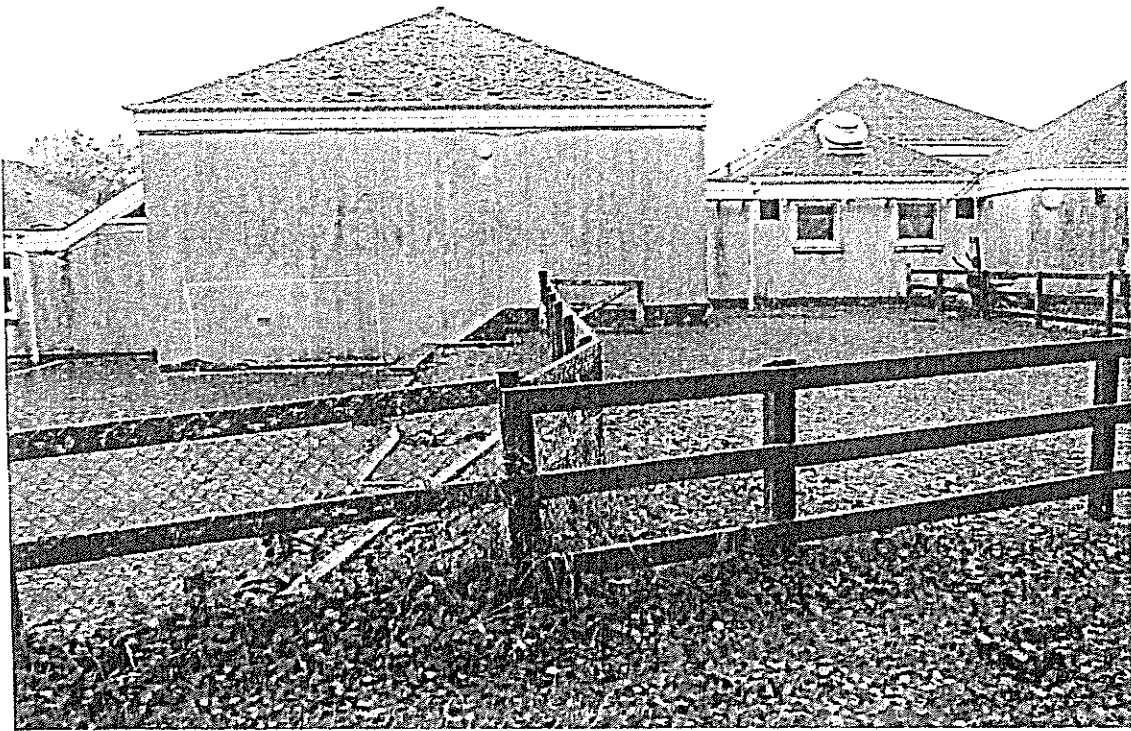
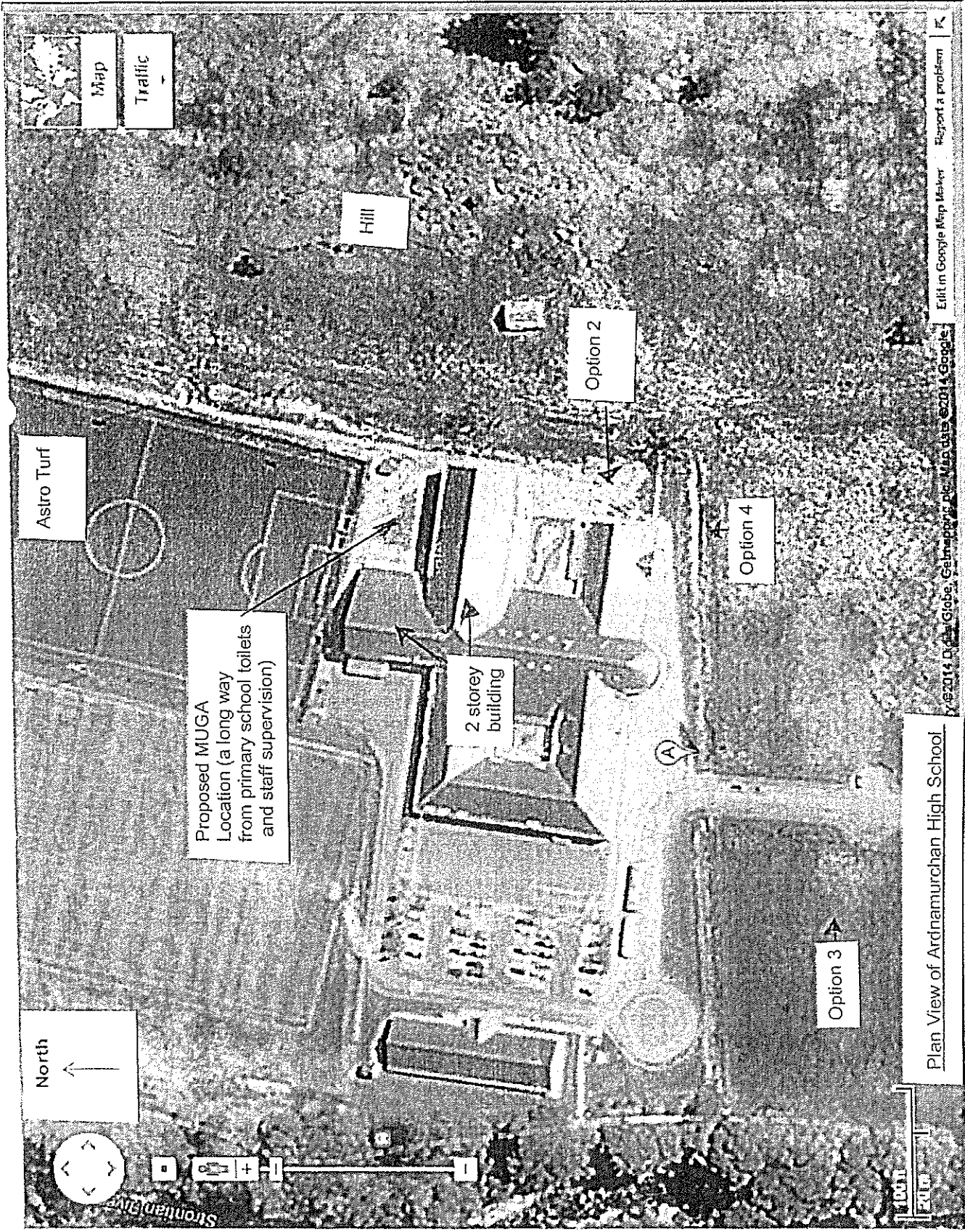


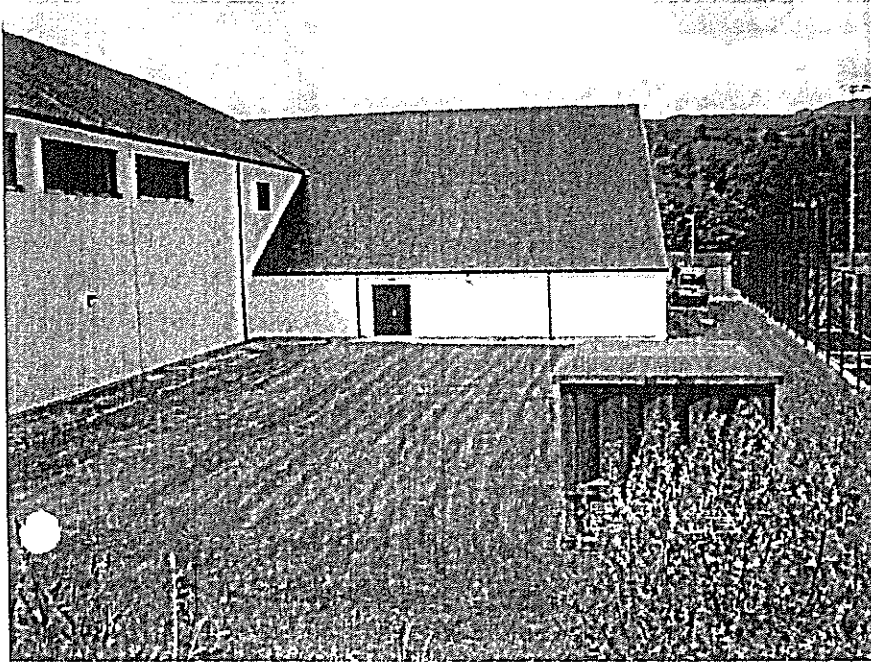
Photo 4. P4 to P7 playground. Photo shows the 'dead area' between the upper and lower areas of the playground, plus the upper area. The upper playground is slippery and not often used.



Plan View of Ardnamurchan High School

12/11/14 9:04

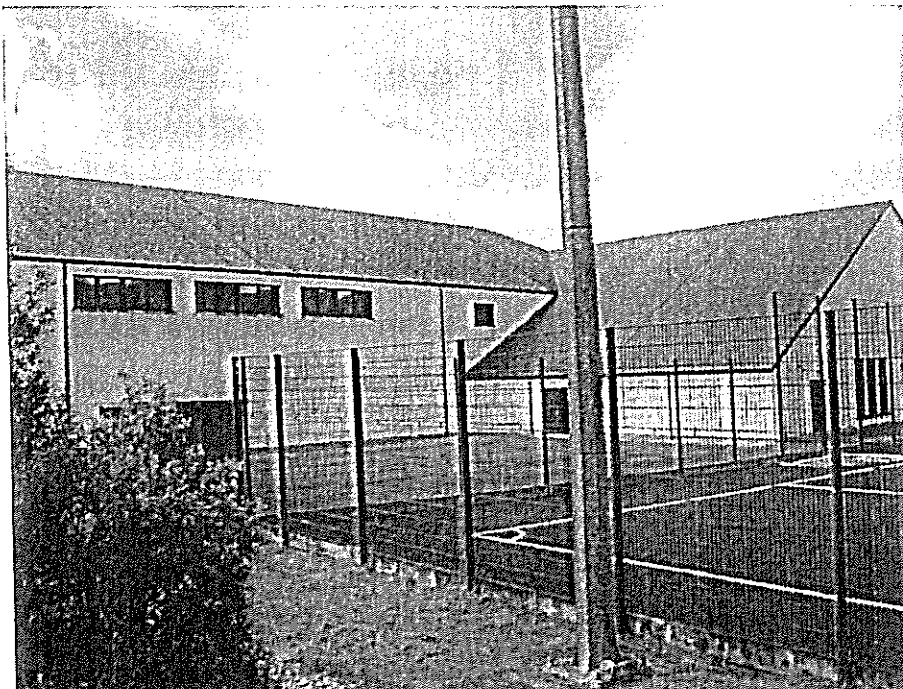
Option 2 Location Photographs—June 2014



Proposed location for Primary School 'MUGA'

This location is surrounded by 2 storey buildings on its south and west side, a hill on its east side, and astro turf fencing at the north.

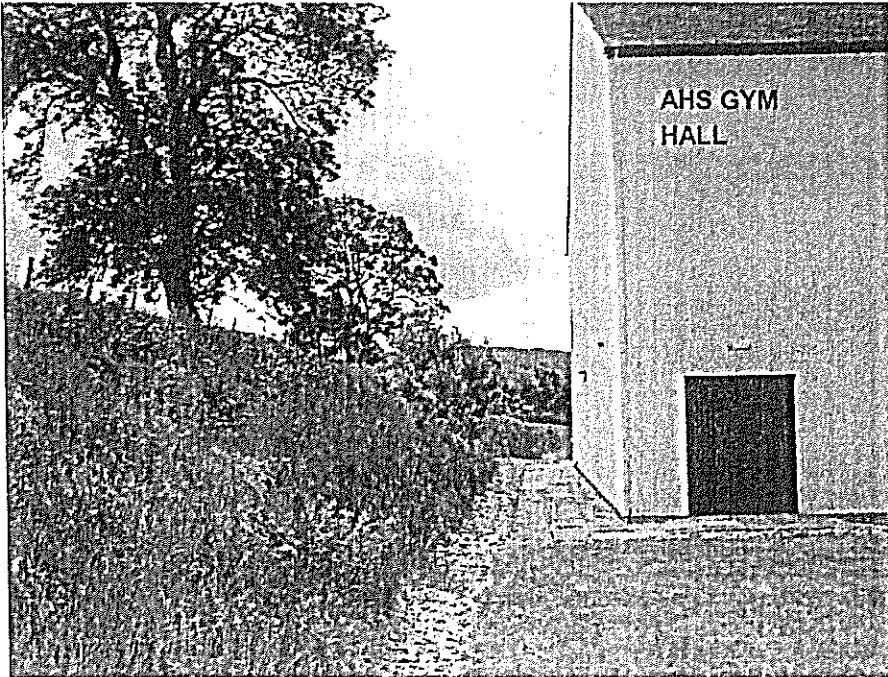
This photograph was taken at midday on the 9th June—and still part of the area is in shadow.



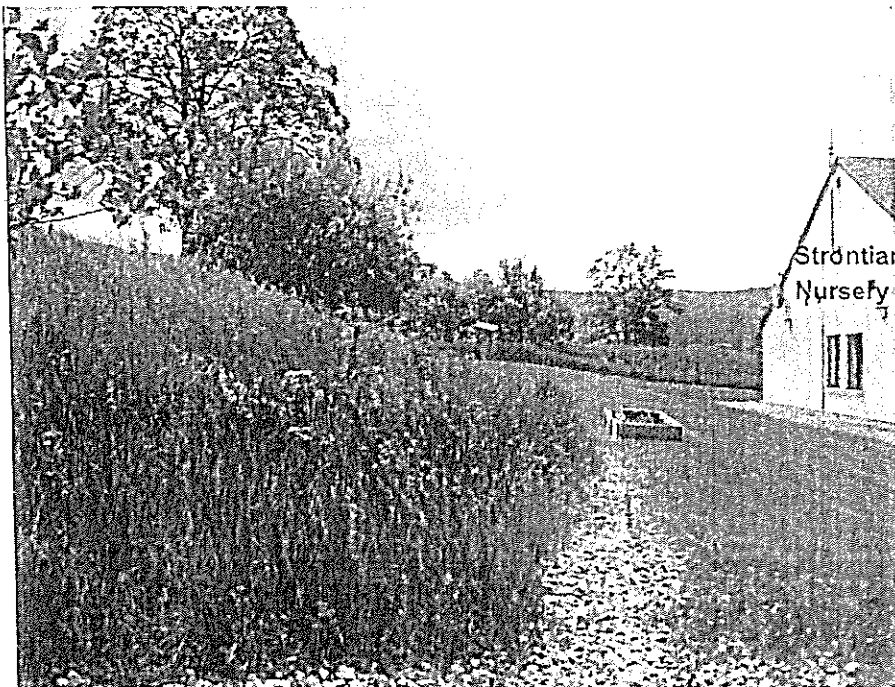
Proposed location for Primary School MUGA, as viewed from the North East.

Astro turf fencing adds further shading from the north.

Option 2 Location Photographs—June 2014,
continued.



Photograph from the proposed option 2 MUGA site looking south, - showing area of playground identified as a primary school playground (to the east of the existing AHS gym hall.



Photograph looking south towards the existing Strontian Nursery, showing the proposed location for the Option 2 demountable. The site gradient begins to flatten out here.

From: Ron MacKenzie
Sent: 13 June 2014 07:17
To: Ian Jackson
Subject: FW: Strontian PS - Option ... X??

Good morning Ian

Could Bren's email please be included in the formal responses received re the Strontian PS statutory consultation

Thanks

From: Bren Gormley - Member
Sent: 11 June 2014 13:08
To: Ron MacKenzie
Subject: RE: Strontian PS - Option ... X??

Ron

Thanks for response

Happy for email to be included in responses – may add further thoughts later

Bren

Councillor Bren Gormley - SNP
Fort William & Ardnamurchan

From: Ron MacKenzie
Sent: 10 June 2014 19:54
To: Bren Gormley - Member
Subject: RE: Strontian PS - Option ... X??

Thanks Bren

I was impressed by the quality of the debate last night and the conduct of the audience. They were both challenging and respectful in equal measures.

I too am attracted to an idea that creates an integrated 3 to 18 campus as it satisfies the main objective of improving outcomes for our young people

I will explore options of how this could be achieved on an incremental basis

Re demographic trends, it is this uncertainty which is my biggest concern when determining appropriate proportionate provision on a sustainable basis. This therefore reinforces the attraction of the incremental approach referred to above.

Are you wanting the email below to be included within the formal consultation responses?

Regards

Ron

From: Bren Gormley - Member
Sent: 10 June 2014 15:27
To: Ron MacKenzie
Subject: Strontian PS - Option ... X??

Ron

Thanks for your positive contributions to last night's gathering in Strontian, overall the session went much better than we might have feared giving some optimism for a good outcome

We still face a considerable challenge to find the "right" outcome in all senses within the timeframes to which we are tied

I was particularly taken by the idea from Chris Millar-Craig which picked up on the future status of the High School building

The 12 years since the opening of AHS have gone in the blink of an eye, as did the decade or two of its' gestation – the next decade and a bit to its' "de-ppp-ing" should disappear equally so

The idea of a longer term concept, visualising a 3-18 Community Campus achieved in discrete stages, based on short, medium and long terms visions, is greatly attractive
It may be that in the immediate phase costs may present a challenge, but I truly believe that in the longer term this is where the smart money lies

Will you be able to get some initial thoughts from Property Services on this – rapidly if it can be best considered

Regarding the questions that arose concerning future pupil numbers – discussions within the community over recent years have noted strongly the destabilising nature of the current housing market on the community. House prices, particularly around the central part of the peninsular, being unduly influenced by the retirement and holiday homes market making life well nigh impossible for the young families on which the future cohesion of the community is dependant
Work towards various initiatives is underway, focussed on both affordable and mid-market developments, which in time will impact on future school rolls. I would hope that by the time of the de-ppp – ing of AHS this trend may be making itself evident

Again many thanks – I am of course happy to meet whenever it is of assistance

Bren

Councillor Bren Gormley - SNP
Fort William & Ardnamurchan

From:
Sent: 25 June 2014 13:45
To: Ian Jackson
Cc: Christopher Millar-Craig; Eoghan Carmichael;
Subject: Strontian Primary School - relocation -ASMC response

Ian- the ASMC response to the HC consultation.

Eoghan- can you please circulate to the ASMC. Thanks.

Dear Sir,

Proposed relocation of Strontian Primary School

The development of AHS and the Sunart Centre have helped create a unique "Ardnamurchan" identity throughout the scattered communities that gives our young people a real sense of pride and belonging which is unusual in such a remote and sparsely populated area.

The Aim of the ASMC is to help continue that development of identity, and, maximise the use of the facility for all, here in Strontian. Clearly, all communities on the peninsula have ownership of this unique development and the ASG primaries are all key players.

To this end, the ASMC, as inheritors of the old Action Group remit, would resist any proposed threat to the community resources within the AHS/AS building, for which the Action Group had fought and raised additional funding.

However, that said, the ASMC is fully supportive of the aspirations of the Strontian Primary community for improved facilities for their children and would support sensitive and well-designed development of the campus for a sustainable future for all. (Should this be the preferred option resulting from consultation)

Clearly, the SMC would also be supportive of accommodating a temporary relocation, should primary parents opt for upgrading the existing primary facilities on the existing site.

This is an extract from the approved Àrainn Shuaineirt (Sunart Centre) Management Committee (ASMC) minute of 20 January 2014

8. Strontian Primary School – relocation

- a) CMC has no further direct information, but thought it unlikely that full financial impact reports would have been completed or reports submitted to the Council Committee. Given, the remaining timescales, it therefore seems unlikely that Strontian Primary would be relocated in AHS/AS building this year (August 2014). However, any definitive answer on this matter would need to come from the Area Manager, or Ron Mackenzie.
- b) **CMC felt that since the initial proposal was made there may be a better understanding within the Council of the issues surrounding community spaces in the building.**
- c) **MF reported on a conversation he had recently with Norma Young (Area Education Manager), in which he had emphasised the fact that the local community had raised an extra £1.5 million for additional community facilities within AHS, having battled with both HIE and European Funders to ensure AHS became more than just a school but a true and effective community resource. He had also stated the view that AHS was always to be**

seen as a flagship enterprise to which others should aspire, and that any additional resources here should not be taken away to reduce what we have to the lowest common denominator.

- d) General discussion at the meeting came to the following conclusions:
- i. AHS and the Sunart Centre have created a unique “Ardnamurchan” identity throughout the scattered communities that gives our young people a sense of pride and belonging that is unusual in such a remote and sparsely populated area.
 - ii. The ASMC as inheritors of the old Action Group remit would resist any proposed threat to the community resources within the AHS/AS building, for which the Action Group had fought and raised additional funding.
 - iii. The ASMC must be consulted over any proposed changes within the AHS building that may impact on community access to and benefit from the facilities currently available. MF and RMI are to be the first points of contact.

At our ASMC meeting on the 23rd June 2014, we again discussed the issue and agreed the following:

1. The community rooms and learning centre must be retained for community use.
2. The wider communities of Ardgour, Morvern, Acharacle and West Ardnamurchan must be consulted and involved, as well as Strontian, if there is to be any impact on the ethos of the community school.
3. If the Council decides to carry out a major refurbishment of the existing primary school we are happy to manage a temporary decant of the pupils into the community rooms and space whilst this work is carried out. This would require a full discussion with the ASMC.
4. If the Council decides on a new build adjacent to AHS and to utilise the child care areas permanently it is vital that we have continuing access to the mother and toddler room, kitchen and nursery out with primary school hours. These areas were included and funded within the design to allow child care facilities to be available during social and community events.

Thanks

Yours sincerely,

Chair, Àrainn Shuaineirt Management Committee

Governing the Sunart Centre for the communities of Sunart, Ardgour, Morvern, Moidart and Ardnamurchan

Box Office: 01397 709228 Web: www.sunartcentre.org

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From:
Sent: 03 July 2014 14:09
To: ECS Lochaber Admin
Cc: Norma Young; Mindy Ogilvie; Ian Jackson; Iain Robertson - Housing & Property
Subject: Strontian Primary School

Some observations regarding Strontian Primary School proposals

That the current premises are not suitable for the current pupil roll is without question.

I understand that the following options are currently being costed:

1. Refurbish the current premises to triple A standard and acquire land to extend the play area. A server room and store would be in the hall/gymnasium and a new staff office and disabled toilet will be added to the front of the school.
2. Acquire land adjacent to the Ardnamurchan High School/Sunart Centre and use modular construction to build a suitable school and share some facilities with AHS avoiding the complications of the PPP conditions. The building would last until 2027 when the AHS will belong to Highland Council.
3. Acquire land adjacent to the Ardnamurchan High School/Sunart Centre and use traditional construction to build a suitable school and share some facilities with AHS avoiding the complications of the PPP conditions. The building would last indefinitely and this is considered to be a permanent solution.

All three options would provide a suitable venue to provide the quality education we desire. With the current Head Teacher and staff, I think that the highest educational standards would be achieved but some cover for staff lunch breaks etc would be desirable. I am aware of the pupil roll - staff ratio problem with this.

Option 1 would need negotiations with the Sunart Centre for temporary accommodation during construction. I believe that the disruption caused by the move could be a significant factor educationally.

I have to declare an interest in this option because my wife and I own adjacent land which could be used to extend the existing play area. To avoid uncertainty we would sell the land at valuation should this option be chosen.

Options 2 and 3 would provide purpose built facilities. The costings for option 2 should include an allowance for the post 2027 situation when it will be possible to join AHS/SC. The modular constructed building would be nearing the end of its life by that time.

A “new build” would allow for bio-mass electricity generation. I understand that the current premises are very expensive to heat.

Between now and completion the current inadequate premises would have to be used unless similar negotiations to those of option 1 with the Sunart Centre take place. The building time for option 2 would be less than for option 3.

Prior to 2027 there can be no construction within the “red line” but if the building is sited such that the distance between entrances is as short as possible then this should not be a major problem.

If there is no significant difference in costing between the options 2 and 3 then I think that the preferred option should be either option 1 or option 3.

Whether a new build and sharing facilities at the High School is preferable educationally to independence at the current location is outside my competence.

Chair Sunart Community Council

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From:
Sent: 03 July 2014 13:40
To: Ian Jackson
Subject: Proposal to Relocate Strontian Primary School

Dear Mr Jackson,

With regards the proposal consultation to relocate Strontian Primary School, I wish to comment that I believe the children of Strontian and the surrounding catchment area have the right to a new, modern facility. I believe that updating the existing facility (Option 1) would be costly, but would not give the same benefits/opportunities that Options 2 or 3 would give. I base my opinion on my experience of being a parent of two children, one of whom attended the old Acharacle Primary School from nursery until P6 (presently going in to S4) and the other who attended from nursery to P2 (presently going in to P7). After this time they both have had the opportunity to enjoy the fantastic environment and facilities that the new school provides.

Yours sincerely,

From:
Sent: 11 July 2014 11:29
To: Ian Jackson
Subject: Proposal to relocate Strontian Primary School into the Ardnamurchan High School Building

Dear Mr Jackson

We write in respect of the above consultation and welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposals.

At the meeting of 30 June it was decided to focus in on a more limited range of preferred options and we confine our main comments below to these. However we begin by making some general comments about the documentation circulated for the consultation, and in particular the Educational Benefits Statement which we assume will be presented to Committee for consideration, but which if taken at face value could be misleading to them (there are also some inaccuracies, since cleared up verbally at meetings, but it is important that these are carried through to material presented to Committee).

1. Option 1 as described in the existing paperwork would not extend the playground, despite the assertion made there that it would. This is a key concern for parents. We recognise new options for this are under consideration, but they are not currently included in this paper.
2. A major issue with the existing paperwork is the omission of Option 4 (and variants), which is now considered by all to be one of the front-runners.
3. Option 3 does not commit to a MUGA for children, merely proposes to consider it. Will Option 4 include a commitment to a MUGA, or simply consideration of one?
4. At various points in the paperwork (notes from meetings, indicated on plans etc) there is the suggestion that the 'back quad' at AHS be used as a play area for the primary children. This is totally unsuitable for this purpose, being north facing, shaded by high walls and including an electricity substation. A proper playground solution needs to be found.

More generally, we note that none of the options presented initially in this consultation are entirely fit for purpose at present. It is important that once an Option is approved in principle, there should be further fine-tuning in response to feedback from parents and school staff.

We now make more specific comments about about the two preferred options, Option 1 and Option 4 (+ variants):

Option 1

- As noted above, the playground is a particular concern. A suggestion was made at the 30 June meeting of re-routing the public road to incorporate some of the 'green' and playpark into the school grounds. We suspect that re-routing the public road may be prohibitively expensive. However it may not be necessary to retain this section of road as a 'through' route as access to Dail Mhor and the surgery could be gained from either direction. In this way the stretch of road in front of the school could simply be removed completely and become part of the school grounds.
- Flat roofs are indicated for the extension areas. We feel these are aesthetically poor, do not perform in Highland weather, and miss an opportunity to use the roof space eg for additional storage. We suggest that pitched roofs be considered instead.

Options 4

- As proposed in the plan presented on 30 June, the inclusion of a new dedicated primary school car park is an unnecessary expense. If the new school is sited as close to the main AHS building as the PPP 'red line' permits, access should be straightforward via the existing parking arrangements, as also used by the nursery.
- The current layout proposed does not provide the required accommodation highlighted by parents and school staff
- The current orientation & layout does not maximise natural daylight for the children. We would prefer both classrooms to have at least some southerly aspect to them

- The main issue overall however is whether to use modular units rather than a permanent structure. We strongly favour a permanent building for the following reasons:
 - it is not more expensive in terms of initial cost, and represents better value long-term as it will not depreciate to same extent as modular units (indeed, property can be expected to appreciate in value rather than depreciate);
 - it provides greater design flexibility allowing a form of building to be built which better reflects its surroundings. Modular units by their nature are limited in this respect;
 - a permanent building does not rule out future incorporation into AHS in 2027, if desired. If it is decided to stay as is, no costs are incurred, but on the other hand if it is preferred to move into AHS the investment required for the modifications required will be offset by the existing permanent building being of greater value than modular units, when sold or transferred to another user

Overall on balance we prefer Option 4 (permanent building) as our preferred option, representing best value for money, delivering the best physical result, and most importantly providing the educational and social benefits of being more closely associated with the High School.

Yours sincerely

From:
Sent: 08 July 2014 17:39
To: Ian Jackson
Subject: Proposal to relocate Strontian Primary School

Dear Mr Jackson

I am emailing comments on this proposal on behalf of West Ardnamuchan Community Council. Overall we feel that this decision should be influenced primarily by the views of the parents and other residents in Strontian, however, I have been asked to raise some concern from us regarding any potential impact from the move on pupils at the High School and on community use of the building. Ideally we would like the decision to minimise any such impact, given that the school and Sunart Centre were built for the benefit of the wider community.

Regards

Secretary
West Ardnamurchan Community Council

Sunart Community Appraisal – Prioritising Result

Results (in order of priority)	No.
That the Primary School be substantially upgraded or rebuilt	481
Stabilise / upgrade the present GP arrangements by working with Health Board / Mallaig GP Management to better coordinate access to a team of regularly attending GPs and for their times to be available.	398
That a community social hub feasibility study be completed.	252
That a Heritage Centre feasibility study is conducted.	246
That workshops and small industrial or storage units are made available.	212
That a proportion of local housing be 'tied' to allow key workers to be immediately housed without the fear of losing housing stock to speculation and forced sale.	203
Further negotiations take place between Highland Council and the Ardnamurchan communities to stabilise prices and extend the ferry time-tabled service.	191
That the mine site and access be protected for community use by being brought into community ownership.	168
That the community considers supplementing normal transport arrangements with a Community Bus and a car-sharing club.	163
That Sheltered Housing be built and that these units become reserved housing stock held for those in need of sheltered accommodation.	161
That a more effective link is established to Higher Education and Further Education to increase options.	156
That the position of the NHS Dail Mhor Residential Home for the Elderly be clarified.	152
That the elderly, in being encouraged to stay in their own home under 'Care in the Community' are more adequately and transparently supported.	152
That every opportunity is identified for 'apprenticeships'.	149
That the impact on students of staff turnover is minimised and investigations made as to why the turnover rate of the staff appears so high.	141
That wood fuel is encouraged through a community-owned woodland.	141
That greater use is made of the loch as a potential contributor to the local economy.	140
Upgrade the surgery	132
That upgrades to the walking and cycling routes are carried out.	133
That a swimming pool feasibility study is carried out.	130
That steps are taken to address rural isolation, particularly for the elderly, and that they are fully included in the day-to-day life of the community.	126
That a short-term working group looks into the development of a 'Men's Shed' and other community workshop concepts in Sunart.	120
Local skills training is available	103

TOP 23 of 67 issues identified by
 CRG/ISPH. (see. ...)