

Barry Northedge
Area Quality Improvement Manager
Care & Learning Service
Highland Council Offices
Drummuie
Golspie
KW10 6TA

The Highland Council
Drummuie

15th May 2016

Dear Mr Northedge

PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE EDUCATION PROVISION
AT ACHFARY PRIMARY SCHOOL

I refer to the letter dated 11th April 2016, received from Graham Nichols, Area Care & Learning Manager (North), in connection with the above matter. Following receipt of this letter, the proposed closure of Achfary Primary School, and the longer-term implications thereof for Scourie Primary School, were discussed in some detail at the most recent meeting of Scourie & District Community Council. I have therefore been asked to write on behalf of Scourie & District Community Council with our considered response to the Highland Council's proposals, as referred to in Graham Nichols' letter.

In essence, the Members of Scourie & District Community Council are unanimous in their view that there are far-reaching consequences of the proposal to change the catchment of Achfary (currently, pupils attend Scourie Primary School) to Kinlochbervie, even although Scourie is actually closer to Achfary with a shorter distance of transport. If this change were to be effected, it was felt that there would be far-reaching consequences for the future viability of Scourie Primary School. As a matter of information, it is anticipated that proposed developments being planned for the Scourie area will have a positive impact on future populations of Scourie Primary School. In the meantime, it is regarded as vital that pupils from Achfary continue to attend Scourie, in order to maintain the long-term viability of Scourie Primary School and support its continued development.

I am therefore instructed to tell you that Scourie & District Community Council is unanimously opposed to this particular aspect of the proposed closure and we strongly urge The Highland Council to reconsider.

Yours sincerely