

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2016 1:24 PM  
**Subject:** [REDACTED], response to the proposed closure of the Kinbrace Primary School.

Dear Sir,

I write as a resident, married with family, and local employer in the Kinbrace area.

Borrobol Estate has three resident families and employs several part-timers.

Firstly, educational effectiveness, a target of the government. I have had 4 children schooled at Kinbrace. During the year when my daughter graduated from University two former pupils managed to get first class degrees. Its educational satisfactoriness as historic record is not in doubt.

I have read [REDACTED] : submission to you and endorse it. Alternative schooling involves a very long journey for young children. I have lived 3 miles from Kinbrace for 36 years and can attest that the weather in winter will often make this journey awkward in the extreme. Conversely, there were very few occasions when my children were at the school when classes were not open and everyone managed to get there.

I agree with [REDACTED] , too, that to attract potential employees here is harder if there is no local school. For any potential family person schooling is the first question. I have found that. Again, it is government policy to encourage population in the glens. Shutting a school goes against that.

You mention the economics of transport. The need for transport also creates employment and sustains the area, a good objective.

I was the chairman of the Kildonan and Kinbrace Amenities Association for a long time. I can confirm that there is an adequate building for community use already in the area and specifically designed for it. The school has no purpose as a second community building.

'Mothballing' of the school, as we have seen for the last few years, seems to me to be the best way forward. At the present time there are 3 houses in Kinbrace for sale. There must be a good chance therefore that at least one new arrival will have family. The presence of a potential school will encourage a family to come here. The absence of one will mean that the likelihood of any new arrival being of working age is less, and it is worth considering that retired people, constituting the alternative type of new resident, need services more than they provide them. The cost-benefit aspect of this should be part of your over-arching policy in deciding about the future of this school building.

I support the continuation of the present situation and am unconvinced by the short-term arguments against it.

Yours sincerely,