

Sirs,

I note that responses to your Consultation Paper on the future of Roy Bridge Primary School close today.

On reviewing the proposals as a member of the community within the Roy Bridge Primary School catchment area, it is clear that there has been a degree of consultation with the current Parent Council at Spean Bridge PS as well as other parents of primary age children via the Spean Bridge PS noticeboard. However, there appears to have been only a token attempt to involve the wider community. An advert was placed in the Oban Times of 6 January advising of a public meeting on 12 January, just six days later. Rather than being postponed when it became clear that Covid restrictions prevented an in-person gathering the meeting went ahead via Zoom, a medium not accessible to the whole community. A previous face-to-face public meeting in September 2019 had been well attended and opposed final closure but the opportunity for widespread local involvement was not available on this occasion.

Future use suggestions for the school buildings and site made to Highland Council to date have not been specified, either within the Consultation paper or at at the Zoom meeting. Furthermore, the play equipment gifted to Roy Bridge PS by Corroul Estate a significant expense soon before the school's mothballing may have alternative uses at its existing site or at Spean Bridge PS.

In short, I do feel that an extended consultation period would ensure that the wider community are given the opportunity to have its say.

Yours sincerely,
Tony Perriam

Anthony Perriam
Community Development Officer, Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry SCIO