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Please send any response to chair@tkcc.scot
Caroline

From: Caroline Hamilton <chair@tkcc.scot>
Date: Wednesday, 12 April 2023 at 09:56
To: "Ian Jackson (Resources)" <ian.jackson@highland.gov.uk>
Cc: Education Consultations <Education.Consultations@highland.gov.uk>
Subject: Response to consultation - closure of Torridon Primary School

Dear Ian,
Caroline Hamilton <cjh@arcticpoppymusic.com>

I am writing on behalf of Torridon and Kinlochewe Community Council (TKCC) to make the following comments on the Highland Council's consultative paper issued in relation to the proposal to discontinue the provision of education at Torridon Primary School:

- First of all, we question why Torridon School has to close. It occupies a larger space than either Kinlochewe or Shieldaig schools and is in a more central location. Also there may not be many children living in our area currently, but demographics could change.
- Be that as it may, TKCC is of the view that the situation needs to be resolved. The school was mothballed over 10 years ago and the building is deteriorating badly. The Highland Council itself acknowledges that maintenance has been low and there is a lot of damage.
- Whilst we understand the benefit of larger numbers of children attending a school, closing Torridon will have a negative impact on people looking to stay or move into the community. This in turn may affect the long-term sustainability of some of our villages.
- We would like the Highland Council to recognise there will be a particular burden on people living in places such as Inveralligin, Wester Alligin and Diabaig, for whom Shieldaig school is a long way away (up to 50 minutes by car).
- If Torridon School is closed, TKCC considers that the buildings and playpark should be retained for community use. There are strong feelings in the community that they should not be made available for commercial development or become another holiday home.

We should be grateful if you would keep us informed of progress on this proposal. In particular, we would like to hear of any opportunities for a Community Asset Transfer as and when these may arise.

With thanks and kind regards,

Caroline

Caroline Hamilton
Chair – Torridon and Kinlochewe Community Council