

Copy of Email correspondence between Highland Council and Duror and Kentallen Community Council – November 2023

Dear Audra

Thanks for the feedback, which will assist the HC in coming to a view about the future of the school.

As mentioned, should a formal closure proposal be made, the Community Council would be a statutory consultee.

Ian Jackson
Education Officer
Highland Council
07435 982557

From: Info DKCC <dkccinfo@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 8:29 AM
To: Ian Jackson (Resources) <ian.jackson@highland.gov.uk>
Cc: Anne MacPherson (Resources) <Anne.MacPherson@highland.gov.uk>; Dot Ferguson (Community Support & Ward Management) <Dot.Ferguson@highland.gov.uk>; Malcolm McGregor (Duror & Glencoe & St Bride's & Ballachulish) <Malcolm.McGregor@highland.gov.uk>; Mhairi MacDonald (Area Education West) <Mhairi.MacDonald3@highland.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Future of Duror PS

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Hi Ian

Following the DKCC meeting on Monday night I wanted to inform you that the community council would insist the Duror school remains open.

Kind regards
Audra Sheffield
Secretary, Duror and Kentallen Community Council

On Thu, 2 Nov 2023 at 11:31, Ian Jackson (Resources) <ian.jackson@highland.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Secretary/Chairperson

I am writing to update you on some informal discussions that were held yesterday with parents and staff at Duror PS, concerning the future of the school. The roll of the school has recently fallen to four pupils, two of whom are in P7. In August 2024 the school is expected to have only two pupils.

I met with parents and staff to advise that Highland Council sees a number of educational disadvantages to a school with two pupils, and to find out how parents felt about the roll falling so

low. We discussed the possibility of “mothballing” the school – closing the school on a temporary basis, to see whether the roll might recover.

Parents and staff were opposed to mothballing and were of the view that the school should remain open.

I was grateful to hear the views of parents, and advised that the Council would consider the issue further. It is *possible* that we may formally consult on a proposal to close the school, but the decision to launch such a consultation would be subject to approval by the Council’s Education Committee, as indeed would any decision taken following consultation. In addition, all school closures in Scotland must be ratified by Scottish Ministers.

If a consultation on closing the school were to take place, the Community Council would be a statutory consultee.

I would stress however, that no decisions have yet been taken on whether to conduct such a consultation.

Please contact me if you have any queries about the above.