



Proposal to discontinue provision of education at Duror P. School

Dear Mr. Jackson,

Firstly, thank you for ensuring I was sent links to the various consultation documents. That was much appreciated.

I believe that if the school closes, there will be even less chance of families with children moving to this village. Kentallen School closed in the mid 1960s (some time before I came here) and, in all the years I have lived in Duror, very few children have been brought up in Kentallen.

When the "traveller site" on the outskirts of Kentallen was a more appealing place for travellers to stay, the majority of traveller parents who wanted their child to get some education, opted to bring their children to Duror P. The site was in the BPS catchment area but parents told me that their children coped better in a small school and, more importantly, were accepted by everyone in the school community. As you know, it is unusual for gypsy traveller parents to attend school meetings let alone speak out. One of the parents who spoke at the meeting on 16th April, is from the traveller community and she strongly believes her daughter will be best served by remaining in a small (in this case, VERY small) school.

A small rural school can never provide the facilities offered by a larger school but parents accept this as they feel the benefits of a small school outweigh its short comings.

Since 2005, Duror has shared a Head teacher firstly with Glencoe, then Glencoe and St. Brides, next with Ballachulish and, more recently one H.T. for all four schools. I believe this was "sold" to parents as a temporary situation. In recent days, we learn that Mr. McGregor is moving, with immediate effect, to Lundavra and an acting H.T. will take charge of the four schools for the remainder of the term. As a previous parent said to me yesterday, "Why is it always us that gets changes foisted on us?"

I noted that the "Condition and Suitability Surveys" were completed in 2016. It may well be that during the last eight years, some of the identified shortcomings have been dealt with. Or, has Highland Council done nothing to resolve problem areas?

As you saw and heard at the meeting on 16th., this community strongly believes that it will be best served by having its own school as it's had since pre 1841.

Yours sincerely