

Dear Mr Jackson,

In response to the request for local opinion regarding the proposed closure of Duror Primary School, I write to express my own view.

I have been employed by Highland Council as the Cleaning Operative for the school for nearly two years. Notwithstanding the fact that this position is a menial one, below the level of my qualifications and experience, the post has served me well as the only employment I could find in my local village. Myself and one other member of the Duror community are employed by the school. Currently, no other establishment exists which provides local employment within the village.

As a Council serving a largely rural area, I feel it is incumbent upon HC to support the needs of small, isolated, rural communities. In the interests of social welfare (some people cannot travel great distances for work due to economic imperatives or mental health), as well as the obvious environmental/sustainability factors involved, it is hugely important to provide employment opportunities at a very local level for those living in small communities.

Although the employment provided by the school may be deemed insignificant to those in the Council at the decision-making level regarding its closure, these roles are enormously important to those whose livelihoods depend on them. Thus, I urge the Highland Council to please consider these factors when deciding to close a very popular village school and put two members of that community out of work.

Many thanks,

Regards,

Amanda Black