

PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE THE PROVISION OF EDUCATION AT DUROR PRIMARY SCHOOL (SOUTH LOCHABER).

I OBJECT TO THE PROPOSAL TO CLOSE DUROR PRIMARY SCHOOL.

I am so fortunate to have been employed at Duror Village Primary School as general auxiliary/cleric for over 30 years. Over that time I have witnessed the first class education that is the provision of a local village school. It is a well known fact that pupils attending a local village school are provided with opportunities for social interaction with peers who live in the same area. This can help children build social skills and friendships that extend beyond the classroom. I fear this huge benefit would be lost if Duror Village School were to close and pupils were to attend a larger school outside their village of residence.

Families come and go within a community and although at this present time numbers of pupils attending the village school is at an all-time low I feel certain that families with children of primary school age will once again take up residence in the community in the near future.

A local building developer has informed the Duror & Kentallen Community Council of his intention to build 30 homes on a large area of land he has purchased in the centre of Duror village. I would envisage that of these 30 new homes many would be occupied by families with children of primary school age.

The facility of a village school is high on the list of priorities of prospective buyers of property or those seeking employment within the locality. Closure of the village school would be detrimental in that it would discourage new families with school age children moving into the area.

Youth is the very lifeblood of any community, the village school is very much an integral part of the structure of all communities. The retention of our village school is of the utmost importance as the provision of a primary education is undeniable.

Highland Council are far too premature with their suggestion to possibly close Duror Village School.

Duror Primary School is one of many schools across the Highlands that is committed to the Eco-School Programme. The pupils and staff regularly walk to and fro school on a daily basis whenever possible. Highland Council have indicated that they would provide a bus to transport pupils to/from Duror village to another school out with the village. A backward step in regard to the Eco- School Programme.

I formally request that The Highland Council take my objections into consideration when deciding on the proposal.

E M MacLachlan.

CC: Kate Forbes msp

Jenny Gilruth msp