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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

because the school will
nut be 60 200gh to
hold everyone and was
We will need more place
-Kieran

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YES	
NO	

1	Picked	50	because
it	Would	be	bad
6	-Cause	ie	Would
be	bad		
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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	V	V	\checkmark	\	V	V
NO						

50 that there is enag	gh
room for all children	
to go to school	

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

I Said No	because I
think there	are allot
OF Schools	in Inverness

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YES	
NO	

I say	y 25	beause	holm	primary
childre	small en in l	ess w	out 1000 le get	more a
3	extend	hon.		

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YES			
NO			

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Because			
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YES		/
NO	/	

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YES	
NO	

because there is no more room
Sar that meny people-

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YES	
NO	

Ithink jes because it want take long to gotoSchool
tong to gotoSchool

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YES	$\sqrt{}$	
NO		

because	it gives to learn	new things

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YES	V
NO	

yes because there is lots).C
People in are School and i	5
people more school there i	Dill
be les peoples	

Can you help the Council with an important decision?

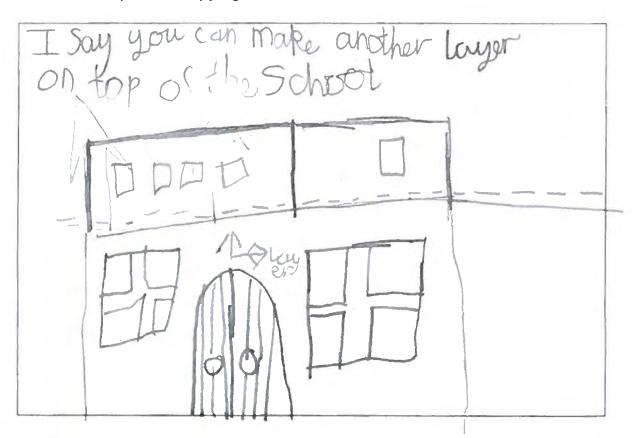
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YES	
NO /	V



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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

I think yes because if
10001/0 disideren como latic
School Everyone wouldent get the Education that they need.
they need.

PCK

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YES	
NO	



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YES	
NO	



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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

Because then the school wont be
crowded and there's roterough room in the school-And then you can make
11CW Pandic P
newfriend S. De Carose Inverness Keep's getting in
Keep's getting more people Moving here.

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

because Peoples Fliends that go there of People Fliends that Stay here Mishel Miss Ehem,

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

BECOUSE WE need the Space to play and	
thay would get a plan plan	
molen School New School	



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YES	
NO	V

because	'are school is	not that
bigo		

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	✓
NO	

I think yes because a lot of new people are coming to inverness which means more children and they need a school to go to and I don't think our school is big emorygh.
THE PEN

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YES	
NO	J

No becaus	e limit 's	Some	
Space that	Hoone	Plays in	00

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES		
NO	✓	

Moved and I friend to move never See her	ause My friend is do not want Mybest School and then I will

Glen Macpherson

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO V	

Pio	because We Mare extechins
	Holm primary School because eyer is a big Grassy within server is a big Grassy within sensted and it is sensted and tahounthat was a bood Idea.

Can you help the Council with an important decision?

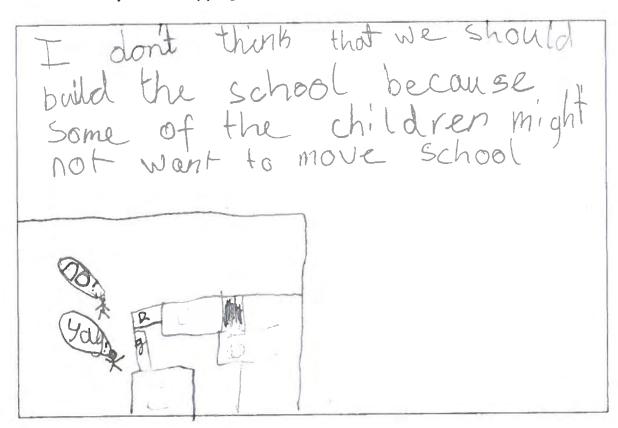
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YES	
NO	



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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	✓

because We the school to some people to leave,	make it bigger. Myhk be sad

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YES	
NO √	

Because therecould bemally problems Shohas: Deportstation
Running out of material

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	YES	V
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- 1		
	NO	

- Marie	Ethink the Mighland Caural Gould
The state of the s	ould a new school because
1 57	
7	groof Me moving have tell com
	to play outside

2008/16

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YES	
NO	

1+ can	waste highland cound!
Mone	a ant Empli
Meet	new people

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YES	
NO	

dossio	nå	space of	Spare Spare Spare Spare Spare Ser Classes

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YES	
NO	

because is we donot
Some PeFol might not
be able to go to
5chool

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YES	
NO	

Because	there no	Point

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YES	/
NO	1

Lots	OF	my	grien	ds live
up t	there	and	We	have
good	time	15 in	this	have School

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YES	
NO	

It would people.	meet	new
		•

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YES	/		
NO			

	think yes because I
live	4 Ness castle

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YES	
NO	

a waste	t would be	

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YES	
NO	

I said Wo because to meet new Peop of Schools torround	le. and ther	e nice

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YES	
NO	

I think no because it will take	
to build and some Kids can	go here!
And it ill cost more!	

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YES	\sim
NO	

children in the new houses will have a school to go to and it won't be too crowded

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YES	
NO	

Lis a goodinea bracuse
Some people Live Corrant
From Schoolanh they have
to 20 a dritten School.

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	705
NO	

becac	ise then the children
Can	be teached and then
Q is it	the children can go
10	the new school so
	rat they nont need
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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

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anu School neurby.

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

I think No because
the World is perfect
the way it is

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer pelow that you think is best.

YES		
NO	*	

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is not; there will to many perol in
are school

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES V	✓
NO	

because the Much tra	res to
School.	

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES NO		
NO		
	Can you tell us why you gave the answ	ver above?

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	1
NO	

Idi	dyes	becaus	ie it	would	get
to	crowde	d her	e and	l not	*
		h the			.5
who	JI	chose	yes.		
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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	✓
NO	

It's because	e Hom prin	navy is to	Small ro
have 101s	of children	in it and	ir will
be better s	for people	who live	up shere.

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

I said no beco	ause building a new school t	ialles
TIVE	e and takes to much space	
	J. T.	

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	$\sqrt{}$

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want	them to	LNDRE EVEL	ing M	10 T

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	√ -
NO	

	because they would have to
	build on the feled than
-	because they would have to build on the feled than we play on Sunny days

Can you help the Council with an important decision?

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

because	2 W	rat	19	your	
because friends	go	to	the	hel	
School	and	the	n y	pu	
School Will I friends Might	not 1	pale	a	lot.	QS
friends	. ano	l,	Dur	School	06
Might	nee	d i	Stat	MOI	ney,
9					

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	✓
NO	

Becau	se all schildren should be
able	to go to the recrest school,
	`

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

I think it would be good to
have a new School because our
School would be very busy and full if lots of new children came!

Can you help the Council with an important decision?

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

I think yes because
I think yes because Is the new school
is not built then our
school will become too
Rull.

Can you help the Council with an important decision?

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

I said no because
reople from holm School may have to move
I may have to move
and it Would cost
alot to build.

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

Because	Holm	Scholl	is	Co	Small

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	✓

I don't think that they should build a new School because
Some children will be getting sepperated from Priends.
Also it will cost alot of money, so I think no.
of money, so I think no.

Can you help the Council with an important decision?

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES /	
NO	

idea because then all Children Could	1 4
the thing's they need at	L
What in hotist as well.	

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

because If ther was no School
they will go to our School and
thair will not beenouth Space
or they will have to ride to
go to a therver away School
So I think yes.

Can you help the Council with an important decision?

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

1 think this would be a good idea because there is not much	
good idea because	
there is not much	
room in this school	
and everyone still	
needs there education	0

Can you help the Council with an important decision?

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

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LWO SCI	hools	When
their con	id be	one
ut with		Very
expensiv	2	

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	, "
NO	

beca	use the	of Of	School mony.	Will
	± ¥			

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

Because it Would be a good chance for Other children to Make new friends. And they be closer to the School.

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	/	
NO		

I think yes because our school is pretty small! And we can't just squeeze in new people. Also it would be really nice to have a new school near us.

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES √	
NO	

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

Make this School bigger for
Thore Children TI
be a lot of acceleration to
be a lot of people how will go to that
Schooll go to that

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	V
NO	

it will be good to have another school because it will be easyer for Children and
are school will be full

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES		
NO		

that means we don't have
to Makenew Primary class
and We Wont have to
money on it.

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	X	
NO		

Because	I this	nk mor	e
schools	more	time:	for
Education	09		

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

Because 1t would be esay
for the other children who
live further away than Most
Children.

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

because the council might
not have enough money to
pay for new stuff priery time
new people come to the school.

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

Beca	use	Peopl	e don	't have
any	Space	501	Holm 1	Plimaly
Scho				
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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

Beacuse all Children need to go to school and get their education.)

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	$\sqrt{}$
NO	

to go	evary child to School	ne ed.

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

Caskle to +	becayse from Le fron, ness Who have moved olm school might to move again

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

I	Chose	2 4	es	beco	ruse
if	700	Sc	hod) \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	s not
	enc				
Chi	ldren	Will	ho	ave	the
Rio	ht	to	be	edv	cated.

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

Because then they wont have
a full School and may
Because then they wont have a full School and may not have anogh pupils.

Can you help the Council with an important decision?

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

In my opinion a school Should be built because
Holm School won't have
enough space and if we build on the field then this will affect article 31
this will affect article st the right to relax and
the right to relax and Play. Everyone knows that Holm School would be
full and in school activities wouldn't be an opportunity
£0 = 0 \\.

Can you help the Council with an important decision?

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

It is vital that the school
School so building a new
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suture. Estathe

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

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Will	help	the	People	1
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learn.				

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	✓	
NO		

Hello, I think it is a good idea to
DOUTE OF THEM SCHOOL I BELIEVE What I
you don't build a new school
then our school will be to cramped
The playground will be to busy and
that will break article 31 of the
UNURC. If we build a now solve
then more children will go and each school will have the right amount of
school will have the right amount of
pupils. Thank you and.
PLEASE BUILD A NEW SCHOOL!

Can you help the Council with an important decision?

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

/ / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / /
In my opinion, I think that
there should be a new school
because there would be
200 Space in Our School with also believe that we wouldn't have enough cassrooms (Es-we
alsa belie ve that augh I
have enough eassrooms (Esture
and then we wouldn't have the right to Play and an edycoxion
the Fight to Plan and and paucation
Jan 10 11 Jan Cay Coy 101

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

It Will get for to crowded
and there Still may not be
enough teachers for all
the children

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	1	
NO		

	In my opinion there should be a new
	School because Holm Primary wouldn't have
	School because Holm Primary wouldn't have enough room for all of the new people and ever if we did it would be affecting our right to play and decrease the amount of in-
18.000	to play and decrease the amount of in-
The second second	Shool activity.

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES V	1
NO	

I chos yes be cos there will b) e
1.0005 of cids and we neo	ı
new school	la

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

I don't think this is a good
Idla I get that our school
15 midget but we just act
two new porta-Cabins and they are huge Compared to Some of the others
are huge Compared to
some of the others.
There consider NGT building
a new school there's nownere to
Pat it:

Can you help the Council with an important decision?

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

Can you tell us why you gave the answer above?

I think there should be a new school because its important that children have a school to go to. It is also vital that we plant more trees to stop global warning as there will be more houses. If we don't build the new school then our school won't get feild to play and in an article it says that children have the right to play and relax. Thanks for betting me share my opinion.

Can you help the Council with an important decision?

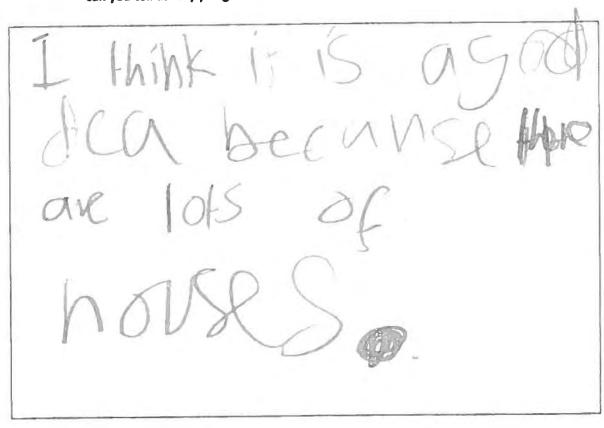
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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	V	
NO		



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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer pelow that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

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MI	ner U be	Jeho	raudi	becoul	se ho	den pri	movy
en	ough	chil	tour	stay an	nd it	is H	have ne rights
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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

In my	ofinion they	Should	think
0. 100	w scho	ol at	Ness
Castle	50	childr	en
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	they	can	walk
round	*	corner.	Section 1
Will	Stop	Holm 5	16001
from	9 rowin	9 int	0
6:9	School	and	wont
have	to spe	nd mon	ey on
USM	classroom		

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

becouse it would help people get to
becouse it would help people getto
school quiker and wont put pressur
on Smaller Schools

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	/
NO	

In my openion I think you
should build a new school
because if they all come
here there will be no
space for the field
Article 37 says that
to play and relax.
to play and relax.

Can you help the Council with an important decision?

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	/
NO	

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

I think it is a great idea that
you should build the School because every child has the right to play
every child has the right to play
So it more and more children
come to our School we won't
have that a by
don't have that much rooty so
don't have that much root! So if you build the School we will have more space.

Can you help the Council with an important decision?

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

It is Vi	tal that	you bind
a new	school	
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can hav	p. ostico	16 14
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So 400		1 RECED
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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

I argee +	new	School	Holm
Primary of Crowded get M	vould and ore s	become we co	less

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES V	
NO	

Because I live up in ness
Because I live up in ness castle and it won't be
hard to Walk up to
hard to Walk up to the School. All holm primary pupils should get the best out of there School egbigger
pupils should get the best
out of there School & g bigger
playground and not a crowed
School-thankyou.

Can you help the Council with an important decision?

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	/	
NO		

I think it will be good
because it will
give More room for
Enildren to play
More cabins the
because of holms make More cabins witch s taking up room in the field

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

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	School the play grow not and the foild	
	Will be less ta otic.	
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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

to my opinion it would be
bottor because its a
school and we all deserve
to learn. It would also
give everyone the Same
chances.

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES				
NO				

I think it is	s = brilliant
idea as if	the school
(Holm Primary)	sets too
CIUNCIA-1 the	- 1 ' 1 1
May not e as mach a used to. In I would s	209 School
used to. In	ny people
I would 5	2 chead
with this	idea

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

Because	Holm	\ Wi	U be	re	cally	Sull
and	we h	bluou	need	ř.	to	
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and	there	MOU	id	be	90	•
where	40	play.	Also	16	th	ure
were	lots	050	head	e ii	1 40	Ur
class	the	teac	id Also people ner	luow	g	be
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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	√
NO	

It is vital that everyone
has the same opportunity
to get the saire
of learning and by making this other school in my
Opinion would expand one
Learning Chances.

Can you help the Council with an important decision?

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Do you think this is a good idea? Please tick the answer below that you think is best.

YES	
NO	

I think the course should bulish another
Endmonth Copy Anni at him Silver
Hoim priamary WHY Thouse lots
Of Dopies. If we do get tots of
Pupils we will have to build
other classes and that means
we work have atom to play.
that will be bad because
there won't be room for all the
Pupils.

Lisa McClymont

From:

Brian Porter

Sent:

30 November 2017 10:40

To:

Ian Jackson

Subject:

FW: Response - The proposal is to establish a new primary school

fyi

Brian Porter Head of Resources Care and Learning Service The Highland Council 01463 702805 07824 519667

From: Business Support C & L - HQ & South

Sent: 30 November 2017 10:39

To: Brian Porter

Subject: FW: Response - The proposal is to establish a new primary school

From: Emma Tayler

Sent: 30 November 2017 10:20

To: Business Support C & L - HQ & South

Cc: Graham Ross - Member

Subject: Response - The proposal is to establish a new primary school

Dear Mr Porter

The proposal is to establish a new primary school to serve the Ness Castle and Ness-Side housing developments

The Inverness Community Partnership core group have carefully considered the proposal paper in reference to the above consultation. The Partnership supports the establishment of new primary school but has no particular view at this time in terms of a catchment area. It will however support any consensus parental view coming out of the consultation.

Thank you

On behalf of Cllr Graham Ross Chair, Inverness Community Partnership



Emma Tayler
Assistant Wards Manager
Chief Executive's Office
Highland Council
Fort William
01397 707232 - direct line
07867 550062 - mobile
emma.tayler@highland.gov.uk

LOCHARDIL & DRUMMOND COMMUNITY COUNCIL.



Dr Maria de la Torre Boyndie Dores Road Inverness

Brian Porter
Head of Resources, Care and learning Service
Highland Council HQ
Glenurquhart Road
Inverness
IV 5NX

1st December 2017

Dear Mr Porter

Proposal Paper to establish a new primary school to serve the Ness Castle and Ness-Side housing developments

I am writing as Chair of Lochardil and Drummond Community Council concerning the above proposal. Although the proposed school falls within the adjacent Community Council we have a strong interest in seeing the Ness Castle Primary School built due to the pressure that existing local schools are under. Both Lochardil and Holm Schools have had to be expanded in the last two years, and Lochardil is having further accommodation installed.

As we understand this consultation concerns the catchment for the new school, since this will determine the size of the new school. In our view the size of the new school needs has to take into account the overall growth of the area over the next decade or more, therefore it needs to be based on the bigger catchment option ie Option A. Future residents of Ness-side may want to have some choice on the catchment (ie based on proximity/travel) but it is important to future proof the capacity of the new school in terms of having a bigger capacity. It is also important that new school provision does not reduce the resources available for existing primary schools in the area. Further there is a need to start looking into the additional secondary school requirement for this side of Inverness.

Yours Sincerely,

Maria de la Torre Lochardil and Drummond Community Council Chair

Kayleigh Robertson

From:
Conti

School consultation <donotreply@highland.gov.uk>

Sent: To: 30 November 2017 21:31 Education Consultations

Subject:

Ness Castle consultation comments

Name of consultation: Ness Castle

Your comments: I am commenting for our parent council of 23 that attended our last meeting and the concerns we have and that are answered.

- boundaries on options A/B do not fare well for Holm primary, would this effect the quality of the teaching on the school if undercapacity.
- like to see the feasibility on option for an all singing/dancing school for the area.
- we would like to see the Boundaries for the existing areas looked at as all the schools are under pressure.
- would it be an option to move existing Gaelic medium school and replace it with English medium school to deal with overcrowding coming from that side of the boundary.

We believe there is an issue with safe-routes-to-School with them all the options.

• we would like you to look at the potential overcrowding as it suggests for the next three years at Holm school now before it becomes an afterthought.

Upload	documents	or	letters	:

I am commenting as: Parent

I am commenting on behalf of: Parent Council

Name:

Title

First name

Last name

Mr

Martin

Fitzgerald

Address:

postcode_search

Choose address

Did you find the address on the list above?

IV24XT

1 Holm Park Inverness IV2 4XT

Yes

Kayleigh Robertson			
From: Sent: To: Subject:	School consultation <donotreply@highland.gov.uk> 30 November 2017 21:00 Education Consultations Ness Castle consultation comments</donotreply@highland.gov.uk>		
Name of consultation	: Ness Castle		
Should I be an option f Will the boundaries be	ools need to be re-addressed. for one school and closing or re-organising ing enforced.	g Holm school. and main roads for the children to cross to	
Upload documents or	letters:		
I am commenting as:	Parent		
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Kayleigh Robertson

From: Scott McRoberts <scottmcroberts@stcolumbainverness.org>

Sent:01 December 2017 10:15To:Education Consultations

Subject: Ness Castle Primary Consultation

Hello.

Responding to the consultation on the proposed new primary school at Ness Castle (I note today is the final day for submissions), as the Church of Scotland Minister whose parish includes Ness Castle and Ness-side. I heartily welcome both the new school and the plans for it to include community facilities such as the MUGA. Gym. use the of building. I also thank the Council for the open and helpful consultation process on this. I was not able to be present at the public meeting on 8th November, but am glad residents have had a chance to express views and ask questions in a variety of ways.

My remaining comments pertain to the catchment options. Options A, Ai and B all look sensible to me. I'd slightly favour Option B, as I think that those existing housing areas that have long been connected to Holm, rimary (and Lochardil in the case of Essich Gardens) are better served continuing that link, and are distinct enough as established areas of housing and communities to link with the existing school/s. It also slightly improves the viability of Holm Primary in the revised roll post-opening of Ness Castle.

However, my opinion with an eye on the formation of the new community in this area is that Option C should be avoided. Our church parish includes the Slackbuie housing from Fairways across to Holm Dell, Ness Castle and Ness-side. It fits the model of Ness Castle and Ness-side in their entirety being in one school catchment. Of course people don't live and form community according to church parishes any more! But for our part as a church, we are seeking to be a catalyst to a cohesive community as the new housing goes up in Ness Castle and Ness-side. Indeed, we hope ourselves to be geographically present in a building that will serve as a community centre as well as a place of worship, in the Ness-side area.

Notwithstanding whether we are successful in that or not, my belief is that splitting the new community of housing in Ness-side as per Option C mitigates against forming strong community identity. It will lead to a situation much like we live in in Bramble Close at present, where children with different school uniforms head off in different directions every morning, and families living next to each other have no common ommunity connection of a school to build community around.

I also note this paragraph from the consultation proposal document:

5.5 The roll projections provide an overwhelming case for the construction of a new school. It is clear that without a new school in the area. Holm Primary, and probably other local schools, would be faced with an unmanageable level of overcrowding. Indeed, under Option C above, capacity issues could still arise at Holm Primary, even after the building of the new school. The delineation of the catchment will therefore be a significant factor in deciding on the size of the new school.

I believe that there is concern amongst some that a radically reduced roll at Holm School in the future will challenge its viability. But I think Option C not only mitigates against the formation of new community in Ness-side, but also continues to squeeze Holm Primary beyond the capacity it was built for. I am not concerned about the new school being of a larger size as a result - it can be built for that purpose more successfully than Holm can be adapted beyond its reach.

I welcome the proposal for a new school and its focus on provision for the community, and hope that in the future as this school emerges, our church might be helpful to both the school and the community. May your deliberations go well, and thank you for the work you do.

Yours sincerely,

Scott McRoberts

Inverness St.Columba

CONSULTATION MEETING – NEW NESS CASTLE PRIMARY HOLM PRIMARY SCHOOL – 8 NOVEMBER 2017 - 7pm MINUTES OF MEETING

Cllr. John Finlayson - Chairperson
Brian Porter, Head of Resources;
Kenny Murray, Area Education Officer;
Ian Jackson, Education Officer, Resources;
Bruce Ross, Architect;
Alison Hanna, Estates Officer;
Loraine Gilchrist, Admin Assistant and note taker for the evening.

Approximately 20 members of the public attended, plus 3 Head Teachers, a Deputy HT, and a journalist.

Cllr. Finlayson welcomed everyone and explained the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposal to establish a new primary school to serve the Ness Castle and Ness-side housing developments, and to amend the catchment area of the current Holm Primary School, in order to create the catchment area for the new school, as set out in the recommendation to the Proposal Paper.

Copies of the Proposal Paper and appendices were distributed, and Cllr. Finlayson drew attention to the larger copies of the maps that were available for inspection

Brian Porter described the legal process the Council has to go through if it wishes to establish a new school or alter catchment areas. It is essentially the same process as is followed for school closures, although the proposal in front of us, to establish a new school, is a much more exciting one to be involved in. Tonight's meeting is part of a six-week period of public consultation, after which there will be a further 3 week consultation with Education Scotland. We will take account of any views voiced and the Council must reply to any issues raised in the public consultation before coming to a final decision. In addition, the Final Report has to be published at least 3 weeks before being submitted to Council Committee, and further representations may be made during that 3 week period. Parents and other members of the public can rest assured that any points they make will be given due consideration.

Mr Porter continued by highlighting the various options for the new school's catchment area, and asking the Community's views on those options.

The consultation is about the establishment of the new school and its catchment area. It is not about the detailed design of the new school. The drawings that have been made available are for illustrative purposes only. We are not at the design process stage yet. Assuming the current proposals are agreed, there will be a separate process of consultation with stakeholders on detailed design.

Kenny Murray advised that the clear reason for the new build is that Holm School, which is a fantastic school, is at full capacity. There are 8 schools in Inverness that are currently capped, including 3 within the immediate area, Hilton, Holm and Lochardil. The roll projections set out in the Proposal Paper indicate that local rolls will continue to rise further. From the Council's perspective the educational issues are clear – there is a need to build a new school to take pressure off the other schools in the area. By 1st December we hope to have a clear view of what the community would like.

Questions and Answers

Q1 When will the new school be open?

A1 – Brian Porter - The Proposal Paper advises 2.5 - 3 years following the end of the statutory consultation, but we aim to accelerate the timeline if possible. Construction is likely to take 18 months to 2 years, and in advance of that we have to work up the design and go through the planning process. The other factor is the availability of funding. The Council plans to decide on its capital plan in February 2018, and at that point we should know how much we have available to progress the new build.

Q2 - What will be put in place for children at Holm meantime, "as children are already like sardines" and the staff too? Will the school continue to enrol children?

A2 – Brian Porter - We will look to accelerate the timescale of the build. The phasing of the housebuilding will be significant in determining how many children will enrol in the next few years. We have a best estimate of when the houses will be built but the pattern of housebuilding might alter the figures from our current projections. We might need to look at additional temporary accommodation at the Holm Primary site. We don't know the true number of how many children this will involve as the new house builds in the area are still under construction. The Proposal Paper contains our best estimate of when they will be built and occupied and number of children in each property. We are looking at options for short term, additional accommodation, and at the space available to create options.

Q3 – When the new school opens, it is just the case that half the children at Holm Primary will move to the new school? Will that mean that staff and resources will also be moved from Holm to the new school?

A3 - Brian Porter - The Proposal is not to replace Holm Primary. Holm PS will remain as it is and will be left in a stable and sustainable position. The different catchment options will have different ramifications for Holm, but the figures are only projections.

Kenny Murray - We will be planning ahead and looking very carefully at what the different options will be, and we will be working with our Workforce Planning colleagues when doing so, to decide what staffing is required for both schools when the time comes. The Council is used to this sort of exercise – we have done it before with Milton of Leys, with Inshes, and with other schools. Projecting rolls is not

an exact science, but we will ensure that the pupils at Holm Primary are taken care of and offered a suitable education, that continues the existing high standards

Q4 - We take it there is not going to be a sudden change in numbers? This will be a phasing/gradual decrease in numbers? Is it the case that pupils who are already at Holm Primary can stay there if they choose?

A4 – Kenny Murray - It won't be an overnight change, and there will be an element of parental choice.

Q5 – So if there is a child in, for example, P5 in Holm when the new school opens, and they are in the new school's catchment, will they be able to stay on at Holm?

A5 – Ian Jackson - The general principle is that if a child is already enrolled at a school, they will be able to continue at that school. We wouldn't be dragging children out of Holm PS and forcing them to attend Ness Castle. If a child was still at the preschool stage and living within the Ness Castle catchment, the expectation would be that they would attend Ness Castle, but even in those circumstances parents could use the placing request system to ask for another school.

Q6 – I have an 18 month old child. I am currently in the Holm catchment but in future I will be in the Ness Castle catchment. When and where should I enrol my child?

A6 – Ian Jackson - For enrolment, the Highland Council operates a sort of default position based on a child's home address, so that when a child is aged for P1, the parents are sent a letter advising that their child will be enrolled in "X school". If the parent wishes their child to attend another school, they can submit what is termed a "placing request." Children are automatically enrolled in their catchment school unless parents make a placing request. In the early years of the operation of Ness Castle Primary, we will have to take account of pupils in the Ness Castle catchment who are already at Holm and wish to stay there – they will have an entitlement to do that. The general rule is that this will also apply to younger siblings, because we don't expect parents to have to send siblings to different schools.

Q7 – What about nursery enrolment? Does that work the same way?

A7 - Ian Jackson - Nurseries do not have catchments, as it is not compulsory for children to attend Nursery. There is a broad pattern under which children who enrol at a school nursery often attend the same school at P1 stage, but there are no nursery catchments as such.

If a child was enrolled in Holm Nursery at the time Ness Castle opened, and they were in the Ness Castle catchment, the parents would receive an enrolment letter saying that the child would be enrolled in Ness Castle.

The Chairperson added that it would be possible to submit a placing request in these circumstances. He also advised that the whole profile of nursery was changing and by 2020 there would be greatly increased hours combined with flexible provision. Parents will be able to choose different providers and different establishments at different times. Flexibility is going to be really important at the nursery stage.

Q8 - Which Secondary school would the children go to from Ness Castle School?

A8 - Kenny Murray - Inverness Royal Academy.

Q9 - Will the Academy have enough capacity?

A9 – Brian Porter - When the Academy was built it was with additional capacity knowing that the housing development was planned. For any new school, we design it for the size it needs to be, but we also design it so that we can easily add to the accommodation. With the pace of housebuilding in Inverness, we are continually monitoring pupil numbers across the city, to see when existing numbers might escalate and we may need to consider extending schools.

Q10 – There are various rumours doing the rounds at present - Ness Castle pupils would go to Charleston Academy – the Gaelic school will become a mainstream school – Milton of Leys pupils will go to IRA not Millburn Academy? It doesn't look as if there is a lot of land at the Royal Academy site for expanding the building.

A10 - Brian Porter - We are looking at the picture city wide. It's not just this part of town – we have capacity issues right across the city. We've been asked a number of times about redrawing catchments across the city. The reality is that redrawing catchments will not solve the capacity issues. The number of houses being built – which is a very positive thing – means we may have to increase the number of schools in Inverness and/or increase the number of places in the current schools. Redrawing the lines isn't going to "cut it." Whilst we can't give a cast iron guarantee that nothing will ever change, we are not looking at changing the secondary school catchments. We're here to talk about Ness Castle tonight. We are also considering the possibility of a new primary school in the east of Inverness at Stratton, possibly even a new secondary in the future also. It's a challenge, but it's a challenge that arises from living in a brilliant city with plenty of jobs and a growing economy. It's a good challenge to have.

Q11 – You say you're here to talk about Ness Castle, which we understand, but there are also separate problems with Lochardil catchment, which has a boundary with Holm. Would it not be better to take a holistic approach to the whole of this local area – not necessarily the whole of Inverness but the local area? By looking at Ness Castle/Holm and then moving on to look at Lochardil, there is a chance you may draw lines in wrong place. Isn't this a perfect opportunity to take bigger approach rather than this individual area?

A11 – Brian Porter - As stated earlier, the Council is looking across the entire city to address school capacity pressures. Ness Castle is the first phase, with potentially other changes and new builds in other parts of Inverness. BSGI is also under capacity pressure, and house-building means there are English medium capacity pressures in the Slackbuie area also. It's too early to state what changes may be progressed in that catchment at this time. We think that it is legitimate to present this current proposal as a self-contained one, without prejudicing future options that may be considered regarding BSGI and Slackbuie, and whether that in turn has implications for the Lochardil catchment.

Q12 - Of the 3 catchment options - does the Council have a preferred option?

A12 - Brian Porter — We have no preferred option at present. There is not much between each of the options. We think it is sensible to use easily identifiable features such as Holm Burn or the Distributor Road to delineate the catchment. People in Holm Dell may have a view on that. Where we draw the catchment will clearly have an impact both on the size of Ness Castle PS and on the size of Holm PS. One thing that is difficult to predict is parental choice. There may be placing requests into Ness Castle as an attractive new school, and if Holm PS ends up with spare capacity then it may attract placing requests from elsewhere. We can't say with any certainty what will happen, but we are genuinely looking for views from parents and the local community, if not tonight then by the end of the consultation period on 1 December.

Q13 – Where are the roll projections taken from? The housing in the Holm Mills housing is static with not many people coming and going or buying and selling houses. Families within the area are potentially not going to have primary school age children.

A13 - Ian Jackson - That's one of the reasons for some of the relatively low projections in Options A & B. The population within the established housing in Holm is becoming more mature and there is not much buying and selling. The roll projections take quite a sophisticated approach and one of the factors taken into account is whether the population in a given area has a high or low proportion of families of normal child bearing age. A new estate often has a lot of younger families coming in.

Q14 - As a resident of Ness Castle and a parent, I'm a bit concerned that the plans show only one road going into the new school. With all the extra housing going in, the road is already quite busy. Are there any future plans for an access road to the new school? Could there be another school access further along the road?

A14 - Brian Porter – We will capture that as a question to be responded to. At the moment we are unaware of the detailed plans for road access, and can't provide an answer tonight. Clearly though the planning conditions will set down requirements for appropriate infrastructure in terms of getting into the new school.

Bruce Ross – It would be worth looking at the Local Plan, which sets out proposed land use. Within that there will be an initial apportionment of land which sets out the school area. The developers will already have carried out their own studies as to what will work and what infrastructure will be needed to support the new housing.

The Chairperson added that whenever a new school is built there is a "Safer Routes to Schools" assessment that involves consultation with parents.

Bruce Ross – In this area the houses would be close to the school and children will be unlikely to use public transport. There will be an expectation that many children will be walking or cycling to school. Some will be dropped off individually by car. Before anything gets built there will be a huge amount of discussion with the community about how best to get people to the new school site. I guess we will be

trying to minimise car use. Better cycling and pedestrian routes have a really positive social impact.

Q15 – It will be critical to get the parking and Safer Routes plan right for the new school. It would be useful to have a date for when the consultation with the community take place. Holm PS is already under a lot of pressure. I am also interested to hear that you are also looking at the Academy. The dining areas at the Academy are already insufficient for the number of pupils they have.

A15 - Noted.

Q16 - Is there going to be a change to Aldourie's catchment area?

A16 - Ian Jackson - No, this is staying as it is.

Q17 – I have 2 children, one is 5 and one is four months. By the time the new school is operational the older child will be in the upper stages, so I will probably want to keep her at Holm, whereas I will probably send the younger child to the new school – is there an issue with children going to 2 different schools?

A17 – Ian Jackson – The younger child will automatically be enrolled at the new school if they are within catchment. If parents wish to leave older children in Holm School this will not be an issue.

Q18 – I know there are no nursery catchments, but I just wondered whether a new nursery was going to be built into the new school. It's not just the population increase that is a factor for nursery, but there is going to be a doubling of nursery hours by 2020, which will put massive pressure on existing nursery facilities.

A18 - Kenny Murray - Yes indeed. Nursery has been factored into the new build.

Q19 – There are 800 houses planned for the area over the next 7/8 years. The Council will get a developer contribution of £11,000/house allocated for a new primary or secondary school, less for an upgrade to an existing school – Is the new school going to 8 classroom to start with rising to 16 classrooms later?

A19 – Brian Porter – Depending on the size of the catchment, we know roughly what size of school we are going to need. How exactly we phase that will be looked at in due course.

Q20 - Depending on which catchment option is chosen, Holm Primary will be running at 100-130 pupils, which is 4-5 classrooms. I don't think that's a feasible number to attend a school the size of Holm Primary. It will be a poor catchment area that Holm will be left with. Cauldeen Primary is under sized, Drakies Primary is under sized, Lochardil is under pressure. In 3 years' time we will have a brand new school at Ness Castle with whatever catchment, but how many from that catchment will go to the new school from Day One? Many will already have started at other schools and will want to continue. There will be a short term pressure at Holm and other schools until this is resolved. I agree with the concerns expressed by the previous speaker about IRA. As she

said, the dining area is only big enough for 700 and there are over 1200 pupils at the school. Also the children are crossing a main road with no Crossing Patrol. In my opinion, the whole boundary system should be looked at.

Q21 – That point was made earlier. Under the first catchment option, Holm Primary would drop from a roll of nearly 300 to a roll of about 100, but there would be adjoining catchments where the schools were under capacity pressure. Surely it makes sense to take an overall view? We need to open this issue up. It doesn't make sense for this school to drop to 100 pupils, when Lochardil is a few hundred yards up the road and is bursting at the seams.

A20/21 - Brian Porter - We are looking at this city wide. The reality is that new schools are attractive to many parents. The city will have a mix of old and new schools. Redrawing catchments in urban areas inevitably means dividing up streets. People will have differing opinions on the boundaries.

Q22 – School buildings are just bricks and mortar. Just because a building is new doesn't mean that parents will want to send their children there.

Q23 – Over the years Holm Primary has grown from a 7 classroom school and to a 13-classroom school, without there being any addition to the shared facilities. The tiny gym hall we are in also serves as the dining hall, and the playground has been reduced in size to accommodate a nursery with 50 children. This school is undersized for the pupil roll.

A22/23- Kenny Murray – We've acknowledged that earlier in the discussion. That's part of why we are proposing to build the new school.

Alison Hanna - You're absolutely right and that's why we are trying to accelerate this process by starting work on the design even before the consultation is finished.

Q24 – Because Holm Primary is so crowded, people might be tempted to leave the school for Ness Castle. They will look at the space available in the new school and think "Let's go there." Surely there should be a decision that the only pupils allowed into Ness Castle are those in the correct catchment?

A24 - Ian Jackson – We can only cap schools where we anticipate capacity problems. Parents have the right to submit a placing request to any school they want, and we are obliged to grant those requests unless certain set circumstances apply. One of those is where capacity issues arise, so we would have to look at the roll of Ness Castle when it opens.

Q25 - People coming from further afield to enrol in Ness Castle will obviously affect those of us who live in the catchment of the new school. Should that not be taken into account?

A25 – Ian Jackson – The Highland Council has to obey the law and the law currently gives parents the right to request whichever school they want. It doesn't mean that the parents will be granted a place in the school of their choice, but it means that they will be granted the place unless there are good reasons to refuse it.

Q26 - Is the idea to build as big a school as possible to accommodate placing requests? It would seem foolish to build a school and have it hit capacity straight away due to placing requests, which would just put pressure back onto Holm.

A26 – Alison Hanna – The projections in the paper are not just based on the number of houses in the catchment. They are also based on the trends we have observed from previous builds. It's difficult to estimate, but we have looked at our experience with the pattern of placing requests with previous builds.

Ian Jackson – When we have opened new schools in the past, they have had a bit of a magnet effect.

Q27 – Surely the quality of teaching in a school is more important than the quality of the building?

A27 - Ian Jackson - I couldn't agree with you more.

Q28 – If the roll at Holm is going to drop to 130, we will lose about 4 of the good teachers we currently have, and the school will have less resources too. So Holm Primary would end up getting squashed and our children, who have had to put up with overcrowding, will suddenly be left with a load of empty buildings and cuts. What is going to happen over the next 3 years? At the moment children can't get proper outdoor time due to the lack of facilities.

A28 – Kenny Murray - I think we have tried our hardest to deliver adequate facilities at this school. We are not just planning ahead for 3 years' time, we are planning on a year by year basis, looking at the roll projections annually. I know that when you look around this school, at the play space and such, that it is difficult, but the best we can do here is to put things in place to make sure that Holm PS sees this period through, and the children receive an appropriate education.

Q29 – So when is it that the Council knows extra facilities are needed? Is it in March? Last year the demountables that were added were not put in until well after the start of term. There were 6 weeks, nearly 7, when that could have happened. Can you promise that next year parents will be kept better informed of what is to happen?

A29 – Brian Porter – We are always trying to plan ahead as far as we can. One of the issues is that there are a limited number of suppliers. One of the things we try to do is to get contractors to commit as early as possible, but sometimes that depends on what else is on their order books.

Q30 – Does there a come a day when the Council says "Sorry, we can't take any more kids in Holm Primary, even for children who are within the catchment area?"

A30 - Brian Porter - We would just have to consider that situation if and when it arose.

Q31 – The current access arrangements for this school are a nightmare, and Ness Castle will be a bigger school. I can't see how the Council isn't looking at the bigger picture. This is the most thriving area of Inverness, never mind

Tornagrain, this area is the one that is growing fastest and it is where the Council should be investing most. Should we not be looking at a new school for Holm as well as for Ness Castle?

A31 – Brian Porter - You make a number of valid points, but regardless of how we draw the catchment, Ness Castle will be a large primary school. If the new school were also to replace Holm Primary, that would result in a very large primary, perhaps up to 1000 pupils. Do parents want a primary school that size? Do we have a site big enough for such a school? This building is actually pretty decent, relative to the 200 or so schools in Highland. There is an A-D rating system we have to follow, for the condition and suitability of our schools. Holm Primary is rated B for both. There are about 70 schools in Highland with a "C" rating. In terms of decisions on investment, the need for work at this school has to be judged against the 70 or so schools that rated "C" for "Poor". Although there is no way around a new school in some form, it is quite difficult to argue for significant investment for a school such as Holm Primary, which is relatively modern and is in reasonable condition.

Q32 – One of the catchment options involved drawing a line across the proposed Ness-Side development, but since those houses aren't built yet, the people living there do not have an opportunity to comment on the catchment boundary.

A32 - Ian Jackson – Parents thinking of moving to those houses would be able to check beforehand which catchment they were moving into.

Q33 – Can we revisit the nursery issue? If there are parents living in the Ness Castle catchment, where do they send their nursery children in the next 3 years? Can they send them anywhere?

A33 – Brian Porter – There are colleagues who are not available tonight who might have been better able to answer that question. They are actually in Edinburgh meeting the Scottish Government about nursery expansion, and we should hear by December what funding is being made available for that. We expect it to be a phased process in terms of building up our staffing and accommodation, and our plans for buildings and staffing for 2020 will be shared with parent councils.

- A parent commented from the floor that parents are able to go wherever they want for Nursery and there was an option to use commissioned childminders. Many parents were unaware of this.

Q34 – Will the Council know by enrolment time what the position will be for August 2018?

A34 - Brian Porter - We would hope so.

Q35 – I agree with the Council's plan to phase the increased provision in, but am concerned about the position for Holm in 2018. Will the nursery have to be capped to admit only 4 year olds?

A35 - Kenny Murray - Nurseries have not been forgotten about. There is a major amount of work going on within the Council to plan for nursery expansion. Our Early Years colleagues are working alongside everyone else to deliver on this. We need a clearer view about the funding before we can provide more detail.

Q36 – It seems that you can't give the local parents any reassurances about where we can enrol for nursery, but this is a fairly immediate problem for local people.

A36 - Brian Porter - We will reply when more information is available.

There being no other comments, the Chairperson reminded those present of the closing date for responses – 1 December 2017 – and of where responses should be sent, either via letter or via email. A record of this meeting would be made available at least 3 weeks before the meeting of the People Committee which considers the Final Report, as well as all the submissions. The members of the Committee would have a chance to see the note and all other representations before the meeting. Following the decision of the Committee, the minutes would be submitted to the full Council for ratification.

The Chairperson commented that there is nothing more important to parents than the education of their children, and he encouraged everyone to submit their views in writing. Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by The Highland Council to establish a new primary school to serve the Ness Castle and Ness-Side housing developments and to amend the catchment area of Holm Primary School.

1. Introduction

This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and the amendments contained in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of The Highland Council's proposal to establish a new primary school to serve the Ness Castle and Ness-Side housing developments and to amend the catchment area of Holm Primary School. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal. including significant views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The council's final consultation report should include a copy of this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision. Where a council is proposing to close a school, it needs to follow all legislative obligations set out in the 2010 Act, including notifying Ministers within six working days of making its final decision and explaining to consultees the opportunity they have to make representations to Ministers.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children of the schools affected; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people in the council area;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.
- 1.3 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and

• visits to the sites of Holm Primary School, Lochardil Primary School and Aldourie Primary School, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation Process

- 2.1 The Highland Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* and the amendments in the *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*.
- 2.2 The council proposes to establish a new primary school in Inverness to serve new housing developments at Ness Castle and Ness-Side. Its consultation paper contains three different options for the catchment area of the new proposed new school headed Option A including a variation Option A(i), and Options B and C.
- 2.3 The council undertook the consultation between 23 October 2017 and 1 December 2017. Copies of the proposal document were distributed to stakeholders and placed in local schools and in Inverness Library. Notices were placed in the local press and on the council's website. Children of the affected schools were given the opportunity to provide their views and complete questionnaires in meetings led by school staff. A public meeting held on 8 November 2017 was attended by 20 members of the public. The council received five written responses to the consultation.

3. Educational Aspects of Proposal

- 3.1 A new primary school is required to meet a growing pupil population arising from new housing developments in the area. Children attending the new school would benefit from a modern, purpose designed learning environment with appropriate facilities. The council's proposal paper provides a strong case for a new school and outlines the clear educational benefits which will result. The outline design brief for the new school includes provision for 16 classes and a four class nursery wing, community spaces and a multi-use games area. The actual size and proposed roll of the school by 2030/31 would depend on options chosen for the school's catchment area ranging from 588 for Option A, 574 for Option B and 343 for Option C.
- 3.2 The council estimates a three-year timescale to build the proposed new school. It proposes to establish a Stakeholder Group to enable communication on specific details during the implementation phase. It will be important that the council engages with stakeholders on the details of its plans and timeline for transition from existing arrangements to establishing a fully operational school.
- 3.3 Existing schools are already operating over capacity and a substantial rise in school rolls is forecast. Holm Primary School has a permanent capacity of 244 and a current roll of 281. Temporary modular units have been installed to provide additional accommodation. Options A and B within the council's proposal would bring the pupil roll of Holm Primary School well within its capacity. Option C would result in the projected pupil roll at Holm Primary School rising to 357 by 2030/31. It is not sufficiently clear from the council's proposal paper how this would be managed.

- 3.4 The impact of the council's proposal on other neighbouring schools is minimal. Lochardil Primary School is currently operating at capacity and has been capped for the past three years. Option A(i) would result in a small portion of its current catchment area moving to the new school. A separate review of provision for the Slackbuie area of Inverness is to be considered which could result in alterations to Lochardil Primary School's catchment area. There are no major implications for Aldourie Primary School which currently operates as a two class small rural school. All schools being considered within the proposal currently work together as part of the Inverness Royal Academy Associated Schools Group.
- 3.5 Parents, staff and children from all three schools who spoke with HM Inspectors fully supported the proposal to establish a new school. They expressed a variety of views on the council's approach to catchment area options. Parents and staff at Holm Primary School were of the view that the council needed to consider catchment area options within the wider context of total housing development and educational provision in the area. They felt that further changes would be needed over time and that the full picture required clearer consideration. The council will need to consider these views in its final paper.
- 3.6 Parents, staff and children at Holm Primary School were concerned about current constraints on space in the school and on the implications of the three year timescale envisaged to establish a new school. Holm Primary School roll is forecast to rise significantly during that period. The council proposes to address this by installing additional temporary modular accommodation. Parents felt that this could have a negative impact on the quality of the learning environment for children during the three year period. Space for common areas including the playground and dining area was already difficult to manage. The council will need to reassure stakeholders that additional pupils and temporary accommodation can be managed without detriment to children's learning experiences.
- 3.7 Parents, staff and children from all three schools expressed concerns about traffic management, road safety and safe walking routes around the site proposed for the new school. Those at Holm Primary School had concerns about the safety of children making the journey from the new housing development to Holm Primary School within existing arrangements. The council will need to address these in its final proposal paper.

4. Summary

- 4.1 The Highland Council has set out a clear case for a new school in the area. The capacity of existing schools is insufficient to meet the forecast rise in pupil numbers. Those attending the new school would benefit from a high quality learning environment in a modern, purpose built facility.
- 4.2 The council will need to consider stakeholders' views on the proposed changes to school catchment areas. The educational benefits of Option C for Holm Primary School are not sufficiently clear. Should the council decide to proceed with this option it will need to clarify the educational benefits and provide details of arrangements for accommodating the additional number of children at Holm Primary School.

- 4.3 The council will need to provide reassurance to stakeholders on arrangements during the three-year period proposed to build the new school. It will need to ensure that the temporary arrangements for accommodating additional pupils at Holm Primary School can be delivered without negative impact on children's learning experiences. The council should provide details for its plans for the transition from existing arrangements to establishing a fully operational new school.
- 4.4 The council will need to address concerns raised by stakeholders about road safety and safe walking routes to the new school and to Holm Primary School from the new housing developments.

HM Inspectors
Education Scotland
January 2018

Three Comparison Projections

Response received following publication of the proposal (Section 5.1 of the report refers)

From: School consultation [mailto:donotreply@highland.gov.uk]

Sent: 21 May 2018 21:34 **To:** Education Consultations

Subject: Ness Castle consultation comments

Name of consultation: Ness Castle

Your comments: On behalf of Holm Community Council, may I make the following comments in strong support of Option B as presented in the final consultation on catchment areas of Holm and Ness Castle Primary School.

- 1. Option B both retains the existing catchment area for Holm School and adds to it a little. This is important because although the school currently is full to its limit, the opening of the new school for those in Ness Castle and, in time, Ness Side will immediately alleviate pressure on the roll of Holm Primary School. It also means that with the natural fluctuation in the demographics of housing occupancy the number on the roll in the Holm Primary School area will, over the coming years, likely fall gradually, rather than sharply. Brand new houses tend to attract new families, whereas this can't be so readily said of older, second hand housing stock (although it should be quickly said Holm remains a highly desirable place to live!) Option B keeps Holm as a very viable primary school, potentially with capacity in future again for placing requests. Option C would continue to see it strain to breaking point.
- 2. The routes of roads and paths to the new Ness Castle school present certain challenges. There is one access road in from Dores Road and two pedestrian routes; one also from Dores Road up the existing private track to Ness Castle and one in from Torbreck, down the existing private access track to Ness Castle. For those coming from the Holm Dell development to the new Ness Castle school it would be either a long walk, or an awkward drive, in the shape generally of a U, down a busy road and back up another road. It is appreciated it will also be a long walk or drive for those in Ness side to reach Ness Castle Primary, but it would be longer yet and up a busier road if they were to go to Holm School (as per Option C). On dark winter mornings/ evenings anything which can be done to limit journey times for children has to be welcome. Not only that, there is no naturally easy way for any in the Holm Dell Drive / Essich Gardens areas to access Ness Castle Primary, whereas there is already a familiar, tried and tested route to Holm school for those children.

In summary, of the four options tabled Option B is the one which provides the safest and the most "natural" or obvious routes to the respective schools.

Upload documents or letters:

I am commenting as: Chair of Holm Community Council

I am commenting on behalf of: Community Council

Name of Community Council: Holm

Name:

Title	First name	Last name
Mr	Murray	McCheyne

Address:

postcode_search	Choose address	Did you find the address on the list above?
iv2 6dj	Drumdevan Cottage Essich Road - Dores Road Inverness IV2 6DJ	Yes