

**Note: This does not qualify as a “further representation” within the terms of the Act as the respondent did not make a representation during the initial consultation period. Nevertheless, it is being circulated for information.**

**Name of consultation:** Discontinue provision of education at Duror Primary School

**Your comments:**

Hello,

I’m emailing regarding the proposal for the Duror Primary School closure.

My partner and I moved to Duror 8 years ago, and in recent years, our sons who are 2.5 years old and 1 month old have been born.

We moved to Duror because we felt it ticked all the boxes: it is remote but has the essentials within it, plus a great community feel. Having the school in the village was very appealing to us, as the thought of travelling out of Duror for school is very inconvenient. I feel children, especially those of primary school age should be schooled as close as possible to home. Especially in the Highlands, where road closures are frequent.

Zeph and Amos already attend the school every week for the toddler group, where they have made friends and have got to know the lovely, professional, staff members not to mention the very kind, confident pupils. Over the years I have spoken to many parents regarding the school and have only ever heard positive comments regarding the level of teaching and the smooth transition from primary school to high school.

We really want Zeph and his little brother to go to Duror Primary School. Zeph will soon enrol for nursery, most likely at St.Brides if Duror has no options for a nursery.

It is such a loss to our village if the council chooses to close the school. Especially with all the preschool children in the area. I do hope the rising number of children in the area has been taken into consideration as this has not been reflected in your most recent report?

Kind Regards

Sophie Hardy

**Upload documents or letters :**

**I am commenting as:** Parent

**I am commenting on behalf of:**

**Name:**

<b>Title</b>	<b>First name</b>	<b>Last name</b>
Miss	Sophie	Hardy

**Address:**

<b>Enter a postcode to search for the address</b>	<b>Choose address</b>	<b>Did you find the address on the list above?</b>
PA38 4bs	2 Forrestry Cottages, Duror, PA38 4BS	Yes

**Name of consultation:** Discontinue provision of education at Duror Primary School

**Your comments:** i know that Duror and Kentallen Community Council has submitted a very detailed response to the proposal to discontinue education at Duror Primary School.

I agree with the contents of this response and urge you to read the document carefully.

Additionally, transport to an alternative school would be provided for the children BUT, parents who do not drive/own a car, will be unable to attend school events eg. parents' nights. As unlikely as it may sound , this would be the case for at least one family in the community of Duror and Kentallen.

**Upload documents or letters :**

**I am commenting as:** Local resident

**I am commenting on behalf of:** myself

**Name:**

Title	First name	Last name
Miss	Janice	Murray

**Address:**

Enter a postcode to search for the address	Choose address	Did you find the address on the list above?
PA38 4BW	Schoolhouse, Duror, PA38 4BW	Yes

**Note: This does not qualify as a “further representation” within the terms of the Act as the respondent did not make a representation during the initial consultation period. Nevertheless, it is being circulated for information.**

**Name of consultation:** Discontinue provision of education at Duror Primary School

**Your comments:** The issue of closing Duror Primary School is beautifully complex. I believe it is uncouth of you to strike it off. I think you should give the school more time to come full circle, and you'll have more young families coming back to the community.

Everyone who is in favour of closing the school, needs to visit it first before making their final decision. There's something rather magical about the school. It pulls you in and makes you feel at ease. The students, even though there are only two, are very approachable, polite and well-rounded, which is so rare at that age. And it is very obvious that the teachers have gotten to know each student personally, understand their unique learning styles, and provide tailored support, which most likely results in an improved academic performance and increased student engagement.

We all know, it all comes down to money and let's be honest, it is the Highland Council's achilles' heel, where they now they have a burning platform and are forcing schools to sharpen their pencils. Are you even acutely aware of the impact closing the school will have on the students, their families, and the surrounding community? What about the teachers, support staff, and administrators? These employees are usually strangers in a new town and have to start over from scratch. They may not be able to find work in their field. Plus, is it not Highland Council policy to encourage more walking and cycling? But if the local students had to go to other schools, they most likely would require vehicle transport.

The school community needs more investment. The long term benefits of keeping the school open far outweigh any short term financial savings.

Below are ways you could reallocate resources, and implement community partnerships to support funding.

1. You could bring down the catering costs, by turning to in-house catering instead of receiving the food from Ballachulish Primary School, which would eliminate third-party markups. From this the school could provide venue services that will benefit the local community and help increase awareness of the school's facilities for both educational and entertainment purposes.
2. You could review the staff expenditure. By starting with streamlining the senior leadership team, consider how you are using supply teachers, allowing flexible working (by paperwork and lesson planning, etc, to be done from home), and prioritise upskilling the school staff.
3. You could introduce a nursery, and/or after school club.
4. You could introduce forest school-type activities to benefit mental and physical wellbeing.

Would you allow the teachers/students to apply for funding the school? There's sites like, Grants4Schools, etc.

My son is just under two, and only attends playgroup there just now, but I hope to send him there when he is of age. We live in Glenachulish, but Duror Primary School is our first choice.

**Upload documents or letters :**

**I am commenting as:** Parent

**I am commenting on behalf of:**

**Name:**

<b>Title</b>	<b>First name</b>	<b>Last name</b>
Miss	Courtney	Smith

**Address:**

<b>Enter a postcode to search for the address</b>	<b>Choose address</b>	<b>Did you find the address on the list above?</b>
PH49 4JZ	6, Ballachulish, PH49 4JZ	Yes

## Councillors on EC Committee

Dear .....

Duror and Kentallen Community Council (DKCC) are writing to you in your role as a member of the Highland Council Education Committee (EC).

We found various points that we would like to clarify in the Consultation Report relating to the Proposal to Close Duror Primary School which was issued on the 29th January, and I attach our comments at the end of this email in the hope that it will give you time to read them in advance of the EC meeting on the 26th February.

We would like to stress that DKCC shares concerns of the parents, future parents and much of the community in feeling that many of the positive aspects surrounding the current state and possible future of the school have been overlooked in the final report.

A 'Stay and Play' toddler group (which was started last May by local mother Megan Dent) has had a big impact not only on the young children in the village and their parents, but also on the current pupils and staff at the school. Toddlers attend the weekly sessions at the school accompanied by parents or grandparents and the current primary pupils interact in a variety of ways with this group – by reading to them etc. We believe there is scope for the group to extend and to also form the basis of some ELC in the village. A total of 12 toddlers currently attend these events – and the number is growing.

The Nurture Group, which has been set up by the Duror teacher Holly Graves, has created an ideal environment for pupils from the other schools in the cluster group to develop social and emotional skills in an engaging, active, play-based environment, working on communications skills and self-confidence in a nurturing way. The group's weekly visit provides another opportunity for the Duror pupils to interact with children from the other schools in the cluster. We believe there is scope to extend the role of this group.

A recent visit to Muck Primary School, which the pupils raised money to fund themselves through events involving the community at large, was enormously successful not only for the pupils from Duror, but also the five pupils at Muck, another isolated rural school. Strong bonds were formed between the pupils, and a return visit to Duror from Muck Primary is already being discussed. The possibility of twinning the two schools has also been raised.

Although Highland Council say in the report that the other schools in the cluster are also small rural schools, they are simply not as rural as Duror and its location is ideal as a hub for outside learning for both Duror PS itself, the other schools in the cluster and also possibly for other schools in Highland Region. The formation of an Otter Group alongside IOSF (International Otter Survival Fund, based on Skye) is well underway – their Team Otter programme works to reconnect children to nature – and recent meetings with SAMS (Scottish Association of Marine Sciences, Dunstaffnage) surely pave the way for a bright future for the school as part of a STEM inclusive education network.

In short, yes, Duror Primary currently has small pupil numbers – the result of events, many beyond its control – but those pupils are not merely sitting in isolation in a deserted schoolroom with their teacher. The school is buzzing with life and ideas and neither the parents or indeed Education Scotland has questioned the level of education that the current pupils are receiving. We believe, given time, the school can not only increase pupil numbers, but grow into a thriving example of the high value that our remaining small rural schools can have not only for themselves but to help the education of all primary age children in the area.

We have consistently been told by Highland Council that the reason for the proposed closure of the school is that the education and socialisation of the pupils is suffering due to the low number of pupils, however there is no evidence to support this claim and the parents, staff and indeed the Education Inspector all disagree with this view.

There is surely then no valid reason to close the school and deny all Duror children present and future the chance to go to their own village school.

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**Name of consultation:** Discontinue provision of education at Duror Primary School

**Your comments:** When we lived in England, I decided against the tiny local village school for our boys. I felt it wouldn't offer them the opportunities to develop socially and academically. Instead, they went to a larger village school 4 miles away.

Whilst this school was very good, my shy older boy was totally lost in the class. At celebration assemblies, he would try to hide at the back.

In 2008 we moved to Onich, and our younger 2 boys started at St Bride's. I warned Miss Kemp that the older boy would not want to speak out in class and would definitely not want to perform in front of the village at the Christmas show. She just smiled at me.

Sure enough, she was right and he had no qualms about performing in public. We were amazed at the confidence of the young children performing for their local community. I cannot stress enough how a tiny school helped both boys develop socially, academically and also strengthened their moral compass. It was without doubt the best thing about moving up here. The school also gave its students an integral place in the community. The village was invited to the Christmas shows, to Burns Night supper and to the Christmas fair. The school was a vital link for all in the community.

Educationally, the teachers knew each child inside out and made sure they succeeded in wherever their strengths lay. They also had a strong foundation in maths, English, science, history and geography. Differentiation is much easier with a small group. There were also countless learning opportunities outside the classroom. If St Bride's numbers were too small for a certain event, they would join with other small schools in the cluster. Each school had its own identity and yet shared experiences. The children knew everyone from the local cluster, ensuring they were not socially isolated.

I cannot stress enough how important this has been to our younger boys. They are both independent, strong, confident and successful. I put much of this down to their small village school. I feel very upset that my grandson is going to be denied the opportunity to attend school in his local community. The consensus from all at the meeting in April was that they were delighted with the quality of education their children were receiving or had received. There was overwhelming support from the community. Indeed, people from all ages in the community attended to show their support.

The children at Duror are well educated and rooted in their local community. I am also greatly concerned that if the school is closed, the small community of Duror will lose forever its heart. Rural communities need to be supported and nourished if the Highlands is to continue to be home to families. Closing rural schools means more isolation for villagers (especially when there is no shop, post office or pub) and deters young people from moving to the area. I fear that more and more of the houses will be bought as second homes. Where will the village be then? As a secondary teacher of 30+ years, and teaching in Fort William from 2008 to August 2024, I can confidently say that in my experience, children who come from the various small schools are generally very confident, secure and have a solid education. I have never thought that a child might have done better in a larger primary school.

I have been involved in transition from primary to secondary. I do not believe that children from small schools are more nervous, less prepared, or have a poorer education. Quite often they



have had a more personalised education. I have not seen any evidence suggesting that education in small schools is detrimental to students' education.

Certainly, I have always felt that my most rewarding and successful teaching has been when I have worked with small groups - differentiation is easier; you can tailor the subject to make it more relevant; you know the students better and can support them more productively. The students cannot hide at the back of the classroom and they have to engage. The communication and interpersonal skills they develop are invaluable.

I hope Highland Council will revisit their decision and see that in terms of both education and community there is an overwhelming case for keeping Duror open.

**Upload documents or letters :**

**I am commenting as:** Grandparent and former teacher

**I am commenting on behalf of:**

**Name:**

<b>Title</b>	<b>First name</b>	<b>Last name</b>
Mrs	Frances	Dent

**Address:**

<b>Enter a postcode to search for the address</b>	<b>Choose address</b>	<b>Did you find the address on the list above?</b>
PH33 6SD	Taigh Glas, Onich, PH33 6SD	Yes

**Name of consultation:** Discontinue provision of education at Duror Primary School

**Your comments:** Dear Highland Council

After reading the report, I have to admit, I am fairly dissatisfied with how the Highland Council has conducted the consultation. I was hoping the report would be a honest look at the pros and cons of keeping Duror Primary School open. However, I feel the report was written to fit the already perceived narrative that the Highland Council has already decided upon.

There is no evidence to suggest that small roll numbers within schools impacts a pupils ability to learn. I would like the Highland Council to explain to the Education Committee where this information is coming from to back up this point of view rather than making a statement. Looking on the Education Scotland website, at the most recent reports of Primary Schools in the Highlands, small schools with below ten pupils on their roll, (for example Glenelg Primary School and Rum Primary School) are achieving 'Very Good' ratings on both 'Learning, Teaching and Assessment' and 'Raising Attainment and Achievement'. No where within these inspection reports is there mention that a low school roll is detrimental to pupil learning.

I have also enquired with High School and Primary School teachers, both past and present, whether they agree with the opinion that a small school roll is detrimental to pupils learning and I am yet to find one that does.

The Duror and Kentallen community has undertake a large amount of work to clarify how many prospective pupils there are in the catchment area. The figures in the report by the Highland Council are incorrect. We know there are at least nine pre-school children in the Duror and Kentallen catchment area.

I was sad to discover that the Highland Council have recently purchased a bus company in an attempt to reduce its travel costs when taking pupils to and from school. I feel there needs to be an independent review as to whether this is further impacting the decision to close Duror Primary School, given the Highland Council have not been transparent with the villagers of Duror and Kentallen.

To be clear:

1. Current pupil's parents of Duror Primary School do not want it to close
2. The future pupil's parents of Duror Primary School do not want it close
3. People who live within the Duror and Kentallen Community overwhelmingly do not want it to close
4. The Duror and Kentallen Community Council does not want it to close
5. Education Scotland does not want it to close

I feel Duror Primary School should not be closed or failing that, the consultation should be started again and a new report produced from an unbiased perspective.

Regards  
Jonathan Dent

**Upload documents or letters :**

**I am commenting as:** Parent

**I am commenting on behalf of:** Future Parent

**Name:**

<b>Title</b>	<b>First name</b>	<b>Last name</b>
Mr	Jonathan	Dent

**Address:**

<b>Enter a postcode to search for the address</b>	<b>Choose address</b>	<b>Did you find the address on the list above?</b>
pa38 4da	Bracken Bank, Duror, PA38 4DA	Yes

**Name of consultation:** Discontinue provision of education at Duror Primary School

**Your comments:** Dear Highland Council

Duror Primary school is far more than two pupils sat in isolation. They interact regularly with the community and other pupils from near by schools. They are involved with local ecological projects (MACOLL and SAMS), help out at the Tuesday morning Baby & Toddler Group and host the Nurture Group for pupils from other primary schools. They explore and learn about their environment with regular visits to the bay, the river and the woodland, all within a safe and easy reach. This school is an asset to the community and it would be extremely sad to see it close.

The SNP is trying to tackle a 'population emergency' and are desperately trying to stop working age people moving out of the Highlands. According to a Highland Council report from December 2023, the region is becoming a "retirement destination." Last February the SNP launched the 'Highland Depopulation Masterplan' the then Migration Minister, Emma Roddick stated, "While there is no quick fix to the challenges that lead to population decline, this plan will set out the next steps in our work to help communities... Local leaders and organisations know their communities best, and we will set out concrete steps to empower them and channel their expertise." With this in mind, why has our Community Council not been listened to, closing our school will be detrimental our community. How can we entice working age people and families to move to our village if we cannot provide them with a local school. The village will be irreversibly impacted if the school closes.

Given the weight of the Highland Council's argument, that the school should close due its current and future roll number, I do not believe that the Highland Council have done their due diligence. They have relied on future parents coming forward and stating their interest, which I believe is unfair. Have they consulted with the local Health Visitors? They would be able to give them a accurate number of pre-school children in the area, rather than relying on the Community Council to do all the investigative work for them. When you have a small child, the last thing you are thinking about is school, you are just trying to survive day-to-day. Warning of the consultation process may have been conducted by the book, but I think this needs to be addressed.

I am in touch with many parents of pre-school children in the community who missed the initial consultation period and have felt their voices have not been heard on the issue. I have attached their comments as part of this response to ensure that their views will be heard. (Response 1-3)

The main argument to closing the school is that a small roll number is detrimental to the pupils education. There is no evidence to support this claim. I have also included a message from a parent (Response 4 CH) of a former pupil who has recently transitioned to High School.

All I ask is that the Education Committee look beyond the current roll number. This school is vital to the future of our village. It has so much to offer and lots of exciting potential. I really hope that my little boy will be able to attend when the time comes.

Regards  
Megan Dent

**Upload documents or letters :** Responses.pdf

**I am commenting as:** Future parent

**I am commenting on behalf of:** Future parent and community member

**Name:**

<b>Title</b>	<b>First name</b>	<b>Last name</b>
Mrs	Megan	Dent

**Address:**

<b>Enter a postcode to search for the address</b>	<b>Choose address</b>	<b>Did you find the address on the list above?</b>
PA38 4DA	Bracken Bank, Duror, PA38 4DA	Yes

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**Fw: Duror Primary School**

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**From** Megan Dent [REDACTED]

**Date** Tue 18/02/2025 22:56

**To** Megan Dent [REDACTED]

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**From:** CS

**Sent:** 18 February 2025 22:27

**To:** Megan Dent <[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** Duror Primary School

Hello Meg,

Here are my comments.

The issue of closing Duror Primary School is beautifully complex. I believe it is uncouth of the Highland Council to strike it off. I think you should give the school more time to come full circle, and you'll have more young families coming back to the community.

Everyone who is in favour of closing the school, needs to visit it first before making their final decision. There's something rather magical about the school. It pulls you in and makes you feel at ease. The students, even though there are only two, are very approachable, polite and well-rounded, which is so rare at that age. And it is very obvious that the teachers have gotten to know each student personally, understand their unique learning styles, and provide tailored support, which most likely results in an improved academic performance and increased student engagement.

We all know, it all comes down to money, and let's be honest, it is the Highland Council's achilles' heel, where they now are standing on a burning platform and are forcing schools to sharpen their pencils.

Are you even acutely aware of the impact closing the school will have on the students, their families, and the surrounding community? What about the teachers, support staff, and administrators? These employees are usually strangers in a new town and have to start over from scratch. They may not be able to find work in their field.

Plus, is it not Highland Council's 'Safer Routes To School' policy to encourage cutting down the carbon footprint of their daily commute? Closing the school, and sending the students to another primary school would require vehicle transport. You'd just be asking everyone to go one step forward, two steps back.

Frankly, the school community in Duror needs more investment. The long-term benefits of keeping the school open far outweigh any short-term financial savings. If the Highland Council is not willing to spend any money on the school, then community partnerships need to be implemented to raise funding for the school. This could be along the lines of, applying for funding via sites like Grants4Schools, donations from the local community, and fundraisers. It would allow the school to introduce a nursery or after-school club. It would allow for forest school-type activities, which

would benefit mental and physical wellbeing. Items could be added to the playground. These factors could bring back children that have asked for transfers to other primary schools.

You've added in costings of Duror PS too. These can be brought down if you allocate resources correctly. Duror PS could bring down the catering costs, by turning to in-house catering instead of receiving the food from Ballachulish PS, which would eliminate third-party markups. From this, the school could provide venue services that will benefit the local community and help increase awareness of the school's facilities for both educational and entertainment purposes. The staff expenditure could be reviewed too by starting with streamlining the senior leadership team, consider how they are using supply teachers, allowing a flexible working schedule, and prioritise adding to the skills of the current teachers.

My son is just under two, and only attends playgroup there just now, but I hope to send him there when he is of age. We live in Glenachulish, but Duror Primary School is our first choice.

Thanks for adding these in. CS

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**Fw: School closure**

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**From** Megan Dent [REDACTED]  
**Date** Tue 18/02/2025 22:58  
**To** Megan Dent [REDACTED]

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**From:** DM  
**Sent:** 17 February 2025 22:32  
**To:** Megan Dent [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** School closure

We cannot stress enough how detrimental closing our school will be to our village.

Steven was brought up in Duror, lived here all his life (37 years)  
His mother went to this school, then Steven and his sister. With hope that our daughter will too. We bought our house less than a mile away. Duror has a lot to offer, but buying a home that was going to be beneficial to us but also our family was essential.

I also work at the school. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Duror Primary has given me back some freedom from mum life and my independence of an income again.

Myself and our daughter also meet at the school every week for playgroup. Where we have the chance interact with other parents and infants but also the current children of Duror Primary. This is a weekly highlight for us as other baby/toddler groups are out with a eight mile radius.

When making your final decision, we ask that you think of the children of Duror. Small schools are vital in a community. They keep a community alive.

Steven Davitt  
Dana Maclean  
Annie Mia

Sent from my iPhone



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**Fw: Duror Primary School closure**

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**From** Megan Dent <[REDACTED]>

**Date** Tue 18/02/2025 23:00

**To** Megan Dent <[REDACTED]>

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**From:** SH

**Sent:** 17 February 2025 11:11

**To:** Megan Dent <[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** Duror Primary School closure

Hi Meg, please do read my comments to the community council and education committee.

Hello,

I'm emailing regarding the proposal for the Duror Primary School closure.

My partner and I moved to Duror 8 years ago, and in recent years, our sons who are 2.5 years old and 1 month old have been born.

We moved to Duror because we felt it ticked all the boxes: it is remote but has the essentials within it, plus a great community feel. Having the school in the village was very appealing to us, as the thought of travelling out of Duror for school is very inconvenient. I feel children, especially those of primary school age should be schooled as close as possible to home. Especially in the Highlands, where road closures are frequent.

[REDACTED] already attend the school every week for the toddler group, where they have made friends and have got to know the lovely, professional, staff members not to mention the very kind, confident pupils. Over the years I have spoken to many parents regarding the school and have only ever heard positive comments regarding the level of teaching and the smooth transition from primary school to high school.

We really want [REDACTED] and his little brother to go to Duror Primary School. [REDACTED] will soon enrol for nursery, most likely at St.Brides if Duror has no options for a nursery.

It is such a loss to our village if the council chooses to close the school. Especially with all the preschool children in the area. I do hope the rising number of children in the area has been taken into consideration as this has not been reflected in your most recent report?

Kind Regards

Sophie Hardy

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**Fw: Duror Primary parent statement**

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**From** Megan Dent [REDACTED]  
**Date** Tue 18/02/2025 23:02  
**To** Megan Dent [REDACTED]

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**From:** CH  
**Sent:** 02 February 2025 17:00  
**To:** Megan Dent [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Duror Primary parent statement

I am a parent of 2 children who attended Duror Primary (DP) between 2021 and 2024. My son attended the school for a few weeks in 2021 when we first moved to Duror, before he left to attend high school, whilst my daughter attended DP for 3 years.

My son's brief attendance at DP was a valuable experience as it supported him to feel part of the village and meet other local children before heading to high school. DP welcomed him and helped to get him registered for and feel prepared to attend high school.

My daughter's experience of DP was excellent. The small class size (4 pupils in her last year) meant she always had the freedom to ask questions and feel fully engaged in all classroom topics and discussions. Due to the small numbers the class took frequent field trips for their classroom topics, which really brought their learning to life. My daughter always felt like a visible and valued member of the class room. Academically she excelled under the tuition of DP, achieving an adult reading age (17+) at the age of 11 and completing all maths passports and achieving all age-related targets by P7. Attending DP has set her up very well for high school, where she continues to do well in all subjects. She is a confident and independent learner and I am sure that her time at DP has been instrumental in her development.

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To Whom it may concern,

Please consider our views as parents of an almost 1 year old daughter, who live in Duror.

### **Notice of closure and consultation**

Having a child had not been on our radar and as you can imagine has been rather a shock to the system. Thinking about schools was not upper most in our minds. We were vaguely aware through the Lochaber Times newspaper, that Duror Primary School might be closed. We did not see any notices about consultations for Duror school. We don't particularly use social media. It was not until we attended a playgroup at the school last year that we started to hear more about the proposed closure. After a web search we recently read the Highland Council report (EDU/6/24 - 21/02/2024) which gave the impression to us the school was to close. The report appears to indicate there are no other options except closure once the formal consultation process is concluded due to lack of current pupil numbers.

### **Where is the SWOT (strengths/weaknesses/opportunities/threats) analysis on the school?**

The report (EDU/6/24) only highlights perceived negative issues which appear to be concerns of poor education due to small number of pupils, condition of the building and the cost of running the school. The opportunities of the location for learning and different approaches to getting education should be celebrated. For example observing the pupils at Duror Primary stand up and read stories to the playgroup and Councillor Fanet and talk with the adults confidently, is far beyond what we would have been able to do that at that age. Using Duror school for the other pupils from the cluster schools to utilise the uniqueness and positive location has not been explored in the report. We are not convinced that there would be vast savings as current staff would still be employed, travel costs and impacts on Ballachulish Primary school resources and infrastructure. We cannot find on a web search any further reports.

### **Lack of acknowledging and using parents and local community's views on the closure.**

From the pupils to the numerous parents at the stay and play, to other members of Duror community, we have not spoken to anyone who wanted the school to close. The community want the school to remain open - this is not presented clearly in the report or acknowledged from the consultation meeting (24/04/2024 minutes).

### **Why the quick change from moth balling the school to proposed closure.**

From our understanding the parents, staff and local community do not want the school to close or moth balled. But it appears to be being pushed through that closure is the only option.

### **Pre-school children numbers**

We are aware of at least 7 pre-school children in the catchment area and are aware of at least 2 others in the Glenahulish area who would prefer their children to go to Duror. The area has attracted families who work from home and has potential for this with the fibre optic connections in the area.

**The school is an integral part of the community.**

**Climate change**

The school is a good walk or cycle from our house, instead of a car ride to alternatives. Surely looking at climate change keeping local schools open makes sense. The road infrastructure, storm surges and weather conditions seem to indicate stay local.

**Regret for what has gone**

Kirstie works in the NHS and Calum in Forestry and Land Scotland. In our respective areas of work we have seen buildings and resources closed which are sorely missed and did not appear to bring about savings that was expected.

Thank you for reading this e-mail.

Yours faithfully

Kirstie & Calum Ross

Willow Cottage, Auchindarroch

Duror

PA384BS

Dear Ian,

Many thanks for confirmation of receipt of our further representation.

Yesterday, after conclusion of that report, I received a personal email from the “Forces family” confirming that Duror Primary School is their first choice for their 3 children's education when they return to the village – currently scheduled to be in July 2026. I have added this small bit to the report (at the foot of page 2).

This helps to confirm our projected pupil numbers.

I would be grateful if this comment could be included in our response.

Kind Regards,

Becky Coope

Chair Duror & Kentallen Community Council