

Good morning,

Since, as stated at the consultation meeting, there are no financial reasons for closure the proposal is presumably based largely on the Suitability Assessment. This appears to have been carried out nearly 8 years ago. It also seems to use standards designed for a larger town school which are not necessarily applicable to a small village school. It is an overly harsh assessment, that does not consider the full social and community environment. I have made more comments at the end of this email.

When we first arrived in Duror, in the 1970s, there were proposals to close the school. Fortunately this did not happen, the school roll rose and the school became so well-regarded that some pupils came from Ballachulish. Now that we are facing another proposed closure the arguments against closure remain the same:

1. Although the expected roll for 24/25 is only 2, there are babies and young couples in the village and the roll will increase.
2. Village schools are part of the community. Closing the school will take the heart out of the community and young couples will be discouraged from moving here.
3. Bussing 5-year olds to Ballachulish every day is not acceptable.

Overall, there seems to be no good argument for closure and I hope that Highland Council will keep the school open and allow it to prosper once more.

Suitability Assessment

Learning _ Teaching General: Whilst facilities can always be improved, you have to question the need for a PE hall and a grass field. PE is, as stated, carried out in the village hall and the field at the hall is also available for school sports etc.

In spite of the assessment, there does appear to be disabled access.

Internal Social: I think all former pupils would agree that there are adequate social spaces.

Internal Facilities: There is no need for a reception.
The fact that staff have to “physically open the door” to a very small number of visitors hardly seems to be a problem.

External Social: The play area is small but this never seemed to be a problem, even when the school was at full capacity.
There is no mention of the surrounding natural environment, trips to the Cuil
Bay beach, vegetable growing etc

External Facilities: There is no need for a separate school car park, the space opposite the school is suitable and there have never been any parking problems.
There is no need for a drop off zone, since the school is on a quiet

single track road.

Regards

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