

**Name of consultation:** Badcaul Primary School

**Your comments:** Rural communities are in trouble and this latest school to highlight that is Badcaul.

This used to be one of the schools I visited as part of my job, as was Kinlochewe, both moth-balled in the last couple of years. The schools get so small that the parents start to worry about the kids experience and take them to a bigger school (I understand why) The schools then drift towards an unsustainable number and then close. Meanwhile, many of the houses big enough to house families with children are being bought up by retirees or as second homes or holiday lets. The communities become a monoculture in demographic terms.

In the meantime, this community is putting in motion new (more) affordable housing for people but the pace of this can't keep up with the school closures. This results in a community with a little bit of affordable housing but no school and therefore a lack of desire for families to move there. It's a nail in the coffin of rural communities. It creates retirement/holiday villages where there is no one to run the services in aging populations where care is required.

It makes me so sad and needs major political and systematic change.

This is not a simple case of please dont close another rural school. It is, a plea to see there are other major factors at play and that is the housing situation.

Please give this school a chance to stay open at least until the community's efforts to build more housing for families can change its course.

Aside from permanently ruining a rural community, the way to Ullapool is a dangerous section of road, often difficult in winter.

**Upload documents or letters :**

**I am commenting as:** I live in Ullapool but work all over Wester Ross

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

**Name:**

| Title | First name | Last name |
|-------|------------|-----------|
| Miss  | Jenny      | Grant     |

**Address:**

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