

Name of consultation: Kinlochewe Primary closure

Your comments: We would like to reiterate our comments from the meeting on 28th January:

Whilst we are upset about the loss of the school, we accept that the likelihood of a viable school roll in the next five years is very low, and especially given the condition of the building that closure is the sensible option.

There are still several primary aged and younger children in the village, and families that may go on to have children. We feel that consideration needs to be given to the alternative provision that is given to those children. Many children whose parents chose to put them to Gairloch did so because that was the only option with transport. If they had been given the option of Shieldaig with transport they may have chosen differently. We chose Shieldaig for many reasons including the fact that it was our cluster school, and has more of the small community school feel that we moved here for.

We are also concerned about the challenges of accessing nursery and the impact this will have on families living in our village. Whether it was Shieldaig or Gairloch nursery parents would need to do two hours of driving a day to drop their child off. This is prohibitive to those who don't have a car or cannot afford the time or expense. This disproportionately discriminates against lower income families, which in turn has obvious implications for our community. The significant transport burden becomes a factor in parents' decisions on whether to take the advantage year at nursery or not. Parents should not be put in a position where they have to put their transport costs ahead of their child's developmental readiness for school.

Based on our comments, we would suggest the following:

Catchment zoning to Shieldaig to future-proof its numbers, or parents to have the choice as travel time is more or less the same to either.

Dedicated primary/nursery transport with adequate supervision.

If that is not possible then a peripetetic play worker to run toddler/nursery sessions in the village.

We look forward to seeing the feedback from this consultation,

Thanks

Graham Phillips and Eleanor Kennedy

Upload documents or letters :

I am commenting as: Parent

I am commenting on behalf of:

Name:

Title	First name	Last name
Mr	Graham	Phillips

Address:

Enter a postcode to search for the address	Choose address	Did you find the address on the list above?
IV22 2PA		Yes