

Dear Mr Jackson,

Having seen the article in The Strathspey & Badenoch Herald stating "No future so school's to be shut", there seems no point in making any further comment despite your statement that 'the consultation process remains open until November 10th', - a contradiction in terms if I may say so! - and that a community meeting should take place to discuss future use for the building. 'The Community' is going to have to have a lot of discussions if it is to discuss what to do with (a) the church, (b) the school, and probably (c) the shop, if there are going to be so few people, such as tourists, to need coffee and sandwiches etc.

What is needed are more jobs - good, well paid jobs, that will bring more families to the neighbourhood, with more houses for them and their grown-up offspring to afford to buy. I don't think Badenoch is the only 'dying' rural community, now life-styles have changed so drastically, but surely Scotland isn't totally devoid of intelligent, successful business men - or women - with good innovative ideas of what is needed in the C21st rural areas, and enough knowledge of modern technological means of bringing their ideas about? Surely those of you living in or around the rural parts of the Highlands must have SOME idea of what can be done up here other than sheep? Most Local Authorities in the UK seem to be - well perhaps it should be 'have been' - good at coming up with ideas to get things going in their area. We need them more than ever now if 'the Highlands' aren't going to die.

Yours sincerely,

Sally M. Spencer

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On Thu, 5 Oct 2023 at 11:32, Education Consultations <Education.Consultations@highland.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Mrs Spencer

Thanks for your email. By all means send in further comments to add to those you have already sent. I could easily replace your previous email with your revised version.

It's entirely up to you.

Ian Jackson
Education Officer
Highland Council
07435 982557

From: Sally Spencer
Sent: Tuesday, October 3, 2023 10:41 AM
To: Education Consultations <Education.Consultations@highland.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Closure of Gergask Primary School

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr Jackson,

Thank you for your swift reply to my email. I have no objection to my comments being made public, a lot of people will have heard them anyway.

Oddly, some of my text seems to have vanished, but I don't suppose it matters.

Yours sincerely,

Sally M. Spencer

On Mon, 2 Oct 2023 at 09:34, Education Consultations <Education.Consultations@highland.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Mrs Spencer

Thank you for your representation regarding the Highland Council's proposal to permanently discontinue the provision of education at Gergask Primary School.

Your comments, along with any others received, will be presented in due course to the Highland Council's elected members for their consideration.

Please note that, as this is a public consultation, written submissions will be made available to the public and that, unless you have specified otherwise, your comments may be published on the Council's website – www.highland.gov.uk. However, all signatures, personal telephone numbers and personal e-mail addresses will be removed.

Ian Jackson

Education Officer

Highland Council

07435 982557

From: Sally Spencer

Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 7:11 PM

To: Education Consultations <Education.Consultations@highland.gov.uk>

Subject: Closure of Gergask Primary School

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sirs,

As a grandmother you may think I am too old to consider such matters, but a school is not just something for children and parents, it is something for the whole community, and very much one of the things that make a proper village serving the whole local community.

There are 5 things that are needed for a 'living' village:

1. A 'working' church with a congregation prepared to do their best to keep the local
community doing well and happily
2. A Primary School, and if the community is large, possibly a secondary one too,
3. A pub, where the men can meet and put the world to rights,
4. A shop, supplying the village's basic needs, where the women can also put the world
to rights