

**Name of consultation:** Badcaul Primary School

**Your comments:** Dear Ian Jackson,

As a community member living in Durnamuck next to Badcaul and a parent of two former recent pupils I feel strongly that Badcaul primary should be given consideration for further moth balling for the next 5 years.

the reasons I set before you:-

The proposal to send future pupils to Ullapool primary is not ideal for several reasons-

First the time it takes to travel is as you say 41 mins on a good day- this can take considerably longer- if there is ice or snow on the Fain. The treacherous winter conditions is a valid reason in it self- I was worried on many days when my two children had to undertake that journey when at high school- let alone being very young and at primary. The children would be going and coming home from school in the dark in the winter- this long distance.

Many children hate this long journey from Dundonnell - often feel sick and struggle if there are issues with other children in a confined space of a bus every day! The children were always being called into the heads office and being asked to report on disruptive behaviour of other children (when at high School)- this was for a 6 year period! If children are expected to go from primary 1 to Ullapool that is 13 years of this long journey! I think children will give up education early just not to do this journey! Speaking from experience.

Another issue with the transport system is that it is a small privately owned mini bus for the first leg of the journey to Ullapool- then the children have to change buss at Braemore junction - and get onto a public bus that comes from Dingwall. This is not acceptable to send 12 year olds onto a public bus unattended by a responsible PVG accredited adult. Teachers and people working with children have to be PVG accredited- by expecting young children to catch a public bus makes a nonsense of this! The children will be under the Highland councils care at this time- can the highland Council guarantee their safety?

Second point- Badcaul Primary covers a large area from many directions and gives a very excellent option for children and parents to chose from with regards a primary school. There are actually more children of primary age in this area than quoted- some are being home schooled- if the school was open it would give an option and then the children that travel at present may well change to Badcaul.

Third point- As a community we are at the initial stages of getting 4 affordable family houses built in Badcaul. The land has been identified and we hope to realise the project with in the next 5 years. The local fish farm owned by MOWI are currently building a new hatchery- the company has very recently bought a large house with other large accommodation on site and a lot of land to build potential houses. There are going to be 16 jobs available at the hatchery- this could potentially mean that 16 families could move into the area.-This will not happen if there is not any chance of a primary school.

Forth point- Re populating the Highlands has been the Governments mantra for a while- this will not happen when primary schools are closed-what will happen is an aging population will move in (which is fine) However- the community becomes unbalanced-for a thriving community a good balance of old and young is needed.

The School provides jobs, encourages families into the area and is the foundation of a

community.

fifth point- There was always a healthy interaction with Scoraig primary School- where resources, teachers and experiences were shared. Both schools benefitted enormously- by having the children mix and make new friends- the schools supported each other- and more opportunities for both schools became available. A good symbiotic relationship. Much was gained and shared.

sixth and final point- If the school was sold- its out look does not look bright- it would be bought as a private house- but no school so not by a family! Or sold to a developer- for flats- no school - so no one with children will buy them. or sold as a holiday let- this will be the end of any chance at a community and add to the rapid de population of the Highlands. So it is with this in mind that I fervently ask that Badcaul Primary School is moth balled for a further 5 years to give us and it another chance.

If it does not cost the Highland Council any thing to keep it moth balled nothing is lost- it may be gained in the form of a re populated area and some hope.

**Upload documents or letters :**

**I am commenting as:** Parent of two recent ex pupils

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

**Name of Parent Council:** Sue Pomeroy

**Name:**

Title	First name	Last name
Miss	Susan	Pomeroy

**Address:**

postcode_search	Did you find the address on the list above?	Address line 1	Address line 2	Address line 3	Town	Postcode
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