

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

CARE AND LEARNING SERVICE

REVIEW OF THE PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE PROVISION OF EDUCATION AT INVERASDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL, REASSIGNING ITS CATCHMENT AREA TO THAT OF POOLEWE PRIMARY SCHOOL.

This report has been prepared following a review of the proposal:

- To discontinue education provision at Inverasdale Primary School, re-assigning its catchment area to that of Poolewe Primary School

Having had regard (in particular) to:

- Relevant written representations received by the Council (from any person) during the consultation period.
- Oral representations made to it (by any persons) at the public meeting held at Inverasdale Primary School on 10th June 2015.
- The report from Education Scotland.

This document has been issued by the Highland Council under the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended.

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1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Education, Children and Adult Services Committee (ECAS), at its meeting on 20 May 2015, agreed that a statutory consultation be undertaken on the proposal to discontinue the provision of education at Inverasdale Primary School, re-assigning its catchment area to that of Poolewe Primary School.
- 1.2 **Appendix 1** is the original consultative paper and provides full details of the above proposal. **Appendices 1a-1h** are the appendices to the original proposal.
- 1.3 Inverasdale Primary School has been "mothballed" since the end of session 2011-12, and current population figures within the school catchment indicate a maximum school roll of 5 by 2018-19. A roll of this size impedes the successful delivery of the curriculum and hampers social interaction opportunities for children.
- 1.4 Since July 2012 pupils from the Inverasdale Primary catchment have attended Poolewe Primary, 5.4 miles from Inverasdale Primary, an arrangement which has been of benefit to the pupils at both schools.

- 1.5 The community of Inverasdale has proposals for developing the building for community use. Since the school was “mothballed” in 2012 the community have made extensive use of the building, including the creation of a museum into the Arctic convoys of WWII (which departed from Loch Ewe) and an exhibition into the history of the school.
- 1.6 As mentioned in the original Proposal Paper, Inverasdale Primary School would have a notional school roll of 5 by 2018-19, set against a planning capacity of 49. The school building is rated “B” for educational suitability and “C” for condition. Poolewe Primary has a current roll of 24 and this is also the projected roll for 2018-19, although the roll would drop to 19 by 2018-19 in the event Inverasdale re-opened. The school has a capacity for 50 pupils and is currently rated “C” for educational suitability and “B” for condition.
- 1.7 The Condition and Suitability ratings are used, together with the capacity figures, to prioritise the Council’s decisions on future investment in schools. The modular accommodation at Poolewe is one aspect which will be given due consideration, in relation to future investment options.
- 1.8 Inverasdale Primary School is designated as a very remote rural school. Under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, the Council has given special regard to:
- any viable alternative to the closure proposal,
 - the likely effect on the local community in consequence of the proposal (if implemented), with reference in particular to (a) the sustainability of the community, (b) the availability of the school’s premises and its other facilities for use by the community;
 - the likely effect caused by any different travelling arrangements that may be required in consequence of the proposal (if implemented) with reference in particular to;
 - the effect caused by such travelling arrangements including (in particular), (i) that on the school’s pupils and staff and any other users of the school’s facilities, (ii) any environmental impact.

2.0 Consultation process

- 2.1 The formal consultation period ran from Wednesday 27 May 2015 to Friday 21 August 2015. Written representations on the proposal were sought from interested parties as defined within the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended.
- 2.2 In accordance with statutory requirements, the following were consulted:
- (i) Parents of pupils in the catchment areas of Inverasdale Primary School and Poolewe Primary School, including parents of pre-school pupils;
 - (ii) All P4-7 pupils attending Poolewe Primary School.
 - (iii) Members of Parliament and Members of Scottish Parliament for the area affected by the proposal;

- (iv) The Parent Council of Poolewe Primary School.
- (v) Staff of Poolewe Primary School.
- (vi) Trade union representatives;
- (vii) The community councils for the areas covered by the 2 schools;
- (viii) Education Scotland;
- (ix) Highland Youth Convenor.
- (x) Russian Arctic Convoy Museum
- (xi) Inverasdale Heritage Group
- (xii) Wester Loch Ewe Trust
- (xiii) GBB Estates (local landowner)
- (xiv) "Good for Ewe" community co-operative.
- (xv) Members of the Highland Community Planning Partnership

2.3 The proposal document was also advertised on the Highland Council website.

2.4 A public meeting was held in Inverasdale on the 10th June 2015. The meeting was advertised in advance on the Highland Council website and Facebook page, and in the *Ross-shire Journal* and the *Gairloch and District Times*. The minute of the meeting is at **Appendix 2**. No person spoke at the meeting to oppose the proposed closure.

3.0 Review of proposals following the consultation period

3.1 Following receipt of written representations received by Highland Council and consideration of oral representations made at the public meeting, officials reviewed the proposals.

3.2 The feedback from the consultation was considered by a range of Council officials. This ensured that the Council met the requirements of the 2010 Act.

3.3 The outcome of this review process is reflected in the response, conclusion and recommendations outlined below.

4.0 Responses received

4.1 The views of P4-7 pupils at Poolewe Primary School (which included pupils living within the Inverasdale catchment area) were sought by means of an age adapted questionnaire completed by the pupils. 15 questionnaires were returned and copies of these are at **Appendix 3**.

4.2 A list of others who responded in writing during the public consultation is also at **Appendix 3**, along with copies of these responses

5.0 Issues raised during the consultation period

5.1 Of the 15 pupil responses, eight were in favour of closure with four suggesting keeping the status quo for a bit longer. Three indicated a preference to reopen the school.

5.2 Arguments put forward by pupils supporting the closure were:

- The number of pupils at Inverasdale would be too small to re-open the school.
- If Inverasdale re-opened it would have to close again in a few years as there would be too few pupils.
- If Inverasdale re-opened, in two years' time there would only be one girl at the school.
- If Inverasdale re-opened, both schools would be weakened and one or other would eventually have to close.
- Poolewe Primary would lose a teacher if Inverasdale re-opened, and P1-7 pupils would all be in the same class. Poolewe would also lose the equipment which was transferred from Inverasdale.
- Since Inverasdale was mothballed, all the children have made new friends, and would miss each other if the schools were split again.

5.3 All of the letters from individuals and community groups were in support of the proposal, although some responses indicated that their support was conditional on Highland Council transferring the building to community use after closure.

5.4 In addition, a 341 name petition was submitted in support of the proposals.

5.5 The issues identified by the pupils who opposed the proposal are summarised below. Individual issues raised that are similar to one another have been "grouped."

Issue 1

Re-opening Inverasdale School would mean pupils from Inverasdale would have less travel.

Response 1

In drawing up the original proposal, the Council gave consideration to the issue of additional travel time, and the results of this were set out in Section 5 of the original proposal paper. The two schools are located 5.4 miles apart, and the furthest pupil from Poolewe has a total travel distance of 7.9 miles. The travel times to Poolewe for each individual pupil vary from 13 minutes to 27 minutes. These figures are within the Highland Council's guideline figure for maximum travel times for pupils of primary school age. The pupil with the furthest journey to Poolewe would have a 6 minute journey to Inverasdale Primary, so the maximum additional travel time for any pupil is 21 minutes.

Issue 2

Inverasdale Primary was a good school with good facilities.

Response 2

The proposal is based on educational benefits. These were set out in detail at Section 6 of the original Proposal Paper and have been endorsed in the

Report prepared by Education Scotland.

Issue 3

In a few years the numbers at Inverasdale might go up again.

Response 3

In drawing up its original proposals, the Council considered the current number of pupils within the catchment, the local birth rate and the anticipated future roll. As set out in Section 4 of the Proposal Paper, projections indicate that if Inverasdale Primary were re-opened, it would be as a single teacher school with a very small roll.

6.0 Community Use of Building

- 6.1 During the period that Inverasdale Primary School has been mothballed, the local community have made extensive use of the building. Details were set out at Section 9 of the original consultation paper. Almost all of the letter and email responses to the consultation specified that they supported the continued use of the building by the community, and some responses specified this as a condition of their support for the school closure. The issue was also the main topic of discussion at the public meeting (see **Appendix 2**).
- 6.2 It has not been possible for Highland Council to provide the community with guarantees about the future use of the school building, as to have done so would have pre-empted the outcome of the consultation. The Proposal Paper specified that in the event of the merger proceeding, and subject to the Council not having any operational need for the building, Highland Council would be keen to work with the community of Inverasdale to see whether some or all of the current school building could be turned over to community use. Any such proposal would be progressed within the terms of the Council's current asset management policy.
- 6.3 It is clear however, that a successful transfer of the building to the community would offer opportunities for community and economic development. Conversely, re-opening the school would undo the development work undertaken by the community since the school was mothballed.

7.0 Summary of the issues raised by Education Scotland

- 7.1 In line with legislative requirements, Education Scotland was invited to submit comments on the Council's proposals. A copy of the report from Education Scotland is appended – **Appendix 4**.
- 7.2 In their report, Education Scotland recognise that the proposal offers the prospect of clear educational benefits to the children affected. HM Inspectors are of the view that since July 2012 the operation of a single combined school at Poolewe Primary School, has been of benefit to the pupils of both schools. They note that the proposal has very strong support from stakeholders and will

help Poolewe Primary School to maintain teacher numbers. Children will continue to have access to increased learning opportunities, wider experiences and better socialisation through being part of a larger school.

7.3 No issues were identified for further consideration by the Council.

8.0 Alleged omissions or inaccuracies

8.1 No alleged omissions or inaccuracies were raised in the responses to consultation. In reviewing the proposal, officials identified one inaccuracy in the Rural Impact Assessment appended to the Proposal Paper. That assessment indicated that parents of children aged 3 and 4 years would have increased costs if they wish to access pre-school education. This statement was inaccurate since nursery age children from Inverasdale have always attended Poolewe Primary. Implementation of the proposal will not lead to any additional costs to parents of pre-school children.

8.2 A revised Rural Impact Assessment is at **Appendix 5**.

9.0 Further Review of Alternatives

9.1 Throughout the consultation the Council has had special regard to the provision for rural schools within Section 12 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. In particular, the Council has had special regard to the following:

- any viable alternative to the closure proposal;

Alternatives to closure were reviewed at Section 2 of the original proposal paper (**Appendix 1**). The consultation exercise did not identify any new alternatives for consideration. Having reconsidered each of the alternatives identified at Section 2 of Appendix 1, the Highland Council has concluded that the alternatives to closure would not deliver the educational benefits of the proposal. This view has been endorsed by HM Inspectors. The detailed reasons for the Council's view are set out in Section 6 of **Appendix 1** and in **Appendix 4**.

- the likely effect on the local community in consequence of the proposal (if implemented), with reference in particular to; (a) the sustainability of the community, (b) the availability of the school's premises and its other facilities for use by the community;

The potential community impact of the proposal was considered at Section 9 of the Proposal and is further considered at Section 6 above. The Council's conclusion is that that the re-opening of the primary school would have an adverse impact on the community initiatives developed since the school was mothballed, in particular the Arctic Convoys Museum and the exhibition developed by the Inverasdale Heritage Group.

- the likely effect caused by any different travelling arrangements that may be required in consequence of the proposal (if implemented) with reference in particular to (a) the effect caused by such travelling arrangements including (in particular), (i) that on the school's pupils and staff and any other users of the school's facilities, (ii) any environmental impact, (b) the travelling arrangements are those to and from the school of (and for) the school's pupils and staff and any other users of the school's facilities;

The impact of the implementation of the proposal in relation to travel time was considered at Section 5 of the original proposal paper and again at Response 1 above. Since Inverasdale School has been mothballed since 2012, implementation of the proposal would not require the introduction of any different travelling arrangements for pupils or staff. The travelling arrangements that have applied since 2012 have worked well and overall travel times for all pupils are within the guideline figure adopted by Highland Council for the purposes of reviewing the school estate.

As mentioned above, during mothballing the school building has continued to be available to other users. If the closure proposal is implemented Highland Council plans to work with the community to see whether the building could be transferred to the community.

10.0 Procedure for Call-in by the Scottish Ministers

- 10.1 As set out in The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, Highland Council is required to notify the Scottish Ministers of its decision and provide them with a copy of the Proposal Paper and Consultation Report. The Scottish Ministers have an eight-week period from the date of that final decision on 17 December 2015 to decide if they will call-in the proposal. Within the first three weeks of that eight-week period, the Scottish Ministers will take account of any relevant representations made to them by any person. Therefore, anyone who wishes to make representations to the Scottish Ministers can do so until 7 January 2015. The Scottish Ministers will have until 11 February 2016 to take a decision on the call-in of the Closure Proposal.
- 10.2 Anyone wishing to make a representation to the Scottish Ministers requesting them to call-in a local authority decision to close a school is asked to email schoolclosures@gov.scot or to write to School Infrastructure Unit, Learning Directorate, The Scottish Government, Area 2A South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ by 7 January 2015.
- 10.3 Until the outcome of the eight week call-in process has been notified to Highland Council, it will not proceed to implement the Proposal. If the Scottish Ministers call-in the proposal, it will be referred to a School Closure Review Panel.

11.0 Legal issues

11.1 Throughout this statutory consultation Highland Council has complied in full with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended.

11.2 As provided for in section 1 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, it is the duty of the Council to ensure adequate and efficient provision of school education within Highland, such education to be directed towards the development of the personality, talents and mental and physical abilities of children or young persons to their fullest potential (Standards in Scotland's Schools Etc. Act 2000). As with all Council duties, the Council also has a duty to make arrangements to secure best value, and in securing best value the Council is required to maintain an appropriate balance between, inter alia, the quality of its performance of its functions and the cost to the authority of that performance (Local Government in Scotland Act 2002, section 1). Each of the above, and all other legislative requirements, have been taken into account in the preparation of this Report.

12. Financial Implications

12.1 Advice on the financial implications of the proposal was issued with the Proposal Paper and can be found at **Appendix 1f**.

13.0 Equality Impact Assessment

13.1 An Equality Impact Assessment was issued with the proposal paper and can be found at **Appendix 1g**.

14.0 Conclusion

14.1 The consultation process has complied fully with legislative requirements and has provided an opportunity for all parties to identify key issues of concern. These issues have been fully considered and the Council's response detailed in sections 5, 6, and 7 above.

14.2 Education Scotland staff visited Inverasdale and Poolewe to speak to parents, pupils and staff. They also had the opportunity to review in detail the proposal document and all written responses.

14.3 The Director of Care and Learning, on reviewing all of the submissions, the note of the meeting, and the Education Scotland report; and having had special regard to alternatives to closure, to the community impact and to the impact of travelling arrangements; (see section 9 above) concludes that the proposal offers educational and community benefits and should be implemented without amendment.

15.0 Recommendation

- 15.1 It is therefore recommended that the Highland Council's approves the proposal to discontinue education provision at Inverasdale Primary School and re-assign its catchment area to that of Poolewe Primary School.

Bill Alexander
Director of Care and Learning
20 October 2015

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE

The proposal is to discontinue education provision at Inverasdale Primary School, re-assigning its catchment area to that of Poolewe Primary School.

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS STATEMENT

THIS IS A PROPOSAL PAPER PREPARED IN TERMS OF THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY'S PROCEDURE TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010

The Highland Council is proposing, subject to the outcome of the statutory consultation process:

- To discontinue education provision at Inverasdale Primary School, re-assigning its catchment area to that of Poolewe Primary School. (Maps of the current catchment areas are at **Appendices A and Ai**).
- The proposed changes, if approved, will take place immediately after the conclusion of the statutory process relating to school closures.

Reason for the Proposal

1.1 This proposal is being advanced for the following reasons:

- No children have attended Inverasdale Primary School since the end of session 2011-12;
- Current population figures within the school catchment indicate a maximum school roll of 5 by 2018-19;
- A school roll of this size provides significant impediments to the successful implementation of a Curriculum for Excellence (details in section 6 below);
- A school roll of 5 hampers social interaction opportunities for children, who conversely benefit from attending larger schools amongst more children of their own age;
- Since July 2012 the operation of a single combined school at Poolewe Primary, 5.4 miles from Inverasdale Primary, has been of benefit to the pupils at both schools.
- The community of Inverasdale has proposals for developing the building for community use. Since the school was "mothballed" in 2012 the community have made extensive use of the building. Further details about this are set out at paragraph 9.1 below.
- The Council has explored alternatives in arriving at this proposal, explained further below.

Examination of Alternatives

2.1 In bringing forward this proposal for closure, the Council must give due consideration of alternative courses of action that could be considered. The alternatives to closure would be:

- to re-open Inverasdale School as a stand-alone primary school, or;

- to continue with the current “mothballing” arrangement.

2.2 The detail of the Council’s consideration of the alternatives is set out throughout this proposal paper and its appendices. A brief summary is shown below.

Options Implications	Formal Closure of Inverasdale	Continue Moth-Balling of Inverasdale	Re-open Inverasdale
Educational Implications (refer to section 6 of the report)	Achieves education benefits set out at section 6.	Achieves education benefits set out at section 6.	Educational benefits of the proposal would not be realised.
Transport Implications (refer to section 7 of the report)	The maximum travel time for school pupils is 27 minutes.	The maximum travel time for school pupils is 27 minutes.	The maximum travel time for school pupils would be 6 minutes.
Community Implications (refer to section 9 of report and Annex H)	Potential to sustain and develop community use of the existing school, building on the current community use of that space.	Current community use could continue but with no long-term security and no opportunity to develop	Current community use would be displaced, potentially impacting on community plans to develop community facilities.

2.3 Paragraph 4.2 below examines the likely future rolls at Inverasdale School in the event the school were to re-open. Paragraph 6.3 below sets out why the Highland Council considers that the pupils from the Inverasdale area derive educational benefit from attending Poolewe Primary School, as opposed to a separate Inverasdale School.

2.4 Consideration has been given to ways of increasing the school roll. However any such considerations must take account of the demographic patterns in the Gairloch Associated School Group area (see paragraph 3.1 below), as well as the fact that the historic birth rates in the area would suggest a future pattern of less than one birth per year (see paragraph 4.4 below). These figures suggest that it is extremely unlikely that Inverasdale Primary would, in the foreseeable future, be anything other than a single teacher school with a roll in single figures.

2.5 Consideration was given to extending the Inverasdale PS catchment areas. However, the catchment map at Appendix A illustrates that the current Inverasdale catchment extends close to Poolewe village. Extending the catchment closer to Poolewe could not reasonably be justified given that it would mean pupils from Poolewe having to travel to 4 miles or so to Inverasdale instead of a much shorter distance to Poolewe Primary. Similarly an extension into the Gairloch PS catchment could not be justified given the local geography and road links. The maps at Appendices A and Ai illustrate the above points.

2.6 Both of the schools with a boundary to the Inverasdale catchment are themselves rural schools, with a roll that would be negatively affected by any changes to the Inverasdale catchment. Any such proposals would be likely to be strongly opposed by parents at Poolewe and Gairloch Primary Schools.

- 2.7 Given the school's condition rating, the accommodation would require further investment were the school to re-open. This would be at the expense of investment to improve facilities in other schools across the Council.
- 2.8 Although it would be possible to continue with the current "mothballing" arrangement, Highland Council does not consider that that would represent the best option for the taxpayer or the community. "Mothballing" would mean the continuation of the current lack of clarity regarding the future status of the school and would prevent the community from developing options for the future use of the accommodation. The Council would also be burdened with the costs of maintained a "mothballed" building.

Background

- 3.1 The proposal is advanced within the wider context of demographic change in the area. Between 2001 and 2011 (Census figures) the population of Highland grew by 11% but the population of the Gairloch ASG area grew by only 4%. The population of the Gairloch ASG area is older than the Highland average with 10.2% aged 16 to 29 and 14% aged 30 to 44 (Highland 15% and 19% respectively). The birth rate (the true birth rate measured as births per year per 1,000 women aged X years) tends to be below the Highland average and there is good evidence that for much of the last decade the birth rate has been around the lowest in Highland, although with a small sample size there is a relatively large margin for error.
- 3.2 The reference in paragraph 3.1 above to "...per 1,000 woman aged X years" is included because there is a different expected birth rate for women depending on their age. For example the expected birth rate for a woman aged 25 is higher than for a women aged 45. The Council has looked at the ages of each woman in the area and applied the expected rate to each before adding them together to come up with the final figure.
- 3.3 The consultation process for this proposal is set out in detail at **Appendix B**.

Current Details – Inverasdale Primary School

- 4.1 Inverasdale Primary is situated to the north-west of Poolewe. The catchment area includes the communities of Cove, Inverasdale, Midtown, Brae and Naast.
- 4.2 The school has been mothballed since the end of session 2011-12, when the school roll fell to 2, and the pupils transferred to Poolewe Primary School.
- 4.3 The accommodation at Inverasdale consists of a single classroom/combined GP room/dining hall, and a small room used as a school library.
- 4.4 The school does not have a nursery class. When the school was in operation nursery education for pupils from Inverasdale was provided at Poolewe Primary.
- 4.5 There are currently 8 pupils of P1-7 age living within the catchment area of the school. All of these pupils currently attend Poolewe Primary. Five of these pupils are in either P6 or P7. There are, in addition, 4 children below school age living in the Inverasdale catchment. One of these has enrolled for Gaelic Medium education in Gairloch Primary School for session 2015-16.

4.6 The figures suggest that, were Inverasdale School to re-open with 100% of catchment pupils attending the school, the roll figures for the forthcoming few years would be:

2015-16 - 8

2016-17 - 4

2017-18 - 3

2018-19 - 5

4.7 In practice the roll of 8 in 2015-16 would be unlikely to be achieved as it includes 4 pupils currently in P6 at Poolewe Primary, who may not wish to transfer to Inverasdale for their final year.

4.8 The roll projections show that if Inverasdale Primary were re-opened, it would be as a single teacher school with a very small roll.

4.9 No placing requests in or out of Inverasdale Primary School have been recorded in the last 5 complete school sessions (from 2009-10 to 2013-14). As previously stated, the school has not been operational since July 2012.

4.10 The population living in the catchment grew by 7% between 2001 and 2011 and the population of the primary catchment is older than the Highland average with 14.7% aged 16 to 29 and 11% aged 30 to 44 (Highland 15% and 19% respectively). Analysis of the age of females living in the area using fertility rates for Ross & Cromarty overall suggests that we might expect to see an average of around 1 birth per year: the historic average has been slightly lower than this.

4.11 The school has a permanent capacity of 49. Based on the permanent capacity available, the notional 2018-19 roll of 5 pupils would represent 10% use of capacity.

4.12 The Highland Council assesses all of its schools for Suitability and Condition, in line with the Scottish Government's School Estate Management guidelines. Schools are assessed on a scale with the ratings "A" (good) "B" (satisfactory), "C" (poor) and "D" (bad). Inverasdale Primary School is currently rated as "B" for educational suitability and "C" for building condition.

4.13 The number of pupils within the catchment area entitled to free school meals is not broken down to avoid the identification of pupils.

4.14 The most recent Education Scotland (HMIe) report was published in August 2009. A copy is attached at **Appendix C**.

4.15 When the school was last in operation, it was managed as part of a "cluster" arrangement with Bualnaluib School. Were the school to re-open with the roll figures indicated it is likely that the Council would seek to manage the school with an Associate (Cluster) Head Teacher. On this basis, the staffing entitlements, as per the Council's Devolved School Management policy are as follows;

- Associate (Cluster) Head Teacher,
- Unpromoted Teachers – 1.00 FTE
- Class Contact Time Teacher - 0.1 FTE
- Clerical Assistant – 16 hours per week

- 4.16 In addition ASN teaching and non-teaching staff would be allocated to the school in accordance with an annual assessment of need.
- 4.17 A Cleaning Operative would also be employed at around 7.5 hours per week.
- 4.18 Prior to Inverasdale School being mothballed meals were transported from Poolewe kitchen to Inverasdale and, and one person was employed at Cook 1 grade to serve and clear up afterwards. If this system were reinstated, the weekly hours for the post would depend on the number of pupils requiring school dinners. Prior to the school being mothballed it was 7.5 hpw Monday – Friday.
- 4.19 Currently, one of the 8 pupils living in the Inverasdale catchment area lives more than 2 miles from Inverasdale School. That pupil is located around 2.5 miles from the school and would therefore qualify for free school transport up to the age of 8. The estimated cost would be £5 per day or £950 per session. The roads in the area are quiet single tracks with grass verges and good visibility. If the school were re-opened there would be no need, under current policy, to provide school transport to any other pupil, or to any pupil aged 8 or above.
- 4.20 Annual CO₂ emissions from the Inverasdale School building are estimated at 30 tonnes.

Current Details – Poolewe Primary

- 5.1 Poolewe Primary School is located in the village of Poolewe. The school consists of two classrooms, a general purpose area used for Drama, PE and other activities and a dining room. The Nursery is housed in the old school house attached to the school. A demountable unit in the playground has been renovated and furnished as a library.
- 5.2 The school's catchment encompasses Poolewe, Londubh, Srondubh, and Tournaig. Since the mothballing of Inverasdale School it has, for practical purposes, also taken pupils from that school's catchment.
- 5.3 For the 2014-15 school session, the school has 24 pupils in two classes. The projected roll suggests that the school will experience a gently rising roll whilst remaining as a two teacher school.

2016-17 - 24
2017-18 - 21
2018-19 - 24
2019-20 - 27
2020-21 - 26
2021-22 - 28
2022-23 - 26
2023-24 - 28
2024-25 - 28
2025-26 - 28
2026-27 - 29
2027-28 - 29
2028-29 - 29

- 5.4 There are currently 5 children in the nursery.

- 5.5 During the last 5 completed school sessions (2009-10 to 2013-14) there have been five placing requests for pupils from other areas to join Poolewe Primary. No placing requests have been made for pupils to leave Poolewe Primary.
- 5.6 The population living in the catchment grew by 4% between 2001 and 2011 and the population of the primary catchment is slightly older than the Highland average with 11% aged 16 to 29 and 17% aged 30 to 44 (Highland 15% and 19% respectively). Analysis of the age of females living in the area using fertility rates for Ross & Cromarty overall suggests that we might expect to see an average of around 1.5 birth per year: the historic average has been almost double this.
- 5.7 The school has a permanent capacity of 50. The August 2014 roll of 24 pupils therefore represents 48% use of capacity.
- 5.8 Poolewe Primary is currently assessed as “C” for building Suitability and “B” for building Condition. Future investment need within the school will be assessed as part of the Council’s capital programme and maintenance programmes, and based on the ‘core facts’ of condition, suitability and sufficiency.
- 5.7 The number entitled to free school meals is not broken down to avoid the identification of pupils.
- 5.8 The most recent Education Scotland (HMle) report was published in August 2011. A copy is at **Appendix D**.
- 5.9 The anticipated year group numbers for August 2015 are as follows:
- P1 – 4
 - P2 – 1
 - P3 – 6
 - P4 – 1
 - P5 – 2
 - P6 – 6
 - P7 – 3
- 5.10 It is expected that pupils will be organised into two classes, a P1-4 with 12 pupils, and a P5-7 with 11 pupils.
- 5.11 The 2014-15 staffing entitlement is as follows;
- Associate (Cluster) Head Teacher, responsible for Poolewe and Gairloch Schools
 - Unpromoted Teachers – 2.00 FTE
 - Class Contact Time Teachers – 0.20 FTE
 - Clerical Assistant/General Auxiliary – 27 hours per week
- 5.12 In addition, ASN teaching and non-teaching staff are allocated annually to the school, to meet assessed levels of need. The school nursery is staffed with two Early Years Practitioners, who are each employed for 23 hours per week.
- 5.13 The Catering and Cleaning Service employs the following staff at the school;
- Cook 2 - 22.50 hours per week.

- Cleaning Operative – 11.25 hours per week.
- 5.11 Annual CO₂ emissions from the Poolewe Primary School building are estimated at 36 tonnes. Implementing this proposal would not alter this figure.
- 5.12 There is one school transport route to Poolewe Primary, which transports the 8 pupils from Inverasdale. Currently therefore, approximately 33% of the pupil population are in receipt of school transport. The two schools are located 5.4 miles apart, and the furthest pupil from Poolewe has a total travel distance of 7.9 miles. The travel times to Poolewe for each individual pupil vary from 13 minutes to 27 minutes. The latter pupil would have a 6 minute journey to Inverasdale Primary, so the maximum additional travel time for any pupil is 21 minutes.
- 5.13 As all of the pupils from the Inverasdale catchment area currently attend Poolewe Primary School, no adverse effects for Poolewe Primary are expected to arise. On the contrary, including the pupils from Inverasdale within the Poolewe catchment will help to maintain a healthy roll at Poolewe.
- 5.14 Currently, Highland Council's staffing standard for primary schools specifies 1.5 teachers for a roll of 16-19 pupils, and 2 teachers for a roll of 20-47 pupils. A decision to re-open Inverasdale Primary could result in reduced pupil numbers at Poolewe Primary, and could result in a reduction in staffing at Poolewe Primary (see the projected rolls for each school, set out at paragraphs 4.2 and 5.2 above).

Educational Benefits

- 6.1 Highland Council is of the view that the school environment should be of a quality that sustains and improves education provision, pupil performance and outcomes for the young people of Highland.
- 6.2 With the above aim in mind, Highland Council has adopted the above indicators in reviewing its' school estate:
- Pupils should be educated in facilities which are rated at least category B for each of Condition and Suitability.
 - Pupils should be members of an age-appropriate peer group.
 - Pupils should have the opportunity to engage in the widest possible range of activities beyond the core curriculum, including music, sports, drama and art.
 - Pupils with Additional Support Needs should be educated in the most appropriate local setting.
 - Pupils should not ordinarily be required to travel for longer than 30 minutes from the nearest classified road pick-up point to school (primary) although it is recognised that this may not always be possible in a rural Council area such as Highland.
 - School facilities should be of a size appropriate to the delineated area that they serve, paying due regard to demographic trends.
 - School delineated areas should reflect geography, travel routes and population distribution.
 - Safe school transport should be provided and safe traffic management in and around school sites should be implemented.
 - Teachers should be members of a professional learning community comprising at least 3 members located in the same facility.
 - The implications of school location to local communities should be considered.

- Schools, wherever possible, should be located where there is a recognised village or other built up community.

6.3 It is Highland Council's view that the pupils from the Inverasdale catchment derive educational benefits from their current attendance at Poolewe Primary School. Formalising the current arrangements would provide a number of such benefits, judged against both the Highland and National criteria set out above.

6.4 Pupils are able to work in groups with others of a similar age and ability, challenging each other and learning together. In considering specific outcomes, Highland Council has had regard to The Scottish Government's cross learning themes within a Curriculum for Excellence, both the Principles and Practices documents and the Experiences and Outcomes. The value of working collaboratively with peers is and in many cases is expressly set out in these documents.

6.5 Specific examples are:

6.5.1 Learning and Teaching: "Cooperative Learning" is a key teaching strategy in which small teams of pupils, usually teams of 4, work together towards a learning objective. They may also be working with partners or the whole class. Each member of a team is responsible not only for learning what is taught but also for helping members of their team learn, thus creating an atmosphere of achievement. Ideally for this to be successful there needs to be a number of children of the same age/stage.

6.5.2 "Literacy Across Learning – Principles and Practice." The guidance suggests that teachers should consider to what extent they offer pupils the opportunity to *"engage with others in group and class discussions of appropriate complexity? learn collaboratively – for example, when problem solving? explain their thinking to others?..."*

6.5.3 The Second Level of the Experiences and Outcomes in "Literacy Across Learning" includes under "Tools for Listening and Talking" *"When I engage with others, I can respond in ways appropriate to my role, show that I value others' contributions and use these to build on thinking."* The Second Level under "Creating Text" is *"When listening and talking with others for different purposes, I can share information, experiences and opinions, explain processes and ideas, identify issues raised and summarise main points or findings, clarify points by asking questions or by asking others to say more."*

6.5.4 "Numeracy Across Learning – Principles and Practice," sets out that *"A rich and supportive learning environment will support a skilful mix of a variety of approaches, including..."both collaborative and independent learning."* The Second level for the Experiences and Outcomes under "Data Analysis" is *"I have carried out investigations and surveys, devising and using a variety of methods to gather information and have worked with others to collate, organise and communicate the results in an appropriate way."*

6.5.5 "Health and Wellbeing Across Learning – Principles and Practice" sets out that *"Effective Learning and Teaching across Health and wellbeing ... uses a variety of approaches including active, cooperative and peer learning and effective use of technology."* Health and Wellbeing also includes a number of themes which are very much age and stage appropriate e.g. "Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood", and "Substance Misuse" are considerably different in Early Level

compared to Second Level. In order to fully develop a child's knowledge and understanding of these areas, discussion and dialogue opportunities with peers of the same age/stage need to be developed. These opportunities would be severely restricted or not possible in a very small multi-composite setting.

6.6 Very similar statements are also made within the documentation relating to specific areas of the curriculum, for example in the Expressive Arts and Science areas of the curriculum.

6.6.1 "1+2 Languages Delivery" - the roll out of the 1+2 languages programme over the next 4-5 years requires considerable planning and preparation for delivery in any class setting, but in particular this would prove to be very problematic in a small multi-composite setting with children often of a wide variety of ages and stages in one class. Language learning of any form has its challenges in the multi-composite setting and these challenges for 1+2 languages would be considerably multiplied in a small composite setting.

6.7 The above principles and practices are more difficult to apply in schools where the total rolls are less than 10 across the whole P1-7 range. It follows that there is greater difficulty in achieving the necessary Experiences and Outcomes.

- The proposed merger would also provide improved opportunities for children to develop skills for learning, life and work e.g. increasing opportunities for working with others of a similar age and stage which are very limited in schools of less than 10 children in a multi-composite setting.
- The development of Profiling is a key component for developing the above skills and for children to be able to self-assess and very importantly peer assess these skills as part of ongoing discussion and dialogue with children of the same age/stage.
- As part of the Developing Scotland's Young Workforce the aim is to develop increased awareness of the world of work, social skills and employability skills. Such knowledge and understanding and skills acquisition would very much benefit from discussions and dialogue with peers of the same age/stage.
- There is a greater range of opportunities available for pupils to participate in a wide range of team sports and active recreational activities. Some of these benefits arise from larger pupil numbers (e.g. to form teams of similar age and size), partly because a larger staff and parent body increases the likelihood of interested adults leading a range of activities.
- As with sports, there is a greater likelihood of pupils benefitting from a wider range of solo and group musical and artistic opportunities.
- The level to which pupils are able to become skilled in social interaction will depend to an extent on the opportunities afforded to them. The forging of close friendships and the development of self-esteem would be enhanced by each pupil being enabled to be part of an age appropriate peer group of a sufficient size to allow a range of interactions and relationships to form and reform.

6.8 In summary, a number of positive benefits have derived from the operational merger of Inverasdale and Poolewe Primary Schools.

6.9 As all of the pupils from the Inverasdale catchment currently attend Poolewe Primary, no adverse effects for those pupils are expected to arise from the merger.

Effects on School Transport

- 7.1 Currently, a single school transport route operates to Poolewe Primary. The route transports the 8 Inverasdale pupils to Poolewe Primary, but also transports High School pupils to connect at Poolewe with the bus to Gairloch High School. A “double run” is made due to the different timings for High School and primary school pupils. The cost of the route increased by 26.8% in August 2012 when Inverasdale School was mothballed and a double run was required. If the school was reopened, it may be assumed the cost would decrease again by a similar percentage. The current annual cost is £47,273.90. (This figure may vary slightly each financial year, due to the fact that the financial year is not aligned with the school year). A 26.8% reduction over the cost of a school year would mean a new price of £34,604.49, a saving of £12,669.41.
- 7.2 It is recognised that the larger merged school implies an increase in the number of pupils entitled to school transport compared to the number who could walk or cycle to school, were Inverasdale to re-open and should they choose to do so. It also results in occasional inconvenience for parents who wish to take their child to/from school during the school day, should they require to do so.
- 7.3 The table at **Appendix E** illustrates the additional emissions of greenhouse gases arising from the current transport arrangements from Inverasdale Primary to Poolewe Primary. The figures are based on the types of vehicle used and the fuel used by those vehicles and show total CO₂ equivalent emissions, (columns C and D), as well as emissions for CO₂, and CO₂ equivalent emissions for methane and nitrous oxide.
- 7.4 The table shows that the mothballing, and by extension the formal closure of, Inverasdale Primary, has resulted in approximately 1.5 tonnes per annum of CO₂ equivalent emissions. The figures can however only be estimates as emissions are affected by the speed at which vehicles are driven and the type of road travelled.
- 7.5 The increased annual CO₂ equivalent emissions from the provision of transport (approximately 1.5 tonnes) should be set against the approximate annual emissions of 30 tonnes from the Inverasdale Primary School building itself (see paragraph 4.12 above)
- 7.6 So far during the current session there has been 1 day in which the education of the Inverasdale children was disrupted due to unavailability of school transport in bad weather. On that occasion parents brought the children to school later in the day.

Effects on Staff and School Management Arrangements

- 8.1 The two schools have, in practice, operated as a single school since Inverasdale was “mothballed” in 2012. There will be no impact on staff and school management arrangements from a formal closure of Inverasdale Primary School.
- 8.2 A continuation of the current mothballing arrangement will have no effect on current staffing or management arrangements.
- 8.3 The staffing implications of re-opening Inverasdale Primary School are set out at Paragraph 4.10 above, whilst the financial implications are set out at Section 11 below, and the associated Appendix.

Effect on the Local Community and Other School Users

- 9.1 Since it was “mothballed,” Inverasdale Primary has been used extensively by the local community. In particular it has been used:
- as the location of an exhibition into the history of the school itself, run by the Inverasdale Heritage Group who created a Tearoom (teas and home-baking) alongside the exhibition. This has been open on Wednesdays and Fridays from May to October each year since 2013, in the ground floor of the old schoolhouse and adjacent room in the School, with volunteers serving refreshments.
 - as a home for an exhibition into the Russian Arctic Convoys of WWII. The Arctic convoys gathered in Loch Ewe prior to setting out on their journeys to Murmansk and Archangel, and the local community have created a two-room exhibition in the classrooms, with memorabilia, accounts and photographs from the convoys. The exhibition has opened for the same periods as that for the history of the school.
 - for Community Council meetings - alternate monthly.
 - for ‘Good for Ewe’ monthly meetings (community vegetable growing co-operative)
 - for soup and sandwiches following Remembrance Day services at Poolewe
 - for the local land owner to meet with crofters
 - for interviews for part-time employment with local groups
 - for a community Open Evening to share ideas and news on future of the School
 - for a community broadband meeting hosted by the Community Council.
- 9.2 As there are no other community facilities in Inverasdale, it is acknowledged that the school building is a significant community facility. In the event of the merger proceeding, and subject to the Council not having any operational need for the building, Highland Council would be keen to work with the community of Inverasdale to see whether some or all of the current school building could be turned over to community use. Any such proposal would be progressed within the terms of the Council’s current asset management policy.

Financial Consequences

- 10.1 The Table at **Appendix F** sets out the Highland Council’s assessment of the Financial Implications of the proposed merger.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 11.1 A preliminary Equalities Impact Assessment is at **Appendix G**.

Rural Impact Assessment

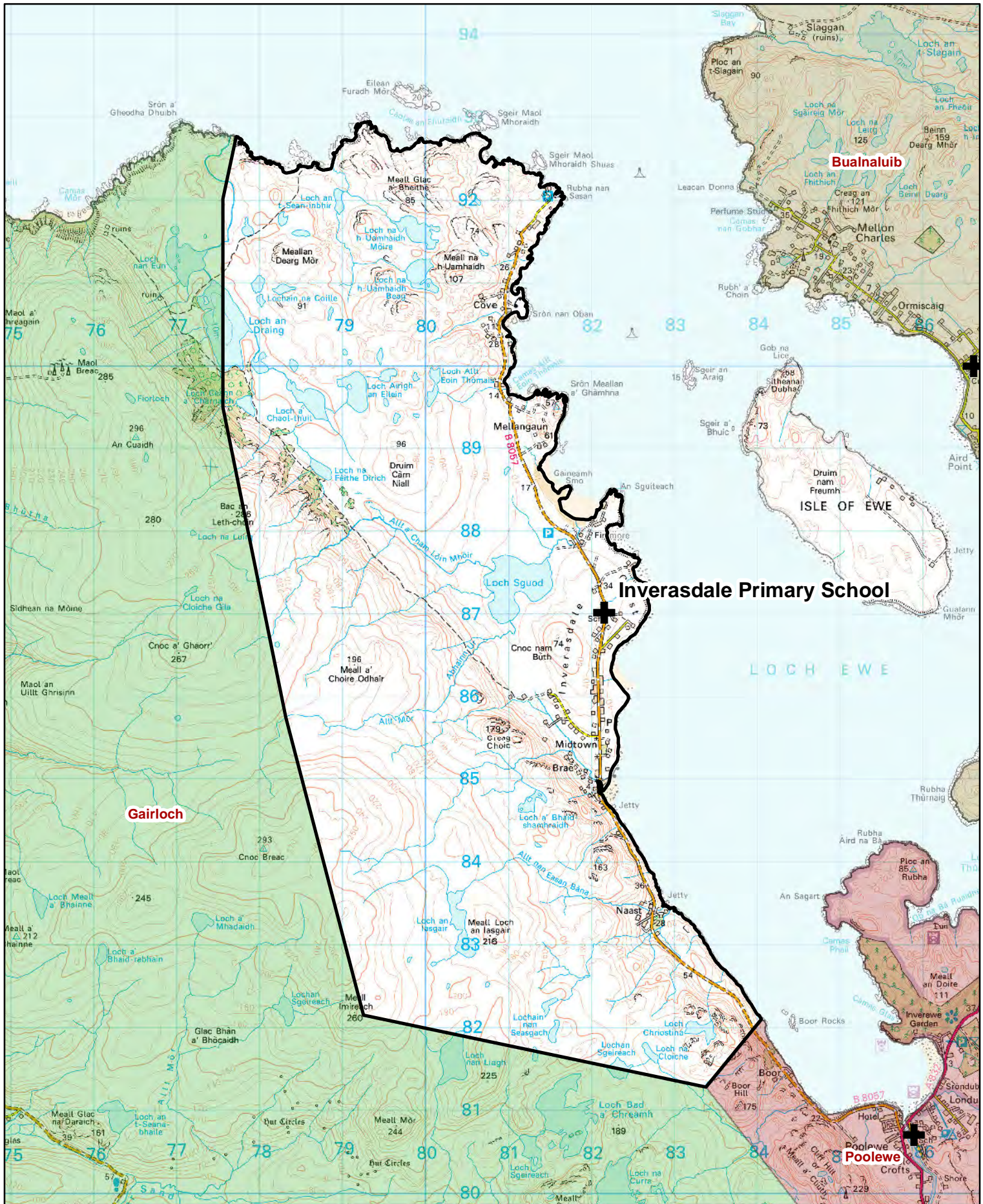
- 12.1 A preliminary Rural Impact Assessment is at **Appendix H**.

Mitigation of Adverse Effects

- 13.1 As pupils from Inverasdale as already attending Poolewe Primary School, no adverse effects are anticipated on the P1-7 pupil age group.
- 13.2 The possible transfer of the school building for community use represents a potential boost to local tourism, community activities and the local economy.

Recommendation

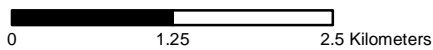
- 14.1 Taking the above into account Highland Council recommends that the Inverasdale Primary School, currently “mothballed,” is closed and the catchment area re-assigned to that of Poolewe Primary.
- 14.2 This consultation paper is issued in terms of the authority’s procedures to meet the relevant statutory requirements. Following the consultation period, a report and submissions received will be presented to the Education, Children and Adult Services Committee of the Highland Council.



Inverasdale Primary School

**Primary School
Catchment Boundary
March 2013**

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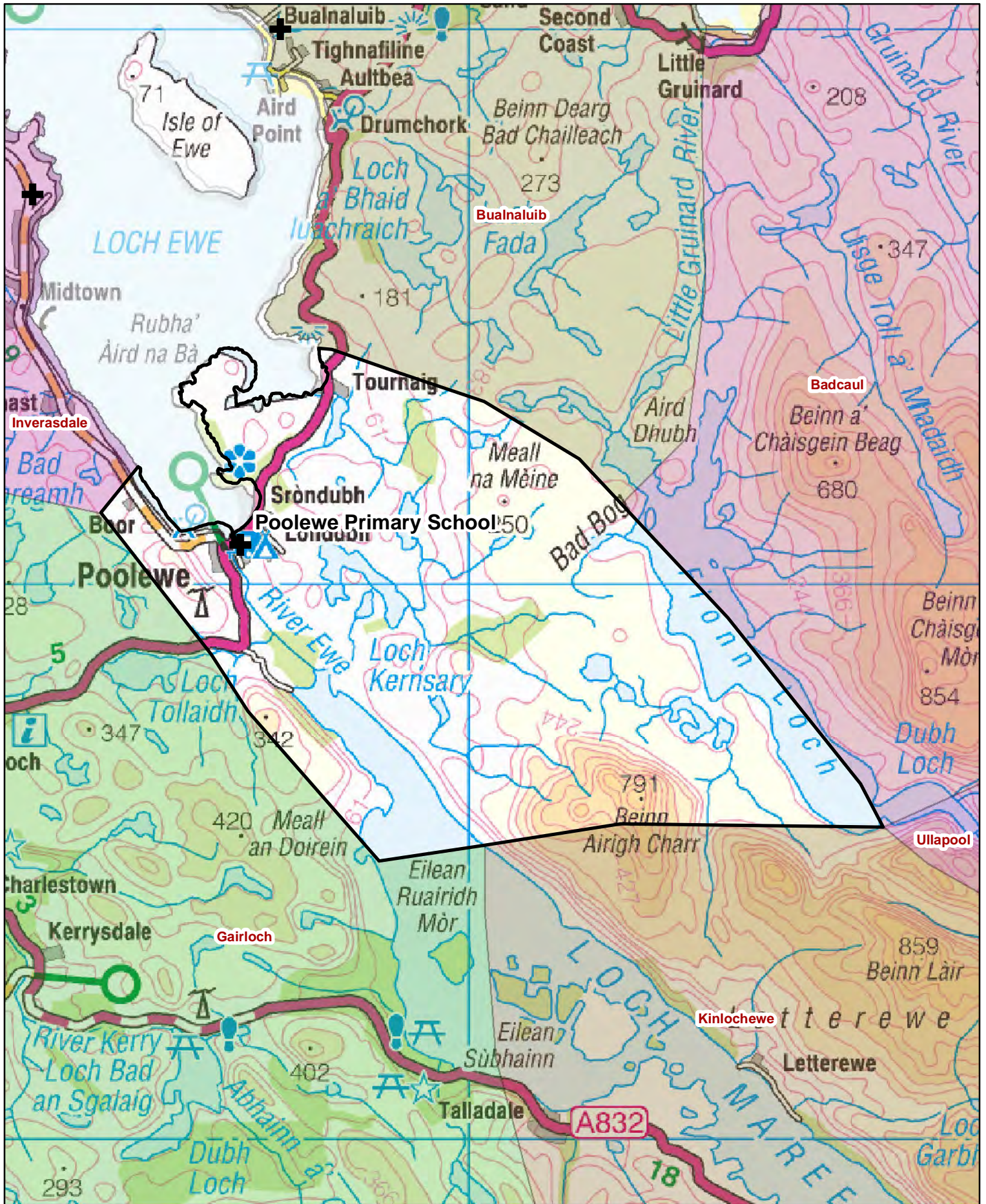
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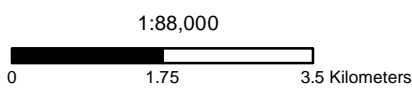


Planning & Development Service



Poolewe Primary School

**Primary School
Catchment Boundary
March 2013**



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Planning & Development Service

CONSULTATIVE PROCESS - SUMMARY OF PROCESS FOR THIS PROPOSAL DOCUMENT - INVERASDALE

Consideration by the Education, Children and Adult Services Committee

The Proposal paper has been issued as a result of a decision approved by the above Committee.

Proposal Document issued to consultees and published on Highland Council Website

A copy of the Proposal paper will be issued free of charge to the following consultees:

- (i) Parents of pupils in the catchment areas of Inverasdale Primary School and Poolewe Primary School, including parents of pre-school pupils;
- (ii) All P4-7 pupils attending Poolewe Primary School.
- (iii) Members of Parliament and Members of Scottish Parliament for the area affected by the proposal;
- (iv) The Parent Council of Poolewe Primary School.
- (v) Staff of Poolewe Primary School.
- (vi) Trade union representatives;
- (vii) The community council for the areas covered by the 2 schools;
- (viii) Education Scotland;
- (ix) Highland Youth Convenor
- (x) Russian Arctic Convoy Museum
- (xi) Inverasdale Heritage Group
- (xii) Wester Loch Ewe Trust
- (xiii) GBB Estates (local landowner)
- (xiv) "Good for Ewe" community co-operative

and will be published on the Council website, with a link from the Council's Facebook page.

Publication of advertisement in local newspapers

Advertisement will be placed in the Ross-shire Journal and the Gairloch and District Times.

Length of Consultation period

The consultation period will begin on 27 May 2015. The consultation will thereafter run until close of business on 21 August 2015 which includes a period of 30 school days.

Public meeting

A public meeting will be held at 7.00pm on 10 June at Inverasdale Primary School. The location of the meeting has been agreed in informal discussion with community representatives. Anyone wishing to attend the public meeting is invited to do so. The

meeting will be convened by the Council, will be chaired by a senior elected councillor, and will be addressed by officers of the Care and Learning Service.

The meeting will be an opportunity for the public to hear more about the proposal; to ask questions about the proposal; and to have the views of all stakeholders recorded so that they can be taken into account. A note will be taken at the meeting of questions asked and views expressed. This note will be published on the Council website. The meeting will also be recorded.

Involvement of HMI/Education Scotland

When the Proposal Document is published, a copy will also be sent to Education Scotland (HMIE) by the Council. HMIE will also be sent, by 28 August 2015, a copy of any relevant written representations that are received by the Council from any person during the consultation period. HMIE will also receive the summary note of the public meeting that will be held and so far as is practicable a copy of any other relevant documentation. HMI will then prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal not later than 18 September 2015. In preparing their report, HMIE may visit the affected schools and make such enquiries of people there as they consider appropriate.

Preparation of Consultation Report

Highland Council will review the proposal having regard to the HMI Report, written representations that it has received, and oral representations made at the public meeting. It will then prepare a Consultation Report. This Report will be published in electronic and printed formats and will be sent to anyone who submitted a written representation during consultation. It will be available on the Council website as well as at the affected schools and local libraries, free of charge. The Report will include a summary of the written and oral representations made during consultation and a copy of the HMI Report, together with the Council's considered response to the issues raised. The Report will include details of any alleged inaccuracies and/or omissions and how these have been handled. The Consultation Report will be published at least 3 weeks prior to being submitted to the Education, Children and Adult Services (ECAS) Committee, who will make a recommendation to the full Highland Council.

In publishing the report the Council will invite any person or party to make further representations to the Committee prior to its meeting. A notice to this effect will also be published on the Highland Council website.

At the present time the Council intends to publish its Report on 20 October 2015, prior to submission to the ECAS Committee on 11 November 2015. However, this timescale may depend on the nature of issues raised during consultation, and the need to give these full consideration. In the latter event, the Report may not be submitted until a later Committee meeting.

Scottish Ministers Call-in

In the event that the Council decides to close the school at this stage, it is required to

notify the Scottish Ministers of that decision and provide them with a copy of the Proposal Document and Consultation Report in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, within 6 working days of the decision being made, and to publish on its website a notice that it has done so, detailing the opportunity to make further representations within 3 weeks. The Scottish Ministers have an 8-week period from the date of that final decision to decide if they will call-in the proposal. If the Scottish Ministers call-in the proposal, it will be referred to a School Closure Review Panel. Within the first 3 weeks of the 8-week period, the Scottish Ministers will take account of any relevant representations made to them by any person. Until the outcome of the 8-week call-in process has been notified to the Council, the Council will not proceed to implement the proposal.

Note on Corrections

If any inaccuracy or omission is discovered in this Proposal paper, either by the Council or any other person, the Council will determine if relevant information has been omitted or, if the paper contains an inaccuracy. The Council will then take appropriate action, which may include the issue of a correction or the reissuing of the Proposal or the revision of the timescale for the consultation period, if appropriate. In that event, relevant consultees and HMI will be advised.



**Inverasdale Primary School
The Highland Council
25 August 2009**

This report tells you about the quality of education at the school¹. We describe how children benefit from learning there. We explain how well they are doing and how good the school is at helping them to learn. Then we look at the ways in which the school does this. We describe how well the school works with other groups in the community, including parents² and services which support children. We also comment on how well staff and children work together and how they go about improving the school.

Our report describes the ‘ethos’ of the school. By ‘ethos’ we mean the relationships in the school, how well children are cared for and treated and how much is expected of them in all aspects of school life. Finally, we comment on the school’s aims. In particular, we focus on how well the aims help staff to deliver high quality learning, and the impact of leadership on the school’s success in achieving these aims.

If you would like to learn more about our inspection of the school, please visit www.hmie.gov.uk. Here you can find analyses of questionnaire returns. Where applicable, you will also be able to find descriptions of good practice in the school.

¹ The term ‘school’ is used to include the work of the nursery class, where relevant.

² Throughout this report, the term ‘parents’ should be taken to include foster carers, residential care staff and carers who are relatives or friends.

Contents

1. The school
2. Particular strengths of the school
3. Example of good practice
4. How well do children learn and achieve?
5. How well do staff work with others to support children's learning?
6. Are staff and children actively involved in improving their school community?
7. Does the school have high expectations of all children?
8. Does the school have a clear sense of direction?
9. What happens next?

1. The school

Inverasdale Primary School is a non-denominational school. It serves the village of Inverasdale and the surrounding rural area. The roll was eight when the inspection was carried out in June 2009. Children's attendance was in line with the national average in 2007/2008.

2. Particular strengths of the school

- Polite, well-behaved and highly motivated children.
- Quality of children's learning experiences.
- The lead given by the headteacher in delivering high quality education.
- The team work of all staff.
- Very effective partnerships with the community.

3. Example of good practice

- Use of the local area to enhance children's learning.

4. How well do children learn and achieve?

Learning and achievement

Children are very well motivated and are eager to learn. Children's learning experiences are stimulating. All are actively involved in planning aspects of their own learning. For example, children planned what they wanted to learn in their topic on 'The Secret Garden'.

Children's achievements across the curriculum are consistently high. They have produced an informative brochure for visitors to Loch Ewe. Children show enthusiasm in music and are able to sing confidently and use instruments well. They are developing very good skills in art

and are able to express themselves well in a variety of styles. Children are developing a very good understanding of carrying out fair scientific experiments. They have a good awareness of local wild life and the process of how seeds germinate. They are able to identify what they need to do to be healthy in their interesting 'Food and Exercise' diaries. Across the school, children participate successfully in a variety of sporting events such as cross country running and basketball. They are developing very good skills in citizenship through raising money for charity and performing successfully in community events like the Wester Ross Mod.

In recent years, attainment in reading, writing and mathematics has remained high. Standards in listening and talking are very good. In English language and across the curriculum, children listen and talk confidently when working in pairs and are able to make presentations to the whole class. They can talk positively about their favourite authors. They show a positive interest in reading and almost all read with fluency and expression. Children write for a wide range of purposes, including writing factual reports as part of their topic on the Victorians. In mathematics, almost all children have very good skills in mental and written number calculations. Children show confidence in recognising the properties of shape. They can use computers successfully to create charts and graphs for a range of purposes. Children can identify a range of problem solving strategies and use them very well in practical situations.

Curriculum and meeting learning needs

Teachers provide a broad and balanced curriculum. They are making a very good start to developing aspects of the national initiative, *Curriculum for Excellence*. They are beginning to plan more opportunities for children to develop their skills in literacy and numeracy across the curriculum. They increasingly enable children to be active in their learning. They provide children with very good opportunities to work together in small groups and independently. Teachers make good use of computers to enhance children's learning. In the expressive arts, teachers place a strong emphasis on the active

involvement of children. Enterprise education is helping to develop children's personal and social skills across the curriculum. Children benefit from two hours of quality physical education each week. Staff are increasing children's awareness of diversity through planned experiences of other world religions and learning about other cultures.

The school is very good at meeting the needs of children. Staff are beginning to involve children in planning their own learning targets and what they want to learn. In all lessons, well-planned activities, including homework, help meet the needs of all children. Teachers give children clear explanations and check children's understanding at the end of lessons. They share the purpose of lessons and give children helpful advice on their next steps in learning. Teachers set an appropriate range of homework tasks on a regular basis. Children with additional support needs receive effective support from the headteacher and support staff which helps them make appropriate progress.

5. How well do staff work with others to support children's learning?

The school works effectively with a very supportive Parent Council. Parents support the school very well through fundraising events and attending the school's open afternoons. Staff keep parents well informed through newsletters and informative progress reports. The school actively seeks parents' views and all parents feel that the school listens to their views. For example, the school consults parents successfully about developments in the curriculum and sensitive health issues. The school responds appropriately to complaints from parents. The school has developed very positive links with the local community. For example, the school is part of the 'Good for Ewe' community garden scheme and works with the community to grow fruit and vegetables. Children have successfully broadcast on 'Two Lochs Radio' to ask for advice on re-cycling. Children's learning is further enhanced with effective partnerships with local schools. For example, the school held a successful Burns Supper with Poolewe Primary

School and a joint theatre visit with Bualnaluib Primary School. In partnership with the school, the active schools' coordinator arranges a wide range of sporting activities. Positive links with Poolewe Nursery ensure that children are very well supported as they move from nursery to P1. Links with Gairloch High School are effective and supportive.

6. Are staff and children actively involved in improving their school community?

Children are happy to take on responsibilities in the class and around the school. They are able to express their views well through the pupil council. Children are happy with the way in which the school responds to their concerns. The eco committee members are actively involved in the development of the school environment. The school is working towards achieving a green flag award from Eco-Schools Scotland. Staff are reflective and welcome opportunities to share best practice to improve learning and teaching. The headteacher and staff use a variety of successful strategies to monitor children's progress and the work of the school.

7. Does the school have high expectations of all children?

Children and staff are very proud of their school and its achievements. They work very well together and show a high level of mutual respect. Children are very well behaved and help and support one another in the class and around the school. They are very supportive towards nursery children during their transition visits to the school. The headteacher and staff encourage children to work hard and always do their best. Staff celebrate children's wider achievements through attractive displays and at assemblies. They are knowledgeable about the school's child protection procedures. The school is active in promoting equality and fairness. Children have regular opportunities to participate in religious observance.

8. Does the school have a clear sense of direction?

The headteacher has created a very positive climate for learning and is committed to providing high quality education for the children. She provides very good leadership to the school and is very well respected in the local community. She has successfully involved children in contributing to the aims of the school. Staff have a shared vision for the school. They contribute to continuous improvement and to making children's learning experiences stimulating. Inverasdale Primary School has the capacity to continue to provide a very good quality of education.

9. What happens next?

As a result of the very good quality of education provided by the school, we will make no further visits following this inspection. The education authority will inform parents about the school's progress as part of the authority's arrangements for reporting to parents on the quality of its schools.

We have agreed the following area for improvement with the school and education authority.

- Continue to strengthen education in line with *Curriculum for Excellence*.

Quality indicators help schools and nursery classes, education authorities and inspectors to judge what is good and what needs to be improved in the work of a school and a nursery class. You can find these quality indicators in the HMIE publications *How good is our school?* and *The Child at the Centre*. Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers evaluations of three important quality indicators to keep track of how well all Scottish schools and nursery classes are doing.

Here are the evaluations for Inverasdale Primary School.

Improvements in performance	very good
Learners' experiences	very good
Meeting learning needs	very good

We also evaluated the following aspects of the work of the school.

The curriculum	very good
Improvement through self-evaluation	very good

HM Inspector: Alan Urquhart
25 August 2009

To find out more about inspections or get an electronic copy of this report go to www.hmie.gov.uk. Please contact the Business Management and Communications Team (BMCT) if you wish to enquire about our arrangements for translated or other appropriate versions.

If you wish to comment about any of our inspections, contact us at HMIEenquiries@hmie.gsi.gov.uk or alternatively you should write in the first instance to BMCT, HM Inspectorate of Education, Denholm House, Almondvale Business Park, Almondvale Way, Livingston EH54 6GA.

Our complaints procedure is available from our website www.hmie.gov.uk or alternatively you can write to our Complaints Manager, at the address above or by telephoning 01506 600259.

If you are not satisfied with the action we have taken at the end of our complaints procedure, you can raise your complaint with the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO). The SPSO is fully independent and has powers to investigate complaints about Government departments and agencies. You should write to SPSO, Freepost EH641, Edinburgh EH3 0BR. You can also telephone 0800 377 7330, fax 0800 377 7331 or e-mail: ask@spsso.org.uk. More information about the Ombudsman's office can be obtained from the website at www.spsso.org.uk.

This report uses the following word scale to make clear judgements made by inspectors.

excellent	outstanding, sector leading
very good	major strengths
good	important strengths with some areas for improvement
satisfactory	strengths just outweigh weaknesses
weak	important weaknesses
unsatisfactory	major weaknesses



**Poolewe Primary School
and Nursery Class
The Highland Council
23 August 2011**

HM Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) inspects schools in order to let parents¹, children and the local community know whether their school² provides a good education. Inspectors also discuss with school staff how they can improve the quality of education.

At the beginning of the inspection, we ask the headteacher and staff about the strengths of the school, what needs to improve, and how they know. We use the information they give us to help us plan what we are going to look at. During the inspection, we go into classes and join other activities in which children are involved. We also gather the views of children, parents, staff and members of the local community. We find their views very helpful and use them together with the other information we have collected to arrive at our view of the quality of education.

This report tells you what we found during the inspection and the quality of education in the school. We describe how well children are doing, how good the school is at helping them to learn and how well it cares for them. We comment on how well staff, parents and children work together and how they go about improving the school. We also comment on how well the school works with other groups in the community, including services which support children. Finally, we focus on how well the school is led and how staff help the school achieve its aims.

If you would like to learn more about our inspection of the school, please visit www.hmie.gov.uk. Here you can find analyses of questionnaire returns from children, parents and staff. We will not provide questionnaire analyses where the numbers of returns are so small that they could identify individuals.

¹ Throughout this report, the term 'parents' should be taken to include foster carers, residential care staff and carers who are relatives or friends.

² The term 'school' includes the nursery class or classes where appropriate.

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1. The school

Poolewe Primary School is a non-denominational school with a nursery class. It serves the village of Poolewe and the surrounding rural area. The roll was 29, including three in the nursery class when the inspection was carried out in May 2011. Children's attendance was above the national average in 2009/2010. The headteacher has also management responsibility for Gairloch Primary School.

2. Particular strengths of the school

- Confident children who attain well and enjoy talking about their learning and achievements.
- Children's ability to work well on their own and in small groups.
- Teamwork between staff and their support for children's learning.
- Partnerships with parents and community links which enhance children's learning.
- Leadership of the headteacher.

3. How well do children learn and achieve?

Learning and achievement

In the nursery class, children are motivated effectively to learn. They talk confidently to one another and play well together. Children organise themselves, take turns and share resources well in their play. Across the primary classes, children are confident, articulate and developing independence. Children are extremely positive towards their learning and try to do their best. They work very well as a class, in pairs or in small groups. Children help each other when they have difficulties. They enjoy their learning and respond very well to challenges, for example to design a shelter as part of P5-7 coursework. There were examples of very well paced, exciting lessons, where teachers involved children well in discussions about their learning.

Children experience a broad range of activities which help them achieve widely. They have a sound understanding of sustainability

and, as a result, have achieved a second Green Flag from Eco-Schools Scotland. Children achieve success in a number of after-school sporting activities. They exercise responsibility effectively through the pupil council, eco-school group and as junior road safety officers. Children are developing secure citizenship skills by taking part in charity and community events. Many achieve personal success at local events and festivals, including the local Mod and the Plockton Drama Festival.

Children in the nursery recognise signs and captions around the playroom. They enjoy listening to stories and looking at books. Their skills in early mathematics are developing well through their play. In the primary classes, almost all children are making very good progress in reading, writing and mathematics. Their skills in listening and talking are developing very well. Children read well and expressively to each other and are able to talk in some depth about books which they have read. Children write well creatively, including poetry. Most children are making clear progress with spelling. They present their work well. In mathematics, children are making very good progress. Children in the nursery enjoy counting and using numbers and colours during their play. At the primary stages, children can count accurately and explain clearly how they reach their answers. They are good at gathering and displaying information. They can tackle problems confidently and solve them using a range of strategies.

Curriculum and meeting learning needs

At all stages, staff show confidence in using Curriculum for Excellence to raise standards and improve children's learning. In the nursery class, health and wellbeing is being developed consistently across the curriculum. Children enjoy a range of healthy options for their snack and in their baking activities. In the primary classes, staff plan a wide range of enjoyable, challenging, often active and relevant learning experiences for children. Children are beginning to use their skills in literacy and numeracy well to help them learn in other areas. The school's approaches to supporting children's personal and social development are very good. As a result, children are developing a

responsible attitude to caring for others and contributing to their environment. Children's learning is enhanced greatly by visitors to school and a wide variety of trips outwith school, including a residential experience at Badaguish Outdoor Centre. All children learn to swim. Children do not yet receive two hours of good quality physical education each week.

In the nursery class, staff know children very well. They are sensitive to their needs and support their emotional and social development very effectively. They give children appropriate individual attention to help them to be successful and confident learners. The school identifies effectively and supports children who need extra help with their learning. All staff, including support staff, help those children who have additional support needs very well. The school is developing effective arrangements for personal learning planning to help track and record children's achievements. In lessons, staff use a variety of approaches well to help meet children's varying learning needs. This includes whole class, group, paired and individual work. Tasks are matched well to children's learning needs and children are challenged effectively in their coursework. Overall, staff ensure that the pace of learning enables all children to make very good progress. Homework is interesting and challenging, and supports learning in school.

4. How well do staff work with others to support children's learning?

Parents are very supportive of the work of the nursery. They receive regular, helpful information about what their children learn and experience. Across the school, parents are kept well informed about their children's progress and the work of the school through newsletters, open days and regular progress reports. Several parents volunteer to work alongside children in school. Many readily share their expertise with children to enhance learning. Staff deal effectively with any parental concerns and complaints. The school has developed highly effective links with members of the local community which enhances children's learning. Children help organise events for

parents and local residents, including St Andrew's and Burns ceilidhs. Staff support children as they transfer into P1 and from P7 to Gairloch High School with programmes which are planned well.

5. Are staff and children actively involved in improving their school community?

Staff share ideas which they have gathered from training and visits which improve children's learning experiences, particularly in Curriculum for Excellence. Staff help lead developments which improve children's learning. By taking part in pupil groups such as the eco committee, children are learning how to deal with issues which are important to them and their school. Parents influence plans for improving the school. Teachers work well together to develop aspects of the curriculum, including literacy and health and wellbeing. Staff support additional activities readily, often in connection with topic work, to extend children's learning. The headteacher monitors the work of the school through a wide range of approaches. The school has plans to address the need to improve the rigour with which children's progress is tracked and learning targets are set. Closer joint working is now needed to ensure consistency of practice across all classes.

6. Does the school have high expectations of all children?

The headteacher promotes a positive ethos of achievement. The school encourages children to achieve in a variety of ways and celebrates their successes at assemblies and through newsletters and displays. Most staff have a clear understanding about their role in relation to child protection. The education authority should ensure that catering staff receive appropriate training in child protection. At all stages, relationships between staff and children are very positive. Children respond very well to the high standards staff set for their behaviour and learning. Children are proud of their school and very well behaved. Children feel that staff take good account of their views.

Children have a very good understanding about the place of healthy eating and exercise in maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

7. Does the school have a clear sense of direction?

The headteacher has a strong commitment to the school and community. She is held in high regard by parents, children, staff and the wider community. She works very well with staff to help meet children's needs and includes children and their parents in helping to take the school forward. Staff take forward areas for improvement. The school now needs to continue to develop and refine arrangements for tracking children's performance and assessing their learning.

8. What happens next?

We are confident that the school will be able to make the necessary improvements in light of the inspection findings. As a result, we will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. The school and the education authority will inform parents about the school's progress in improving the quality of education.

We have agreed the following areas for improvement with the school and education authority.

- Continue to develop recording and tracking systems using Curriculum for Excellence to ensure children continue to progress well.
- Include the nursery class more fully in developing school policies and practices.

At the last Care Commission inspection of the nursery class there were no requirements or recommendations.

Quality indicators help schools and nursery classes, education authorities and inspectors to judge what is good and what needs to be improved in the work of a school and a nursery class. You can find these quality indicators in the HMIE publications *How good is our school?* and *The Child at the Centre*. Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers evaluations of three important quality indicators to keep track of how well all Scottish schools and nursery classes are doing.

Here are the evaluations for Poolewe Primary School and Nursery Class.

Primary school

Improvements in performance	very good
Learners' experiences	very good
Meeting learning needs	very good

Nursery class

Improvements in performance	good
Children's experiences	good
Meeting learning needs	good

We also evaluated the following aspects of the work of the school and nursery class.

The curriculum	good
Improvement through self-evaluation	good

HM Inspector: Anne McGachey
23 August 2011

When we write reports, we use the following word scale so that our readers can see clearly what our judgments mean.

excellent	means	outstanding, sector leading
very good	means	major strengths
good	means	important strengths with some areas for improvement
satisfactory	means	strengths just outweigh weaknesses
weak	means	important weaknesses
unsatisfactory	means	major weaknesses

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Route	Daily Mileage	CO ₂ e (kg per day)	CO ₂ e (kg per annum)	CO ₂ (kg per day)	CO ₂ (kg per annum)	CH ₄ (kg per day)	CH ₄ (kg per annum)	N ₂ O (kg per day)	N ₂ O (kg per annum)
Inverasdale PS - Poolewe PS	21.6	8.0122608	1522.329552	7.9489944	1510.308936	0.001728	0.32832	0.0615384	11.692296

Financial Template

Table 1	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Row 1	Current revenue costs for school proposed for closure			
		Costs for full financial year (projected annual costs)	Additional financial impact on receiving school [POOLEWE]	Annual recurring savings (column 2 minus column 3)
Row 2	Name of School			
	INVERASDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL			
Row 3	School costs			
Row 4	<i>Employee costs</i>			
Row 5	teaching staff	62332.05	16108	46224.05
Row 6	support staff	8217.45		8217.45
Row 7	teaching staff training (CPD etc)			0.00
Row 8	support staff training			0.00
Row 9	Supply costs	2608.00		2608.00
Row 10				0.00
Row 11	<i>Building costs:</i>	73157.50	16108.00	57049.50
Row 12	property insurance	178.02		178.02
Row 13	non domestic rates			0.00
Row 14	water & sewerage charges	208.96		208.96
Row 15	energy costs	4180.29		4180.29
Row 16	cleaning (contract or inhouse)	2979.48		2979.48
Row 17	building repair & maintenance			0.00
Row 18	grounds maintenance			0.00
Row 19	facilities management costs			0.00
Row 20	revenue costs arising from capital			0.00
Row 21	other			0.00
Row 22				0.00
Row 23	<i>School operational costs:</i>	7546.75	0.00	7546.75
Row 24	learning materials			0.00
Row 25	catering (contract or inhouse)	3278.40		3278.40
Row 26	SQA costs			0.00
Row 27	other school operational costs (e.g. licences)	1874.00		1874.00
Row 28				0.00
Row 29	<i>Transport costs:</i>	5152.40	0.00	5152.40
Row 30	home to school	950.00	12670	-11720.00
Row 31	other pupil transport costs			0.00
Row 32	staff travel	446.67		446.67
Row 33	SCHOOL COSTS SUB-TOTAL			0.00
Row 34				0.00
Row 35	Income:	1396.67	12670.00	-11273.33
Row 36	Sale of meals			0.00
Row 37	Lets			0.00
Row 38	External care provider			0.00
Row 39	Other			0.00
Row 40	SCHOOL INCOME SUB-TOTAL			0.00
Row 41				0.00
Row 42	TOTAL COSTS MINUS INCOME FOR SCHOOL	87253.32	28778.00	58475.32
Row 43				
Row 44	UNIT COST PER PUPIL PER YEAR	17450.66	5755.60	11695.06

Table 2	Column 5	Column 6	Column 7
	Capital costs	School proposed for closure	Receiving school
	Capital Life Cycle cost - note 7		
	Third party contributions to capital costs		

Table 3	Annual Property costs incurred (moth-balling) until disposal	
	property insurance	178.02
	non domestic rates	
	water & sewerage charges	208.96
	energy costs	0
	cleaning (contract or inhouse)	0
	security costs	0
	building repair & maintenance	0
	grounds maintenance	0
	facilities management costs	0
	other	
	TOTAL ANNUAL COST UNTIL DISPOSAL	

Table 4	Non-recurring revenue costs	
	TOTAL NON-RECURRING REVENUE COSTS	Nil

Table 5	Impact on GAE - note 5	
	GAE IMPACT	Nil

HIGHLAND COUNCIL
CARE AND LEARNING SERVICE
EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared on a proposal:

- To discontinue education provision at Inverasdale Primary School, re-assigning its catchment area to that of Poolewe Primary School.

Details of Consultation To Be Carried Out:

The Proposal will be the subject of statutory consultation from under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended.

In accordance with statutory requirements, the following will be consulted:

- (i) Parents of pupils in the catchment areas of Inverasdale Primary School and Poolewe Primary School, including parents of pre-school pupils;
- (ii) All P4-7 pupils attending Poolewe Primary School.
- (iii) Members of Parliament and Members of Scottish Parliament for the area affected by the proposal;
- (iv) The Parent Council of Poolewe Primary School.
- (v) Staff of Poolewe Primary School.
- (vi) Trade union representatives;
- (vii) The community councils for the areas covered by the 2 schools;
- (viii) Education Scotland;
- (ix) Highland Youth Convenor.
- (x) Russian Arctic Convoy Museum
- (xi) Inverasdale Heritage Group
- (xii) Wester Loch Ewe Trust
- (xiii) GBB Estates (local landowner)
- (xiv) "Good for Ewe" community co-operative.

The proposal document will also be advertised in the local press and on the Highland Council website.

A public meeting will be held in Inverasdale School on 10 June 2015. This meeting will be advertised in advance in the local press and on the Highland Council website.

IDENTIFIED IMPACTS

Equality Category	Impact	Evidence
AGE	Neutral.	The proposal relates to 2 primary schools and as such primarily affects children in the 3-12 age group, and their parents. The proposal is

		<p>advanced on the basis of educational benefit to the children in the area concerned.</p> <p>No negative age related effects arise.</p> <p>Age is not a protected characteristic for the purposes of schools provision.</p>
DISABILITY	Neutral, but with some positive benefits.	As there are currently no pupils attending Inverasdale School, the proposal will not have any adverse effects on disabled children. In principle, the inclusion of disabled pupils within the larger peer group in Poolewe promotes integration.
GENDER	Neutral	The proposal will have no effect on gender equality issues.
PREGNANCY AND MATERNITY	Neutral	There would be no direct impact on pregnancy and maternity issues.
GENDER REASSIGNMENT	Neutral	The proposal will have no impact on gender reassignment equality.
MARRIAGE AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP	Neutral	The proposal will have no impact on equality issues around marriage and civil partnership.
MINORITY LANGUAGES	Neutral	There would be no impact on minority languages.
RACE	Neutral	The proposal will have no impact on race equality.
RELIGION OR BELIEF	Neutral	Neither of the schools affected are denominational. The proposal will have no impact on religious equality.
SEXUAL ORIENTATION	Neutral	The proposal will have no impact on equality around sexual orientation.
LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN	Neutral.	There would be no direct impacts on Looked After Children.
YOUNG CARERS	Neutral	There would be no impacts on Young Carers.
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING IN DEPRIVATION	Neutral	The proposal is being advanced on the basis of educational benefit for all children, although not specifically those living in deprivation.

RURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This Rural Impact Assessment has been prepared on a proposal to discontinue education provision at Inverasdale Primary School, re-assigning its catchment area to that of Poolewe Primary School.

The Assessment is current prior to public consultation but may be amended in the light of comments received during the course of that consultation.

Details of Consultation To Be Carried Out:

The Proposal will be the subject of statutory consultation from under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended.

In accordance with statutory requirements, the following will be consulted:

- (i) Parents of pupils in the catchment areas of Inverasdale Primary School and Poolewe Primary School, including parents of pre-school pupils;
- (ii) All P4-7 pupils attending Poolewe Primary School.
- (iii) Members of Parliament and Members of Scottish Parliament for the area affected by the proposal;
- (iv) The Parent Council of Poolewe Primary School.
- (v) Staff of Poolewe Primary School.
- (vi) Trade union representatives;
- (vii) The community councils for the areas covered by the 2 schools;
- (viii) Education Scotland;
- (ix) Highland Youth Convenor
- (x) Russian Arctic Convoy Museum
- (xi) Inverasdale Heritage Group
- (xii) Wester Loch Ewe Trust
- (xiii) GBB Estates (local landowner)
- (xiv) "Good for Ewe" community co-operative

The proposal document will also be advertised in the local press and on the Highland Council website.

A public meeting will be held in Inverasdale School on 10 June 2015. This meeting will be advertised in advance in the local press and on the Highland Council website.

What the change will mean in rural communities

Although the proposal involves a formal closure of service, the service itself has not operated since the summer of 2012. In practical terms the proposal will not change the current position.

The relocation of service (which in practical terms has already taken place) involves moving local school provision from Inverasdale to Poolewe, a distance of 5.4 miles.

Inverasdale School was mothballed when the pupil roll fell to 2. Were Inverasdale School to re-open with 100% of catchment pupils attending the school, the roll figures for the forthcoming few years would be 2015-16 – 8; 2016-17 – 4; 2017-18 – 3; 2018-19 – 5.

At present Poolewe Primary School has a pupil roll of less than 50% of the school's capacity. The school is comfortably able to accommodate the pupils from Inverasdale and no adverse effects for Poolewe Primary are expected to arise. On the contrary, including the pupils from Inverasdale within the Poolewe catchment will help to maintain a healthy roll at Poolewe.

The Highland Council believes that educational benefits arise when schools have a sufficient number of children to allow pupils to work collaboratively and participate in team sports and wider activities; and where there are age appropriate peer groups of a sufficient size to allow a range of interactions and relationships to form and reform.

How will people in rural communities be affected?

Accessibility of service – since the “mothballing” of Inverasdale Primary School pupils of P1-7 age from the Inverasdale catchment have been provided with free school transport to Poolewe Primary School.

Currently there are 4 pre-school children within the Inverasdale School catchment. However pre-school children from Inverasdale have always attended nursery at Poolewe Primary, so the closure of Inverasdale School would have no impact on pre-school children.

It is recognised that pupils from Inverasdale have less opportunity to walk or cycle to school than when Inverasdale School was in operation, and that there is occasional inconvenience for parents who wish to take their child to or from school during the school day.

Travel time to the service - The maximum additional travel time for school pupils is 21 minutes.

Cost to access the service – Parents of children aged 3 and 4 years will have increased costs if they wish to access pre-school education.

Economic impact – when the school ceased to operate in 2012, there were some negative impacts in respect of the loss of part-time employment opportunities such as school clerical and cleaning staff.

Conversely, since the school was mothballed the community have used it as a location for an exhibition into the history of the school, run by the Inverasdale Heritage Group who created a tearoom alongside the exhibition. The school has also been used for an exhibition into the Russian Arctic Convoys of WWII.

Mothballing the school has therefore allowed the creation of a local visitor attraction, stimulating tourism. This has had a positive economic impact.

Partner service delivery – the concentration of service in Poolewe provides opportunities for improved partner service delivery to children, through reduced duplication of work and time spent travelling, and reduced costs. Since the change has in practical terms already been implemented, there is no need to consult other partners.

Other options or adjustments

The above do not apply in the circumstances of a change already implemented for practical purposes.

Note of Public Meeting held at Inverasdale Primary School at 7pm on 10th June 2015 - To discuss the proposal to permanently close Inverasdale Primary School and reassign its catchment area to Poolewe Primary School

Chairperson: Cllr. Gail Ross, Vice Chair of Highland Council Education, Children and Adult Services (ECAS) Committee

Officials Attending: Brian Porter, Head of Resources
Norma Young, Area Care and Learning Manager (West)
Ian Jackson, Education Officer

Present: Cllr. Richard Greene
47 local residents – Listed in Appendix A

Apologies: Hugh and Dorothy MacLeod, Deo Na Mara, 7 Braes, Poolewe,
Alexander Urquhart, 15 Croft, Poolewe,
Fiona and Graham Mickle, 20 Coast, Poolewe,
Rev Pam and Tony Shinkins, Holmlea, Inverasdale

Cllr. Gail Ross opened the meeting by welcoming the attendees and thanking the local residents for their hospitality. She explained that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposal to formally close Inverasdale Primary School as set out in the recommendation to the published paper, in which Highland Council proposes, subject to the outcome of consultation, to discontinue the provision of education at Inverasdale Primary School and reassign its catchment area to Poolewe Primary School. She explained that, were the proposal to be approved, the proposed changes would take place immediately following the conclusion of the statutory process relating to school closures.

Cllr. Ross explained that other options were identified within the proposal paper, such as re-opening the school or continuing to mothball it, and advised that any other options identified during the meeting could also be discussed. She then introduced the members of the panel, as detailed above, and welcomed Cllr Greene.

Head of Resources, Brian Porter, was then asked to describe the consultation process.

Brian Porter explained that this meeting would be the first stage of the consultation process which The Highland Council has to follow regarding the proposed closure. Appendix B of the published proposal paper sets out the process in detail. He went on to give an overview of the process in relation to this specific case:

20th May 2015 The Education, Children's and Adult Services Committee agreed to start the consultation process.

27th May 2015 The consultation began.

21st August 2015 The consultation period closes. This is the closing date for views to be submitted. Ian Jackson is to co-ordinate the findings, following which the Final Consultation Report will be published on the Highland Council website.

Mr Porter highlighted the fact that the consultation paper was issued to those potentially affected by the proposal and to other nominated parties and made available to the public via local advertisements and on the Council's website, along with details of this evening's meeting. He was delighted to see such a high turnout from a small community.

Brian Porter continued by explaining that a note would be taken of the evening's meeting and, following presentations by council officials, a question and answer session would take place. If any questions could not be answered a response would be made within the final report. He explained that the Council are duty-bound to respond to all queries raised, including those submitted following the meeting and before 21st August. He explained that this is a very thorough process giving everyone a chance to air their views. He went on to lay out the timeline following the closure of the consultation period.

After the 21st August the consultation process moves into a subsequent period, at the end of which The Highland Council would receive a report from Education Scotland in relation to the proposal. The Council must take due consideration of any issues raised by Education Scotland.

The next meeting of the ECAS Committee is due to be held on 11th November 2015, at which it is anticipated that there will be a decision on the future of the school. The Council's report, responding to all points made during the consultation, will be made available to all interested parties at least three weeks prior to the next meeting of the Committee.

On 17th December 2015 a formal meeting of the full Highland Council will take place, during which we would anticipate the Council would ratify any decision taken by the ECAS Committee. If the decision is to close Inverasdale Primary, then following the 17 December meeting the Scottish Government will be notified of the decision and there will be a period during which any parties wishing to do so may make representation to the Scottish Government, if they feel the Council has not followed due process in making its decision. The Scottish Government would consider any such representations and make a decision on whether they wished to "call-in" the proposal. A final decision might be expected around February 2016. Mr Porter commented that this was a long process but one which gave all interested parties an opportunity to voice their opinions and receive responses. In terms of tonight's meeting the key date to be sighted on was 21st August 2015, being the deadline by which any comments or queries had to be raised in response to the published Proposal Paper.

Cllr. Ross then passed the meeting over to Norma Young, Area Care and Learning Manager, to discuss the educational benefits of the proposal.

Norma Young expressed that the education benefits of the proposal had been laid out in the proposal paper. She explained that the proposal had been discussed with

the parents of pupils who currently attend Poolewe Primary School and that there had been a very positive response. The parents were very pleased with the educational provision provided at Poolewe Primary School. The children had done very well when they attended Inverasdale Primary, but the falling school roll had led to the school being mothballed. There is an educational benefit to working in a larger setting, as with more children of the same age the pupils are able to better engage in their learning. Mrs Young made reference to the need for group discussion and collegiate working within Curriculum for Excellence. She re-iterated that the Highland Council's views are clearly laid out in the proposal paper.

Cllr. Ross then asked Ian Jackson, Education Officer, to discuss the community and equality impacts of the proposal.

Mr Jackson explained that information about these issues is contained within the Proposal Paper and appendices. He went on to say that terms of community impact, it is self-evident that the community has made extensive use of the building since the school was mothballed. This is detailed at 9.1 and 9.2 of the Proposal Paper, and Mr Jackson commented that the results could be seen upon entering the building. The Council have an Asset Management Policy which they would have to follow before disposing of the property, in the event that the school is closed, but, as detailed in the paper, the Council would be keen to discuss that further with the community.

In terms of community use, Mr Jackson felt that the level of activity undertaken by the community suggests to Highland Council that they have very clear plans about using the building as a public space, a visitor attraction, and as a means of making the history of the area accessible.

Mr Jackson explained that in respect of transport, The Council's assessment is set out in 5.12 and Section 7 of the Proposal Paper. He acknowledged that whenever a school is closed, pupils end up travelling further than they would have, but that the Council feels in this case that the disadvantages of longer school transport are offset by the educational gains already described by Mrs Young.

Mr Jackson then handed the meeting back over to Councillor Ross.

Following the statement by Ian Jackson, Cllr. Ross asked the attendees whether any clarification was needed on any factual points in the Proposal Paper or on what had been discussed so far. There being no queries at this stage, Cllr Ross opened the floor to questions.

Question 1: Lesley Timings, 18a Coast - Part-time Project Advisor to the Stakeholder Groups making use of the school building.

- (a) It seems from the wording of the Proposal Paper that Highland Council are supportive of community use of the school building. Given that, can Highland Council offer any assurances that (once the statutory process has been completed) the community will get first choice over the use of the school and becoming a community owner of the building? Can the community be given an idea of the cost of purchasing the building if it is decided to dispose of the

asset, as it is hard to raise funds and apply for grants without an idea of the cost?

Answer:

Cllr. Ross stated that she expected to receive this question given the current circumstances of Inverasdale Primary School. It was the first question that occurred to her when she herself read the paper in her role as Vice-Chair of the Committee. She explained that Highland Council is however obliged to follow the process already discussed, and referred the question to Brian Porter.

Mr Porter explained that the council are locked into the timeline of the process and cannot consider the future use of the building until the formal decision to close has been reached.

(b) Lesley Timings - Is that the December meeting of the Council?

Answer:

Brian Porter - Yes in terms of the Council's process, albeit that the proposal could be called-in by the Scottish Government, if someone challenged us on due process. In that sense it could be around February 2016, before we got confirmation from the Scottish Government about call-in. After this point Highland Council can then take a decision on the future use of the building. He explained that could be no discussions about future use before that point as, whilst the council are supportive of the community use, they cannot pre-judge the outcome of the consultation process. If there is a formal declaration of disposal of an asset the first thing Highland Council looks for is whether there is a strong community interest. Mr Porter highlighted the fact that Highland Council gives a strong sense of their support of community use in the Proposal Paper. The Council is aware of the superb facility that exists at the school, and of the aspirations of the community. Typically the Highland Council is supportive of community acquisition of surplus buildings, where the community provide a strong business case, but at this stage we cannot pre-judge the outcome of the school closure consultation.

(c) Lesley Timings - At what point can the community make a written request seeking assurances about future community ownership? That is going to be very important in terms of applying for grant funding.

Answer:

Brian Porter explained that this was linked to the final decision of the consultation process, as the outcome shouldn't be assumed. Mr Porter asked for time to reflect on this further and his comments would be included in the final paper.

Cllr. Ross suggested that the community drafts a business case in readiness.

Brian Porter commented that some of that work was already happening. He agreed that it would be worthwhile for the community to undertake whatever work they were able to pending the outcome of the consultation, so that matters could be progressed

quickly if a decision was taken to close the school. He advised that the Asset Management Project Board, an internal Council group which ultimately considers these kinds of proposals, has been given a marker on the community interest in this building, so the Council was doing what it could without prejudicing the process.

Question 2(statement): Fiona Davidson, 19 Coast

Mrs Davidson expressed the view that the school building is vital to the community. They are passionate to make use of the building as a community space. She went on to say that a 'ball-park' figure of the costs involved would be much appreciated, for fundraising purposes.

Question 3: Bob Rogers, Inverasdale

How long would the community have to raise the necessary funds, once a decision is made?

Answer:

Brian Porter – The more work that can be done by the community in preparation the better. This would need to be looked into.

Robbie Bain, Ward Manager, advised that there is precedent for communities being given more time to raise money. He went on to say that if a decision to close was approved, there would then be a separate report to discuss the disposal of the asset. Any legal process resulting from this report is unlikely to be concluded for the 2016 trading season and, as such, he suggested the community seek reassurance about the permission for them to make continued use of the premises, at least for that season.

Cllr. Gail Ross asked if it would be possible for The Highland Council to give some assurance that if the community's business case were accepted, they could put down a nominal deposit towards purchase.

Brian Porter expressed that if the Council proceeds to closure and if a business case were put forward, it would be as flexible and amenable as possible regarding payment.

Question 4: John Barlow, Camusbain

(a) Are the panel able to say who built the school, when it was built and who paid for it to be built?

Answer:

Ian Jackson explained that The Highland Council Legal Department would hold the Title Deeds to the property, although he didn't know whether that would provide details of when the school was built.

A suggestion of 1876 as the opening date was made from the floor.

- (b) John Barlow - as time goes on can the community just develop the right to the building after continual use?

It was agreed that Brian Porter would consult with Highland Council solicitors and the answer will be included in the final consultation paper.

Question 5: Guy Dreisbach-Pollington, Inverasdale

As this building already belongs to the community, why do they have to buy it back at all? Mr Dreisbach-Pollington expressed the view that the community have more right to the building than The Highland Council.

Answer:

Brian Porter explained that The Highland Council has a process which it has to follow in these circumstances. As custodians of the asset they have a duty to ensure that the future use is considered in a thoughtful way.

- (b) Mr Dreisbach-Pollington – why is there any monetary value involved in the Council selling this building to the community?

Brian Porter – I don't know what the financial arrangements would be. To some extent we are pre-judging a scenario here.

Ian Jackson explained that, in law, there exists an entity known as The Highland Council, which is the legal owner of the building, and the Council has certain responsibilities in terms of how it disposes of taxpayers' assets. He acknowledged the moral point which was being made.

Question 6: Jock Ramsay, Naast

Mr Ramsay explained that a while ago he had put forward a request to the Community Council that a statue to Kay Matheson could be erected within the school grounds. Would this process interfere with that request?

Answer:

Ian Jackson explained that Highland Council remain the owners of the building until such time as it is disposed of. It would therefore be for the Council to take a view on the request, so in the short-term this would need to be raised with Brian Porter. In the longer term, if the building were transferred to community ownership, the community owners could take the decision, but in the short term any changes to the building would have to be referred to the Highland Council as owners.

There being no further questions at this stage Brian Porter re-iterated that the deadline for submissions was 21st August, and that all comments should be addressed to Ian Jackson. He went on to remind the attendees of the procedure following this deadline, outlining again the pertinent dates and timescales.

Cllr. Gail Ross then passed the meeting over to Councillor Greene for his comments. Cllr. Greene thanked Cllr Ross for chairing the meeting and all the councillors and attendees. He reminded those present that very often favourable comments did not get submitted, and urged the attendees to give some thought to that.

Cllr. Greene also wished to record his thanks to Cllr. Ross for coming down from Caithness to chair the meeting, and also the officers for travelling to attend.

Cllr Ross thanked all attendees and formally closed the meeting.

APPENDIX A **LIST OF ATTENDEES**

Mr and Mrs Rogers, Ardvreck, Inverasdale
Anna Ella, Nicky Ella-Kirk, Allan Kirk, 1 Coast, Inverasdale
Hamish and Trish MacDonald, 1 Camusbain, Cove
Amy MacDonald, 15 Cove
Don Nicholson, 10 Coast, Inverasdale
Christine MacIver, Quidinish, Inverasdale
Greg and Marie Lambert, Ach Da Thearnaidh, Inverasdale
John and Liz Nicholson, 9 Coast, Inverasdale
Duncan Chisholm, 11 Stirkhill, Inverasdale
Anne Macrae, Schoolhouse, Torridon
Gemma Urquhart, 10 Cove
Brian Aitkins, 8 Midtown, Inverasdale
Isobel MacLean, Dundale, 22 Coast, Inverasdale
Fionna Hutchinson, 3 Firemore Cottages, Inverasdale
Rose Raine, Stirkhill, Cove
Jane Caddick, Ault Eoin Thomais, Cove
Anna Raine, Hillside, 8 Stirkhill, Cove
Helen Davies, 17 Coast, Inverasdale
Alison Marshall, Seascape, Sand, Laide
Guy and Esther Dreisbach-Pollington, 35 Midtown, Inverasdale
Stuart and Sandra Nairn, The Slipway, Inverasdale
Margaret Denny, 15 Cove
Alasdair Wright, 14 Midtown, Inverasdale
Fiona Davidson, 19 Coast, Inverasdale
Sybil Cameron, 18 Midtown, Inverasdale
Hannah MacLeod, 3 Braes, Inverasdale
Lesley Timings, 18a Coast, Inverasdale
R J Williamson, 16 Cove, Inverasdale
Allan and Anne MacKay, Melvich, Inverasdale
Bruce Hudson, Caladh, Aultbea
Eileen Urquhart, 11 Naast, Inverasdale
John Barlow, Foura, Camusbain, Cove
Allan Perris, Bruach Ard, Inverasdale
Robbie Bain, Highland Council

A Maclver, 7 Midtown, Inverasdale
Ro Silvester, 57 Broadway, CV5 6NS
Zoe Slater, 57 Broadway, CV5 6NS

Responses received list - Inverasdale Primary School Consultation

Date Received	Number	From
29.05.15	1	NHS Highland
10.06.15	2 to 16	Inverasdale Pupil Questionnaires
17.06.15	17	Mrs D MacLeod
18.06.15	18	Sue & John Barlow
18.06.15	19	Amy MacDonald
18.06.15	20	Fiona Adams
18.06.15	21	Nicola Adams
20.06.15	22	Jennifer Adams
24.06.15	23	Ishabel Fleming
29.06.15	24	Hamish MacDonald
02.07.15	25	Archie & Muriel Gibson
09.07.15	26	Kirsty Williams
10.07.15	27	Fiona Meikle
17.07.15	28	Sholto Morton
20.07.15	29	Jim & Deirdre Waddell
27.07.15	30	Claire Ellis
29.07.15	31	Dr Mark Edwards
08.10.15	32	Wester Loch Ewe Comm. Council
10.08.15	33	Mhairi Millard
10.08.15	34	Midtown Coast & Mellangaun Grazing Comm
12.08.15	35	Good For Ewe
13.08.15	36	Rowan & Charles Waddell
13.08.15	37	Alma E Ella
17.08.15	38	Trustees of Wester Loch Ewe Trust
17.08.15	39	Secretary West Loch Ewe Trust
17.08.15	40	Inverasdale Heritage Group
18.08.15	41	Marie & Gregory Lambert
18.08.15	42	Wester Loch Ewe Trust Petition
19.08.15	43	Ron and Mary Rogers
21.08.15	44	Mike and Sarah Daniell
23.08.15	45	Rod D MacLeod
24.08.15	46	George Milne RACMP

NHS Highland

Received email 29/5/15 (1)
Dr Hugo van Woerden
Director of Public Health
Assynt House
Beechwood Park
Inverness, IV2 3BW
Telephone: 01463 717123
Fax: 01463 717666
Textphone users can contact us via
Typetalk: Tel 0800 959598
www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk



Ian Jackson
Education Officer
Care and Learning Office
Camaghael Hostel
Fort William
PH33 7NE

Date: 28th May 2015
Your Ref:
Our Ref:

Enquiries to: Susan Vaughan
Extension:
Direct Line: 01463 704976
Email: Susan.vaughan2@nhs.net

Dear Mr Jackson

Community Planning Partnership - Consultation on the Closure of Inverasdale Primary School

Thank you for giving the members of the CPP the opportunity to respond to the consultation; it is much appreciated.

Having considered the information included in the consultation, NHS Highland through the Directorate of Public Health, does not have a view to express on this issue.

Yours sincerely

5

Dr Hugo van Woerden
Director of Public Health

cc Ms D Jones, Chief Operating Officer, NHS Highland



Headquarters: Assynt House, Beechwood Park, INVERNESS IV2 3BW

Chair: Garry Coutts
Chief Executive: Elaine Mead

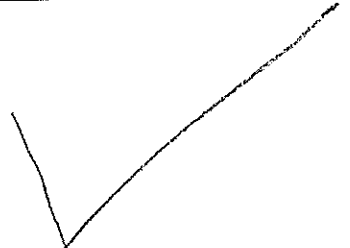
Explain Proposals to Pupils as follows:

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Now we have to decide what to do for the future. We have 3 choices:

1. Close Inverasdale Primary for good, with the pupils going to Poolewe Primary instead.
2. Re-open Inverasdale Primary, so pupils from Inverasdale would go to that school and not to Poolewe Primary.
3. Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer before we decide for good.

Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Inverasdale Primary	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Inverasdale Primary	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

I gave this answer because, it was a good school with lots of room, climbing frame, brilliant football pitch, Wendy, house sand pit, big canteen and lots of wall space for pictures and work. If all the pupils from Poolwe, who live in Inverasdale went to Inverasdale school there would be 8 pupils there, it would have only been 3 pupils. It would be great for the community.

3. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

It would be good if we could go to each others schools and do some work and play time together. So we can communicate with each other. We could even do sports day together.


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Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	



2. Why did you give the answer above?

So Graham do'aint have to drive
us from Inverness to Poole in
the bus.

3. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

Empty response box for question 3.

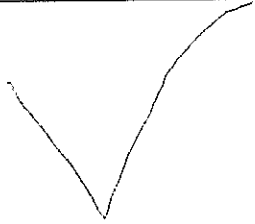
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Idea No. 1 – Close Inverasdale Primary	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Inverasdale Primary	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

Because it would take longer get to Pool ewe.
It will save time.

3. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

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Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Inverasdale Primary	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Inverasdale Primary	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	✓

2. Why did you give the answer above?

I'm fine how it is now I would like things to stay
how it is.

3. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

Please keep things as they are!


Explain Proposals to Pupils as follows:

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Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.


Idea No. 1 – Close Inverasdale Primary	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Inverasdale Primary	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

Inverasdale

because Inverisdale getting a lot of
More tourists.
tourists.

3. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?





Explain Proposals to Pupils as follows:

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3. Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer before we decide for good.

Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Inverasdale Primary	X
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Inverasdale Primary	X
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	✓ yes

2. Why did you give the answer above?

If it opens it will be good for some people and bad for others,

3. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?



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8


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3. Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer before we decide for good.

Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Inverasdale Primary	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Inverasdale Primary	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

It's a really good size school. In a few years the numbers could go up so it can re-open. It's near to the children's homes

3. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

I was a pupil at that school.

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Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Inverasdale Primary	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Inverasdale Primary	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

I gave the answer 'close Inverasdale primary' because Podewe would go down to 1 teacher and everyone in one class which would be very noisy and hard to handle. Inverasdale would take the werty house, sand pit and basically everything in me of classrooms. Everyone would miss each other. I would make new friends and would

3. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

Empty box for response to question 3.



2.6.15.



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3. Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer before we decide for good.

Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Inverasdale Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Inverasdale Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Why did you give the answer above?

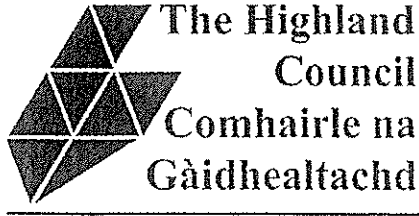
I gave the answer 'close the school' because the numbers in Poolwe school will go down and then Poolwe school might have to go to one and a half teachers and the teachers would be torn between each class. Everyone who moves to Inverasdale school has friends here in Poolwe school and they would miss each other. If Inverasdale school re-opened most of the tables and books that came from Inverasdale would go and so would the wendy house and the sand pit.

3. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

Empty box for additional input.



2nd June 2015



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11

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2. Re-open Inversadale Primary, so pupils from Inverasdale would go to that school and not to Poolewe Primary.
3. Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer before we decide for good.

Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Inverasdale Primary	✓
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Inverasdale Primary	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

Because this school will go down on pupils most things will be brought to that school and people school will go down on teachers and everyone would miss anyone who goes to that school they would interact with other pupils from different school.

3. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

Poolwe school will be empty.
There will be less equipment.



Explain Proposals to Pupils as follows:

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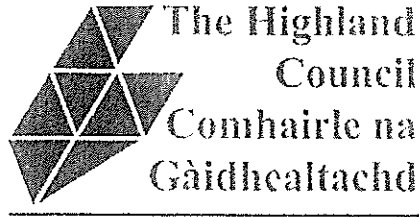
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Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Inverasdale Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Inverasdale Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	<input type="checkbox"/>

M M

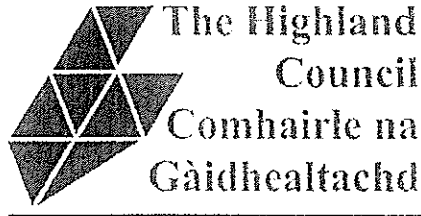


2. Why did you give the answer above?

Because people will lose friends
and in a few years time they will
be back to be small numbers again.
Poolwe School is bigger we can take more
Pupils.

3. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

Empty box for additional input.



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13

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Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Inverasdale Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Inverasdale Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Why did you give the answer above?

I gave the answer above because if it does happen in 2 years it would have to close again. Also I would lose friends. It gives Graham another job. If it did open our school would also go down in numbers. The government would pay money to keep it going when it could be going to other schools. Pupils that live in Innerasdale have a school anyway so really there is no point in opening another one. In 2 years there would also only be 1 girl. Poddar would only have 1 1/2 teachers so we would all be in one classroom.

3. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?



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Explain Proposals to Pupils as follows:

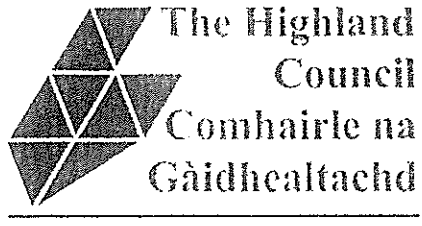
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Idea No. 1 – Close Inverasdale Primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Inverasdale Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	<input type="checkbox"/>



2. Why did you give the answer above?

I want it to close because I don't want to leave my friends behind in Poolewe and in a couple of years later it will just have to go.

3. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

[Empty box for handwritten response]



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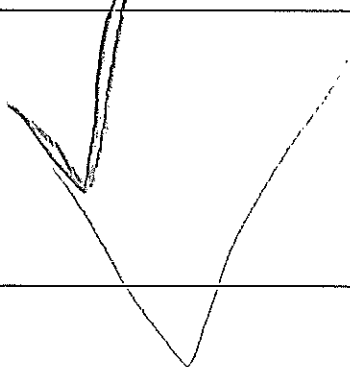
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2. Re-open Inverasdale Primary, so pupils from Inverasdale would go to that school and not to Poolewe Primary.
3. Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer before we decide for good.

Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Inverasdale Primary	
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Inverasdale Primary	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

Number would be
too small,

3. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?



RECEIVED 10 JUN 2015

16

Explain Proposals to Pupils as follows:

For a while Highland Council has been trying out an idea for pupils from Inverasdale to go to Poolewe Primary, instead of Inverasdale Primary.

Now we have to decide what to do for the future. We have 3 choices:

1. Close Inverasdale Primary for good, with the pupils going to Poolewe Primary instead.
2. Re-open Inverasdale Primary, so pupils from Inverasdale would go to that school and not to Poolewe Primary.
3. Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer before we decide for good.

Which idea do you think is best? In the table below, place a tick next to which one you think is best.

Idea No. 1 – Close Inverasdale Primary	YES!!!
Idea No. 2 – Re-open Inverasdale Primary	
Idea No.3 – Keep trying out the idea for a bit longer.	

2. Why did you give the answer above?

I put my answer above because if you open
Inverasdale school both of our schools will be
almost split in half which will make things worse
and the eventually one of them is just going to
shut thank you for listening so PLEASE
KEEP IT SHUT!!!!

3. Is there anything else you want to tell Highland Council about, that would help us make the right choice?

as I said the schools will shatter to
tiny pieces so please keep it shut.

EIKEAN VIEW
7 BRAES
INVERASDALE
IV22 2LW

(17)

REC'D

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter as I was not able to attend the meeting in the Inverasdale school but I would like it noted that both my husband and myself are very much in favour of the community owning and running the school. Since losing our school, shop and post office our village could very easily die out and having the school under the ownership of the community would help keep our village alive, what with the tea room and events they plan to run. I hope you will consider us favourably. Yours sincerely Mrs D MacLeod

To: Mr Ian Jackson
Education Officer
Care and Learning office
Camaghael Hostel
Camaghael
Fortwilliam
PH 33 7NE

From: Sue and John Barton
Fouera
Camusbain
Ne Poolewe
Westerv Ross
IV22 2LT.

15.6.2015

(18)

Dear Mr Jackson

Re: The School House, Inverasdale

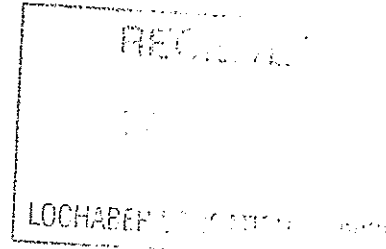
As a community we were all sad to see the impending closure of the school in which many of our local people had been pupils and teachers; but at the same time a new life has already sprung up in the building giving the community again a sense of togetherness and purpose. The museum depicting the WW II heroism of the area is beautifully laid out and the welcoming tea room brings us all together. In the future we hope to expand its use so that in particular there is a place for all manner of activities including a computer service, a small shop, a respite place for all of us as we get older and isolated but also a spot where children of all ages can be supported.

We hope that the community can continue to use the building it has grown up with!

Yours Sincerely

15 Cove
Inverasdale
By Poolewe
Ross shire
IV22 2LT
16th June 2015

Ian Jackson
Education Officer
Camaghael Hostel
Camaghael
Fortwilliam
PH33 7NE



19

Dear Mr Jackson,

As a former head teacher at Inverasdale School I should like to voice my support for the proposal that the people of Wester Loch Ewe should take the Inverasdale School into community ownership, if the proposed school closure passes through Highland Council this year.

I spent over twenty very happy years working in the school, and would very much prefer that it could have maintained a sufficiently healthy school roll to enable the school to continue to function. As that is not the case, I would like to underline the need for us to have a focal point for the community. The success of the exhibitions and café over the last two seasons has been overwhelming, and has gone some way to outline the possibilities that could lie within the school building for future years if the community were allowed to purchase it. We feel that the development of a community hub here could be a great asset to the health and well being of an ageing population, and also that in future there would be some local employment on offer as a result of the plans as set out in the business case which has been prepared for Highland Council.

The community is one hundred per cent behind this venture, and there are many people living elsewhere and with local connections who also support the community in its plans for the School.

Yours faithfully,

Amy MacDonald

Fiona Sangster

From: Ian Jackson
Sent: 18 June 2015 22:49
To: CAL Lochaber Admin
Subject: Fw: Inverasdale School Proposal

20

Please process as part of the Inverasdale consultation.

----- Original Message -----

From: Fiona Adams [mailto:fiona.adams@highland.gov.uk]
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2015 09:07 PM GMT Standard Time
To: Ian Jackson
Subject: Inverasdale School Proposal

I wish to add my support to the proposal to take Inverasdale School into community ownership. I have spent the last 20 summers in cove and feel Inverasdale/Cove have a fantastic community spirit but unfortunately lacks a place to meet and socialise. I would certainly use this to get involved and socialise with the rest of the community.

Fiona Adams

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Fiona Sangster

From: Ian Jackson
Sent: 18 June 2015 22:46
To: CAL Lochaber Admin
Subject: Fw: Inverasdale School Proposal

Please process as part of the Inverasdale consultation.

----- Original Message -----

From: Nicola Adams [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2015 08:39 PM GMT Standard Time
To: Ian Jackson
Subject: Inverasdale School Proposal

(21)

I wish to add my support to the proposal to take Inverasdale School into community ownership. Inverasdale and Cove are very much in need of a focal point/community building and there is clearly much local support for the proposal.

We do not live full time in the area but are here part of every month of the year, the centre would undoubtedly be used by us, our family and friends, but more importantly would provide a much needed meeting point/centre for services for the community.

yours

Nicola Adams
13 Cove,
Inverasdale=

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Fiona Sangster

From: Ian Jackson
Sent: 22 June 2015 10:42
To: CAL Lochaber Admin
Subject: Fw: Inverasdale School Proposal

I received the email below at the weekend, although it look as if it may be a duplicate of one submitted already. Please check and process.

I am out of the office today but I may be in tomorrow morning if you need to discuss anything.

22

----- Original Message -----

From: Jennifer Adams
Sent: Saturday, June 20, 2015 05:02 PM GMT Standard Time
To: Ian Jackson
Subject: Inverasdale School Proposal

I am writing to show my support towards Inverasdale School being taken under community ownership. I spend a lot of time in the area, based at 13 Cove, and can see the clear social benefits of having a centre for the community.

Kind regards,
Jennifer Adams
13 Cove
Inverasdale

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RECEIVED

(23)

30 SCORBYHILL ROAD

INVERNESS IV3 1

20.6.2015.

4

LOCHABER EDUCATION SERVICE

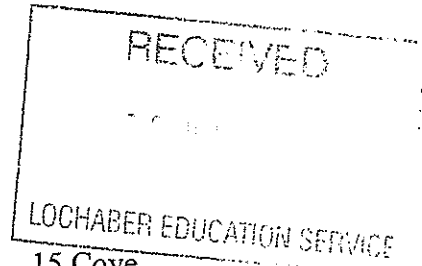
Dear Mr Jackson

Although I reside at the above and I still retained the family Croft House at 4 Coast Invernessdale and spend a lot of time there in the Spring & Summer. Unfortunately I was unable to attend the meeting on 10th June. I decided therefore to write to you, say that I am one hundred percent favour of the project. The local people put a tremendous effort into in the classroom etc a success.

I really think the community should be able to retain this special building. My father was educated there in the Eighteen Nineties and spoke of it of the excellent education he received.

Yours sincerely

24



15 Cove
Inverasdale
By Poolewe
Ross shire
IV22 2LT
20-06-2015

Ian Jackson
Education Officer
Camaghael Hostel
Camaghael
Fortwilliam
PH33 7NE

Dear Mr Jackson,

I have lived in Inverasdale from birth and attended Inverasdale Primary School. The building is extremely important to me and all the many former pupils, and it would mean a great deal to us all if the community were to be able to take over the School at the end of the consultation period.

Over the years we lost our shop and Post Office, and now the School is closing due to a falling roll. When this happens in a community like ours it seems as if part of our identity is being lost.

Volunteers from Wester Loch Ewe have worked hard over the time that the school has been mothballed to keep the building in good order, and to prove that it has potential to take on a new role, and provide a centre and point of interest in our lovely part of Wester Ross.

Yours sincerely,

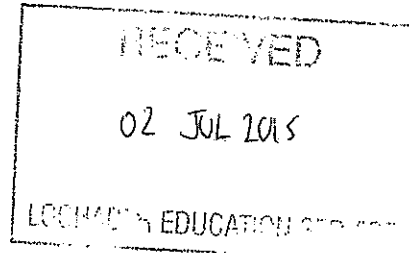
Hamish M. MacDonald

Archie & Muriel Gibson
No 1 Cove
Poolewe
By Achnasheen
Rosshire
IV22 2LL

AJGG/Cove

30th June 2015

Mr Ian Jackson
Education Officer
Highland Council
Care and Learning Office
Camaghael Hostel
Camaghael
Fort William
PH33 7NE



Dear Mr Jackson,

INVERASDALE SCHOOL – IT’S FUTURE

I write in support of the community appeal as presented by the Wester Loch Ewe Trust to retain the old school at Inverasdale for community use. I am not a full time resident in the locale but have strong roots there having been brought up in the community where my parents lived until they passed away. We still retain a family home in Cove and generally contribute to the local economy during our regular visits.

The Wester Loch Ewe Trust have been very conscientious about engaging with all stakeholders and interested groups in the community to establish possibly new uses of relevance to permanent residents and visitors alike. Many novel and interesting ideas have been put forward to maximise the potential of the school for the benefit of all. Suggested uses include: The Artic Convoy Museum which has displayed two successful exhibitions, a café and pop up shops which might embrace everything from local arts and crafts to hobby workshops. The concept being users would pay for use of the facilities thus securing an income with which to cover operational expenses, maintenance and insurance etc.

Until recently Cove had a, "Meeting House", which was owned by the church. Of corrugated iron construction it was considered beyond economic repairs and was demolished. The hamlets of Cove Inverasdale and Naast are between 4 and 8 miles from the village of Poolewe. The Old school at Inverasdale is very central to all these settlements on the peninsula easily accessible at any time of the year. With it's small grass playing field secure within it's boundary wall it is the only flat area for children to kick a ball or play that is flat, sheltered and safe from the road anywhere in the wider community.

I very much hope the Council will agree to working with the Wester Loch Ewe Trust to preserve the old school for community use, especially given it's potential to contribute to the economic regeneration of the area.

Yours sincerely

|

(20)

Ysgythre Isaf
Ponfadog
Llangollen
LL20 7AS

Sunday, 5th July

RECEIVED

09 JUL 2015

LOCHABER

Dear Ian,

I am writing to pledge my support for Inverardale School, near Poobewe, to be used for The Arctic Convoy Exhibition. We have been regular visitors to Cove all our lives and know that not only is the school the perfect building to exhibit the museum artifacts, the windows, layout, but that the positive impact on the community would be tenfold.

Kind regards

(27)
RECEIVED
10 JUL 2015 | 1/15.
ROCHABER EDUCATION SERVICE

FIONA MEIKLE
5 CRICHTON MAINS
PATHHEAD
MIDLOTHIAN
EH37 5UY

Dear Mr Jackson -

We are most wholeheartedly behind the Wester Loch Ewe's efforts to purchase the old ex, primary school at Inverardake by Poolawe.

Our wider family have owned a holiday house since 1964 in Coast - very close to the school.

We are willing to support this enterprise in any way - and particularly keen that the school is used well for the benefit of the community - in particular for the Russian Convoy exhibition, for which it is so well placed. It would be well looked after in this caring community.

Yours Sincerely

28

Janice Macleod

Subject: FW: Inversadale School

From: Ian Jackson
Sent: 16 July 2015 23:03
To: CAL LochaberAdmin
Subject: Fw: Inversadale School

Please process.

Ian

From: Sholto] Morton **Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2015 11:00 PM GMT Standard Time
To: Ian Jackson
Subject: Fw: Inversadale School

From: Sholto Morton
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2015 12:16 PM
To: Ian Jackson
Subject: Inversadale School

Dear Mr Jackson,

I am writing to show the very strong support of my wife and myself for the school building to be used in future for the benefit of the local community. This would be an excellent focal point for the community. One part of the building would be a good site for the proposed Arctic Convoy Museum.

Please add our names to those supporting this project when it is submitted to the Highland Council.

Kind regards,

Sholto Morton.

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29

Jim and Deirdre Waddell
The Tallet, Coxwell Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL72BQ

RECEIVED

20 JUL 2015

LOCHABER EDUCATION SERVICE

15th July 2015

Ian Jackson
Education Officer
Camaghael Hostel
Camaghael, Fort William
PH33 7NE

Dear Mr. Jackson,

I am a member of the extended family who own 20 Coast, Inverasdale. My husband and I have been coming up to the house almost every year for the past 50 years, initially with our children who now as adults, holiday annually at the house, bringing their own families and friends to Inverasdale.

We love the life in Inverasdale and want the community to thrive.

In the past two years we have visited the excellent W.W.2 Exhibition at the old school, and very much approve that the building is being put to such good use. It is wonderful to see such relevant local and national history brought together and to learn of the brave local residents. The photos, maps and written reports are very well displayed. It is an excellent educational asset for both adults and children.

We fully support the proposal of The Wester Loch Ewe Trust to run the building as a community facility and that the old school should become the permanent home of the WW2 Exhibition.

We hope that you may also consider restoring some of the gun turrets and observation buildings out at Cove near to the Atlantic Convoy Memorial. We recently visited the Isle of Wight and went to The Needles Old Battery and New Battery exhibition owned by The National Trust, where similar old look outs have been upgraded. This is easily accessed on their website.

We sincerely hope that the project as outlined by the Steering Group will be supported by The Highland Council and that the school building in Inverasdale will be put to such an excellent community use for the future.

We shall look forward to hearing of the outcome.

Yours sincerely

30

Fiona Sangster

From: Ian Jackson
Sent: 27 July 2015 15:55
To: CAL LochaberAdmin
Subject: FW: Inverasdale School

Please process.

Ian Jackson
Education Officer
Care and Learning Service
07500 120 271

From: Claire Ellis []
Sent: 27 July 2015 15:52
To: Ian Jackson
Subject: Inverasdale School

Dear Mr Jackson

In light of the fact that Inverasdale School is to be closed as an educational institution, I am writing to support the ideas of the Wester Loch Ewe Trust to create a community centre for the recreational use of the people of and visitors to Inverasdale and Cove. I think that it would also be a good site for the proposed Arctic Convoy Museum.

Please add my name to the group supporting this project when it is submitted to the Highland Council.

Kind regards

Claire Ellis

MAIL FILTERING NOTIFICATION

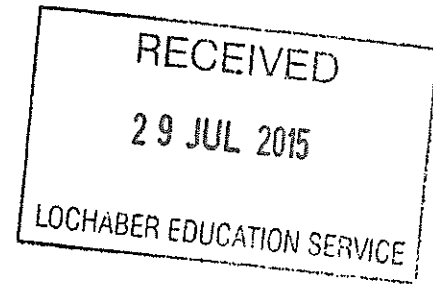
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31

Dr Mark Edwards,
Louis' Croft, Cove, by Poolewe IV22 2LT



27th July 2015

Ian Jackson
Education Officer
Care and Learning Office
Camaghael Hostel
Camaghael
Fort William
PH33 7NE

Dear Mr Jackson,

Ref: Inverasdale School, by Poolewe

I understand that there is now a period of consultation with regards as to what happens to the Inverasdale Primary School now that it no longer functions as a school for our area.

You will no doubt have been contacted by many in the area regarding their desire for the premises to be offered to our community so that we can operate it to the benefit of all in the locality. The Wester Loch Ewe Trust has proposed a sensible business case for the use of the unit, which we understand, has local support from Richard Greene and Robbie Bain. For the sake of all the people who have gone through the school and have great memories of its central role in the community, I cannot stress enough how much it would mean to the locals to have a central point for meetings and locally based projects.

We are a remote community and need to retain our identity and sense of purpose – the school house would provide a hub from which we would drive local activities – particularly in the winter months when the short days can drive people indoors.

Please help drive this desire of us in the locality to be offered, for a nominal sum, the ownership of the unit – who knows this could also create employment in a fragile economy – we really do rely on the kindness of the council to allow our love of this old building to create a secure and progressive use for this iconic part of our community.

With best regards,

Dr Mark Edwards and family.

32

WESTER LOCH EWE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Secretary, 15 Cove, Poolewe, Ross-shire, IV22 2LT. 01445 781457

7th July 2015

Dear Mr Jackson,

re Closure of Inverasdale Primary School

We support the closure of Inverasdale Primary School on educational, financial and practical grounds.

We have very much appreciated being able to continue to use the building for our meetings during the mothballing period. We hope the efforts by the community to take over the building if the school is closed will be successful so that this can continue.

We believe that all the other possible activities that could take place under community control would help revitalise our area

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Denny
Secretary



Fiona Sangster

From: Ian Jackson
Sent: 10 August 2015 11:49
To: CAL LochaberAdmin
Subject: FW: Inverasdale school building

Please process.

Ian Jackson
Education Officer
Care and Learning Service
07500 120 271

From: mhairi millard ,
Sent: 10 August 2015 11:46
To: Ian Jackson
Subject: Inverasdale school building

Dear Mr Jackson,

I am writing regarding the future use of the school building in Inverasdale. As you are aware it has been successfully used over the past 3 years by the local people, in particular hosting the comprehensive Arctic Convoy exhibition and the tea rooms. As a former pupil of the school I feel strongly that the building should continue to be used by, and for the benefit of, the surrounding community.

Please add my name to those supporting this project when it is submitted to the Highland Council.

Kind regards,
Mhairi Millard

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34

Midtown Coast & Mellangaun Grazing Committee
C/O 7 Midtown
Inverasdale
Ross-Shire
IV22 2LP

Mr Ian Jackson
Education Officer
Care & Learning Office
Camaghael Hostel
Camaghael
Fort William
PH33 7NE

Dear Ian Jackson,

Re: Proposed Closure of Inverasdale Primary School

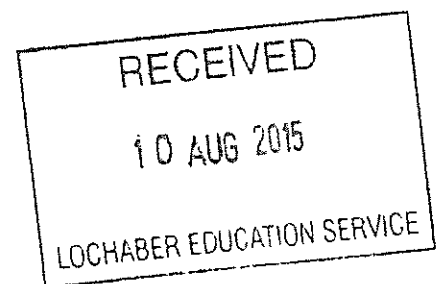
As Clerk to the Midtown Coast & Mellangan Grazings Committee who have used Inverasdale School as our meeting venue for many years, and hope to continue to do so. We as a Committee felt we needed to contribute to the Public Consultation on the proposed closure of the building as a Primary School, but fully understand that costs play a big part in this economic climate.

It would be a great loss to this small community to lose such an asset and iconic building in which my father, myself and my children were all educated in. The Committee are all in favour of the "Wester Loch Ewe Trust" taking over the school building and running it as they have over the past 2 years as a community focal point (as a tea room, museum and function/meeting room etc).

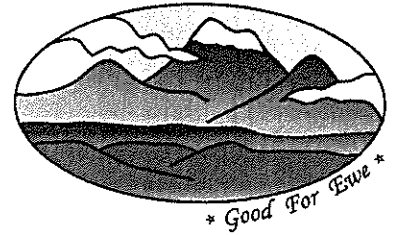
I do hope you can see what this school building means to both past and present people living in this community, and hope that you and your colleagues can see the justification of giving the "Wester Loch Ewe Trust" first refusal when it comes to the disposal of the school building.

Yours sincerely,

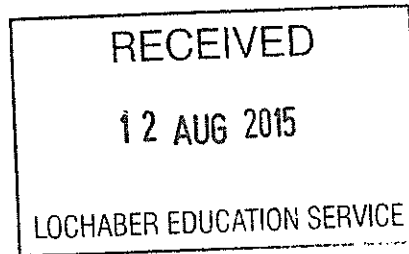
A.J MacIver



39



Ian Jackson
Education Officer
Care and Learning Office
Camaghael Hostel
Camaghael
Fort William
PH33 7NE



10th August 2015

Dear Mr Jackson,

Re: Proposal to discontinue education provision at Inverasdale Primary School

Good For Ewe is a community based co-operative, currently with 32 members, formed to satisfy the proven need for affordable, high quality, fresh fruit and vegetables and other local produce in Wester Loch Ewe and the surrounding areas. The co-operative is committed to enhancing the existing sense of community in the area and has the additional objectives of supporting existing assets in the community, aiding community development, and offering education, training, and personal development opportunities.

Good For Ewe has been using the Inverasdale Primary School for 10 years to hold our monthly members' meetings and our members now also promote the organisation and our produce when the school has been opened during the summer by the Inverasdale Heritage Group and Russian Arctic Convoy Museum.

At our members' meeting of 28th July 2015 it was unanimously agreed that Good For Ewe supports the proposal by Highland Council to discontinue education provision at Inverasdale Primary School, provided that the School buildings can be transferred to community ownership for the use and benefit of the community and the public, for the long-term future.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart J Nairn
Chair of meeting

Janice Macleod

From: Ian Jackson
Sent: 13 August 2015 10:48
To: CAL LochaberAdmin
Subject: Fw: Fwd: Inverasdale school

Please process.

From: Rowan Howard
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 10:07 AM GMT Standard Time
To: Ian Jackson
Subject: Fwd: Inverasdale school

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rowan Howard
Date: 13 August 2015 10:02:25 BST
To:
Cc: WADDELL Charles
Subject: Inverasdale school

Dear Mr Jackson

We are writing to express our support for the proposal to take Inversadale School into community ownership, via the Wester Loch Ewe Trust.

Our family has a long connection with Inverasdale of over 50 years, Jill McCrostie having purchased 20 Coast in 1963. Jill was Charles's grandmother and our family have benefitted from annual holidays in this beautiful place. Charles is a part owner of the property.

We are conscious that, where so many properties are used for holiday purposes, all physical community spaces are incredibly important for maintaining a strong and close community. The school will be lost as a community hub for primary education but would be a wonderful asset as a hub for the community, including us holiday makers, going forward. We have enjoyed visiting the current exhibitions and tea rooms and they are clearly popular with other visitors, so it seems reasonable to build on their success going forward. The exhibition provides a huge addition to the offering for visitors in the vicinity. The property has a lot of potential for multiple use and we will be happy to support activities there in whatever way we can.

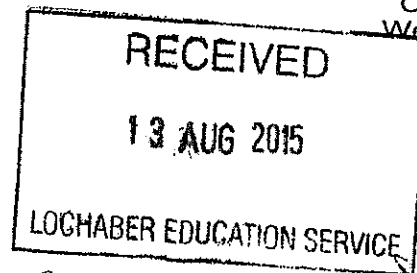
Yours
Rowan and Charles Waddell

Sent from my iPad

37

IAN JACKSON
FORT WILLIAM.

~~Raymond~~ Alma Ella
Willow Cottage
Ormiscaig, Aultbea
Wester-Ross IV22 2JJ



10.8.15.

Dear Sir,

Many years ago my children attended Inverardale school and I am sorry that, due to lack of children, it had to close.

However the building is being put to excellent use now, housing the R.C.M. and providing a welcoming meeting place, tea and cakes and toilet facilities for all.

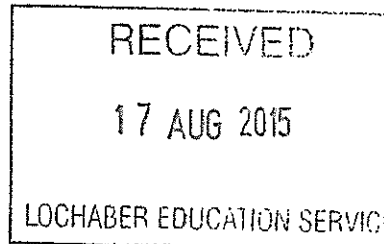
I sincerely hope that the community will be able to purchase or rent the school buildings long term as this is an asset to the area.

Yours sincerely,

WESTER LOCH EWE TRUST
 COVE INVERASDALE NAAST POOLEWE TOURNAIG
 AN UAGHAIDH INBHIRÀSDAL NÀST POLL-IÙ TÙRNAIG
 URRAS LOCH IÙ AN IAR

Ian Jackson, Education Officer,
 Care & Learning Office,
 Camaghael Hostel,
 Camaghael,
 Fort William PH33 7NE

14 August 2015



Dear Ian Jackson,

As Trustees of Wester Loch Ewe Trust, the new community body hoping to take on community ownership of Inverasdale School buildings, we would like to make the following comments, as a contribution to the public consultation on proposed closure of Inverasdale School.

We support the proposal to discontinue education provision at Inverasdale Primary School, re-assigning its catchment area to that of Poolewe Primary School, **provided that ... and only provided that ...**the School buildings can continue to be available for community use.

We support the Council's consideration that the community implication of formal closure is: "*potential to sustain and develop community use of the existing school, building on the current community use of that space*" (para2.2 Proposal Paper)

The School has a long history of serving its community, not only with education for primary school children but as a focal point, and as a place where meetings, adult education classes and community events can take place at other times of day from school hours.

The School is the **sole remaining community resource** for Cove, Inverasdale and Naast, and throughout its moth-balling has continued to provide a community focal point. Should this be lost to the community, as a result or consequence of the closure procedure, Wester Loch Ewe Trust will be extremely disappointed.

Wester Loch Ewe Trust wishes to be given assurance by Highland Council, in due course, that it would be considered to be the **preferred future owner** of the School, on behalf of the community; and that Wester Loch Ewe Trust would be given **first offer** by the Council at the time of disposal of the School buildings.

Yours sincerely,

Liz Nicholson, Allan Kirk, Mary Rogers, Duncan Chisholm, Alexander MacIver,
 Roderick MacIver, Hannah MacLeod, Eileen Urquhart (Trustees)

WESTER LOCH EWE TRUST

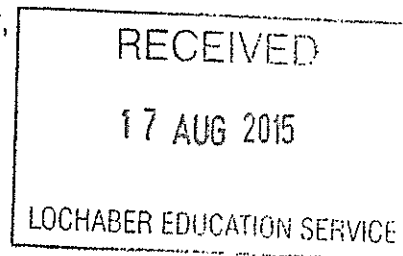
COVE INVERASDALE NAAST POLEWE TOURNAIG
AN UAGHAIDH INBHIRÀSDAL NÀST POLL-IÙ TÙRNAIG

URRAS LOCH IÙ AN IAR

39

Ian Jackson, Education Officer,
Care & Learning Office,
Camaghael Hostel,
Camaghael,
Fort William PH33 7NE

14 August 2015



Dear Ian Jackson,

As Company Secretary of Wester Loch Ewe Trust, the new community body hoping to take on community ownership of Inverasdale School buildings, I would like to support the views of the Trustees, in their response to the public consultation on proposed closure of Inverasdale School. I am therefore writing to you in the same terms.

I support the proposal to discontinue education provision at Inverasdale Primary School, re-assigning its catchment area to that of Poolewe Primary School, **provided that ... and only provided that ...** the School buildings can continue to be available for community use.

I support the Council's consideration that the community implication of formal closure is: "*potential to sustain and develop community use of the existing school, building on the current community use of that space*" (para2.2 Proposal Paper)

The School has a long history of serving its community, not only with education for primary school children but as a focal point, and as a place where meetings, adult education classes and community events can take place at other times of day from school hours.

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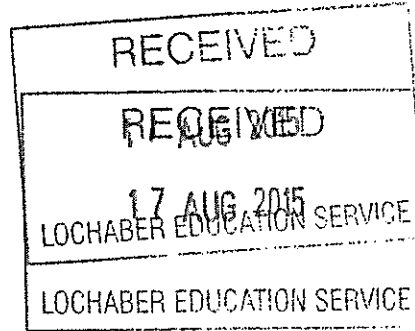
Yours sincerely,

Lesley Timings, Company Secretary,
Wester Loch Ewe Trust

WESTER LOCH EWE TRUST

Company Limited by Guarantee, Company No 500698, Scottish Charity No SC045512
Registered Office. 9 Coast. Inverasdale, Poolewe, by Achnasheen. Ross-shire IV22 2LR

(40)



9 Coast
INVERASDALE
POOLEWE
IV22 2LR

14th August 2015

Mr Ian Jackson
Education Officer
Care and Learning Office
Camaghael Hostel
Camaghael
FORT WILLIAM
PH33 7NE

Dear Mr Jackson

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON HIGHLAND COUNCIL PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE EDUCATION PROVISION AT INVERASDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL, RE-ASSIGNING ITS CATCHMENT AREA TO THAT OF POOLEWE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Inverasdale Heritage Group was formed from the original group of local residents that organised and held the Celebration of Inverasdale School's service to the community in June 2013. These residents decided after the successful celebration weekend to try to allow more local people and visitors to learn some of the history of the school and the local community. We were fortunate in being supported in this by Highland Council allowing us to use the school building to hold meetings, exhibitions and serve teas two afternoons a week in the season May to October. We were then joined in the school by the Russian Arctic Convoy Museum Project with their exhibition.

As you may know, the Old Schoolhouse Tearoom has been very successful in attracting locals and visitors alike to browse the exhibition of school photographs and other artefacts and to enjoy tea and a chat.

Local residents and visitors have donated artefacts so Inverasdale Heritage Group has a growing collection of memorabilia. Visitors and local residents have returned to use the tearoom and see the school exhibition in each of the 3 years it has been open. This proves there is a need for the facility and support for it, there being no other focal point for the community on the west side of Loch Ewe - no shop, no post office, no public building of any kind.

Because of the lack of school age children in the community and the need for a meeting place to serve the community, Inverasdale Heritage Group would like to support Highland Council's proposal to discontinue primary education provision at Inverasdale Primary school provided that the School buildings can be transferred to community ownership for the use and benefit of the community and public for the long-term future.

Yours sincerely

Liz Nicholson
Chair, Inverasdale Heritage Group

From: Marie Lambert
Sent: 17 August 2015 21:02
To: Ian Jackson
Subject: Inverasdale School



Dear Mr Jackson,

We are writing in support of education provision being discontinued in Inverasdale School, provided that the buildings continue to be available for long-term community use.

As relatively recent residents of Inverasdale (we moved here in March last year), we have noticed that there are not many pupils in the area, of primary school age, and as the school has already been mothballed for the past three years, the remaining few pupils in the area being bussed to Poolewe, it would make sense to discontinue education provision in Inverasdale.

There is a fantastic community spirit in the Cove, Inverasdale and Naast area, and the residents have been very welcoming. We need to keep that community spirit going. The school buildings could be a hub of that community. The tea-room and exhibition, being run there voluntarily at the moment is a very popular place to meet, and we hope that the building continues to grow as a centre for this community.

As the village shop, post office and petrol pumps have gone, the school buildings are the only public building in the area. We hope the buildings stay for community use, to provide facilities for recreation, social and cultural activities, available to members of the community and the general public, with the object of improving the conditions of life of the community.

Thank you in anticipation,

Marie and Gregory Lambert

Ach da Thearnaidh
Inverasdale,
Poolewe,
Ross-shire
IV22 2LR

MAIL FILTERING NOTIFICATION

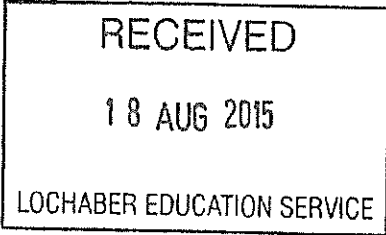
WESTER LOCH EWE TRUST

COVE INVERASDALE NAAST POOLEWE TOURNAIG
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URRAS LOCH IÙ AN IAR

9 Coast
INVERASDALE
POOLEWE
IV22 2LR

14th August 2015



Mr Ian Jackson
Education Officer
Highland Council
Care and Learning Office
Camaghael Hostel
Camaghael
FORT WILLIAM
PH33 7NE

Dear Mr Jackson

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON HIGHLAND COUNCIL PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE
EDUCATION PROVISION AT INVERASDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL, RE-ASSIGNING ITS
CATCHMENT AREA TO THAT OF POOLEWE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

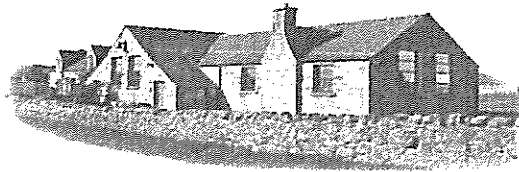
On behalf of Wester Loch Ewe Trust, I enclose 25 sheets signed by 341 members of the public in support of Highland Council's proposal to discontinue primary education provision at Inverasdale Primary school provided that the School buildings can be transferred to community ownership for the use and benefit of the community and public for the long-term future.

These signatures were collected during the period 12th June to 14th August 2015.

Yours sincerely

Liz Nicholson
Chair
Wester Loch Ewe Trust

Encs 25 A4 sheets



1

SIGN UP, SIGN UP, SIGN UP, SIGN UP, SIGN UP !!

Please support the future of Inverasdale School buildings as a community facility for Cove, Inverasdale and Naast, and for many visitors from near and far.

The Highland Council is carrying out a public consultation, and this is **EVERYONE's** chance to have a say about the future of Inverasdale School buildings.

The Council proposes to close the buildings as a School, and **MAY** then be willing to dispose of them to the community, to be run as a small community centre with exhibition space.

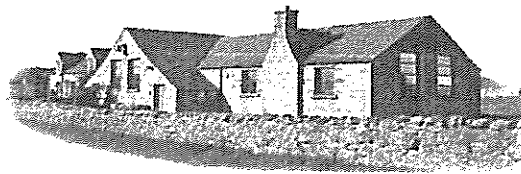
Please add your name, first line of/brief address and postcode to the SIGN UP sheets to express your support for the long-term future of Inverasdale School buildings as a community owned and run facility.

* * * * *

We support Highland Council's proposal to discontinue education provision at Inverasdale Primary School, provided that the School buildings can be transferred to community ownership, for the use and benefit of the community and the public, for the long-term future.

NAME	First line of/brief address	Postcode
ELIZABETH SMITH	16 CLIFTON, POOLEWE	IV22 2JH
SYBIL CAMERON	18 MIDTOWN, INVERASDALE	IV22 2LW
JANETTE MACLEOD	18 MIDTOWN, INVERASDALE	IV22 2LW
ROBERT STEPHEN	18 MIDTOWN, INVERASDALE	IV22 2LW
JACKIE STEPHEN	18 MIDTOWN, INVERASDALE	IV22 2LW

2



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* * * * *

We support Highland Council's proposal to discontinue education provision at Inverasdale Primary School, provided that the School buildings can be transferred to community ownership, for the use and benefit of the community and the public, for the long-term future.

NAME	First line of/brief address	Postcode
	Sandra Ault-Bee	IV22 2JQ
	Beverly Ault-Bee	IV22 2JA
	Beverly Ault-Bee	IV22 2JA
	10 WALKERIE CL. SOUTHWELL NAAST	NG25 0JP

We support Highland Council's proposal to discontinue education provision at Inverasdale Primary School, provided that the School buildings can be transferred to community ownership, for the use and benefit of the community and the public, for the long-term future.

NAME	First line of/brief address	Postcode
STUART STEPHEN	MIDTOWN HOUSE INVERASDALE	IV22 2LW
MARY STEPHEN	MIDTOWN HOUSE INVERASDALE	IV22 2LW
GRANDRA NAIRD	THE SUBWAY, INVERASDALE	IV22 2LN
STUART NOIRN	THE SUBWAY INVERASDALE	IV22 2LN
Dorothy Macleod	Eilean View Inverasdale	IV22 2LU
Hughie Macleod	Eilean View Inverasdale	IV22 2LU
	13 Midtown, Inverasdale	IV22 2LW
John Angus MacIver	Quidinish, Inverasdale	IV22 2LP
Christine MacIver	Quidinish, Inverasdale	IV22 2LP
	Quidinish, Inverasdale	IV22 2LP
	Quidinish, Inverasdale	IV22 2LP
IAN MACHENNAN	9 MIDTOWN INVERASDALE	IV 22 2LW
PENNY MACHENNAN	9 MIDTOWN	" "
KENNETH MACHENNAN	"	" "
PENNY ATKINS	8 MIDTOWN	" "
BRIAN ATKINS	8 MIDTOWN	" "
	22 coast Inverasdale	IV22 2LR
	22 coast Inverasdale	IV22 2LR

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NAME	First line of/brief address	Postcode
	Pebles Scottish Borders	EH45 8EU
ELSPETH HANCOCK	PEEBLES	EH45 9HY
MARTIN MACLENNIE	PATTIESMUR DUNFERMLINE	KY11 3ES
SEMINA MACLENNIE	PATTIESMUR DUNFERMLINE	KY11 3ES
Liz Ayre	Stoke on Trent Staffordshire	ST2 9DX
Mick Ayre	"	"
Jane Robinson	Oxn	OX12 8HE
	Devon	EX8 2EL
	"Sunyside" Aberdeen	AB15 8AS
	"	AB15 8AS
Chait Thompson	SUMMERSIDE, HAREW NL	9752HD
Sarah-Ann Gibson	The Spital, Skelmir Muir	AB42 5AD
Neil Gibson	" " "	AB42 5AD
	Sunyside Aberdeen	AB15 8AS
	Tighabhaid Kinlochewe	
	-11-	-11-
	Monk Soham Suffolk	IP13 7ER
	234, Dromessie Avenue Inverness	IV2 3SX

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NAME	First line of/brief address	Postcode
JOHN MACKAY	MELVICH, INVERASDALE	IV22 2LW
HANNAH MITCHELL	RIVERSIDE, POOLEWE	IV22 2LA
KENNETH MITCHELL	SHORE COTTAGE, POOLEWE	IV22 2LA
Caroline Millgate	6 South View CASTLETON YORKS	BD20 7ST
	10 FIELDHEAD DR. CROSSHILLS N. YORKS	BD20 7RJ
	Ash Dr. Thencowadh, Inverasdale	IV22 2LR
MURIEL WALKER	EDINBURGH	EH4 2EW
Mary Stott	Lancashire	BB10 1ET
	Lancashire	BB10 1ET
Pamela Paterson	Lancashire	OL15 0DJ
	Littleborough Lancs	OL15 0JT
	3 Tave a Ghtide Strath	IV21 2DK
	8 Glebe Park Strath	IV21 2DE
MINDY ORR	3 Gt WESTERN TERRACE	G12 0UP
DARREN McBRIDE	3 Gt WESTERN TERRACE	G12 0UP
	Edinburgh	EH13 0DX
JOHN A MACIVER	INVERASDALE	IV22 2LR

We support Highland Council's proposal to discontinue education provision at Inverasdale Primary School, **provided that** the School buildings can be transferred to community ownership, for the use and benefit of the community and the public, for the long-term future.

NAME	First line of/brief address	Postcode
E'LIVE GREEN	MARINE DRIVE WEST BANK	LA2 6EB
KATHY GREEN	MARINE DRIVE WEST BANK	LA2 6EB
S. BARRON	CHESTNUT HOUSE AUCHENBLAHE	AB30 1WR
"	25 TORWOOD BRAE HAMILTON	14L3 9XS
"	" " " "	" " "
KOB DAVIDSON	13 BOWLING GREEN RD, KIRKLISTON	EH29 9BG
S. DAVIDSON	13 BOWLING GREEN RD, KIRKLISTON	EH29 9BG
Karen Horn	48 Harrison Gardens, Edinburgh	EH11 1SB
"	The Anchorage Albert Place	AB55 4AY
"	" " " "	" " "
"	28 Beesford Road	SO53 2LY
"	28 Beesford Road	SO53 2LY
"	Bounton-on-the-Water, Glas	GL54 2AR
"	Contin Mann	IV14 9ES
"	Bounton on the Water, Glas	GL54 2AR
"	24 King Albert Park SINGAPORE	J9S507
"	Wealthton Craft, Veij	AB33864
NEAL WATSON	WEALTHTON CRAFT, VEIJ	AB33864

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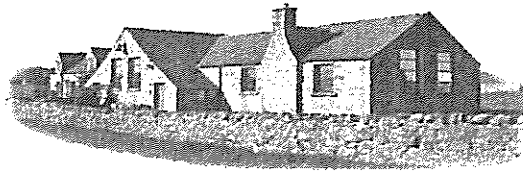
NAME	First line of/brief address	Postcode
RUPEE BATH	HILL HOUSE, SUSSEX	RH12 3BD
JAN MACKINNON	THE GATEHOUSE, TOUGAL	PH3 9GNJ
SUSAN CURRIE	ARISAIG, PH INVERNESS-SHAIR	PH3 9NP
	"SOUTHVIEW" 5 ^C LONG BANK RD, AYR	KA7 4SP
	1 NINTH STREET, NEWTONGRANGE	EH22 4JL
	BY CORNWALL ROAD, EDINBURGH	EH11 1RL
	" " " " "	" (South)
	155 ABERLEY RD, IDE BRADGOW	W14 1JF
	" " " " "	BD10 0AX
	24 Beechwood Park	EH12 5YT
	Harvey Street, PA	EH12 6BW
LESLEY MOUNT	51 BRASSIDE PARK	CH53 0SL
	Rowen Glen 7	IV7 9GY
Helen Strong	Ingolstadt, Germany	85057
Rudolf Distl	Ingolstadt "	85057
Jennifer Bowden	Meadowdale, Newcastle Co. Down	BT38 0SD
Dave Bowden	" " " "	"
	Corvallis, Oregon	97330

We support Highland Council's proposal to discontinue education provision at Inverasdale Primary School, **provided that** the School buildings can be transferred to community ownership, for the use and benefit of the community and the public, for the long-term future.

NAME	First line of/brief address	Postcode
Ann Denton	Mellon Charles	IV22 2JL
Cheryl	- - -	- - -
Jeanette Todd	Leeds	LS28 9EA
Ronnie Todd	Leeds	LS28 9EA
Hillian Hittleswood	Leeds	LS28 5HL
Tony Hittleswood	Leeds	LS28 5HL
	Ruislip	HA4 7UG
	Hurdon, Suffolk	CO10 8HA
	" "	" "
JOAN LODGE	MORCAMBE	LA3 3AG
KENNETH ROSS	London	SE3 8BZ
GEORGINA TONER	GLASGOW	PA3 3LA
LAURISSA TONER	Glasgow	PA3 3LA
MIR TONER	RENFREW	PA4 8NH
Janice Toner	Paisley	PA3 3LA
Mary Shells	EDINBURGH	EH4 6PA
Ludia Bouhamdi	Kent	DA1 3DH
	Scottish Borders	TD6 9EP

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NAME	First line of/brief address	Postcode
	GREENHOUSE	TD 6 9 EP
C. Steven	5 Montreal Park, East Lulworth	G75 8LA
	5	G75 8LA
J. L. DIXON.	11 Orchard House.	DH1 3DB.
M. DIXON	11, ORCHARD HOUSE DURHAM	DH1 3DB.
S Copsey	11 Chestnut Crescent Banchoir	AB31 5AE
J COPSEY	11 Chestnut Crescent Banchoir	AB31 5AE
	62 Stone Lane Wetherby	BS36 1DT
	"	"
	9, Thurst Court, East Chiswick	BH19 2SH
J WEBB	4 Hawthorn Way, Milton Keynes	MK9 8DX
C. G. LAMBERT	9 BISHOPDALE ROAD, LANCASTER	LA1 5NF.
S. APPER	9 BISHOPDALE ROAD, LANCASTER	LA1 5NF
C IREDALE	22 VERBATTE GOUS FERGUSON	E122 3DX
	Oaklands Ter, Galashiels	TD1 30S
J. H. WATT	LINMAR ACHAVANDRA Muir Dornoch	IV25 3JA
M. WATT	LINMAR ACHAVANDRA Muir Dornoch	IV25 3JA.
S. PATON	PREBLES Scottish Borders	EH45 8EU.



(10)

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NAME	First line of/brief address	Postcode
Keidel Georgina	Stuttgard Germany Wessertalstr. 9.	D. 70184
JUDY URQUHART	10 COVE	IV22 2LT
	5 Cove	IV22 2LT
DMD RICHARDSON	CLASHMURE, DARNVOCH	IV25 3RG
	Rosbank Hse, Clashmure	IV25 3RQ

We support Highland Council's proposal to discontinue education provision at Inverasdale Primary School, **provided that** the School buildings can be transferred to community ownership, for the use and benefit of the community and the public, for the long-term future.

NAME	First line of/brief address	Postcode
	5 Orchardhead Rd	EH16 6HJ
Grant Wilson	ORCHARDHEAD RD	EH16 6HJ
Michaela Ruff	Kenmore, Feolclae	FK15 9RA
	Kenmore Feolclae	FK15 9RA
Michael Tomlinson	197 Northdale Rd, Glasgow	G41 5EX
EILEEN OWENS	POLLKOSHIELDS, GLASGOW	G41 5EX
BRENDA LEE	181 CHESTER RD, BAZWELLS	PO21 5AF
Peter Lee	181 CHESTER RD, BAZWELLS	PO21 5AF
	15 Millwhite Wood, Millwhite	AB44 7EF
	Cuplet Hill, Herby	NE46 2DP
		NE46 2DP
	29 Sandhill Ln, Leab	LS17 8EG
Robert Calkay		
	7 Eden Vale, Salsburgh	G7 20 9TX
		G7 20 9TX
	47 Townley St, Colno	B38 9LF
	2 Omiseaig Aulhos	IV22 2JT
	10 Laide	IV22 2NP

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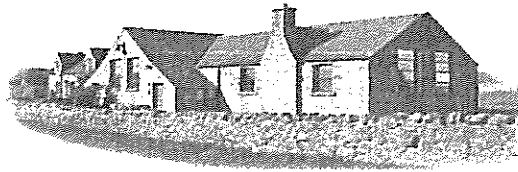
NAME	First line of/brief address	Postcode
IONA CURRIE	14 DAVIDSON DRIVE, ABERDEEN	AB16 7RQ
JEAN CAMERON	17, MIDTOWN INVERASDALE	IV22 2LW
JACKIE MACLEOD	24 MIDTOWN, INVERASDALE	IV22 2LW
SAMMY MACLEOD	24 MIDTOWN, INVERASDALE	IV22 2LW
	3 BRAES INVERASDALE	IV22 2LN
MARGARET FERES	5 AELLCROFT, ABERDEEN	FU22 2JA
	43A MELLON CHURCH	IV22 2JK
	22 Coast Inverasdale	IV22 2LR
Roddy Macleod	12 BUALVALUIS	IV22 2JH
ANNE MACKAY	MELVILLE INVERASDALE	IV22 2LW
JAMIE MACKAY	GLASGOW	
KAREN MACKAY	units TUDOR MELBOURNE AVE	
JONN MACKAY	39 Polworth st Glasgow	
SHIRLEY MACLEOD	12 BUALVALUIS, AULTBEA	IV22 2JH
ALAN MACLEOD	12 BUALVALUIS, AULTBEA	IV22 2JH
MARTIN MACLEOD	12 BUALVALUIS, AULTBEA	IV22 2JH
ANGELA URQUHART	4 MELLON DRIVE	IV22 2JT
MARGO URQUHART	STRATHPEFFER	

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NAME	First line of/brief address	Postcode
Tony Raine	HILLSIDE, 8 STANNILL	IV22 2LS
	3 DAL CREATION	IV22 2LD
	TERPUN GORM	IV22 2L9
	3 Loncluh, Poolewe	IV22 2LD
	The Log Cabin, Little Cuminward	IV22 2NG
	The Log Cabin, Little Cuminward	IV22 2NG
	3 Big Sand, Geairloch	IV21 2DD
Shona MacIver	7 Middtown, Inverasdale	IV22 2LP
COLIN MACLAIN	16 DELNESS PARK	IV2 5HF
Marina Huey	49 Giffon Rd, ^{LONDON} Sydenham	SE26 5DJ
ROSEANNE DUTHIE	HAUSE ROAD, WAIRD	
	1 Mellon Uingie	IV22 2NT
	25 Mellon Charles	IV22 2JN
	9 Lightfilni	IV22 2JE
	9 Bighra Fikro	IV22 2JE
	43 Strathellan Road, Bridgic of Allan	FK9 4BJ
	WESTERLEA, MEIKLE USSIE MARY BURGH, ROSS-SHIRE	IV7 8HH
Rod Macdon	1 Skwell Cotts	IV15 9SS

We support Highland Council's proposal to discontinue education provision at Inverasdale Primary School, provided that the School buildings can be transferred to community ownership, for the use and benefit of the community and the public, for the long-term future.

NAME	First line of/brief address	Postcode
	48 Inverasdale Park Inverness	IV2 5TJ
	42 Springfield Terrace	EH30 9XF
	31 Littlehale East Uchis Perth	PH15 1AB
	4 Rowedean Gdns	EH26 9HQ
	BUNSLIDE COTTAGE 66 NASH ST Glenburg Lanarkshire	ML5 2RD
EMMA MADEON	368 NORTH DECIDE ROAD	AB15 9SS
MORGAN MADEON	OAKWELL CULTS	AB15 9SS



15

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NAME	First line of/brief address	Postcode
ALAN URQUHART	2L CAROLINE APARTMENTS	A13 2S 2WN
FINN BATES	3 RYECROFT CLOSE WOODLEY	RG5 3BP
ROBERT BATES	3 RYECROFT CLOSE	RG5 3BP
CATH O'HARA	KEEPERS Cottage POOLEWE	IV22 2JY
LINA URQUHART	5 SINDRUS WAY, POOLEWE	IV22 2J5
BARBARA HODGIE	TITAN CRANE STD, 12 GAST	IV22 2LR

We support Highland Council's proposal to discontinue education provision at Inverasdale Primary School, **provided that** the School buildings can be transferred to community ownership, for the use and benefit of the community and the public, for the long-term future.

NAME	First line of/brief address	Postcode
VERA GUN	22 MIDTOWN	IV22 2LW
MARIE MACKENZIE	"AUCHNADONILL" 16 COAST	IV22 2LR
HECTOR MACKENZIE	" " " "	" "
JAN HOLLIS	MARVALS VORGLIE LANE	IV22 2NR
Jiana Mackenzie	13 Coast	IV22 2LR
	14 Cliffton	IV22 2JH
	14 Cliffton	IV22 2JH
	14 Cliffton	IV22 2JH
Darren Robson	1 Sydney way	IV22 2JS
	11a handwick	IV22 2LD
	22 coast Inverasdale	IV22 2LR
	25 Kuchtown	IV22 2WV
A. Maclean	TOURNAIG	2V29 2LH
(90) Roddy Mackenzie	CRANAM POOLWAY	IV22 2LD
	13 Lairde	IV22 2NP
	Daisybank	IV22 2LA
	9 MIDTOWN	IV22 2LW
	11 MIDTOWN	IV22 2LW

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NAME	First line of/brief address	Postcode
Ponty Moir	26 St Maelrubha's Cl	IV22 2JP
	TIGH FAIRIE	IV22 2JU
Katy Keith	Dunchas, Cove, Inverasdale	IV22 2HT
Ray Pinewall	10 CROFT POOLEWE	IV22 2JY
Karen Macdellon	12 Clifton	IV22 2JU
Ann Macdellon	19 Clifton	IV22 2JU
Clark Ferguson	12 Clifton	IV22 2JU
Alison Collins	3 DAL CRUADH	IV22 2LD
James Collins	3 Dal Cruaidh	IV22 2LD
Carol Mackintosh	4 Innes Mace	IV22 2JY
Mary Woods	An Teallach	IV22 2JU
	AN TEALLACH	IV22 2JU
	CROFT	IV22 2JY
Anna Keane	Millside & Stirkhill Poolwe	IV22 2LS
Heather Still	Gallanacub Cove	IV22 2JY
Ann Still	"	IV22 2JY
MYKA MACDONALD	CAMPDALE INVERASDALE	IV22 2LW
M. Hanna	Riverside Poolwe	IV22 2LA

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NAME	First line of/brief address	Postcode
M. URODHART	FERN COTTAGE POOLEWE	IV22 2JU
Murdo MacLennan	6 Mossbank Poolewe	IV22 2JU
	FASGATH BOWERS	IV22 2JU
	Landwick Poolewe	IV22 2JU
	174 Guldathel Rd Inverness	IV24 8H
S. MILLS	4 CRADLEHILL FARM DRIVE INVERNESS	IV2 5QQ
T. CHERRY	14 CROFT POOLEWE	IV22 2JU
	6 Mossbank Poolewe	IV22 2JU
	35 Glenpatrick Rd	PA5 9AE
G. MURKELP	3 BRAES, INVERASDALE	IV22 2LN
K. ADHANMACH	200 Ellapelside Kirkhill	IV5 7UB



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**Please support the future of Inverasdale School buildings
as a community facility for Cove, Inverasdale and Naast,
and for many visitors from near and far.**

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The Council proposes to close the buildings as a School, and **MAY** then be willing to dispose of them to the community, to be run as a small community centre with exhibition space.

Please add your name, first line of/brief address and postcode to the SIGN UP sheets to express your support for the long-term future of Inverasdale School buildings as a community owned and run facility.

* * * * *

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NAME	First line of/brief address	Postcode
Gathermie Mackenzie	19 PORT HENDERSON GARLOCK	IV21 2AS
ISOBEL MACKENZIE	56 AIGLEST PORT HENDERSON	IV21 2AS
Killo Tallach	17 PORT HENDERSON	IV21 2AS
NORA MACKENZIE	STRATHBURN HOUSE	
NICHOLAS WALKER	1 BRAES, INVERASDALE	IV22 2LW

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NAME	First line of/brief address	Postcode
PAUL MUIRHEAD	LANGWAITE, HIGH SPEN	NE39 2AL
ELLEN MUNDEN	LANGWAITE, HIGH SPEN	NE 39 2AL
NOAH & EMMA	46 UPPER BRADLE	
M. ADONAY	ISLE OF LEAF	HS2 00H
KIRSTEEN + GRAHAM MOTCHKISS	21 SCHOOLCROFT CULBORIE	IV7 8LB
GARRY + Eileen Coward	TOMMICH FARM Invergorston	IV18 0LF
	TARN HILLS LONG GREEN 3 AYLES CRESTAL	CH3 7JU
	16 Ash Grove Otley W Yorks	LS21 3EL
Rachael Wood	Crine Brook Aulbea	IV22 2HU
	78 Badjourn Aulbea	IV22 2JB
	166 and 17117 Badjourn	IV21 2AA
Morris Knight	78 Badjourn Aulbea	IV22 2JB
	47 Jonemore yarded	IV21 20B
	23 23 Mellon Charles	IV22 2JN
	6 Luch	IV21 1VZ
DUNCAN RANKIN	3 GINNYPARK	IV21 2DF
Bea Grothers	Tech Ali Gairloch	IV21 2BX
	23 South Eiradale	IV21 2AL
	The Moorings Dornoch	IV21 2X8

(2)



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NAME	First line of/brief address	Postcode
ANNA MACIVER	MO DHACHAIDH INVERASDALE	IV22-2LP
PATRICIA M'SHARRY	4 OPINAN GAIRLOCH	IV21 2AT
JADE WATSON	OPINAN GAIRLOCH	IV21 2AT
ROSS BASSETT	7 CLIFFTON POOLENE	IV22 2JU
ROSE MCCRIMMON	7 CLIFFTON POOLENE	IV22 2JU

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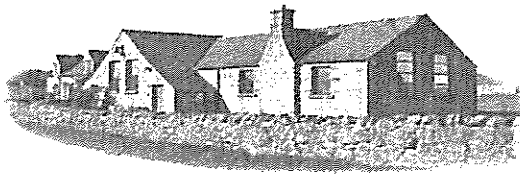
NAME	First line of/brief address	Postcode
A. Cunningham	10 Camden Square, North Shields	NE30 1NR
R. Cunningham	17, Weldon Ave, Bournemouth	BH11 9QE
	Barkhill, Kielder, Cumbria	AB21 0SP
S. Mack	39 Abbotsford Rd Galashiels	TD1 3HB
R. Gunn	Springer House, Thurso	KW14 8NR
M. Williams	14 Garden Tr	NE66 2HX
Yvonne Williams	14 Garden Ter, Shillbottle	NE66 2HX
H MacLean	5 Dunglass View, Strathblane	G63 9EQ
K MacLean	12 Don Crescent, Inverurie	AB51 3TW
G MacLean	12 Don Crescent, Inverurie	AB51 3TW
	Glebe House, Menstony	SY5 6EW
B	49 Church Rd, Easton-in-Gardens	Bristol BS20 0LZ
P Derwas	36 Priory Ridge, Shrewsbury	SY3 9EG
C. Derwas	36 Priory Ridge, Shrewsbury	SY3 9EG
R. G. Gunn	Lochannach, Cairloch	IV21 2AP
A. E. Gunn	Lochannach, Cairloch	IV21 2AP
J. B. Bassell	5 Skatteen Rd, Edinburg	EH9 2AP
A STEVENSON	609 HARNICK ROAD, SOLIHULL	B91 1AH

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NAME	First line of/brief address	Postcode
J. SHAW	WARWICK ROAD, B91 1AH	
S. KING	Walmesley TR BATH	BA1 6DU
K. KING	WALMESLEY TERRACE BATH	BA1 6DW
S. WARDROP	Spoutwells Drive, Stone	PK26 6PQ
JH GARDEN	3 Olive Gardens, Dundee	DD2 4JQ
Gillian Smith	32, Gartcows Gess, Falkirk	FK1 5QH
Flora Smith	32, Gartcows Cresl, Falkirk	FK1 5QH
Patricia Wright	Woodburn, FK4 2DJ	
GARY SMITH	32 GARTCOWS CRESCENT	FK1 5QH
R.F. Wright	42 Woodburn Gess, BONNYRIDGE, FK4 2DJ	
Lois Smith	32 GARTCOWS CRESCENT	FK1 5QH
Dawn Brown	13 Jubilee Gardens, Inverch	AB02 6HA
Haggie Cunningham	West Kilbride	KA23 9JL
Kenn Brown	FATS, ANNANHILL HSE., E.A.	KA12 8RT
Jill Murchell	23 East Clapperton	EH16 6TU
JOEL THOMAS	28 West Walk, Swinton	NG2 4QY
Saul Thomas-Raggenly	56 mayo road	NE5 1BL
Aron Mackay	Kinnellan - Madras	AB21 0SP

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NAME	First line of/brief address	Postcode
Anna Wyatt	8 POLWARTH GROVE	EH11 1LZ
Jamie Andrew	8 POLWARTH GROVE	EH11 1LZ
ERIC SMALL	14 GRASSLANDS DRIVE	EX1 3XY
WENDY M. WATT	224 EASTER ROAD	EH6 8LE
	PK1 Easter Road	EH6 8LE
Richard Gann	16 Grove Gardens	TW11 8AN
Pamela Cunn	16 Grove Gardens	TW11 8AN
J. STANLOR	STARBOTTAN, N. YORKSHIRE	BD23 5HZ
	" " "	"
	23 Anglesmeade Way	HA5 5SS
Alistair Horn	78 Harrison Cans	EH11 1SB
V. Korth	Primrose Cottage, Perth	AB41 8RS
J. "	" " "	"
J. THOMSON	"CARNOCH" MANSE RD. GORDON BERWICKSHIRE	TD3 6LS
I THOMSON	" " "	TD3 6LS
	Woodside House CRAIGMURCHIE	AB39 9SB
	2 Tai Foel - N. Wales	LL41 3PB
David Carr	" "	LL41 3PB



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NAME	First line of/brief address	Postcode
LINDA MORRIS	SAMMILTOWN PL KIRKCALDY	16 7 2 5 7 R
KAREN MACKAY	7/2 CELESTECURT, ST KILDA, VIC, AUSTRALIA	3183
MARIE CALVERT	40 HARROLDEN RD	16 3 5 9 N

43

Ardvreck
Midtown
Poolewe
Achnasheen
Ross-shire
IV22 2LW

19th August 2015

Ian Jackson,
Education Officer,
Care & Learning Office,
Camaghael Hostel,
Camaghael,
Fort William
PH33 7NE

Dear Ian Jackson,

We are writing in relation to the public consultation on the proposed closure of Inverasdale Primary School.

We are in support of the proposal to cease primary school education at Inverasdale School, provided that the School can be made available to the community. The exhibitions and tearoom are very popular and it would be of great benefit to the community as a whole to have the potential for increased facilities at the School under community ownership.

We hope that the community will be given the opportunity to have the building when the consultation is finished.

Yours sincerely,

Ron and Mary Rogers



Fiona Sangster

From: Ian Jackson
Sent: 21 August 2015 13:30
To: CAL LochaberAdmin
Subject: FW: INVERASDALE SCHOOL

Please process.

Ian Jackson
Education Officer
Care and Learning Service
07500 120 271

From: Mike Daniell
Sent: 21 August 2015 12:51
To: Ian Jackson
Subject: INVERASDALE SCHOOL

Dear Mr Jackson

We've had a home at nearly Cove for some 13 years and during this period have been very aware of the inexorable decline in the numbers attending our local primary school, sadly leading to its inevitable closure a while back.

It would have been easy for the locals to leave it at that and merely to let go of such a longstanding educational institution.

Instead, however, we strongly applaud the efforts of the Wester Loch Ewe Trust and Inverasdale Heritage Group to keep the building alive, seeking to provide a future community centre and also venue for the Convoy Museum. Equally, of course, such positive preservation/development would also maintain the memory of the school itself, as illustrated poignantly by the photos of classes over the years displayed on the walls of the current tearoom.

We do hope, therefore, that Highland Council will feel able to support this worthy local initiative and enterprise.

Yours sincerely

Mike and Sarah Daniell

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Fiona Sangster

From: Ian Jackson
Sent: 24 August 2015 08:44
To: CAL LochaberAdmin
Subject: FW: Inverasdale Primary School building

Morning! Please process.

This arrived after the deadline but we can still accept it. I haven't sent the stuff off to HMIE yet.

Ian Jackson
Education Officer
Care and Learning Service
07500 120 271

From: Rod MacLeod
Sent: 23 August 2015 17:45
To: Ian Jackson
Cc: rod@macleod.org
Subject: Inverasdale Primary School building

Dear Ian.

I'm writing to you add my voice to the campaign for the Inverasdale Primary school building to be offered to the for community ownership when Highland Council make the decision to dispense with the site.

The village has suffered from a declining and aging population just like a sadly high number of West Highland villages in the thirty years since I attended the school, this trend may or may not be irreversible but it will certainly be aggressively accelerated should the community lose the central focal point that the school building has become.

I, like many have regrettably left the village and the area due to pursue employment and career choices; Those choices were undeniably made more achievable for me due to the building blocks of education I gained at Inverasdale Primary school. It is in my mind crucial that the link to this foundation in life is preserved and maintained not just in individual memories.

The school has a rich history and has sent many people on their respective roads with a sound understanding of what is right and what is not right in society and in life.

The success of the tea room and the Russian Convoy exhibition are testament to the viability of retaining the building in community hands. It is essential that Highland Council are cognisant of the will of the people of Inverasdale and the surrounding areas when the decision making process takes place.

I hope you will consider my opinion along with the others I know you have received in this matter.

Cheers

Rod

Best Regards

Rod D MacLeod

Operations Manager; BW Athena.



BW Offshore

Tel; +441224 900268 or +447703 607588

web; www.bwoffshore.com

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Fiona Sangster

From: Ian Jackson
Sent: 24 August 2015 09:01
To: CAL LochaberAdmin
Subject: FW: Inverasdale Primary School Consultation

Another late one just received. Please process.

Ian Jackson
Education Officer
Care and Learning Service
07500 120 271

From: George Milne (mailto:george.milne@cal.gov.scot)
Sent: 24 August 2015 09:00
To: Ian Jackson
Subject: Inverasdale Primary School Consultation

Dear Mr Jackson

The Russian Arctic Convoy Museum Project (RACMP) has been closely associated with the community at Inverasdale, Wester Ross, and their 'mothballed' school for three years. Our charity wishes to develop a visitor attraction which includes building a History Trail around Loch Ewe and a museum to honour those who served on the WWII Arctic Convoys. About half the Allied convoys mustered in Loch Ewe from 1941-45 and were regarded as crucial to the survival of our then ally the USSR. Russia today regularly acknowledges the huge debt they feel they owe the Allied forces which came from many countries world-wide. The UK government honoured these men, and their families, in 2013 by awarding the Arctic Star medal. RACMP organised a major awards ceremony in Poolewe and Inverasdale attended by 40 Veterans, their families, Ministers of Defence, senior Armed Forces officers and hundreds of well-wishers including H.M. the Queen. Without the availability of the school, the event - and indeed all events since - would have been seriously diminished.

These important events, then and now, which involved the local communities here so dramatically, and the thousands of stories and artefacts from survivors, are an invaluable educational resource and it is our aim to create and extend an exhibition at the school to inform current and future generations. The school's location is ideal for those visiting the Russian Convoy Club's Memorial at Cove a few miles beyond which attracts many hundreds every year. There are also regular services and other events at or near the Memorial for which the school provides an excellent stopping off point for refreshment and lavatories.

We have found the local community to be very supportive of our plan to raise funds to achieve our aim. It already brings over 1800 visitors to the school (May - October, two afternoons per week, in 2014) to see the exhibitions. All involved in the two Scottish charities: Wester Loch Ewe Trust and RACMP - are volunteers. However, job creation is extremely important here to attract and retain younger people. The local economy is also increasingly dependent on a vibrant tourist trade and we know that our exhibitions in the school attract visitors from all over the world. It is our intention to boost these figures and increase the many uses to which the school could be put. Having the school in the community's possession would offer an ideal future for this fine building. Its attractive Victorian design and local sandstone façade is the only property of this type on the west coast of Loch Ewe.

It is ideal for our purpose as an exhibition centre and complements the plans the community has for its future. There is great determination in both charities, and the greater community, to succeed in their ambition to secure the building for community use, extend it to include facilities for the elderly and new business start-ups, and to see it take its place as a worthy landmark in Wester Ross. We hope you and your colleagues at Highland Council agree.

Yours sincerely,

George Milne

--

George Milne, Chairman, **Russian Arctic Convoy Museum Project** , 01463 701415 / 01463 701491

Project address: Pool House, Poolewe, Ross-shire, IV22 2LD (Registered Charity No. SCO 42286)

Our 2015 Exhibition has new displays, new ship and 'plane models, uniforms, artefacts, photos, maps, souvenirs at affordable prices, paintings by Jim Rae - and so much more including teas and home baking! Please visit our EXHIBITION CENTRE in INVERASDALE SCHOOL (overlooking Loch Ewe) from May to Oct 2015 (Wed & Fri 2-5pm) www.racmp.co.uk

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Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by The Highland Council to discontinue education at Inverasdale Primary School, reassigning its catchment area to that of Poolewe Primary School.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by HM Inspectors in accordance of the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* and the amendments contained in the *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*. The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of The Highland Council's proposal to discontinue education at Inverasdale Primary School, reassigning its catchment area to that of Poolewe Primary School. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The council's final consultation report should include a copy of this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision. Where a council is proposing to close a school, it needs to follow all legislative obligations set out in the 2010 Act, including notifying Ministers within six working days of making its final decision and explaining to consultees the opportunity they have to make representations to Ministers.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the school; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people in the council area;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

1.3 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others;
- visits to the site of Poolewe and Inverasdale Primary Schools, including discussion with relevant consultees.

1.4 As the proposal will lead to the closure of a rural school, HM Inspectors also took account of the council's consideration of any reasonable alternatives to closure of Inverasdale Primary School, the likely effect on the local community and the likely effect of any different travelling arrangements of the proposed closure.

2. Consultation Process

2.1 The Highland Council undertook the consultation on its proposal with reference to the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* and the amendments in the *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*.

2.2 The formal consultation ran from 27 May 2015 until 21 August 2015. The council posted the consultation document on its website and placed a notice in the local Ross-shire Journal and the Gairloch and District Times. It issued copies of the document to all parents of pupils in the catchment areas of Inverasdale Primary School and Poolewe Primary School; all P4-7 pupils attending Poolewe Primary School; the Parent Council of Poolewe Primary School; NHS Highland; and to local community groups. Further copies were made available in Poolewe Primary School and in the Gairloch Public Library. The council made arrangements to gather children's views about the proposal. The council received 15 written responses from children via a questionnaire. Of the 15 responses, eight were in favour of closure with four suggesting keeping the status quo for a bit longer. Three indicated a preference to re-open the school on the basis it was less distance to travel. A public meeting on 10 June 2015 was attended by 47 stakeholders. All present were supportive of the proposal. In response to the consultation, 26 letters from individuals and community organisations were received. All were supportive of the proposal. In addition, a letter containing 341 signatures in support of the proposal was received. There were no letters against the closure.

3. Educational Aspects of Proposal

3.1 Inverasdale Primary School is situated to the north-west of Poolewe. The school is classified as very remote rural. The catchment area includes the communities of Cove, Inverasdale, Midtown, Brae and Naast. The school has been 'mothballed' since the end of session 2011-12, when the school roll fell to two, and the pupils transferred to Poolewe Primary School. Inverasdale School does not have a nursery class. When the school was in operation, nursery education for pupils from Inverasdale was provided at Poolewe Primary School. Inverasdale Primary School is rated 'B' (satisfactory) for educational suitability and 'C' (poor) for building condition.

3.2 There are currently eight pupils of P1-7 age living within the catchment area of Inverasdale Primary School. All of these pupils currently attend Poolewe Primary School. Five of these pupils are either in P6 or P7. There are, in addition, four children below school age living in the Inverasdale catchment. One of these has enrolled for Gaelic Medium education in Gairloch Primary School for session 2015-16. The roll of Inverasdale Primary School is projected to fall year on year. The notional 2018-19 roll of five pupils would represent 10% use of capacity.

3.3 Since the school was 'mothballed' in 2013, the community of Inverasdale have made extensive use of the school building. This includes a tea room operated by Inverasdale Heritage Group, acting as a home for an exhibition on the Russian Convoys of WW2, and providing a venue for a variety of local groups to meet. Community groups have detailed plans to develop the facility should the proposal be approved.

3.4 The council has set out a good case in support of the proposal. In arriving at its proposal it gave good consideration to any reasonable alternatives. These included: to re-open Inverasdale School as a stand-alone primary school; or to continue with the current 'mothballing' arrangement. The council states there will be a number of educational benefits for children if the proposal goes ahead. These include improved social interaction opportunities from attending a larger school among more children of their own age. Opportunities to engage in the widest possible range of activities beyond the core curriculum, including music, sports, drama and art will be increased. HM Inspectors are of the view that since July 2012 the operation of a single combined school at Poolewe Primary School, has been of benefit to the pupils of both schools for the reasons outlined above. The council makes a strong case for the overall educational benefits of the proposal.

3.5 Rural and economic impact assessments conducted by the council identify no negative impact. The proposal is seen to be of positive economic benefit, with scope to develop Inverasdale Primary School as a community venue. Poolewe Primary School is 5.4 miles from Inverasdale Primary School. The maximum travel time is 21 minutes. Children, parents, and staff were clear that existing travelling arrangements were not detrimental to either the children or the environment. In some instances children's time-keeping had improved as a result of the travel arrangements.

3.6 The proposal will assist the council to make efficient and effective use of its resources as it will not be burdened with maintaining a 'mothballed' building. The proposal would allow the community to develop options for the future use of the building and to attract external funding.

3.7 Children, parents, staff and members of the local community who met with HM Inspectors were very positive about the prospect of formalising the current arrangement whereby Inverasdale children attend Poolewe Primary School. They were well-informed about the proposal and keen for matters to progress without delay. Children, parents and staff were able to articulate clearly the benefits of Inverasdale children attending Poolewe Primary School. Benefits included improved interaction; better socialisation; and increased opportunities to participate in team activities and competitions both in and out of school. Children from Inverasdale make a valued contribution to Poolewe Primary School life. Poolewe parents valued the contribution made by the Inverasdale teacher.

3.8 A joint headship between Poolewe and Gairloch Primary Schools offers good opportunities for children to participate in residential outdoor activities alongside pupils from Gairloch Primary School. This is helping prepare children well in terms of positive transitions to secondary school in Gairloch. Children and parents were of

the view that the proposal will help to secure and consolidate teacher numbers within Poolewe School.

3.9 Members of the community who met with HM Inspectors were very positive about the benefits to Inverasdale children, and the community as a whole, if the school closes. Community groups were also very positive about the proposal. They clearly identified the benefits of better integration and increased learning opportunities for children. They also identified the potential of the vacant Inverasdale Primary School to act as a community hub which would be of clear social and educational benefit to people of all ages locally. Community groups such as the Inverasdale Heritage Group and Russian Artic Convoys were already making good use of the vacant property. Detailed plans for further development are in place, subject to the outcome of the consultation.

4. Summary

The Highland Council's proposal to discontinue education provision at Inverasdale Primary School, reassigning its catchment area to that of Poolewe Primary School has clear educational benefits for current and future pupils of Inverasdale Primary School and the local community. It has very strong support from stakeholders. It will help Poolewe Primary School to maintain teacher numbers. Children will continue to have access to increased learning opportunities, wider experiences and better socialisation through being part of a larger school. The proposal will assist the council to deliver *Best Value* through making more efficient and effective use of its resources. The council has expressed an interest in working with the Inverasdale community to develop a sustainable community facility.

**HM Inspectors
Education Scotland
September 2015**

RURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This Rural Impact Assessment has been prepared on a proposal to discontinue education provision at Inverasdale Primary School, re-assigning its catchment area to that of Poolewe Primary School.

The Assessment is current prior to public consultation but may be amended in the light of comments received during the course of that consultation.

Details of Consultation To Be Carried Out:

The Proposal will be the subject of statutory consultation from under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended.

In accordance with statutory requirements, the following will be consulted:

- (i) Parents of pupils in the catchment areas of Inverasdale Primary School and Poolewe Primary School, including parents of pre-school pupils;
- (ii) All P4-7 pupils attending Poolewe Primary School.
- (iii) Members of Parliament and Members of Scottish Parliament for the area affected by the proposal;
- (iv) The Parent Council of Poolewe Primary School.
- (v) Staff of Poolewe Primary School.
- (vi) Trade union representatives;
- (vii) The community councils for the areas covered by the 2 schools;
- (viii) Education Scotland;
- (ix) Highland Youth Convenor
- (x) Russian Arctic Convoy Museum
- (xi) Inverasdale Heritage Group
- (xii) Wester Loch Ewe Trust
- (xiii) GBB Estates (local landowner)
- (xiv) "Good for Ewe" community co-operative

The proposal document will also be advertised in the local press and on the Highland Council website.

A public meeting will be held in Inverasdale School on 10 June 2015. This meeting will be advertised in advance in the local press and on the Highland Council website.

What the change will mean in rural communities

Although the proposal involves a formal closure of service, the service itself has not operated since the summer of 2012. In practical terms the proposal will not change the current position.

The relocation of service (which in practical terms has already taken place) involves moving local school provision from Inverasdale to Poolewe, a distance of 5.4 miles.

Inverasdale School was mothballed when the pupil roll fell to 2. Were Inverasdale School to re-open with 100% of catchment pupils attending the school, the roll figures for the forthcoming few years would be 2015-16 – 8; 2016-17 – 4; 2017-18 – 3; 2018-19 – 5.

At present Poolewe Primary School has a pupil roll of less than 50% of the school's capacity. The school is comfortably able to accommodate the pupils from Inverasdale and no adverse effects for Poolewe Primary are expected to arise. On the contrary, including the pupils from Inverasdale within the Poolewe catchment will help to maintain a healthy roll at Poolewe.

The Highland Council believes that educational benefits arise when schools have a sufficient number of children to allow pupils to work collaboratively and participate in team sports and wider activities; and where there are age appropriate peer groups of a sufficient size to allow a range of interactions and relationships to form and reform.

How will people in rural communities be affected?

Accessibility of service – since the “mothballing” of Inverasdale Primary School pupils of P1-7 age from the Inverasdale catchment have been provided with free school transport to Poolewe Primary School.

Currently there are 4 pre-school children within the Inverasdale School catchment. However pre-school children from Inverasdale have always attended nursery at Poolewe Primary, so the closure of Inverasdale School would have no impact on pre-school children.

It is recognised that pupils from Inverasdale have less opportunity to walk or cycle to school than when Inverasdale School was in operation, and that there is occasional inconvenience for parents who wish to take their child to or from school during the school day.

Travel time to the service –The maximum additional travel time for school pupils is 21 minutes.

Cost to access the service – Free school transport to Poolewe Primary will be provided for the P1-7 age group. Since pre-school children from Inverasdale have always attended nursery at Poolewe Primary, the closure of Inverasdale School would not result in any additional costs to this group of parents.

Economic impact – when the school ceased to operate in 2012, there were some negative impacts in respect of the loss of part-time employment opportunities such as school clerical and cleaning staff.

Conversely, since the school was mothballed the community have used it as a location for an exhibition into the history of the school, run by the Inverasdale

Heritage Group who created a tearoom alongside the exhibition. The school has also been used for an exhibition into the Russian Arctic Convoys of WWII. Mothballing the school has therefore allowed the creation of a local visitor attraction, stimulating tourism. This has had a positive economic impact.

Partner service delivery – the concentration of service in Poolewe provides opportunities for improved partner service delivery to children, through reduced duplication of work and time spent travelling, and reduced costs. Since the change has in practical terms already been implemented, there is no need to consult other partners.

Other options or adjustments

The above do not apply in the circumstances of a change already implemented for practical purposes.