

From: [Webmaster](#)
To: [Business Support C & L - HQ & South](#)
Subject: FW: http://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/16444/appendix_1d_summary_of_impactspdf
Date: 15 August 2016 11:44:45

Anonymous feedback re: Dalwhinnie

From: jadu-www@rsvm73.servers.jadu.net [mailto:jadu-www@rsvm73.servers.jadu.net] **On Behalf Of** HC webpage feedback
Sent: 15 August 2016 11:12
To: Webmaster
Subject: http://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/16444/appendix_1d_summary_of_impactspdf

As a parent whose children and now grandchildren attend Gergask Primary School I wish to point out that in small country schools lack of peer group does not stop integration but enhances it. Children work and play together, much like a family. They learn and understand both limitations and capabilities of those older and younger than themselves. Skills for the future that are as important as working within ones peer group. Your other issue was networking. Not quite sure what you mean by this - you give no examples, but Gergask has much input from a variety of people. Farmers, foresters, environmentalists, an after school cookery club with healthy options. Play shinty with Newtonmore and visited the theatre and zoo in Edinburgh with Kingussie Primary, and much more. I know they do not get piping or violin/fiddle lessons in school time but that could be altered if the Education Department could get past the "historical block " of "you've never had it in the past so you cannot have it now"!

Feedback supplied by:

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Dalwhinnie School Closure
Date: 24 August 2016 08:51:28

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
----- Original Message -----

Subject: Dalwhinnie School Closure

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 23 Aug 2016 21:56

To: Ian Jackson <ian.jackson@highland.gov.uk>

Dear Mr Jackson,

Thank you for your letter of 11th July responding to my submissions on behalf of [REDACTED]. I note all that you say.

We would like to submit some further responses in light of the Final Report on the closure of Dalwhinnie Primary School.

At **1.5** it is stated that *"In the coming session, it is anticipated that all the children from the Dalwhinnie catchment will attend Newtonmore School"*. In fact, the Dalwhinnie child who might have been moving from Gergask to Newtonmore has instead opted to remain at Gergask. I am not suggesting that the statement in the report was inaccurate at the time of writing, I am simply stating it as fact today. This of course also casts a different light on **5.16, Response 30** that moving the catchment to Newtonmore *"seems to be the firm preference of parents in Dalwhinnie"*, as well as the assertion in **10.2** that *"Newtonmore Primary seems to be the preferred option for parents from the Dalwhinnie catchment"*. I trust the report will be updated to reflect reality.

At **5.15, Response 29**, we would absolutely dispute the view *"that the larger pupil numbers at Newtonmore Primary offer more opportunities for pupils to be part of age appropriate peer groups."* It cannot be disputed that the way in which Gergask pupils do activities together as a whole school has enormous benefits for the social development of all of the children. It is also true that when they get to high school, pupils who went to Gergask are extremely well represented in prize giving and achievements.

At **5.17, Response 32** it is not at all clear what view the Highland Council is agreeing with. Nowhere has it been suggested that if the catchment is moved to either school pupils will *"[have] to move"* anywhere. Presumably, parents will still have the right to choose which school to send their children to.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

From: [Webmaster](#)
To: [Business Support C & L - HQ & South](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: http://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/16443/appendix_1a_dalwhinnie_primary_schoolpdf
Date: 16 August 2016 09:50:26

Please see feedback re: Dalwhinnie

From: jadu-www@rsvm73.servers.jadu.net [mailto:jadu-www@rsvm73.servers.jadu.net] **On**
Behalf Of HC webpage feedback
Sent: 15 August 2016 10:30
To: Webmaster
Subject:
http://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/16443/appendix_1a_dalwhinnie_primary_schoolpdf

Rather misleading, Dalwhinnie PS is situated correctly in Dalwhinnie, But "Gergask" is placed west of Inverpattock Lodge, I appreciate you are referring to the school catchment area but as the areas are different colours you should have placed Gergask in Laggan Village not another 3+ miles further west. Especially as you have put "Netwonmore" 2 miles south of Dalwhinnie. Councillors not knowing the area will of course assume that Newtonmore is the obvious school for Dalwhinnie children to attend.

Feedback supplied by: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Elected Members of Highland Council
Education, Children's and Adult Services Committee

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the [REDACTED] and of the wider community I write to stress our continued support for our communities opposition to the perceived suggestion that the catchment area for Dalwhinnie Primary School should be changed to Newtonmore, rather than to the catchment area of Gergask Primary School [REDACTED]

The reasons are unchanged and as fervently believed as in [REDACTED] letter of 7th March.

- 1) Dalwhinnie is closer to Laggan than Newtonmore, less travel time is less cost to Highland Council for school transport. Over the next 10 years of disruption with the dualling of the A9, it will be less disruptive and safer for the school transport to travel to Gergask rather than Newtonmore.
- 2) Gergask Primary is already clustered with Kingussie Primary giving many opportunities for peer group interaction and extra curricular activities. Gergask Primary pupils also join with Newtonmore regularly for events such as shinty practice.
- 3) Your report totally ignores the benefits for children attending a small rural school. Learning to communicate and interact with children of other age groups is surely as important as with one's peer group. The "Team Spirit" all important in the Rio Olympics, is very evident within Gergask Primary.
- 4) We ask the Councillors to look again at the proposed submission "Newtonmore and Gergask Primaries have identical scores for Suitability and Condition"
- 5) The Scottish Government is committed to supporting all aspects of the rural communities. Laggan is a thriving community. Dalwhinnie is in the Parish of Laggan, its rightful place is within the Gergask Primary School catchment area.
- 6) Laggan deserves the support of the Highland Councillors so please back the community's wish for Dalwhinnie to be included in the Gergask Primary School catchment area.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

22/8/16

Dear Mr Porter:

I am writing to you with disappointment regarding the assignment of Dalwhinnie Catchment area.

Its a great pity that our school has been overlooked for the larger Newnmore primary.

We only have fourteen pupils surely a sensible decision would have been to put Dalwhinnie with Gergook. Newnmore primary as I understand it is full.

Your report states that children would be better off in Newnmore for educational and social benefit.

I was at the Kingussie High School Prizegiving in June, only to see several ex-Gergook pupils picking up prizes. Two S1 pupils picked up certificates, an S4 picked up three subject prizes an S5 picked up a sports award and an S6 graduated and has been offered full time employment locally.

This is a great achievement considering the amount of pupils we have compared with Newnmore.

As you are aware we are clustered with Kingussie and I can assure you the pupils miss out on nothing.

One question I would like to ask, is the Councils attitude always going to be biased towards larger schools?

Yours Sincerely

RECEIVED

25 AUG 2016

HIGHLAND COUNCIL
CARE & LEARNING SERVICE