

Black Isle Education Centre – Additional Comments in light of the Final Report

Fortrose and Rosemarkie Community Council are pleased that the service is to be retained and developed further on the Black Isle.

There are just a few queries:

1. Raddery Site: It has been common knowledge in the community that the site that firstly housed Raddery School, later to become the Black Isle Education Centre was gifted by the Salvesen family for educational purposes. 'Response 6' says *'there is nothing in the Title restricting use of the site.'* I dimly recall, years ago that the then Raddery Committee did contact the Salvesen family when there were plans to alter the school. Are the Salvesen family in full knowledge of what's being planned now? It would be, at the very least, a courtesy and would confirm that plans to change the use of this site would not be blocked in the future. The community would not want the site to be left for years to dilapidate on the basis of a legal technicality.

2. Response 3: *'Work is currently underway at the former schoolhouse in Killen, to convert it into residential care accommodation for 2 young people.'* Firstly, has the local community been consulted on the residential care development? Second, the status of these two young people will be wholly different from others using the centre as an 'outreach' service. Has the potential impact on the 'whole' by this been thought through? We all want this service to work. There is a school of thought that says for struggling young people that physical separation of 'home environment' and 'learning environment' is important.

3. Response 3: *"The Council is currently providing training and support in mainstream schools and is working specifically with staff at Culbokie Primary School and Dingwall Academy in order to provide more enhanced training and support for working with pupils with SEBN. Both these schools...could provide an extra resource for young people attending the parttime provision at Killen, if required."* The new site is not in our area as a Community Council but might impact on our local schools if they miss staffing and resources are directed elsewhere. Are Culbokie and Dingwall to become, in effect, partner schools to the new centre at Killen? Is that the ambition and proposed 'model'? This isn't clear but it's important.

All the Black Isle communities have an interest.