

Community Engagement Comments and Suggestions

(Received during informal engagement)

The Learning Estate team engaged with the community over 4 sessions in order to fully inform and explore the potential options on the future of Inveravon Primary School.

- 7 December 2021 – online Public meeting with the community and parents to outline future engagement.
- 2 February 2022 – online public meeting to discuss future options for the school.
- 8 March 2022 – community engagement session and Speyside High School, Aberlour to further explore options.
- 10 March 2022 – meeting with parents at Knockando Primary School.
- 16 February 2022 to present – comment boxes available, and opportunity to send comments via email to the Learning Estate Team.

Residents in the catchment area were notified of the meetings by two mail drops. Details of the meetings were also published on the Moray Council website, social media channels and distributed to the local media.

Secure comment boxes were situated at Aberlour Library, Knockando Primary School and Glenlivet Medical Practice from February to June 2022. 6 parent and 19 resident comment were received during the period.

The table below provides an overview of the Comments and Suggestions from community engagements (February and March 2022)

Ref No.	Comment/Suggestion	Wants	Requirements for implementation
1	<p>Email – Parent (Inveravon Catchment)</p> <p>Whilst it would be lovely for our son to attend school much closer to home than Knockando, I strongly feel that the quality of his social and academic education should come first. Unless the school roll can be reliably and consistently at a level to facilitate age appropriate group learning and play activities then I would not support the reopening of Inveravon Primary. By this, I'm not an expert, but I would be thinking in the order of 25+ pupils. There is so much to be gained in the social interactions and the things that are possible with the increased</p>	School closure	School closure Process

	<p>numbers at the combined provision, but for current skills development and in preparation for high school and beyond.</p> <p>A number of years ago there was suggestion of a new build combined school for Knockando, Inveravon and Glenlivet at a site in Marypark. This would have been excellent.</p> <p>I am very happy with the calibre of teaching and support at Knockando, but modern facilities (and space!) would really benefit all the pupils.</p> <p>Whatever decision is made it must be one that is in the best interests of current and future pupils.</p> <p>I am well aware personally and professionally of the implications in regard to transport etc., but do not find these unresolvable.</p> <p>There are of course wider community benefits that come from having a school facility in a rural community, but these should not overshadow the main function of the building.</p>		
2	<p>Inveravon Community Resident (Meeting): Any local parent looking for options for schools would not see the school on any part of the council website.</p>	School closure	School closure Process
3	<p>Survey – Parent (Inveravon Catchment) Children at Knockando their whole school life. Another starting in August. If they went to Inveravon they would be in class by themselves which would be unsettling for the child.</p>	School closure	School Closure Process
4	<p>Inveravon Community Resident (Meeting): Would love to make use of the school if possible for community-based activities.</p>	Community Space	School closure Process – Community Commitment
5	<p>Inveravon Community Resident (Meeting): Just looks like closing by stealth, take the teachers away, head hunted, supply teachers, no wonder the pupils were taken elsewhere, a calculated move to close it.</p>		Addressed at meeting
6	Tomintoul and Glenlivet Trust		

	<p>The trust conducted some consultation with community in April 2021 about general community priorities. Included community assets within the survey.</p> <p>3 main views around the school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o (1) Reinstated as school, o (2) Community space for activities o (3) Outdoor activity centre 	<p>School re-opened</p> <p>Community Space</p>	<p>School closure Process – Community Commitment</p>
7	<p>Inveravon Community Resident (Meeting):</p> <p>How irritating it is when you keep saying that there has been no-one interested in joining the school, it was taken off the website and people told on the phone that school was closed, no wonder there has been no interest, teacher head hunted</p>		<p>Addressed at meeting</p>
8	<p>Inveravon Community Resident (Meeting):</p> <p>How many schools have been mothballed in the last 10 years?</p>		<p>Addressed at meeting</p>
12	<p>Inveravon Community Resident (Meeting):</p> <p>Problem with getting roll over 10, unless you get 10 sets of parents, it's a catch-22</p>		<p>Addressed at meeting</p>
13	<p>Inveravon Community Resident (Meeting):</p> <p>If and when council decide it is to be closed, does council make it habitable?</p>		<p>Addressed at meeting</p>
14	<p>Inveravon Community Resident (Meeting):</p> <p>Why did it take so long from mothballing in 2017 until now to progress the future of Inveravon PS?</p>		<p>Addressed at meeting</p>
15	<p>Inveravon Community Resident (Meeting):</p> <p>Have we had any formal response from parents of primary school children in Inveravon catchment?</p>		<p>Addressed at meeting</p>
16	<p>Inveravon Community Resident (Meeting):</p> <p>Has and will the building be kept wind and water tight and repair and maintenance be undertaken while school remains moth balled?</p>		<p>Addressed at meeting</p>
17	<p>Inveravon Community Resident (Meeting):</p> <p>Will this repair and maintenance activity include the garden and grounds?</p>		<p>Addressed at meeting</p>

18	Is there anything of any value within the school that could be reused – or donated (e.g. Ukrainian appeal)?		Followed up post meeting
19	Inveravon Community Resident (Meeting): Can you confirm who would be responsible for the building in the event of its closure?		Addressed at meeting
20	Inveravon Community Resident (Meeting): Having attended Inveravon Primary myself as a child and now seeing my children currently attend Knockando Primary I feel the resources are/can be better used by directing them fully to Knockando. I feel the school at Knockando is very well run (in our experience) and being part of a slightly larger school community with access to better resources is far more beneficial for our children. Families have the option of applying to Aberlour & Glenlivet also which again fields resources/funding to established learning communities. Rural schools are very important but in this case our family feels there are better opportunities at other schools which would be further enhanced if funding was not re-directed to re-opening Inveravon and rather put towards the other 'rural' schools still open in the area. I have very fond memories of my time at Inveravon but in this current age, this school is no longer sustainable in my opinion.	School Closure	School Closure Process
22	Survey – Parent (Inveravon Catchment) Close it, sell it!	School Closure	School Closure Process
22	Survey – Parent (Inveravon Catchment) As a parent of 2 school aged children, I feel Inveravon needs closed completely, ASAP. My children are very happy attending Knockando Primary School and I would not be moving then under any circumstances.	School Closure	School Closure Process

	It also seems unfair that Knockando Primary cannot have a permanent Heat Teacher until this is resolved.		
23	Survey – Parent (Inveravon Catchment) We feel Inveravon Primary should be closed and financial & staff resources should be consolidated to provide a modern equipped resource for the wider area.	School Closure	School Closure Process
24	Survey – Parent (Inveravon Catchment) I think Moray Council needs to fully close Inveravon as it is just wasting money which could be used to improve education elsewhere in the area. There will never be enough children to deem the school fit to be open so it needs to be closed not mothballed.	School Closure	School Closure Process
25	Inveravon Community Resident (Meeting): This was a lovely primary school which was very outgoing in the community. Even though I live in Aberlour I attended the PTA quiz nights, etc. It is so sad not to see the building in use for it's intended purpose – as it is one of the basics of a community. I really hope that it will be re-opened.	School re-opened	