

## **APPENDIX**

### **Ashfield Primary School Session Notes**

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March (2pm – 7pm) and Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April (5pm-6pm)

#### **Impact of mothballing?**

x7 Need a pre-school

x6 Current pupils have quite a journey to go to Tayvallich, particularly if they are young.

x5 Confusion over whether children could be attending here, parents unaware that they could have registered child at Ashfield, even though it was mothballed – the statement in regard to ‘there are no children registered....’ is misleading

x5 Concerned that another local facility is lost – along with the shop, church and Achanmara House.

x4 A shame the school has closed – it was a thriving, great wee school. Fantastic fund raising and concerts, community and support.

x3 Would be more encouraging to families here if there is a school.

x3 There are children who are living locally that would attend. One parent has identified that she has 3 children that she would register if the school was open.

x2 Needing to send pupils to Tayvallich, which is fine.

x2 Decline within the village, if the school were to open again, it would be more likely to attract families but job situation very difficult. Local shop shutting. Hard for youngsters.

If numbers were to dramatically increase, then this would be great.

Families can feel a pressure if you are perceived as ‘closing a school’.

Parents are happy with current arrangements.

As a parent of a former pupil we feel a village primary offered what was right for my child. Bigger schools do not always provide pastoral support in the same way.

Did not know ‘there were no children registered’ aspect to the process – would like my relatives and friends children to attend here.

Not a lot of work in the area. Lochgilphead is attractive to take children to be educated as people work there.

Negative effect on the community. New younger families in area. Would be good to have option of educating within the village for them.

None – would be good to see building used.

Knock on effect to neighbouring properties, should the school close permanently.

Costs of transporting pupils/food to another school.

## **What should happen next?**

x9 Facilities here are better than the village hall

x5 Would be good to put the school building at the heart of the community as a multi-functional building.

x3 Village Hall is old and tatty – would be great to use as community, as a hostel, a business, a café, art gallery – need to attract visitors.

x3 Something the children could use.

x3 Would love to see building and grounds used – if left it would be tragic.

x3 Building to be used for day care for the elderly.

x3 If there are children living locally, the school should open for them. The option should be there for a school – if parents want their children to be educated here, then it should open again. More families are moving here.

x2 Would be great for the community to buy this building if numbers do not go up – would be great to make this a hub. If this is not a school, what can it be used for?

x2 Can the building be offered to youth groups – scouts, guiding, SCA, lunch club, any groups?

x2 School should open again to local families – there are plenty of children who would attend. Fantastic facilities and outside grounds. Feels safe. Children love the playground and the space that other schools cannot provide. School at the heart of the community.

x2 It is a long distance to travel to Tayvallich for young children if at the far end of Loch Sween, to the far end of this catchment area.

The school should stay open.

Feel that the children get a better education when in schools with higher numbers of pupils.

I am happy with current arrangement for my children to attend Tayvallich PS. Unless there was a drastic improvement in provision as a school, would not consider sending my children here, as a parent.

Consider mothballing for another 5 years and re-evaluate. Hard to attract families.

Don't agree with mothballing – use the building as soon as possible – give community access?

Tayvallich PS offers a good learning experience.

Could the school be divided? Half as a house that is sold and funds community rooms/asset. Or community owned and rent out office space/hive for activities.

Authority need to provide wrap around care – providing service for community and employment opportunities.

If the school opens, this will attract families to the area.

Did not know I had the right to register my child to attend the school. I will consider this.

The school has a lot to offer – the educational experience.

I would like the school to open as my Papa could pick me up from school. I play here with my friend I love it (6 year old).

Needs to be integrated in provision with bigger schools – use other staff from other schools to staff here – creatively, link with Lochgilphead PS?

Achnamara House should be sold for flats/B&B/care home.

Ashfield was the best school ever, I loved it, it would be better if the school were to open and if there were more kids as I would have more friends to play with.

## **Further questions we need to find the answers to....**

x7 What are the running costs of the building?

x5 Can there be a long term mothball – and the community use premises for activities – until possible re-opening (keep function)?

x4 Members of the community want to know what will happen to the building if the school closes as a school? They are concerned that it will just be left to rot. Will it be sold privately or be offered to the community?

If the building is not used as a school or sold, can it be leased?

What is the cost of mothballing the school?

Community Council groups have asked for plan of the whole site (all Council ownership) including services.

What is the planning position re change of use? Can they arrange for the planners to come to site to discuss?

Are there any structural and/or services surveys of the building?

Can the Community Council have requested if they can have a floor plan?

What are the annual electric/ heating/ insurance costs for the building?

What is the Rateable Value of the building/ site?

What repairs have been undertaken in the last 10 years?

Is there any asbestos in the building?

Is there a burglar alarm and are there any annual monitoring costs?

What are the annual maintenance and monitoring costs for the fire alarm?

Is the water supply metered?

Is there a septic tank – what are the annual costs of emptying?

Is the fibre optic broadband still connected?

Have there been any disputes with neighbours over boundaries or access rights?

Are there any burdens or rights of pre-emption in the title deeds?

Would the Council consider a lease or sale of the building to the community, with a positive obligation on both parties to make space available for school use should this be required?

Is there transport to Pre 5 provision available for children?

What is the capacity for Ashfield PS (38) and Tayvallich PS?

How many children would it take to re-open the school? Would there be a minimum?

Monies left from Parent Council – how can we access for the community?

Can we give 'greetings' cards to the families of pupils who made them?

### **General Comments**

x3 Ideal for all outdoor activities/education/forest school

x3 Nursery & P1 & P2 in Tayvallich, P3-7 in Ashfield (only if building is multi-use)

x2 Super facilities

x2 In great condition. Ready to go?

X2 Until second home owners are less in Argyll and Bute, the problem will not decrease, and aging population

So much space

Big classroom

Close to our house

Big playing field and woodland area

Too far to travel for children past Achanmara to another school

Bigger issue/jobs/families going to work – community – school

Not enough children here to justify keeping the building as a school – needs to be used for something else.