

Argyll and Bute Council

Comhairle Earra Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

Customer Services

Executive Director: Douglas Hendry

Customer Services

Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA318RT

Telephone:

Fax:

Our Ref:

Ref:

If phoning or calling please ask for:

e-mail: Alison.Macdonald@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Council Website: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Ardchattan Primary School

Dear Consultee,

Review of Education Provision

Notice and Summary of Proposal for closing Ardchattan Primary School Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010

Background

Argyll and Bute Council, through its Education Service, aims to realise ambition, excellence and equity for all.

The Council is consulting on a proposal to close Ardchattan Primary School. This notice provides a summary of a proposal that you may have an interest in or are required to be notified of, giving you key information about the proposal.

The Council is conducting a public consultation process. This will commence on 18th March 2019 and will conclude on 17th May 2019. This is the period within which you will be able to make written representations to the Council in respect of the proposal. If you wish your view to be taken account of in the consultation exercise you must submit your written representation within this period. This notice and summary provides further information on where a full copy of the proposal may be obtained or referenced and also advises on how you can make written representations to the Council.

The Council will hold a meeting where officers will be able to provide information on the proposal. The details of the public meeting are contained in this notice and summary.

It is important that everyone we are consulting tells us what they think of the proposal. Please read this notice and summary and then consider the contents of the proposal document. You can then tell us what you think of the proposal by making written representation and/or by attending the public meeting. This notice and summary tell you how to do that.

The Proposal

It is proposed that education provision at Ardchattan Primary School be discontinued with effect from 21st October 2019. Pupils of Ardchattan Primary School will continue to be educated at Lochnell Primary School from 21st October 2019. The catchment area of Lochnell Primary School shall be extended to include the current catchment area of Ardchattan Primary School.

Reasons for this proposal

This is the best option to address the reasons for the proposals which are;

- Ardchattan Primary School has been mothballed for four years. The school condition will deteriorate with limited budgets for maintenance. The school roll was very low and not predicted to rise in the near future. This continues to be the situation.
- Along with several other rural Councils, Argyll and Bute is facing increasing challenges in recruiting staff. At the time of writing there are 14 vacancies for teachers and 2 vacancies for head teachers in Argyll and Bute.
- Whilst the school is mothballed, the building is deteriorating with limited budgets for maintenance.

The Council's education strategy Our Children Their Future

Together we will realise ambition, excellence and equality for all.

- Raise educational attainment and achievement for all,
- Use performance information to secure improvement for children and young people,
- Ensure children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed,
- Equip young people to secure and sustain positive destinations and achieve success in life,
- Ensure high quality partnership working and community engagement,
- Strengthen leadership at all levels.

Alternatives to the Proposal

The following alternatives to the proposal were considered at the pre-consultation stage of this process;

- a) Re-open Ardchattan Primary School,
- b) Continued Mothballing of Ardchattan Primary with the pupils zoned to Lochnell School,
- c) Re-open Ardchattan Primary School and realign the catchment area of Lochnell School,
- d) Ardchattan School is reopened and designated as a resource centre for children with additional support needs,

- e) Close Ardchattan Primary School and realign its catchment area to Lochnell Primary School (the Proposal).

Written representations may be made on those alternatives as well as on the proposal.

Written representations on the proposal may suggest other alternatives to the proposal.

What will we do?

We will consult with people by:

- Providing a notice of the consultation and a summary of the proposal to the relevant consultees **this is that notice and summary**
- Placing an advert in the local press
- Putting information on our website <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/education-and-learning>
- Holding public meetings to explain the proposal
- Ask parents, carers, children, young people, Teachers, support staff and others to tell us what they think of the proposals.

What to do now?

- Please read the full proposal document
- Please attend the Public Meeting which will be held on 2nd May 2019 at 7.00pm in Ardchattan Primary School.
- Let us know what you think by:
 - Letter to: Education Services
School Consultations
Argyll & Bute Council
Argyll House
Alexandra Parade
Dunoon
PA23 8AJ

Returning the attached response sheet by post or by;

Email to: argyllhoureception@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Via the website: <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/education-and-learning>

What next?

Whilst the Council is engaging in a consultation process in relation to this proposal that does not mean that the proposal will go ahead. It does mean that the Council is engaging in a consultation process to seek your view on the proposal.

All the points raised during the consultation will be carefully considered and Elected Members will then decide if the plan should go ahead.

If the suggestion goes ahead the children would continue to be educated in the schools they currently attend.

Please note that this summary document is for convenience only. Full details of the consultation can be obtained from:

- Council Headquarters, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT
- Education Offices, Argyll House, Dunoon, Argyll, PA23 8AJ
- Public libraries in the vicinities of the schools affected
- Local area offices in the vicinities of the schools affected
- The schools affected by the proposal

Yours sincerely

Douglas Hendry
Executive Director of Customer Services



**Argyll and Bute Council
Customer Services: Education**

RESPONSE FORM

I wish my response to be considered as confidential with access restricted to Elected Members and Council Officers of Argyll and Bute Council.

<u>Proposal</u>	
It is proposed that: Education provision at Ardchattan Primary School be discontinued with effect from 21 October 2019. Pupils of Ardchattan Primary School will continue to be educated at Lochnell Primary School from 21 October 2019. The catchment area of Lochnell Primary School shall be extended to include the current catchment area of Ardchattan Primary School.	
This part of the form must be completed for a valid response:	
Name: (please print)	Address:
	Post Code:
I agree/do not agree (delete which does not apply) that my response can be made publicly available	
Signature:	Date:

YOUR INTEREST: (please tick)

Parent <input type="checkbox"/>	Child / Young Person <input type="checkbox"/>	Staff <input type="checkbox"/>	Other * <input type="checkbox"/>
Elected Member / MSP / MP <input type="checkbox"/>		Member of Community Council <input type="checkbox"/>	
*Other: (please specify)			

Please state your views on the proposal (continue overleaf if necessary)