



PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

OPTIONS APPRAISAL REPORT



STRUAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

1. Introduction

The Council's Corporate Plan identifies the vision of *'a confident and ambitious Perth and Kinross with a strong identity and clear outcomes that everyone works together to achieve. Our area will be vibrant and successful; a safe secure and healthy environment; and a place where people and communities are nurtured and supported'*.

This strategic approach embraces the vision for our area, our communities and our people as outlined in the Corporate Plan. Our key service priorities support the delivery of our commitments in the Community Planning Partnership's Single Outcome Agreement, Service Asset Management Plan and Corporate Plan, helping ECS to focus on the local outcomes that will achieve meaningful improvements for the area, our local communities and our citizens.

Councils, as an Education Authority, have a statutory duty in terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 to make adequate and efficient provision of school education across their entire area for the current school population and future pattern of demand.

Councils also have a statutory responsibility in terms of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 to achieve best value. Education and Children's Services Service Asset Management Plan provides a review of the property assets used to deliver services. It incorporates the School Estate Management Plan which reflects the local implementation of Building Better Schools: Investing in Scotland's Future, the national school estate strategy developed by the Scottish Government in conjunction with local authorities.

The aspirations, guiding principles and objectives contained within Building Better Schools are reflected throughout Education and Children's Services Asset Management Plan (SAMP) for schools and public buildings, both in the management of the existing assets and in the design and construction of developments.

<http://www.pkc.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=35064&p=0>

2. Background

2.1 History

On 30 June 2010, the Council approved the report Securing the Future – Towards 2015 and Beyond ([Report 10/357 refers](#)). This report set out our continuing strategy for securing the future, aiming to support the delivery of savings through revised service delivery models and ongoing improvement activities in the Council. Education and Children's Services Service Review Programme within this report contains a re-design project to "review the school estate".

Initial work was undertaken which considered a combination of factors including current pupil rolls (September 2009 census), projected school rolls, school occupancy levels, number and location of future housing developments, distance to neighbouring schools and the capacities of these neighbouring schools.

All primary schools were considered within their secondary cluster area. Those that were examined in more detail were those with:-

A low number of pupils on the roll (as at September 2009 census) [<15]

A low number of pupils on the highest projected roll to 2016/17 [<15]

A low percentage occupancy level (as at September 2009 census) [$<40\%$]

The above criteria identified 6 primary schools.

Thereafter, the potential percentage occupancy based on highest projected rolls and potential pupil numbers from received planning applications to date (as at May 2010), distance to neighbouring schools and the capacity of these neighbouring schools to accommodate additional pupils now, and in the future, was also considered.

Only 4 primary schools continued to meet the criteria after these additional factors were examined.

Struan Primary School was one of the four schools. On 1 June 2011, the Lifelong Learning Committee approved the report Statutory Consultation – Struan Primary School ([Report 11/255 refers](#)). This report sought approval to commence formal consultations on the proposal to close Struan Primary School. It also sought approval of the Options Appraisal and Proposal Papers for both schools.

The Struan Primary School pupil roll at September 2009 Census was 4 pupils and at September 2010 Census was 3 pupils. ([Report 10/427 refers](#)).

At May 2011, 4 pupils who lived within the Struan Primary School catchment area attended Pitlochry Primary School and Kinloch Rannoch Primary School, as a result of successful placing requests made by the parents.

As the pupil roll at Struan Primary School was due to be 3 pupils at the start of academic session 2011/2012, the decision was taken by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services), in consultation with the Convener of the Lifelong Learning Committee, that Struan Primary School would be mothballed from August 2011. This is a term which means provision in a school is suspended with pupils zoned to another catchment area. Mutually agreed arrangements were made with the parents of the remaining pupils for session 2011/12.

The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning then announced the setting up of a Commission for the Delivery of Rural Education and requested a moratorium on rural closures for one year. The moratorium was proposed to run from 20 June 2011 until 20 June 2012.

On 31 August 2011, Lifelong Learning Committee agreed that the decision to commence formal consultations to close Struan Primary School would be deferred until the outcome of the Commission of the Delivery of Rural Education was reported ([Report 11/430 refers](#)).

As a result of the recommendations made by the Commission, the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#), was amended by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. Most of the amendments came into force on 1 August 2014. The final part of the amendments relating to the School Closure Review Panel was introduced and came into force on 30 March 2015.

The 2010 Act's principal purpose is to provide strong, accountable statutory consultation practices and procedures that local authorities must apply to their handling of all proposals for school closures and other major changes to schools. These consultation processes are expected to be robust, open, transparent and fair, and seen to be so. They are also expected to be consistent across Scotland.

The 2010 Act makes special arrangements in regard to rural schools, establishing in effect a presumption against closure of rural schools. The result of this is that education authorities must consider a more detailed set of procedures and requirements in formulating a rural school closure proposal and in consulting on and reaching a decision as to whether to implement a rural school closure proposal.

The new duties are outlined in the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) and the accompanying [Statutory Guidance](#).

In addition, the [Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#) sets out a new right for community organisations to request the transfer of local assets into local community ownership/management. Public bodies including Councils must consider such requests and respond within a reasonable timescale to them.

2.2 Proposal

On 4 November 2015 the meeting of the Lifelong Learning Committee ([Report No 15/514 refers](#)) agreed that the options appraisal for Struan Primary School be reviewed and updated. This review will enable Education and Children's Services to determine whether the options identified in 2011 are still relevant and whether additional options require to be investigated further.

This is the reviewed and updated options appraisal. This will be submitted to Lifelong Learning Committee to determine the basis under which any statutory consultation will proceed.

2.3 Current Position

The summary position is as follows:

- Following the mothballing of Struan Primary School, the pupils from Struan Primary School catchment area are currently designated to attend Blair Atholl Primary School. Struan Primary School is 5.0 ¹miles from Blair Atholl Primary School.
- The 2010 Act makes special arrangements in regard to rural schools establishment in effect a presumption against the closure of rural schools. There is a requirement to have special regard to the rural school factors before formulating a proposal to close a rural school. In particular, it is necessary to consider any reasonable alternatives before considering closure. It is also necessary to consider the impact on the wider community of a potential closure and the impact of any different travelling arrangements. These factors have been considered in this options appraisal.

¹ The return journey travel distance (Blair Atholl Primary School to Struan Primary School) is 5.2miles (10 minutes) (google maps).

3. Context

3.1 Story of Place/Community Profile

The catchment area for Struan Primary School is contained within the Highland Ward of Perth and Kinross Council and within the Local Community Planning Partnership (LCCP) of Highland and Strath Tay. This catchment covers the northerly and remotest part of this ward, to its boundary with Highland Council area at Drumochter Pass. The main settlements are the hamlets of Calvine/Struan and Trinafour. The entire catchment area is designated as 'Very Remote Rural' within the Scottish Government urban-rural 8-fold classification². Highland and Strath Tay LCCP³ covers an area of 1000 square miles or 266,832 hectares and stretches from Dunkeld in the south east to Rannoch Moor in the west and Blair Atholl in the north.

The Community Learning and Development (CLD) team, working in the area, have developed a 'Story of Place/Community Profile' to assist in supporting communities and in meeting the Council's strategic objectives for these communities. The Community Profile for Highland and Strath Tay LCCP details some of the key facts and figures which describe the community, but also the proposals from the CLD team to work with the community to make positive changes.

In order to provide some context for this options appraisal, specifically around community impact and the rural factors, some of the key facts describing the community are detailed below.

3.2 Strategic Objective: Giving every child the best start in life

The birth rate in Highland and Strath Tay LCCP in 2011 was 6.2 births per 1,000 of the population which is lower than the Perth and Kinross average of 9.9 births per 1,000. Highland and Strath Tay LCCP in 2014 had some concentrations of childhood poverty⁴ of between 13% in Strath Tay Ward and 17% in Highland Ward. For the same time period the Perth and Kinross average was 17%.

3.3 Strategic Objective: Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens

The estimated percentage of schools leavers in positive and sustained destinations in Highland and Strath Tay LCCP in 2014/15

² <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/About/Methodology/UrbanRuralClassification>

³ Local Community Planning Partnership area

⁴ Percentage of Children in Poverty Oct-Dec 2013, After Housing Costs, , Child Poverty Map of the UK, Compilation of child poverty local indicators 2014 update by Donald Hirsch and Laura Valadez, Centre for Research in Social Policy (CRSP), Loughborough University.

was approximately 95%, higher than the Perth and Kinross average of 92%. For the same time period the Scottish average was 93%⁵.

3.4 Strategic Objective: Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy

In 2011 73% of 16-74 year olds were economically active, compared to 71% in Perth and Kinross and 69% in Scotland. The main industries that Highland residents are employed in are: accommodation and food service activities; wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; and human health and social work activities.

The area has a high percentage of self-employed people with 15% of Highland and Strathclyde LCP residents being self-employed compared with 11% of Perth and Kinross residents and 7% of Scottish residents.

3.5 Strategic objective: Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives

The 2011 Census information indicates a local population in general good health and not limited in daily activities by health or disability issues.

A key issue arising from local knowledge however is the impact of rural and social isolation within the smaller communities in Highland and Strathclyde LCP which directly affects the mental health and wellbeing of some community members.

Provision for older people to engage in learning, linking into digital technology, signposting participants to relevant activities or services, and supporting intergenerational opportunities is a successful area of partnership delivery in the Highland and Strathclyde LCP.

Young People and families are supported through the CLD team by the Community Link Workers and programmes to support young families. Youth Work has a focus on improving health and wellbeing offering advice, support and creating opportunities for accreditation and recognition of achievement.

⁵ Initial Destinations of School Leavers 2014/15, Skills Development Scotland

3.6 Strategic objective: Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

Highland and Strathclyde LCPP brings together Perth and Kinross Community Planning Partners regularly meeting with elected members from Highland and Strathclyde Wards to share service priorities and plan and develop better community engagement, partnerships, and service delivery. Current priorities cover Health and Social Care Integration; rural and social isolation; affordable housing; transportation.

Highland Perthshire Communities Partnership (HPCP) is a collaboration of local businesses and organisations, and community councils working together for the benefit of Highland Perthshire working on their priorities of broadband access, A9 dualling, rural transport and local resilience plans.

The Hipshire Network brings together local voluntary, community and statutory organisations to identify and address local needs in an annual action plan around the themes of health and wellbeing, early years, employability and stronger communities.

Many parks play areas and community halls and facilities in the area are now owned or managed by local committees. A number of groups are also investigating opportunities for community asset transfer for example in Aberfeldy, The Birks Cinema which opened again in April 2013 and Locus Breadalbane who secured the transfer of Aberfeldy Town Hall with the official handover in May 2014.

4. Calvine and the Local Area

4.1 Location of School

Struan Primary School is located in the village of Calvine, approximately 5 miles west of Blair Atholl, and lies just off the A9. It lies within the Cairngorms National Park area close to the village of Old Struan and near to the confluence of the River Garry and Errochty Water.

The area is sparsely populated and the village is a small rural settlement sitting amidst beautiful scenery, farming and estate land. It lies on the national cycle network and is on the ancient route to Badenoch, with a track from Calvine linking to the Minigaig Pass.

Attractions accessible from the area include Falls of Bruar, fishing, mountain biking, wilderness walking, golf (Blair Atholl) and accessible Munros.

Visitors to the area are accommodated at Calvine Holiday Park as well as various holiday cottages and bed and breakfast establishments. Hotel accommodation and further holiday park accommodation can be found in Blair Atholl and Bridge of Tilt as well as Pitlochry.

The Struan Inn located in Calvine has 5 bedrooms and a restaurant. Struan Hall has however been converted into a private home. The small shop and garage in Calvine was closed several years prior to the mothballing of the school in 2011 and is in some disrepair. Nearby Old Struan is a settlement of houses, including holiday cottages. House of Bruar is a successful independent store which sells country clothing, food and homeware. It is located 1.2m from Calvine and is a key local employer.

The A9 dualling project will impact on Calvine and Pitagowan but as yet, local access has not been determined.

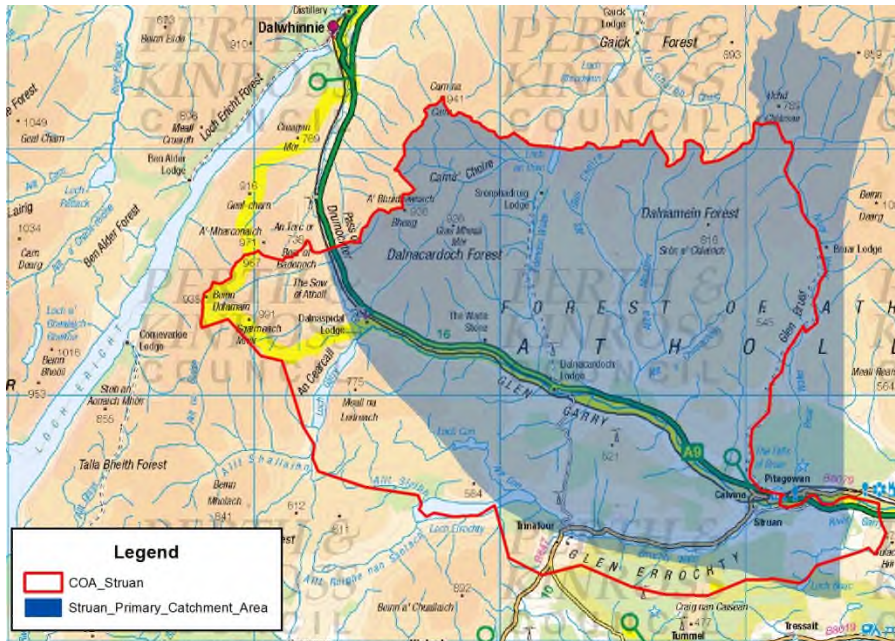
4.2 The School within the Community

The Struan Hall Trust administers funds on behalf of the Struan community and arranges events throughout the year. The Trust previously used the school for community events such as Christmas parties. Some events are now held in Blair Atholl rather than Calvine. The Struan Inn can be used for events but there are limitations in terms of numbers and times when it can be used.

4.3 Population

For the purposes of this options appraisal the census output area S00126309 was chosen because of its good fit with the catchment area of Struan Primary School, as can be seen on the map below.

Figure 1: Struan Primary School catchment area & Census Output Area Map

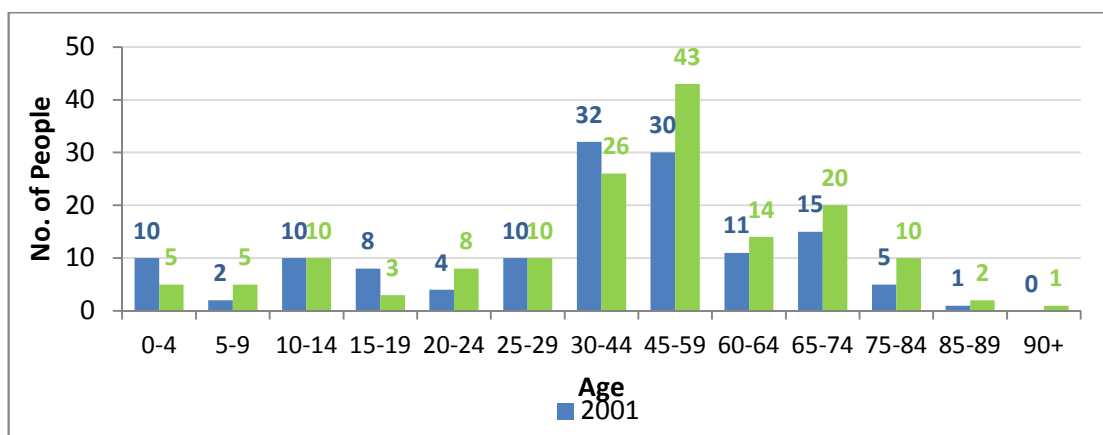


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The current population of the area⁶, as indicated by the 2011 census, is 157. From 2001 to 2011 the population of the area⁶ grew by 19 people. The majority of this increase was in the over 45 population. The 0-14 population declined slightly from 22 to 20.

⁶ Census Output Area - S00126309.

Figure 2: Census Out Area - S00126309 Population⁷



4.4 Development and House Building

The current Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted in 2014 and the Council is required to keep it up to date and review it at a maximum of five year intervals. The development of the next LDP is already underway with the Main Issues Report (MIR) being consulted upon.

The TAYplan, which informs the LDP, sets out a hierarchical approach to directing new development to existing settlements and identifies Aberfeldy and Pitlochry as proposed second tier settlements which would take the largest proportion of any new development.

Areas considered for the landward housing requirement in the Highland area are Ballinluig, Birnam, Croftinloan, Fearnan, Kenmore and Kinloch Rannoch. Any other development identified in the area is likely to be small scale (less than 5 houses).

A new TAYplan is currently under preparation. This will set revised housing land requirements for the next LDP. In the proposed TAYplan the annual number of houses required in the Highland Perthshire area is 90 per year. There is a possibility however that this could increase to 100 per annum, depending on the outcome of the examination into the Proposed TAYplan. In terms of pupil numbers, 90 houses would equate to 24.3 children across Highland Perthshire areas.

There are no significant developments present in the 2015 Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan for Calvine, Blair Atholl, or Bruar and Pitagowan. In terms of potential new business ventures in the area, there have been no enquiries to the Council's Business Development Team.

⁷ Scotland's Census, 2001 Table CAS001 and Scotland's Census 2011 Table KS102SC; National Records of Scotland

They have advised that there are unlikely to be any significant changes to the population, as a result of new business, relative to the Struan Primary School catchment area.

4.5 Pupil Numbers

The methodology used for pupil projections in this report allows the Council to project a detailed year by year analysis for each catchment.

The methodology applied uses aggregated GP registration data to ascertain future P1 intakes. The data available from the NHS reflects children registered with a GP, anonymously located within specific catchment areas, providing 4 years of information for primary school children. See Appendix 1 for further details.

The tables below show the historic, current and projected pupil numbers for the schools detailed within this report should Struan remain mothballed or be closed.

Individual School Roll Pupil Numbers – Historic Data
(Based on Census)

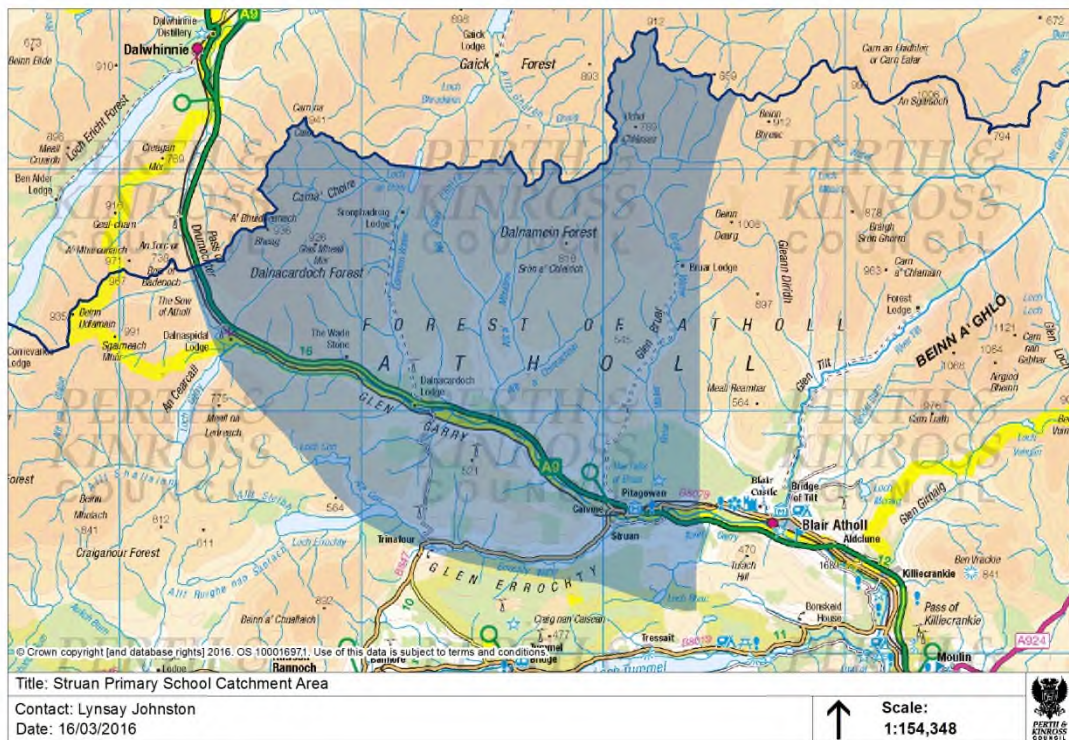
Primary School	Capacity	2009/ 2010	2010/ 2011	2011/ 2012	2012/ 2013	2013/ 2014	2014/ 2015
Blair Atholl	50	26	25	19	18	19	22
Kinloch Rannoch	50	30	27	25	31	21	25
Pitlochry	300	200	199	219	218	202	208
Struan	47	4	3	0	0	0	0

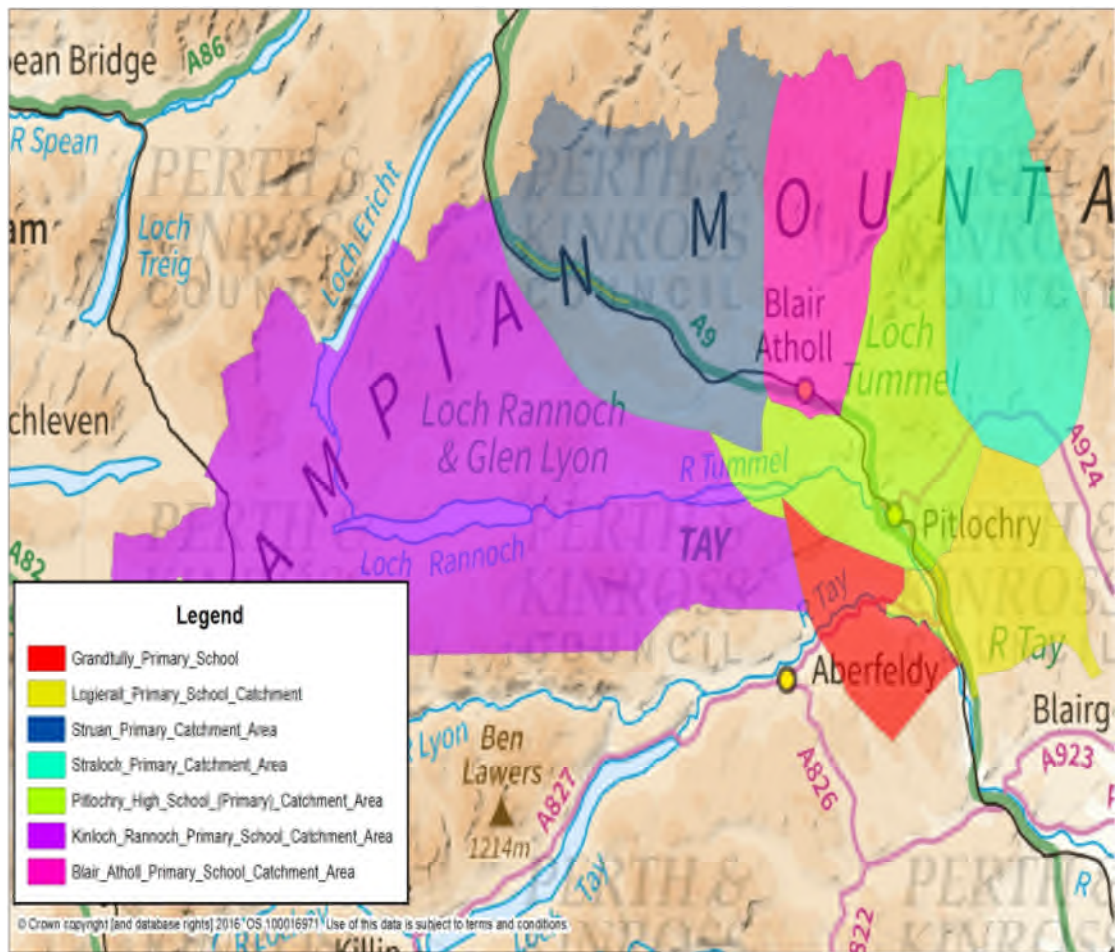
Individual School Roll Pupil Numbers – Current and Projected
(2015/16 based on Census 2015 incl house building)

Primary School	Capacity	2015/ 2016	2016/ 2017	2017/ 2018	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020
Blair Atholl	50	24	23	23	25	25
Kinloch Rannoch	50	32	35	36	34	33
Pitlochry	300	193	202	210	213	220

5. Struan Primary School

Struan Primary School operated as a single teacher school serving the village of Calvine and the local area. The catchment area for the school covers an area of 323.684 square kilometres (124.975 square miles) and is detailed on the map below.





The Scottish Government’s Rural School List 2015 classifies Struan Primary School as “remote rural” school under Section 14 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The classification is based on two main criteria, settlement size and accessibility based on drive time. For Struan Primary School the classification criteria is “settlements of fewer than 3,000 people and with a drive time of between 30 and 60 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more”. (Source: Scottish Government Rural School List 2015).

Struan Primary School is a traditionally built 1900s building with a larger two storey 1960s extension. The building has a mixture of block and rendered walls with double glazed UPVC windows under a pitched slated roof and has electric heating.

Site plans of the school are attached as Appendix 2. The school offers the following accommodation; 2 classrooms for primary education, small hall, toilets, staffroom, office and a kitchen.

There may be a title restriction whereby, when the school building ceases to be used as a school or for educational purposes, it must be offered back to the original Estate (Duke of Atholl).

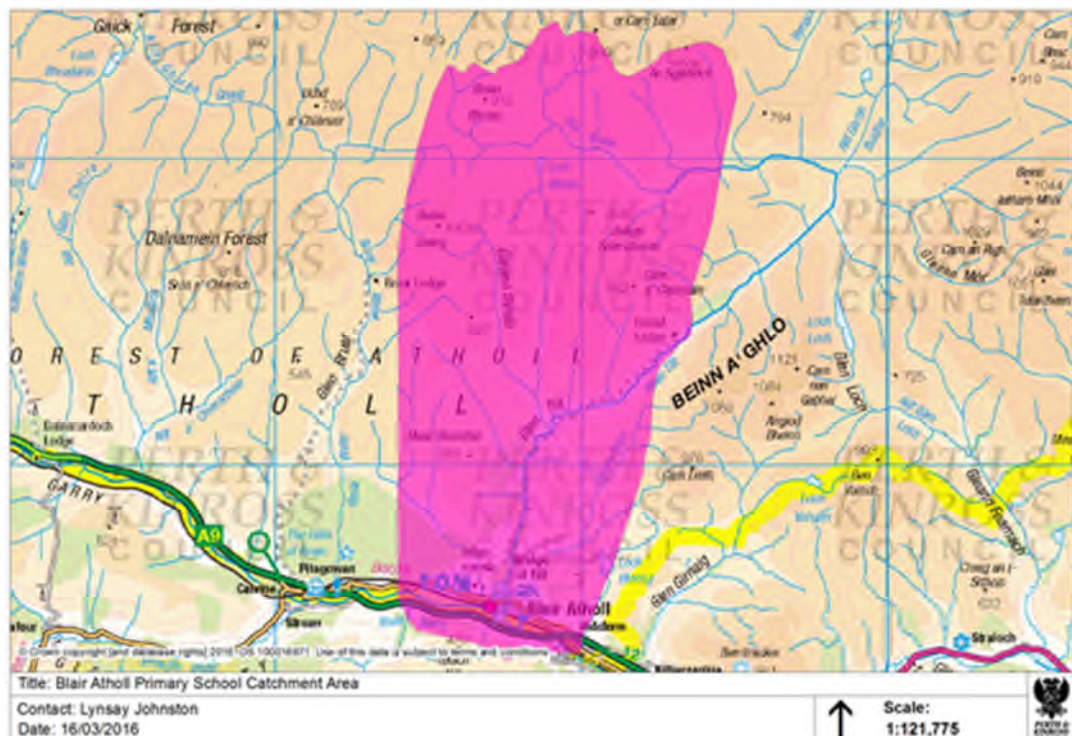
The former schoolhouse, which adjoins the grounds of Struan Primary School, was sold in 1990 and there are some shared utility services. A condition survey was carried out on the building in January 2016 and the overall site is rated as condition 'B' (performing adequately but showing minor deterioration). Condition is an assessment of the physical condition of the school and its grounds.

The suitability of Struan Primary School prior to mothballing was categorised as 'B' (performing well but with minor problems). Suitability is an assessment of the school as a whole, its buildings and its grounds and the impact these have on learning and teaching, leisure and social activities and the health and wellbeing of all users.

6. Blair Atholl Primary School

Blair Atholl Primary School serves the village of Blair Atholl and the local area. The catchment area for the school covers an area of 168.584 square kilometres (65.090 square miles) and is highlighted on the map below.

Blair Atholl Primary School is classed as a "remote rural" school under Section 14 of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as per Section 5 above.



It is managed under a shared headship arrangement with Logierait Primary School.

In addition to the Headteacher there are 3 class teachers, pupil support teacher, early childhood practitioner, primary school support worker, primary school support assistant and visiting specialists for physical education, and expressive arts. The school also receives janitorial support.

The main school building is a single storey building of mixed block work, rendered and glazed curtain walling with concealed internal rainwater downpipes. The windows and external doors are double glazed upvc. The heating system is oil fired.

Site plans of Blair Atholl Primary School are attached in Appendix 3. The following facilities and accommodation are offered: 2 classrooms for primary education, nursery, toilets, staff room, general purpose room/hall, dining area, kitchen, office, and storage

In May 2012, the core facts for the school categorise the building condition as B (satisfactory - performing adequately but showing minor deterioration). Suitability was assessed in February 2013 and was graded A (Good – performing well and operating efficiently).

The current roll of Blair Atholl Primary School is 24 pupils, 5 of these pupils live in the Struan catchment area.

The most recent inspection carried out by HM Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) in June 2011 can be accessed via the following link. [HMIE Report](#)

At Blair Atholl Primary School the children benefit from a range of facilities and resources. As well as up to date class and ICT resources there is a separate dining area and an extensive outdoor area which includes a large grassy section, a woodland garden and a multi-use games area which facilitate eco learning and promote health and wellbeing through play and team games.

7. Community Engagement

7.1 Meetings

Meetings were held in Old Struan Church Hall on 8 and 17 March 2016, to seek feedback from the community on the future of Struan Primary School. The meetings were attended by 22 people, including 6 parents. The Council is grateful to the Community Council for its assistance in the planning and publicity for these meetings.

There was also one written representation.



7.2 Content of Meetings

Visitors to the meetings were given an overview of information that the Council would be using in this options appraisal, including pupil projections, building and financial information and local services and facilities. They were asked to respond to a series of questions related to the options appraisals and to provide comments on the information presented. The questions were as follows:

What has been the impact of the school being mothballed?

Are there any changes which may impact on the future of the school which you know about?

What is your preferred option for the future of the school and why?

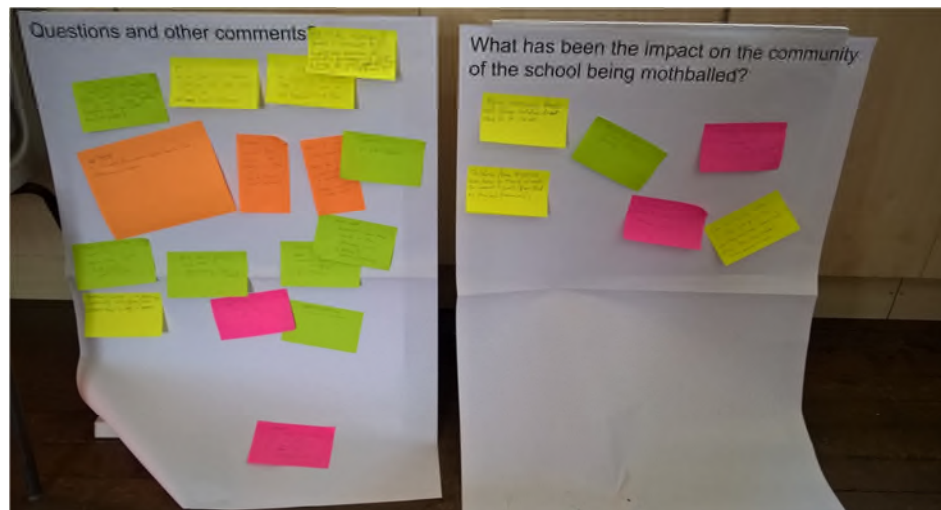
7.3 Feedback

Details of the feedback are contained in Appendix 4 and are also referred to in relation to individual options. The feedback from all sessions has been sent out to the visitors/meeting attendees who provided contact details.

There was a range of viewpoints on the future of Struan Primary School:

- The school is important within the community.

- It had been a very good school before it was mothballed and was appreciated by parents and pupils
- The school has been mothballed for too long.
- The village is gradually losing its facilities.
- The school was used for social events.
- Strategic decisions in relation to planning, employment and house building could generate pupils for the school.
- Parents of current pupils and nursery children, who attended the meeting, were not likely to move their children from Blair Atholl to Struan if the school re-opened.
- A school within the community would attract young families to the area and ensure the continuity of the community.
- Closing the school would impact on parental choice.
- There were some suggestions for the building if it was no longer a school.



8. Options for Consideration

A number of options are considered for the future of Struan Primary School as part of this options appraisal:

- a) Re-open Struan Primary School with its existing catchment area.
- b) Continued mothballing of Struan Primary School with the pupils zoned to Blair Atholl Primary School.
- c) Re-open Struan Primary School and redelineate the catchment area.
- d) Close Struan Primary School and zone any pupils to Blair Atholl Primary School and redelineate the catchment area.
- e) Close Blair Atholl Primary School and transfer the pupils to Struan Primary School and redelineate the catchment area.
- f) Close Struan Primary School and transfer the pupils to Kinloch Rannoch Primary School and redelineate the catchment area.
- g) Close Struan Primary School and transfer the pupils to Pitlochry Primary School and redelineate the catchment area.

8.1 Option: Re-open Struan Primary School with its existing catchment area

Community Feedback

There were differing views at the meetings on re-opening Struan Primary School, in particular the parents attending the meeting were not in favour of re-opening the school:

“Keep children at Blair Atholl, we are used to it”

“Would not move child back to Struan to be in a class on their own”

“Our children are settled in Blair Atholl Primary School”

Other residents were in favour of re-opening:

“Favour re-open Struan PS. Nice school and nice area”

“Re-open – more attention to teaching in a smaller school”

“The community needs a focal point like a primary school to attract new people”

But some recognised that the school was not sustainable:

“Makes no sense to remain open/mothballed with so few projected numbers coming through. Would rather some use is made of it rather than letting it deteriorate“

“Would like to re-open, but understand the practicalities”

Pupil Numbers

The school was mothballed in 2011 due to lack of pupil numbers. At May 2011, 4 pupils who lived within the Struan Primary School catchment area attended Pitlochry Primary School and Kinloch Rannoch Primary School, as a result of successful placing requests made by the parents. There were 3 pupils who were due to attend Struan Primary School from August 2011.

If the school were to re-open in August 2016, the maximum pupil numbers from the catchment would be 8. There are no P1 pupils anticipated for 2016 currently. It is highly unlikely that any of the pupils from the Struan Primary School catchment area would return to the school were it to re-open based on feedback from the pre-consultation sessions however. This would leave the school roll less than 5 pupils, assuming new pupils all attended Struan Primary School when it re-opens.

Struan Primary	2016/ 2017	2017/ 2018	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020
Approved Capacity	47	47	47	47
Roll Projection Total (with house building) * assumes current pupils from Struan area who attend Pitlochry Primary and Blair Atholl Primary will return to Struan Primary.	8	9	8	9

Financial Information

The approximate cost to bring the property into an acceptable condition for re-opening is £155,392 for fabric and mechanical and electrical works. It should be noted there may be potentially further costs for structural works if the building were to re-open permanently and be used into the long term. A visual structural survey has been undertaken.

The financial savings generated from mothballing Struan Primary School amount to approximately £93,496 annually. This is predominately made up of staff and building costs.

Rural Factors – Travel Arrangements

The travel distance from Struan Primary School, which is located in Calvine, to Blair Atholl Primary School is 5.0 miles⁸. The time taken to travel this route is 11 minutes. Pupils in the Struan catchment area travel distances of between 5.0 miles and 16.3 miles to Blair Atholl and travel 12.5 miles to Pitlochry Primary School (Location Centre⁹). Travel arrangements for current and previous pupils have been in place for almost 5 years.

There were only a few comments on travel arrangements at the community meeting, which suggests that travelling to access services and facilities is generally accepted:

“We live in a rural area, so we travel, that’s what we do”

“Children from Trinafour now have to travel 10 miles to nearest schools (Blair Atholl or Kinloch Rannoch) “

“Children have had to travel in severe weather conditions”

Parents who attended the community meetings were clear that they would continue to travel to Blair Atholl, even if Struan Primary School was re-opened.

Also in terms of adverse weather, Struan Primary School would not be any easier to reach in bad weather than Blair Atholl for the pupils from the Struan Primary School catchment area. Blair Atholl Primary School was closed for one half day in the winter of 2015/16.

Rural Factors – Community Impact

The school was used for local events prior to being mothballed. These now take place in Blair Atholl and occasionally the Struan Inn, however visitors to the community engagement sessions were disappointed that some events have to take place outwith the settlement. There are a number of comments related to impact on the wider community of the school being mothballed contained in Appendix 4:

“Reduction in community spirit and local activity involvement since no facilities”

There were also suggestions that the building could be used for other purposes, these are contained in Appendix 4.

⁸ School distances are calculated using Google Maps and the distance measured is school to school.

⁹ Travel to school distances are calculated using Location Centre and the measure relates to the pick-up point to the school. Location Centre is Perth and Kinross Council's enterprise GIS solution. It contains background mapping for the Ordnance Survey and the Council's spatial data sets which can be overlaid on the background mapping.

As previously stated, the building and land would be offered to the Atholl Estate before it could be considered for community asset transfer or sale.

There was also a view from some residents that if the school was closed, there would be a negative impact on the wider community and in particular the opportunity to attract young families:

“Aging Community. Families with young children do not want to relocate”

“Serious impact on the community – the heart removed”

“It is the golden opportunity of returning the heart back to the community”

“...No school discourages families of employment age moving in”

The Council and its Community Planning Partners recognise that there are challenges for rural communities. In Section 3 of this report, some key information related to this options appraisal is detailed.

In paragraph 3.6, information is provided about the LCPP and other partnerships and networks who are working together to develop stronger rural communities. The Council has a Community Learning and Development (CLD) Team working in the area, whose role is to help people build the skills, confidence, networks and resources they need to make positive changes in their communities.

Summary

Pupil numbers for Struan Primary School catchment area are low and are not projected to rise between 2016 and 2020. This ties in with the decrease in the pre-school and 5-14 population across the LCPP over a number of years (census 2001- census 2011). There is no major house building planned in the area which would greatly impact on the pupil numbers.

It is highly unlikely that any of the pupils from the catchment area would return to the school should it re-open, based on the feedback of the 6 parents who attended the community meetings.

The travel arrangements for pupils have been in place for nearly 5 years. Although adverse weather is a factor in Highland Perthshire, one of the routes from Struan Primary School to Blair Atholl Primary School is via the A9, which is a priority for clearing. The time to travel from Struan Primary School to Blair Atholl Primary School is 11 minutes (Google Maps), which is not unreasonable.

There is a view from some of the members of the community who attended the meetings that the future of the community is dependent on the school.

This is not evidenced by the parents attending the meeting, some of whom had moved to the area since the school was mothballed.

There are however challenges for the whole of the LCPP associated with the falling birth rate, a lack of house building or planned house building and limited employment opportunities. It is for this reason that the LCPP, the CLD team and other networks are working together to create opportunities within the area.

Based on the information above this option is not considered a reasonable option.



8.2 Option: Continued Mothballing

The school has been mothballed for nearly 5 years. The Statutory Guidance for the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, in relation to mothballing, states “the maximum length of its duration is likely to depend on the location of the school and the desirability of maintaining capacity to re-open a school there, but it is unlikely that it should exceed 3 years in areas that are not very remote.”

Pupil numbers are not projected to increase over the next 4 years, as per section 8.1 above.

The current cost of maintaining the mothballed building is £846 per annum, however it is possible that this would rise in the future in relation to maintenance costs.

At the community meetings, people were asked what the impact of mothballing the school had been:

“Nothing”

“People may wish to go to Struan Primary School from Blair Atholl, now they don’t have an option”

“The school if open, could be used for other activities”

“No one has been allowed to access Struan Primary during the period of nearly 5 years”

There was also a majority view that if the school was not to re-open it should be used for something else:

“Make final decision so that building can “move on”. No point mothballing for any longer“

“Concern that the building is deteriorating and don’t want it to turn into another Calvine eye- sore (like the derelict garage)“

There were a number of suggestions from the community as to the future of the building in the village, which are contained in Appendix 4.

Summary

The school has been mothballed for 5 years which is in excess of the Statutory Guidance timescale of 3 years. Pupil numbers are not projected to increase in the next 4-5 years on the basis of pre-school children living in the area. The community is not supportive of the continued mothballing of the school, they either want it re-opened or the opportunity to have it used for something else.

In summary, continued mothballing, is not viewed as a reasonable option due to the potential for the school operation being suspended for up to 10 years in total, awaiting an increase in pupil numbers. Any increase would be contrary to the downward trend in population for young people in the LCPP. This option also denies the community the opportunity for the school building to be developed into a facility which could benefit the community.

8.3 Re-open Struan Primary School and redelineate the catchment area

A mapping analysis of pupil addresses has been carried out to identify whether the catchment area for Struan could be made more sustainable by extending it into one or more of the neighbouring catchment areas of Kinloch Rannoch, Blair Atholl and Pitlochry primary schools.

A large part of each of these catchment areas is sparsely populated because of the terrain and options in relation to travel are also limited. Winter travel must also be considered. A summary of the findings is as follows:

Pitlochry Primary School: the majority of primary pupils in Pitlochry live in the town or close to the town. Those who live near the Struan Primary School catchment would have to travel to the A9 and past Blair Atholl to attend Struan Primary School. This would have a minimal effect on the occupancy level of Pitlochry Primary School. There are not enough pupils to significantly increase the roll of Struan Primary School.

Blair Atholl Primary School: many of the pupils attending Blair Atholl Primary School live in the village or close to the village. Moving the catchment area significantly would result in pupils from the village of Blair Atholl being transported to the village of Calvine to attend school.

Kinloch Rannoch Primary School: there are a very small number of pupils who could be accommodated at Struan Primary School without significantly increasing their travel distance. Therefore there would not be sufficient numbers of pupils to make Struan Primary School more sustainable.

Community Feedback on this option was:

“Travel distance may be a problem. Would need taxi/buses. Additional expense”

“Is it time for (Rannoch side) to be in the catchment area”

“Re-open Struan Primary School – with flexible catchment area.

Numbers of primary school pupils likely to live in this area”

Summary

Following a mapping exercise it is unlikely the catchment area could be made more sustainable with the options examined. This is primarily because there are only small numbers of pupils living outwith the main settlements of Blair Atholl and Pitlochry. In addition the pupils who do live outside the main settlements live closer to other schools i.e. Kinloch Rannoch, Blair Atholl and Pitlochry. This is therefore not a reasonable option.

8.4 Close Struan Primary School and zone any pupils to Blair Atholl Primary School and redelinate the catchment area.

Blair Atholl Primary (Census Sept 2015)	2015/ 2016	2016/ 2017	2017/ 2018	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020
Approved Capacity	50	50	50	50	50
Blair Atholl Roll Projection Total (with house building)	19	18	16	18	17
Struan Primary Roll Projection Total (with house building) *	5	5	7	7	8
Total Roll Projection Total (with house building) *	24	23	23	25	25

Blair Atholl Primary School currently accommodates pupils from the Struan Primary School catchment area as a result of the mothballing in 2011. The pupil numbers in the Struan Primary School catchment are not projected to increase and Blair Atholl Primary School has capacity to accommodate these pupils.

It should be noted that the pupil numbers at Blair Atholl have reduced slightly since 2011 and are likely to remain the same for at least the next 5 years. In 2000, there were 60 pupils at the school in Blair Atholl.

The current occupancy rate for Blair Atholl Primary school including current pupils from Struan Primary School catchment is 48%.

The travel distance from Struan primary school to Blair Atholl primary school is 5.0 miles, although pupils in the Struan catchment area travel distances of between 5.0 miles and 16.3 miles to Blair Atholl. The additional travel time for the route between Struan Primary School and Blair Atholl Primary School is 11 minutes (Google Maps).

There were differing viewpoints from the community on closing Struan Primary School:

“There are only 2 primary schools in a 25 mile area, Struan would give us another option “

“No premises for social events. More than a school - was used by community for social events”

“Closure is probably the most practical option. Children in the area are so few so even more composite classes at Blair Atholl and Struan is 2 schools open”

Summary

Blair Atholl Primary School currently accommodates pupils from Struan Primary and the pupil numbers are not projected to increase. Pupil numbers at Blair Atholl have reduced since 2011 and are projected to remain static for the next 4 years. Blair Atholl Primary has capacity to continue to accommodate the projected pupil numbers. This option is considered to be reasonable and further detail is provided in relation to educational benefits, travel, environmental impact, community impact and financial impact in Section 9.



8.5 Option: Close Blair Atholl Primary School and transfer the pupils to Struan Primary School and redelineate the catchment area

This option was not considered in 2011. It is likely that it was not considered because the number of pupils in the Blair Atholl Primary catchment (26) exceeded the number of pupils in the Struan Primary School catchment (3) and it was not considered reasonable that the majority of pupils had to travel.

There are currently 5 pupils attend Blair Atholl Primary from Struan. There are 19 pupils in the Blair Atholl Primary School catchment including placing requests. It is not considered reasonable that 19 pupils attending Blair Atholl Primary School would have to travel to Calvine rather than 5 pupils travel to Blair Atholl from the Struan Primary School catchment.

The community view of this option is:

“Close Blair Atholl not a favoured option. Would be a problem in the winter time”

“People would go to Pitlochry as there is a secondary school there”

Summary

With this option 19 pupils would have to travel to Calvine, this includes 18 pupils who are currently within walking distance of Blair Atholl School. Only 5 pupils currently travel to Blair Atholl from Struan Primary catchment area.

This is therefore not considered a reasonable option.

8.6 Option: Close Struan Primary School and transfer the pupils to Kinloch Rannoch Primary School and redelineate the catchment area.

In the options appraisal carried out in 2011 the option of Kinloch Rannoch Primary School as a possible alternative for pupils from Struan was discounted. The following reasons were given:

- The travel distance between primary schools at Struan and Kinloch Rannoch is 12.7 miles (26 minutes travel time) [google maps].
- Struan Primary School's feeder secondary school is Pitlochry High School and Kinloch Rannoch Primary School's feeder secondary school is Breadalbane Academy.

This option was not put forward for discussion at the community meetings, and was not raised.

Summary

This situation is unchanged and therefore Kinloch Rannoch is still considered an unreasonable option.

8.7 Option: Close Struan Primary School and transfer the pupils to Pitlochry Primary School and redelineate the catchment area.

In the options appraisal carried out in 2011 the option of Pitlochry Primary School as a possible alternative for pupils from Struan was discounted. The following reasons were given:

- The travel distance between primary schools at Struan and Pitlochry is 12.5 miles, 20 minutes travel time (12.6 miles return journey due to the exits on the A9) [google maps].
- There were capacity issues at Pitlochry, with some stages at the school already full. The potential capacity was anticipated to rise to 89% and in the longer term, accommodation for pupils from Struan could not be guaranteed.

Pitlochry Primary School (Census Sept 15)	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Approved Capacity	300	300	300	300	300
Roll Projection Total (without house building)	193	198	200	197	200
Roll Projection Total (with house building)	193	202	210	213	220

This option was not put forward for discussion at the community meetings, and was not raised.

Summary

Due to the reasons stated above, which are still valid, and taking into account the fact that the majority of pupils from the Struan Primary School catchment have been attending Blair Atholl Primary School for 5 years, this is not considered a reasonable option.

8.8 Overview of options

The outcome of the options appraisal is summarised below.

Option	Option Description	Outcome
a)	Re-open Struan Primary School with its existing catchment area.	Rejected. Not a reasonable option.
b)	Continued mothballing of Struan Primary School with the pupils zoned to Blair Atholl Primary School.	Rejected. Not a reasonable viable option.
c)	Re-open Struan Primary School and delineate the catchment area.	Rejected. Not a reasonable option.
d)	Close Struan Primary School and zone any pupils to Blair Atholl Primary School and redelineate the catchment area.	Accepted as a reasonable option.
e)	Close Blair Atholl Primary School and transfer the pupils to Struan Primary School and redelineate the catchment area.	Rejected. Not a reasonable option.
f)	Close Struan Primary School and transfer the pupils to Kinloch Rannoch Primary School and redelineate the catchment area.	Rejected. Not a reasonable option.

g)	Close Struan Primary School and transfer the pupils to Pitlochry Primary School and redelineate the catchment area.	Rejected. Not a reasonable option.
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The outcome of the option appraisal recommends Option d) (Close Struan Primary School and zone any pupils to Blair Atholl Primary School and redelineate the catchment area) as the reasonable option.

9. Detailed Analysis of Reasonable Option: Close Struan Primary School and zone any pupils to Blair Atholl Primary School and redelineate the catchment area.

9.1 Pupil Projections

Pupil numbers and projections at Blair Atholl Primary School, which include Struan Primary School, are detailed in option 8.4. These figures show that pupil numbers will remain static at between 24 and 25 pupils over the next 4 years. If Struan Primary School was to re-open, and the pupils both current and future attended Struan Primary School, Blair Atholl pupil numbers would fall to less than 18, which is a single teacher, single class school.

In section 4.3, an overview of the population as at the 2011 census shows that the population of the area is relatively small, but that there has been an increase, although mostly in the over 45 population.

At the community meetings, there were views that pupil numbers may increase in the future:

“Two families may soon be fostering”

“The development of the A9 – more workforce in the area, longterm”

“Struan/Calvine is a growing community with seven new houses built in the last 10 years”

“Although the area has an elderly demographic, this could change quite quickly and require extra school places”

“There would be scope for having migrants or refugees in addition to our own children”

The birth rate in Highland and Strathclyde LCP in 2011 was 6.2 births per 1,000 of the population which is lower than the Perth and Kinross average of 9.9 births per 1,000 and the Scottish average of 11.1% births per 1,000.

Between 2001 and 2011, the number of pre-school children aged 0-4 in the LCPP area decreased by 7%. This was in comparison to a 2% increase in Perth and Kinross as a whole and 6% increase for Scotland. Five to 14 year olds decreased by 14% in the area, however there was also a fall of 4% in Perth and Kinross and 11% across Scotland. (Source Census 2001 and Census 2011).

9.2 Educational Benefits

This statement is focused on Blair Atholl Primary School as children from Struan Primary School catchment area have been attending the school since 2011.

Learning and Teaching

Curriculum for Excellence is designed to achieve a transformation in education in Scotland by providing a coherent, more flexible and enriched curriculum from 3 to 18. Every school curriculum includes the totality of experiences which are planned for children and young people through their education, wherever they are being educated. The curriculum aims to ensure that all children and young people develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they will need if they are to flourish in life, learning and work, now and in the future, and to appreciate their place in the world.

Blair Atholl Primary School offers a learning environment that encourages high levels of achievement and provides a wide range of opportunities for children to achieve their full potential as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

There is a continual challenge for all schools to deliver a quality improvement agenda and deliver effectively the principles and outcomes of Curriculum for Excellence to enhance the educational experience for the children.

The principles of Curriculum for Excellence recognise the professionalism of teachers and the importance of this in exercising the freedom and responsibility associated with broader guidance. This means that schools are able to design their curriculum to meet the specific needs of their children and community

Blair Atholl and Logierait Primary Schools are part of a Shared Headship arrangement and are led and managed by the same Headteacher.

At Blair Atholl Primary School, staff are challenged and supported through a range of continuous professional development and review opportunities gained by working and learning with a range of colleagues. These are offered through a planned programme of development activities and opportunities for quality professional dialogue on an ongoing basis with staff from Logierait Primary School.

A collegiate approach to professional engagement amongst all staff, including visiting specialist teachers, is evident within the school. They come together regularly to review and improve practice as a school, with partner services and other schools in the Local Management Group. This enhances the quality of learning and teaching through shared opportunities to develop effective approaches to learning and teaching and to share and moderate standards.

In recent years children in Blair Atholl Primary School have been taught in two classes. Currently the two classes consist of pupils from P1 to P3 and P4 to P7. Work is differentiated to adapt to pupils' needs and pupils benefit from being able to work on co-operative learning tasks with others. When pupils move from the infant classroom to the senior classroom staff set up a number of opportunities prior to the summer holidays to assist the transition. The inclusion of pupils from the Struan Primary School catchment area has supported staffing for two composite classes.

Children benefit from being part of a social context, in a shared Headship setting, in which they can build relationships with different groups and individuals, develop social skills, meet challenges and exercise responsibilities as members of a social group. They are able to interact and socialise with groups of children of their own age and gender, take part in team activities and move with their peers to secondary school.

The co-location of the nursery and primary classes within the same campus enhances the transition process for the children moving from nursery into primary one through joint educational programmes and liaison between the two settings. There is a well-established "soft start" programme which links nursery and infant classes in the primary department. The nursery was one of the facilities mentioned by parents at the community meetings as making Blair Atholl attractive **"not just the school but also nursery, after school care i.e. childminder, kids clubs, school clubs, etc – need wraparound childcare"**

Outcomes

In the primary classes, appropriate standards in English language and mathematics have been maintained over the last three years. Most children achieve appropriate levels in reading, writing and mathematics with some achieving these earlier than might be expected.

There are processes and procedures for monitoring the quality of provision for all children to ensure that the needs of all learners are being met. In consultation with the inclusion team and the Headteacher, the Principal Teacher for Blair Atholl and Logierait has the strategic responsibility for pupils with identified additional support needs.

Achievement is celebrated in a range of ways, from “Golden Tickets” presented at weekly assemblies, to the “Star Pupil” trophy which is given for a specific achievement in a particular area of the curriculum. There is a weekly “Secret Student” challenge, where pupils from all class groups are encouraged to demonstrate aspects of general citizenship within the school community. Pupils also use open events to showcase their ongoing work with parents and friends of the school.

As part of the Education and Children’s Services School Improvement Framework, the school team work together to produce an annual school improvement plan based on the findings of ongoing self-evaluation processes, which identify key priorities for development and improvement.

Experiences - Broadening the range of Opportunities

Children are offered a broad range of active, well-planned experiences which help them develop the knowledge and understanding, skills, capabilities and attributes which they need for their mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing both now and in the future. Children’s learning needs are identified and supported.

The nursery class enrolls children from the age of three years. The nursery is a vibrant stimulating learning environment, with a range of structured play activities, which includes outside play. A Pupil Profile is kept for every child, detailing their progress, skills, and interests. Staff know the children very well and are sensitive to their individual needs.

Children are developing a sense of responsibility and citizenship through participating in activities such as junior road safety officers, eco and health committees. The school follows the “Bounce Back” resilience programme as part of its Health and Wellbeing programme.

Senior pupils were given the opportunity to become young leaders by being made prefects this year.

Children have access to a range of extra-curricular activities at both school and Authority level. In the past year, the school has provided a range of clubs and activities including for example curling, cycling, netball, astronomy, cookery, art and music.

All parents and children have the opportunity to participate in, and benefit from the work of the Parent Council at Blair Atholl Primary School.

Environment for Learning

At Blair Atholl Primary School the children benefit from a range of facilities and resources. As well as up to date class and ICT resources there is a separate dining area. There is an extensive outdoor area which includes a large grassy section, an orchard and a children's wood which all facilitates eco learning and promote health and wellbeing through play and team games.

The whole outdoor area is enclosed for children to learn and play together during curricular and play times. There is a separate area for nursery children which is also enclosed and has a garden area. The school makes very good use of the school grounds and the local area for outdoor learning in curriculum areas such as science, mathematics and art.

Children benefit from access to a range of community facilities which are in close proximity to Blair Atholl Primary School, including the local museum, the shop and local businesses and Blair Castle and grounds.

9.3 Rural Aspects - Impact from Travel Arrangements

The travel distance from school to school is 5.0 miles, although pupils in the Struan catchment area travel distances of between 5.0 miles and 16.3 miles to Blair Atholl. The time to travel the additional distance between the two schools is 11 minutes (Google Maps). Three pupils travel to Pitlochry, which is 12.5 miles from Struan Primary School (12.6 miles return journey).

These travel arrangements have been in place for almost 5 years.

Some comments from the community meetings on travelling arrangements were as follows:

“We live in a rural area, so we travel, that’s what we do”

“Children from Trinafour now have to travel 10 miles go nearest schools (Blair Atholl or Kinloch Rannoch) “

“Options very limited with transport, lack of!”

“Children have had to travel in severe weather”.

Travelling for primary school education is common across Perth and Kinross because of the geography of the area. Prior to the closure of Struan Primary School, a number of pupils were already travelling to Pitlochry, which is 12.5 miles from Struan Primary School (12.6 miles return journey).

It is recognised that adverse weather in the winter currently impacts on travel arrangements in this area. It is not unusual for rural schools in Highland Perthshire to be affected by severe weather. Headteachers take into account the local circumstances when deciding to close the school and/or send pupils home early. All schools in Perth and Kinross have an emergency closure plan for severe weather in place which is drawn up by the Headteacher following a risk assessment.

It should be noted that one of the routes from Struan Primary School to Blair Atholl Primary School is via the A9, which is a priority for clearing.

9.4 Rural Aspects - Community Impact

As detailed in paragraph 4.1, there are few facilities in Calvine and Struan other than the Struan Inn.

There are those within the community, who wish to see the school re-open as a school so that it could also be used for local events but also those who see an operational school as integral to the survival of the community

“With the new A9 junctions, Calvine will be more cut off. School building adding to the deterioration of the village“

“CRITICAL- Shortage of people in community to fill employment vacancies for expanding businesses e.g. House of Bruar. No school discourages young families of employment age moving in”

“Lack of community identity and visitors pick up on this when they visit area. School – closed. Garage – closed. Shop- closed. Calvine perceived as “dying” ”

There were some suggestions as to a use of the building which would benefit the community if it did not re-open as a school:

“Open as a shop and offer additional space for something not available at the House of Bruar e.g. Antique/Arts Centre. Perhaps smaller version of Birnam Institute”

“Can we use the school as a community hall – fundraising/ youth club?”

There were also views that the area could not sustain a community building:

“Although a community use hall sounds an option there are other halls locally where e.g. money being spent in Blair Atholl to upgrade hall, so would it get the use to make it viable?”

“Waste of a building, not sure what would be put there. Could not justify having a hall dedicated to community events “

There is a view from some of the members of the community who attended the meetings that the future of the community is dependent on the school. This is not evidenced by the parents attending the meeting, some of whom had moved to the area since the school was mothballed.

It is true however that there are challenges for the whole of the Highland and Strathclyde LCPP associated with the falling birth rate, a lack of house building or planned house building and limited employment opportunities. It is for this reason that the LCPP, the Community Learning and Development team and other networks are working together to create opportunities within the area.

9.5 Financial Impact

The financial savings generated from mothballing Struan Primary School amount to approximately £93,496 annually. The saving is predominantly made up of staff and building costs. The 2014/15 annual running cost for electricity and property maintenance was £846. See Appendix 5 for detailed financial information.

The approximate cost to bring the property into an acceptable condition for re-opening is £155,392 for fabric and mechanical and electrical works. It should be noted there may be potentially further costs for structural works if the building were to re-open permanently and be used into the long term. These financial savings support the delivery of education across the whole of Perth and Kinross.

9.6 Environmental Impact

Currently 8 pupils travel to Blair Atholl Primary School or Pitlochry Primary School from the Struan Primary School catchment area, for which there is an environmental impact. However, this has been offset by the requirement to only run Struan Primary School as a mothballed building rather than as an operational building.

10. Conclusion

Seven alternative options have been reviewed in considering the future of Struan Primary School.

Information was collated on pupil numbers, housebuilding, finances, the school, travel arrangements, environmental impact and the local area and community to inform the options.

As part of the review, a pre-consultation exercise was carried out with the local community.

Each of the options was then considered at a high level. The only option which was considered to be reasonable was then considered in more detail, including considering the rural factors of travel arrangements and community impact and also the educational benefits.

The option which was considered reasonable was **to close Struan Primary School and zone any pupils to Blair Atholl Primary School and redelineate the catchment area of Struan Primary School to Blair Atholl Primary School.**

Future pupil projections have been considered using aggregated data. The total number of pupils for Blair Atholl Primary School (including Struan Primary School pupil numbers) are remaining constant at around 23-25 pupils, with little house building planned. This represents an occupancy level of 48% for Blair Atholl Primary School. Combining pupils from both catchment areas into one school maximises use of the school estate and represents good asset management.

In terms of educational benefits, Blair Atholl Primary School offers a learning environment that encourages high levels of achievement and provides a wide range of opportunities for children to achieve their full potential as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors. Parents who attended the pre-consultation events indicated that they were happy with the school and would not remove their children from Blair Atholl Primary School, if Struan Primary were to re-open.

Travel distance to the neighbouring school is not excessive, with 11 minutes travel time between the two schools. Pupils attending Blair Atholl Primary School already make this journey with some pupils choosing to go further and attend Pitlochry Primary School.

Struan Primary School was used for local community events however alternative arrangements have been made in Blair Atholl and occasionally at the Struan Inn. The school has now been mothballed for 5 years and it is important that there is some finality for the community through closure, allowing them to work with the Highland and Strathclyde LCPD and the Community Learning and Development team to develop opportunities which will sustain their community.

The financial savings generated from mothballing Struan Primary School amount to approximately £93,496 annually. These savings support the delivery of education across the whole of Perth and Kinross.

In summary, it is proposed that a statutory consultation exercise takes place on a proposal to close Struan Primary School and zone any pupils to Blair Atholl Primary School and redelineate the catchment area of Struan Primary School to Blair Atholl Primary School. Struan Primary School has been mothballed since 2011 and arrangements have been in place for pupils to attend Blair Atholl Primary School since this time.

Pupil Numbers and Projections

Pupil Projection Methodology

The methodology used for pupil projections in this report allows us to project a detailed year by year analysis for each catchment. Information is based on pupil census data from September 2015.

The methodology applied uses aggregated GP registration data to ascertain future P1 intakes. The data available from the NHS reflects children registered with a GP, anonymously located within specific catchment areas, providing 4 years of information for primary school children.

The potential number of pupils from house building is then added to this data on a year by year basis. The house building data reflects the most likely build rates based on the Housing Land Audit (HLA). The HLA is produced by The Environment Service (TES) in consultation with housing developers, the Scottish Government and Scottish Water. The most recent HLA was based on a survey carried out in March 2015.

A figure of 65% of total house building has been used as it is anticipated that, based on the HLA, this will reflect the most likely build rate. In addition to the HLA, windfall (future applications for small scale housing not included in the HLA) is included.

The average pupil product ratio for each new house, used to project pupil numbers, is 0.27 although it is recognised that this can vary dependant on house type.

All information other than the number of children currently in each school is projected and will be subject to change.

School Capacity Calculation

All Perth and Kinross Primary schools have capacities which are adjusted from time to time to reflect any building works or alterations which have taken place within the school. The Scottish Government has consulted on guidelines to develop a consistent approach to school capacity modelling across all Scottish Local Authorities. This is an outcome of a recommendation by the Commission on the Delivery of Rural Education published in 2013.

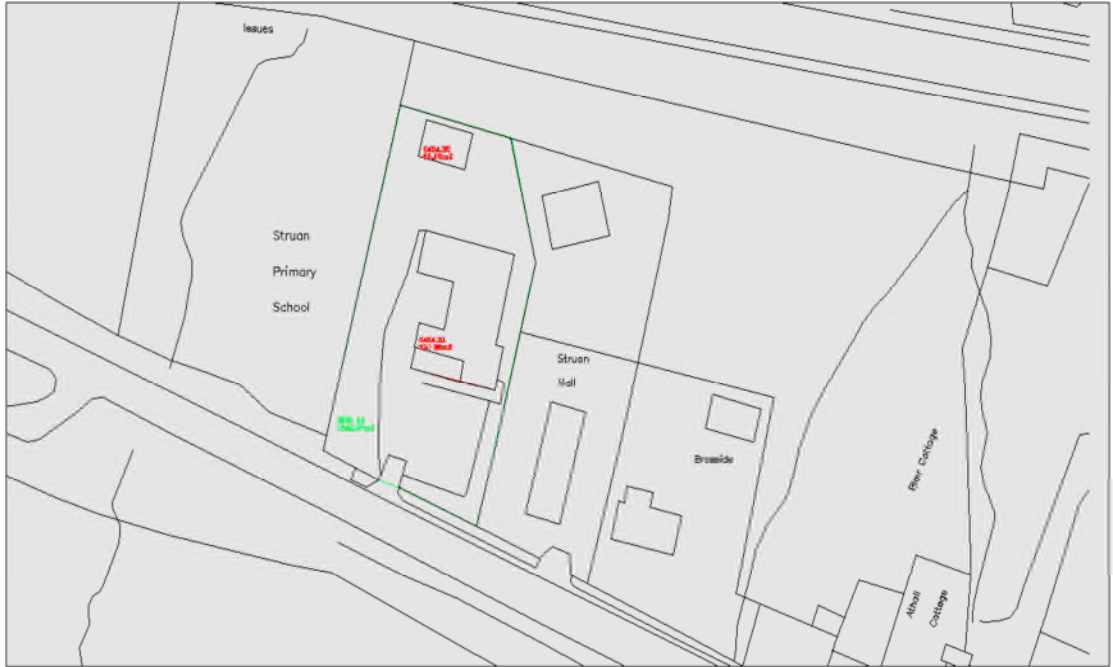
The Scottish Government guidelines propose a standard 1.7m² per child per classroom. Current Perth and Kinross Council Policy states 2m² per child per classroom and this report reflects 2m² per pupil.

Planning Capacity is a physical, theoretical measure of the total number of pupils which could be accommodated in a school, based on the total number of teaching spaces, the size of those spaces and the maximum legal class size:

Stage/class type	Maximum class size
Single stage P1	25
Single stage P2-P3	30
Single stage P4-P7	33
Composite classes	25

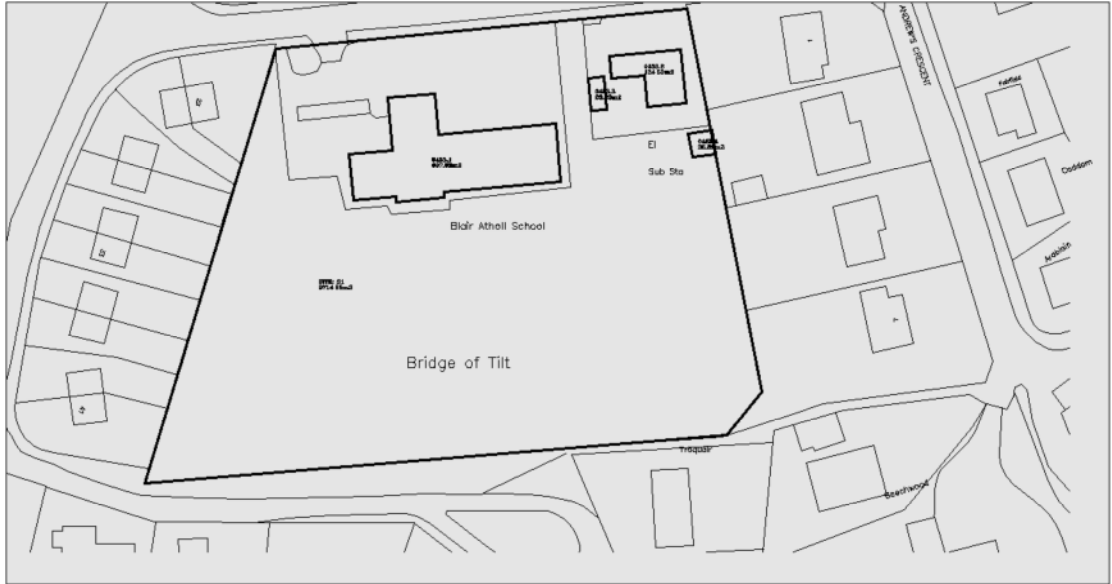
It is important to note that Planning Capacity is rarely achieved due to the size of a school, and how many classes it can offer including differences in class sizes for different age groups. Some pupil distributions are more efficient, allowing some schools to operate more closely to Planning Capacity than others. Pupil distribution can change significantly in some schools on an annual basis based on P1 intake and this subsequently can impact on class configurations.

Struan Primary School Site Plan



APPENDIX 3

Blair Atholl Primary School Site plan



Community Engagement Sessions – Feedback

Struan Primary School

Engagement Sessions Summary – 8 March 2016 and 17 March 2016

What has been the impact on the community of the school being mothballed?

- Lack of choice if not happy with Blair Atholl.
- Reduction in community spirit and local activity involvement since no facilities.
- There are only 2 primary schools in a 25 mile area. Struan would give us another option.
- The community needs a focal point like a Primary School to attract new people.
- People may wish to go to Struan Primary School from Blair Atholl but now they don't have the option.
- Struan was a very good small school who spotted and helped my youngest child with Dyslexia and now in fourth year at Uni.
- The school if open could be used by community for other activities.
- Serious impact on the community – the heart removed.
- Community have always been involved with the school.
- Children have had to travel in severe weather conditions.
- Have not been allowed to function because of the mothballing.
- Aging community. Families with young children do not want to re-locate.
- Nowhere for Struan Xmas party.
- Roads not cleared as early in winter since school closed.
- Children from Trinafour now have to travel 10 miles to nearest schools (Blair Atholl or Kinloch Rannoch).
- Nothing.
- No premises for social events. More than a school – was used by community for social events.
- Lack of community identity and visitors pick up on this when they visit area. School- closed. Garage – closed. Shop- closed. Calvine perceived as “dying”.
- Concern that the building is deteriorating and don't want it to turn into another Calvine eye – sore (like the derelict garage).
- No alternative but to send children to other schools – Blair Atholl, Pitlochry, Aberfeldy.

Any other thoughts on the options in relation to the community?

- Options very few with transport lack of!
- We live in a rural area, we travel, that's what we do.
- Additional options: re – open primary school and have a rural hot desk facility/ community learning for all – to address rural health & wellbeing.
- Make final decision so that building can “move on”. No point mothballing for any longer.
- Would prefer to see it continued mothballed rather than as flats. Could be used for meetings.
- With the new A9 junction's, Calvine will be more cut off. School building adding to the deterioration of the village.
- Open as a shop and offer additional space for something not available at the House of Bruar e.g. Antique/ Arts Centre. Perhaps smaller version of Birnam Institute.
- Although a community use hall sounds an option there are other halls locally where e.g. money being spent in Blair Atholl to upgrade hall, so would it get the use to make it viable?
- Hostel as part of National Park? Used to be a hostel in Calvine.
- Bunk house accommodation.
- Nursery or Creche for House of Bruar (full time).
- Can we use the school as a community hall- fundraising/youth club?
- Adult learning instead of Pitlochry.
- CRITICAL – Shortage of people in community to fill employment vacancies for expanding businesses e.g. House of Bruar. No school discourages young families of employment age moving in.
- Hostel- Could PKC rent to National Park or local club hitch hikers?
- A lot of hill walkers. May be an opportunity to develop. Lease rather than sell.
- Older education and learning for people not at school age i.e. IT or with a hub for people to learn/use.

Are you aware of anything which might impact on the future of the school (in addition to the information which is presented)?

- Clear direction on planning for houses since (within) Cairngorm National Park. Struan and old Struan, even Trinafour are forgotten. Houses for employees at House of Bruar could generate residents.
- Impacts; further employment at the House of Bruar.
- The development of A9 - more workforce in the area, long term.
- Jacobs input to Education.
- Two families may soon be fostering.

- Not aware of any impact.
- No not aware of anything.
- Atholl estates may be building houses.
- Struan/Calvine is a growing community with seven new houses built in last 10 years.
- Although the area has an elderly demographic this could change quite quickly and require extra school places.
- My wife and I plan to foster children at school age and would see Struan PS as a great resource.
- Is Atholl estates policy to house people with children in the area to keep school open.

What is your preferred option and why?

- Our children are settled at Blair Atholl Primary School.
- Keep children at Blair Atholl, we are used to it.
- Would not move child back to Struan to be in a class on their own.
- Closure is probably the most practical option. Children in area very few so even more composite classes at Blair Atholl and Struan is 2 schools open.
- Re open Struan Primary School- with flexible catchment area. Numbers of primary age pupils likely to rise in this area.
- Opening in the preferred option as a school but if not possible then as something else.
- Not in favour of selling. In favour of opening again as a school.
- Makes no sense to remain open/mothballed with so few projected numbers coming through. Would rather some use is made of it rather than letting it deteriorate.
- Would like to re-open but understand practicalities.
- Waste of a building, not sure what would be put there. Could not justify having a hall dedicated to community events.

Option 1 (re-open)

- Option 1 (re-open) – More attention to teaching in smaller school.
- Option 1 (re-open)
- Option 1 (re-open) Favour re-open Struan PS. Nice school and nice area.

Option 2 (Extend Catchment)

- Option 2 – Travel Distance may be a problem. Would need taxi/buses. Additional expense.

Option 4 (Close Struan)

- Option 4 close Blair Atholl is not a favoured option. Would be a problem in the winter time.

- Option 4- Close the school and use for other functions i.e. meetings.

Option 5 (Close Blair Atholl)

- Option 5- not a favoured option.

Questions and other comments?

- Can NHS and Social Services work in partnership for a local community provision.
- Encourage House of Bruar to employ more family orientated staff.
- What is the planning strategy for this area of Errochty Glen.
- House of Bruar are a major employer. Would they like to employ more locals if there was housing available.
- Blair Atholl has a nursery.
- Not just the school it's also nursery, after school care, i.e. childminder, kids clubs, school clubs, etc. Need wraparound childcare!
- Blair Atholl parents send kids to Pitlochry – how many?
- People would go to Pitlochry as there is a secondary school there.
- Is it time for (Rannoch Side) to be in the catchment area.
- Kids travelling from Trinafour.
- Struan Inn – 4 years open.
- Not all events can be held in the Struan Inn (size) also timing.
- Can the council put conditions on the building after it is sold on?
- The dental service is located in Pitlochry not Blair Atholl.

Comments via an email:

- Young children have had to endure travelling in adverse weather conditions during the winter & an extra long journey which is not supportive to travel sickness – It may have been 12-17 miles.
- No one has been allowed to access Struan Primary during the period of nearly five years. There would have been numerous local opportunities for its use for meetings & functions but they have been declined because of the protocol with mothballing.
- It is my understanding there are 7-10 young children who would now be eligible for enrolment at Struan Primary and many pre-school children who would benefit from the school re-opening. So, please can the school be re-opened.

- If re-opened, there would be so many opportunities to include within the school, 'Community Learning', day or evening of varying types. There would [be] so many benefits to allow access for all to a computer to learn/develop skills. There are no such opportunities in Blair Atholl or Pitlochry. There are numerous 'hidden talents/skills within the community which could be tapped in to.
- A rural area should not have to suffer from lack of support in Education, be it for school aged pupils, young people, adults and mature folk.
- The school would be an ideal venue for an area within to have 'hot desks' bearing in mind we are 40 miles from Perth and 65 miles from Dundee. The Local Authority, working in partnership with NHS/Social Services could tap in to this resource.
- Struan School could have Community activity lead projects that would support members of this rural community with their 'Health and Wellbeing'.
- Struan Primary could be a venue for "Rural Meetings in a Rural Retreat". It is a safe, secure & suitable building.
- The school could link with "Outdoor Education" programmes which are & could be further developed for this area.
- Bus journeys are quite scant to other places such as Blair Atholl & Pitlochry, hence the need for local development.
- Perth & Kinross have always said that whilst there was a child of Primary school age in this area the Primary School would never close.
- There would be scope for having migrants or refugees in addition to our own children who would give them a huge caring welcome.
- So many of us can boast how well their children have achieved in this rural school.
- Now is the time to listen please.
- It is the golden opportunity of returning the heart back into the community.
- The new houses from Struan to Dalnaspidal support the increase in families in the area & those due to arrive, now it's the turn of the Local Authority to unlock the door of Struan Primary School.
- School was mothballed 5 years ago, at what appeared to be three week's notice. This is not the statutory process as outlined by the Scottish Executive. There was no consultation with parents, pre-school parents or the community which was requested at that point, but I am informed was ignored. No-one could voice their opinion five years ago.

Current revenue costs for school proposed for closure		
Name of School	Costs for full financial year (2016-17)	Additional financial impact on receiving school [Blair Atholl]
School costs		Annual recurring savings (column 2 minus column 3)
<i>Employee costs</i>		
teaching staff	£ 67,821.00	£ -
support staff	£ 18,384.00	£ -
teaching staff training (CPD etc)	£ 238.00	£ -
support staff training	£ -	£ -
Supply costs	£ 1,204.00	£ -
<i>Building costs:</i>		
property insurance	£ -	£ -
non domestic rates	£ -	£ -
water & sewerage charges	£ 777.00	£ -
energy costs	£ 4,740.00	£ -
cleaning (contract or inhouse)	£ 8,722.00	£ -
building repair & maintenance	£ 1,198.00	£ -
grounds maintenance	£ 750.00	£ -

Table 2		School proposed for closure	Receiving school
Capital costs		£	£
Capital Life Cycle cost		£	-
Third party contributions to capital costs		£	-

Table 3		Annual Property costs incurred (moth-balling) until disposal
property insurance		£
non domestic rates		£
water & sewerage charges		£
energy costs		£
cleaning (contract or inhouse)		£ 364.00

APPENDIX 5

facilities management costs - note 6	£	-	£	-	£	-
revenue costs arising from capital	£	-	£	-	£	-
other	£	490.00	£	-	£	490.00
<i>School operational costs:</i>						
learning materials	£	549.00	£	356.80	£	192.20
catering (contract or inhouse)	£	-	£	-	£	-
SQA costs	£	-	£	-	£	-
other school operational costs (e.g. licences)	£	-	£	-	£	-
<i>Transport costs: note 3</i>						
home to school	£	17,824.00	£	24,819.70	£	6,995.70
other pupil transport costs	£	-	£	-	£	-
staff travel	£	640.00	£	-	£	640.00
SCHOOL COSTS SUB-TOTAL	£	123,337.00	£	25,176.50	£	98,160.50
Income:						
Sale of meals	£	-	£	-	£	-
Lets	£	-	£	-	£	-
External care provider	£	-	£	-	£	-
Other	£	-	£	-	£	-

security costs	£	-
building repair & maintenance	£	482.00
grounds maintenance	£	-
facilities management costs	£	-
other	£	-
TOTAL ANNUAL COST UNTIL DISPOSAL	£	846.00

Table 4

	Non-recurring revenue costs
Property Costs (fabric, mechanical and electrical)pp	£ 155,392.00
TOTAL NON-RECURRING REVENUE COSTS	£ 155,392.00

Table 5

	Impact on GAE
based on pupils going to Pitlochry PS	£ 4,665.00
GAE IMPACT	£ 4,665.00

SCHOOL INCOME SUB-TOTAL	£	-	£	-
TOTAL COSTS MINUS INCOME FOR SCHOOL	£	123,337.00	£	25,176.50
UNIT COST PER PUPIL PER YEAR	£	15,417.13	£	3,147.06
			£	12,270.06