



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

PERTH & KINROSS COUNCIL  
EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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RECEIVED

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14 November 2017

*Sheena Devlin*

**Re: Abernyte Primary School**

I am writing to you in connection with the current consultation that is being undertaken by Perth and Kinross Council into the future of Abernyte Primary School. In my capacity as Member of the Scottish Parliament for Perthshire North, I have met with parents and local community representatives about this matter. I would be grateful if these comments would be considered by the Council as part the Transformation of the School Estate programme.

Abernyte Primary School provides a very strong educational experience for young people in the area. It is ideally situated within a vibrant community that supports and encourages the work of the School. It is also located within a natural environment that is easily accessible to pursue key aspects of the Curriculum. For both of the reasons, of community and natural environment, the School provides a wide range of opportunities for experiential learning that can fulfil the aspirations of Curriculum for Excellence.

One of the challenges that the school faces is over the size of its roll. This has been the subject of previous discussion with the Council where there has been an aspiration on the part of the School to expand its catchment area to give more opportunity for pupils from a wider geography to attend. Given the significant expansion of housing development in the Carse of Gowrie, which is likely to increase demand for Primary School education in the area, there would appear to me to be a compelling argument for retaining Abernyte Primary School with an expanded catchment area. This would provide the school accommodation that will be required for a growing population in the area, would future proof the School Estate in the Carse of Gowrie to be able to cope effectively with population growth and would avoid the need to use further capital resources to expand other schools in the Carse.

I would therefore encourage the Council to take forward the option of redefining the catchment area of Abernyte Primary School to create a wider population base for the School and ensure it can make a contribution to the delivery of excellent education for young people in the Carse of Gowrie.

Yr

Jd