

Forteviot Primary School

Community Drop-In Session

19 September 2017

**Overview of comments received at Community
drop-in session and Online Questionnaires**

Online Questionnaire Feedback

- 12 questionnaires submitted online – 2 completed, 10 partially completed
- 38% (3) of responses from neighbours, 25% (2) were from the wider community, 25% (2) of responses were from 'other' and 13% (1) response from a parent.
- 4 people gave no indication of their relationship to the school
- 10 questionnaires were submitted without any comments
- 50% (1) of responses preferred option 2 and 50% (1) preferred option 4
- 10 questionnaires submitted gave no indication to their preferred option
- Questionnaire closed on 6 October 2017

Online Questionnaire Feedback

Option 1 - Continue with mothballing of Forteviot Primary School – pupils remain at Forgandenny Primary School

Comments

- If the numbers remain very low, as projected, I believe it would benefit pupils educationally and socially to attend a school with larger numbers. In addition, I think teaching staff need to have colleagues to share and learn from each other.

Online Questionnaire Feedback

Option 2 - Consider closing school – pupils remain at Forgandenny Primary School

Comments

- I think it is important to take into consideration the projected role for Forgandenny primary as a large number of families appear to be moving into the area. The effect of including numbers from another school shouldn't be detrimental to those within the Forgandenny catchment or cause concern to parents about availability of places.
- All other options will remove the heart & soul from this village.

Online Questionnaire Feedback

Option 3 - Consider closing school – pupils attend alternative primary school to Forgandenny Primary School

Comments

No comments received for Option 3 on the online questionnaires.

Online Questionnaire Feedback

Option 4 - Catchment area is reviewed to determine whether this would increase the school roll sufficiently to ensure the future sustainability of the school

Comments

- 1. Choice, 2 Bigger (Schools) not always better, 3. Retention of community vitality.

Online Questionnaire Feedback

Are there any other options/proposals that have not been considered?

Comments

- 1. Allow parents at Oudenarde the option of a rural school or city school, with dedicated buses for transportation to either. 2. Oudenarde has no community or identity, with a double whammy of no identity for Gleneam Campus either. A no win situation for a community deprived of infrastructure.

Questionnaires were provided at the drop-in session, the feedback is as follows:

Option 1 - Continue with mothballing of Forteviot Primary School – pupils remain at Forgandenny Primary School

Comments

- Yes, ideally I would like to have seen the school mothballed and a drive made to encourage parents living at the new housing in Cherrybank to send their children to Forteviot Primary.
- As an ex pupil I would like to see the school re-opened (option 1 was ticked as the preferred option and this was the comment that went with it).

Questionnaires were provided at the drop-in session, the feedback is as follows:

Option 2 - Consider closing school – pupils remain at Forgandenny Primary School

Comments

- Sadly there are not enough children in the area of Forteviot at present.

Questionnaires were provided at the drop-in session, the feedback is as follows:

Option 3 - Consider closing school – pupils attend alternative primary school to Forgandenny Primary School

Comments

No comments received for Option 3 on the questionnaires completed at the drop-in session.

Questionnaires were provided at the drop-in session, the feedback is as follows:

Option 4 - Catchment area is reviewed to determine whether this would increase the school roll sufficiently to ensure the future sustainability of the school

Comments

- Do not want to lose a rural school in the area. Want to maintain the school for the community.
- Option 4 should be considered if Dunning or Forgandenny schools become full then Forteviot could take the pupils.
- Other schools in area are getting full. School is here on linking route to other communities.

Questionnaires were also provided at the drop-in session, the feedback is as follows:

Are there any other options/proposals that have not been considered?

Comments

- Use as a community based school for Oudenarde Primary children.

Community Drop-In Session

Drop-in session ran from 3pm – 8pm on 19 September 2017.

- 25 attendees at the session
- 68% (17) of attendees were neighbours/wider community
- 12% (3) of attendees were parents
- 12% (3) of attendees were ex-teachers
- 4% (1) attendee was an ex-pupil
- 4% (1) attendee was a Councillor

Comments received at the drop-in session

Option 1 - Continue with mothballing of Forteviot Primary School – pupils remain at Forgandenny Primary School

Comments

- Continue with mothballing Forteviot School in the hope that numbers will increase.
- Unfortunately numbers don't look promising but the closure of Forteviot School will be a great future loss to the community. Further mothballing is better than total closure.
- Continue mothballing of Forteviot Primary School pupils hope the numbers will go up in time.
- Continue mothballing in the hope that more pupils can be accommodated in a lovely, quiet, rural setting.
- Mothballing will continue the pain and postpone a decision. However it may give time for a small change in the demographics.
- Not really an option to mothball school in view of running costs.
- Surely mothballing simply delays a decision on the future of the school? Economically and practically a decision has to be made. I think it is not viable to mothball long-term.
- I think it unlikely that there will ever be enough children in Forteviot to keep school open.
- Mothballing is avoiding addressing the issue. There is little in the pipeline to transfer the fortunes – so decision should be taken now either to revive or close.
- It's very unlikely that there will ever be enough children to ensure a full rounded educational experience especially socially.
- This is a delay tactic numbers have been falling for some years.

Comments received at the drop-in session

Option 2 - Consider closing school – pupils remain at Forgandenny Primary School

Comments

- As Forgandenny is nearest it would seem the best option.
- Definitely the best option. Forgandenny is still a nice small school and offers more opportunities for the children. As a parent, I can also say the education they're receiving at Forgandenny is a vast improvement.
- The most sensible option.
- Forgandenny provides an important community service and supports rural living. Measures should be taken to maintain numbers at Forgandenny.
- Think 'closing' school needs to be actively considered in view of costs otherwise incurred.
- If the school is closed and Forgandenny is not full enough, keep the pupils at Forgandenny.
- I do not want to see the school being closed. It would be detrimental to the community to close the school.
- The education and enjoyment that my son and his generation of school children had been a healthy and environmentally aware experience. Such a loss if it was no longer a school.
- I think the community at Forteviot is an important community and could survive if there were a school here. Investment in a school in Forteviot may draw parents to it.
- It seems unlikely to me that many pupils will return to a school after 1, 2 or 3 years at another. Forteviot School's future success lies in a strategic re-opening with a new roll of pupils. If some return however this would be very good for them.
- Don't want the school to close as it is the heart of the community.
- I do not want Forteviot to close. School to help community.

Comments received at the drop-in session

Option 3 - Consider closing school – pupils attend alternative primary school to Forgandenny Primary School

Comments

- Parents should be given option of Forgandenny or Dunning.
- In view of pupil numbers I think this option needs to be explored.
- At Kintillo and Bridge of Earn there are too many pupils and residents in Oudenarde can't use the local primary – Dunbarney. Forgandenny and Forteviot schools could be supplemented by these pupils (currently 57) instead of going to Perth schools with large class numbers.
- Making kids who have already had to move school move again is detrimental to their wellbeing.
- Parents decide which school is best for their children. However increased numbers may make the desirability more appealing.
- To attend Forgandenny is up to the parents.
- I think this is up to parents to decide.

Comments received at the drop-in session

Option 4 - Catchment area is reviewed to determine whether this would increase the school roll sufficiently to ensure the future sustainability of the school

Comments

- I would hope that with growth of Perth, Dunning and Bridge of Earn a catchment review was undertaken to ensure that these population centres don't cannibalise the catchment of rural schools.
- Decision is needed whether population is large enough to support 1 or 2 rural schools. If it 2 then can the catchment be redrawn to support both. If its1 then can catchment be redrawn to suit families and support Forgandenny.
- If the catchment area could be reviewed, the wonderful position of the school could be of great benefit to both to the children and the wider community.
- Good option – move catchment area – extend to Forgandenny. In consultation of local residents!
- Think option to explore review of catchment area needs to be actively explored. Setting of school wonderful.
- I believe that this is an option that this area deserves. After a proper catchment area review if the school is still not viable then a decision can be made. But please give it all the chances you can to survive.
- This would be a good idea to offer future – potential numbers in Forteviot. Transport would be an issue for parents of children coming to Forteviot from further away, so the authority would need to provide this. A small cost if it keeps the school viable and therefore open.
- Consider extending catchment for new houses at Kintillo.
- If the catchment area is reviewed it would increase the school roll.
- Yes I think catchment area should be reviewed.
- Review the catchment area for this school.
- The new housing scheme on the edge of Perth is in Aberdalgie Parish and it would be possible to bus children from there to Forteviot.
- Increasing the school roll would /should make the numbers sustainable.
- Option 4 is my preference. Dunbarney School is full at Bridge of Earn – children who live at Oudenarde (57 primary age) could attend Forteviot and Forgandenny.
- Consider widening catchment to, say Cherrybank (new housing) give these parents option of Forteviot (they may not have heard of the school!).
- Option 4 should certainly be considered. Dunning's catchment area is much bigger.
- The fairest option in all respects but perhaps a delay tactic. Local numbers unlikely to rise. Will cause outcry from those whose children might be transferred to Forteviot.

- Review catchment area for this school to include new houses Cherrybank area – this lies within the parish area for Aberdalgie Church which is joined with Forteviot.
- Schools in Perth at capacity – move cost effective option to include new housing in catchment area for Forteviot!
- The catchment is as not well suited to Forteviot and is worse for Forgandenny with children close to Perth/Bridge of Earn in many cases. Perhaps the catchment should be reviewed to bolster Forgandenny.
- If Forteviot School were closed then the catchment areas will have to be reviewed anyway. Why not review the catchment areas now. Larger schools may be more economical but surely education is a lot more than cost and effectiveness.
- This in itself isn't enough. After-school care was the primary issue for most parents. After-school care and transport would make the option viable.
- Parents may be reluctant to move kids to a school where there are no after school clubs/childminders.

Comments received at the drop-in session

Are there any other options/proposals that have not been considered?

Comments

- Community area?
- Should consideration be given to other uses for school premises i.e. small business, drama/theatre or musical groups?
- If the school has to be closed, could it be used as a small business centre to benefit the community?
- Should the school be closed, I hope that the building could be used to benefit the Forteviot community.
- Keep it as a school but use the building more effectively. After school club, community building, activities etc. village/wider community involvement, meeting, sports, exercise etc.
- The school acted as a hub of activity in the community. If it is not to continue the village would be well served if it was used for employment.
- Consider a specialist school for children who needed a quieter environment.
- If closure is unavoidable, the buildings and grounds must be used for community and wider benefit, for cultural purposes or educational purposes.
- The building could be put to use for the benefit of the community. Re-opening the school isn't going to benefit the whole community. It would be a lot of expense for very little gain.
- I would happily support a community project and am interested in taking something forward but only if school re-opening is not an option.
- Could it become a centre for artisan workshops? We do not want the village to become a pictish museum.

Comments received at the drop-in session

How would you describe the community within Forteviot and what are your thoughts on Forteviot Primary School as part of the community?

Comments

- Less people working for the estate.
- Forteviot Primary School has always been a community-point for the whole community – for 176 years? Losing it would be a sad loss. But I know children are essential. I think a community pulling-together could provide after school activities for children of working families.
- New stonemasons in village and kitchen showroom opening is positive.
- While the numbers were good it was a good ‘hub’ to meet others in the community. However this could be easily replaced with more activities based around the village hall.
- Houses are let – so people move on more and rents are expensive.
- No families coming into houses for the estate – no work and estate don’t want families.
- Estate not employing people any more – used to be gardeners, plumbers, joiners.
- The school was an important asset in the community with space, gardens and playing fields for wider use. The school helped keep an increasingly disjointed community linked through shared interest.
- Forteviot Primary School used to be really involved within the community, and people in Forteviot were always included in everything that the school did.
- Forteviot community very small with few young families.
- The community within Forteviot and surrounding area was a thriving community (albeit not large numbers) but the school was a conduit for various activities which benefit not only the children but the parents and relatives and friends.
- The school has been a central part of the community and would be a miss.
- People on estate transient – don’t stay as long.
- Very important but support must come from within the community ie landlord not supporting families in letting out their housings.
- Farms are not locally run and there are no families/workers living locally – run by contractors.
- Estate being run to make money not being let to families.
- Church working to hold community together.
- This is a rural community. Many parents would choose to bring up children in such a community instead of an urban or suburban one. The school has a vital social role in a rural community – where children grow together and in the family’s chosen enrolment. Moving children at primary age to another environment is not good for them at that age I believe.

- With the mechanisation of farming there are far fewer workers even fewer families and children. Much as I would be to see the school remain open as it was very much the moving heart of the community I am afraid children numbers will remain low.

Letter received:

- Thank you for the opportunity to express views re Forteviot Primary School. It would be unjust of me to express any preferred options regarding the school itself and the pupils who are currently at Forgandenny School. I do not know any of the pupils nor parents concerned, so have no right to express an opinion regarding their education. It would seem that with Dunning and Forgandenny Schools easily accessible to rural families, coupled with the convenience of delivering/collecting parents being able to buy life's basics at the Dunning/Forgandenny village shops/post offices, that the revival of Forteviot would be extremely difficult. Should either Dunning or Forgandenny schools be over-stretched for facilities, then re-opening Forteviot would be an ideal option. However, it is my understanding that this is not the case. Alternative options: Forteviot is one of the best business geographic locations in Scotland. Road, rail and air links are excellent. The M90 and A9 are both minutes away. Perth, Gleneagles, Dunblane and Bridge of Allan rail stations are all within 40 minutes. Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dundee airports are all within an hour (clear roads). The school, with its ample car parking, would make an ideal business centre for small businesses requiring premises, but unable to justify the cost of a stand-alone property. Or – an art/historical centre, with individual studios for artists and a retail outlet for their work and other artist's work. HOWEVER.... With BT already unable to connect some properties in the area to a reliable internet connection, the lack of decent internet would be a deal breaker for any business ventures.

Email received:

- I felt moved to write to you regarding the above. I would plead that you give serious consideration to re-opening this school. I could not attend any meetings due to work commitments, but hope you will take my views into account. I've seen a suggestion that Forteviot and Forgandenny schools unite with juniors at one locus and seniors at others. This is a great idea. The new houses at Cherrybank and Charlottegate all fall into Aberdalgie/Forteviot parish and perhaps you could take that into account too. Anyway speaking personally, both my sons attended Forteviot primary school and have gone on to university. My elder son is now practicing law in Edinburgh having gained a Master's Degree. My younger son has an honours degree in Accountancy and is now training to become a qualified accountant. I owe their success in a large part to the great start they had at Forteviot primary school. My elder son attended nursery and primary one at a fee paying school in Edinburgh. When he moved to Forteviot it was found he had no numeracy at all. He was given special help and the rest is history. Please please do not close this excellent school.

Queries Received

What are the pupil number projections at Forgandenny?

Current and future years

Primary Classes	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Maximum Pupils	67	67	67	67
Pupils in school - projected	55*	52	49	52

- Figures correct as 22 November 2017

What is the condition of Forgandenny Primary School?

- Forgandenny Primary School is rated 'B' for condition and 'A' for suitability. This means the condition is satisfactory and the suitability is good and performing well.

Who owns the land and building at Forteviot Primary School?

- Perth & Kinross Council own both the land and building