

**Methven Primary School**

**Community Drop-In Session**

**28 September 2017**

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

## **Online Questionnaire Feedback**

- 17 Questionnaires submitted online – 10 completed, 7 partially completed
- 69% (11) of responses from parents, 25% (4) of responses from other, 6% (1) of responses from neighbours, 1 has given no indication of their relationship to the school
- 9 questionnaires were submitted without any comments
- 33% (3) of responses preferred option 1, 11% (1) of responses preferred option 2, 33% (3) of responses preferred option 3 and 22% (2) preferred option 5. There was no preference for Option 4. Responses from 8 questionnaires gave no indication of their preference.
- Questionnaire closed on 6 October 2017

## **Online Questionnaire Feedback**

**Option 1 - Catchment areas of the schools are reviewed to determine whether this would increase the occupancy at both schools and ensure their future sustainability. If sustainable, refurbish Logiealmond Primary School and Methven Primary School to improve condition at both schools.**

### **Comments**

- Both schools to remain, both areas to see increased uptake through new build. Schools in our village communities are essential to rural life. Go save money elsewhere...
- I feel it's important to both ensure a good level of capacity at each school and upgrade both schools.
- I believe there is a place for both schools as they provide different experiences. Small hamlets like Logiealmond shouldn't suffer and lose a community focal point just to save money. The Council has a duty of care to ensure more rural communities remain viable. However parents living nearby need to make use of their local school rather than going to Methven. Methven population is surely likely to grow as there is land banked by house developers which is bound to get built on in the next 20 years.

## **Online Questionnaire Feedback**

**Option 2 - Reduce capacity of Methven Primary School through a review of accommodation – including refurbishment of the school to improve condition. Logiealmond Primary School remains open – refurbish the school to improve condition.**

### **Comments**

- Being a former pupil myself, I feel that the facilities at Methven are already stretched. Whilst I know it is not at capacity I don't feel that if the numbers increased there would be the space. The main building and gym hall need slot of money spent on them to bring them to a decent standard.
- As long as the decisions benefit all pupils and ensure teachers don't lose their jobs. I am happy to support any option but 2 my preferred
- Think the children from both would benefit all being together - prepare them in numbers for secondary school and also allow the money for resources to spent once so rather than having 2 of the same thing (1 at each) there can be 2 different resources that all can use . The school would also benefit from either a breakfast club for working parents or an afterschool club for the same reason.

## **Online Questionnaire Feedback**

### **Option 3 - Mothball Logiealmond Primary School and move pupils to Methven Primary School – refurbish the school to improve condition.**

#### **Comments**

- Many children from Logiealmond/Harrietfield field in the past and now come to Methven already. And with constant building work (new houses) going on in Methven and surrounding areas, it seems inevitable that we will take in more children.

## **Online Questionnaire Feedback**

**Option 4 - Reduce capacity of Methven Primary School through a review of accommodation – including refurbishment of the school to improve condition. Consider closing Logiealmond Primary School and move pupils to Methven Primary School.**

### **Comments**

There were no comments received online for Option 4.

## Online Questionnaire Feedback

### Option 5 - Consider closing Logiealmond Primary School and move pupils to Methven Primary School – refurbish Methven Primary School.

#### Comments

- Logiealmond only has around 8 students. I don't feel this is viable cost wise to remain open. This is a shame because it is a good school and the children are Happy, however it boils down to cost. If the children were moved to a larger school they would mingle with a variety of different children and hopefully have more opportunities.
- As we live in .... we were actually in Logiealmond PS catchment and we visited both schools before deciding Methven was the better option for our kids. Mainly because of the low number of classmates and social interaction with friends they'd have at LPS. But also I found the school to be cramped and run down. Most of the pupils there are children of lecturers and staff from Glenalmond College and I got the feeling it was being kept alive purely as a peek for the college staff, it's even mentioned in their recruitment info. I don't see how LPS can survive when larger schools than it have been closed. Let Glenalmond College buy it and run it as a Primary for their staff. Methven Primary is a great village school and a hub of our community. It is a friendly, welcoming school with values that are current and improvements have already been made since Mrs Speights arrival 2 years ago, including the addition of the invaluable nursery. The buildings on the grounds could do with refurbishment and renovation to put them to better use – in particular the former Kindergarten premises which has been due for demolition for 2 years but hasn't happened. The dinner hall capacity could be dramatically increased by using this building of the former site. I think the closure of Logiealmond and the movement of the 7 or so pupils is the best option, as a budget increase for Methven would allow for improvements instead of throwing money at LPS to keep it wind and water tight. 7 pupils are neither here nor there to a school with 100+. I hope that the restructure will also be a good step forward to creating a Breakfast or After School club for MPS as it is very much needed. As a parent I would happily volunteer time to help with school refurbishment and I know many others who would pitch in too. Please use that resource.
- Tiny school at Logiealmond and will give opportunities for pupils at both schools. Kindergarten and school gym hall building have huge potential and would be great to see the facilities improved for all.

## Online Questionnaire Feedback

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

#### Comments

- I don't see how keeping an old building like LPS open for 7 children is a viable option in the current circumstance. Methven has the capacity and experience to transition the children well and welcome the parents into its community. The site at Logiealmond could be offered to Glenalmond College for its own purposes or sold off as a private dwelling. The need for school buses is already apparent throughout Logiealmond for those attending Methven through choice, so there would be a saving made there too. It's a no brainer I'm afraid and if it is kept open it will only be the influence of Glenalmond and Scone Palace estate.
- I think Methven School needs some major refurbishment in particular a dinner hall that's fit for purpose and is large enough for 1 sitting. The village badly needs some kind of youth club and perhaps one of the School buildings could be kept in mind for this sort of use and perhaps other types of evening classes/events? Providing people are prepared to run one. The local Community Centre won't permit a youth club to be run in their venue and there is nowhere else where a permanent facility could be set up.
- The breakfast and afterschool club. Working parents need support in community to be able to work to them support PTA fundraising etc and lack of certain childcare in area after or before school hours inhibit this.
- Not sure.



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

**Option 1 - Catchment areas of the schools are reviewed to determine whether this would increase the occupancy at both schools and ensure their future sustainability. If sustainable, refurbish Logiealmond Primary School and Methven Primary School to improve condition at both schools.**

#### **Comments**

- In need of refurbishment anyway Methven and numbers of pupils would justify the improvement, along with parking issues.

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

**Option 2 - Reduce capacity of Methven Primary School through a review of accommodation – including refurbishment of the school to improve condition. Logiealmond Primary School remains open – refurbish the school to improve condition.**

### **Comments**

- Methven School is vital to the village community. Type of housing that was built was never going to increase capacity of school roll (limited affordability). Logiealmond children are often affected by weather conditions not allowing them to attend secondary school so this would be similar outcome for travel to Methven being cancelled. Cost of bus travel and age of children has to be taken into consideration also. Kindergarten should not to be taken into the equation and same for playgroup as both are closed.

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

**Option 3 - Mothball Logiealmond Primary School and move pupils to Methven Primary School – refurbish the school to improve condition.**

**Comments**

- Any refurbishment to Methven School would be a great benefit to the future of the school and we would fully support.

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

**Option 4 - Reduce capacity of Methven Primary School through a review of accommodation – including refurbishment of the school to improve condition. Consider closing Logiealmond Primary School and move pupils to Methven Primary School.**

#### **Comments**

There were no comments made on Option 4 on the questionnaires completed at the drop-in session.

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

**Option 5 - Consider closing Logiealmond Primary School and move pupils to Methven Primary School – refurbish Methven Primary School.**

**Comments**

There were no comments made on Option 5 on the questionnaires completed at the drop-in session.

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

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

**Comments**

- Any help in providing wrap around care at Methven Primary would be of great benefit.

## **Community Drop-In Session**

Drop-in session ran from 3pm – 6:45pm on 28 September 2017

- 27 attendees at the session
- 55% (15) of attendees were parents
- 7% (2) were classed themselves as other family members
- 30% (8) were neighbours/residents
- 4% (1) was classed as other
- 4% (1) was from the Press

## **Comments received at the drop-in session**

**Option 1 - Catchment areas of the schools are reviewed to determine whether this would increase the occupancy at both schools and ensure their future sustainability. If sustainable, refurbish Logiealmond Primary School and Methven Primary School to improve condition at both schools.**

### **Comments**

- Quality of education is important – accessibility for workers in the area is also an advantage. Sustainability could be a problem.
- It is very important that Methven PS is refurbished asap as at present it is unfit for purpose, which cannot be to the requirements of meeting what is best for the pupils.
- Could be possibly short sighted but would depend on future building plans whether this option is sustainable.
- From a business point of view, this may not be sustainable and could be a further drain on resources.
- Why put kids from other areas, to schools out of their catchment area. If children went to own catchment area, then NO school would need to Close.



## Comments received at the drop-in session

**Option 2 - Reduce capacity of Methven Primary School through a review of accommodation – including refurbishment of the school to improve condition. Logiealmond Primary School remains open – refurbish the school to improve condition.**

### Comments

- This would be my preferred option as it's sensible to keep such young children in the local areas. Removing rooms from Methven could remove options for additional support rooms/sensory.
- I think a refurbishment is a good idea but often unoccupied rooms are 'gems' to schools who use them as libraries, breakout/sensory rooms etc so I'd be reluctant to suggest getting rid of rooms. – preferred option.
- This option is preferred, schools remain open, both communities benefit from this and both schools have their condition improved. A winner all the way.
- Keep both schools open and refurbish.
- Always best if at all possible to accommodate children locally. Both schools need money spent on them – good use of public funds.
- Great option keep both schools open.
- Preferred option.
- This is my preferred option as people attend Logiealmond because that's where they want to be. I'd love to see both schools kept open and upgrade them.
- This is a good option, although I have concerns that the front annex buildings may be way beyond economic repair. I agree with reduced capacity, build new hall and keep Logiealmond open. Preferred.

## Comments received at the drop-in session

### Option 3 - Mothball Logiealmond Primary School and move pupils to Methven Primary School – refurbish the school to improve condition.

#### Comments

- Refurbish Methven and close Logiealmond as it is so small the costs are very high per capita.
- This school needs money put into it, to refurbish.
- Good option but will depend on whether logistics work for the children who are furthest from Methven School. No child should have to travel more than 15-20 minutes to get to school.
- Wouldn't Logiealmond pupils benefit from attending Methven? Larger school, more friends, less daunting when moving to secondary.
- Good idea, school needs to be refurbished.
- Methven school definitely needs money spent on it especially for children's safety.
- Unfair to local pupils and parents to mothball or close Logiealmond.
- Cannot see council getting agreement from Logiealmond parents to close/or mothball the school. Defo refurbish Methven P.S.
- Unfair to expect 5/6/7 yr. old children to travel too far to attend school, but again this depends on sustainability. Methven definitely does need refurbished!

## **Comments received at the drop-in session**

**Option 4 - Reduce capacity of Methven Primary School through a review of accommodation – including refurbishment of the school to improve condition. Consider closing Logiealmond Primary School and move pupils to Methven Primary School.**

### **Comments**

- Whilst it would be sad to see Logiealmond close, surely it must be difficult to sustain a school with so few kids. Many kids from Logiealmond catchment come to Methven anyway. I'm sure we'd welcome more.
- Similar to option 2. Refurbishment needed at dining hall and gym hall.
- Good idea as would increase occupancy at Methven and school buildings needs to be updated.
- Would be fantastic to see Methven school refurbished. The gym hall and kindergarten and dining hall in dire need of repair.
- If possible it'd be best to try and keep both schools open.
- Although I think this option will be used I am of the opinion that it is wrong as every effort should be made to keep Logiealmond open.
- I can see the thought process behind this option but I feel it unfair to force parents to have to put their children to a school which they did not choose.
- I think both schools should be kept open.
- Similar to option 2. Methven needs refurbished. Depends on future sustainability of Logiealmond.

## **Comments received at the drop-in session**

### **Option 5 - Consider closing Logiealmond Primary School and move pupils to Methven Primary School – refurbish Methven Primary School.**

#### **Comments**

- Think every effort should be made to keep both schools open.
- Refurbishment needed but closing Logiealmond might have negative effects to local community and needs to be looked at.
- This option not a good idea.
- Could cause both communities to become fragmented.
- This option should not be decided upon. Closing small rural schools is a backward step.

## **Comments received at the drop-in session**

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

#### **Comments**

- Bigger dinner hall for Methven.
- Methven has quite a big footprint – could think about an all-weather sports area.
- After school club, holidays, breakfast club.
- New gym and dining hall, demolish all old external annex and use school for more for out of school activities; consider breakfast and after school club as many parents need it. I believe only 2 childminders in Methven.
- Potential to increase numbers at Logiealmond by opening up a special/additional needs class?
- I think the nursery would benefit from free-flow garden access that they could use throughout the nursery session rather than the stand alone garden they have at present.
- Breakfast club/afterschool's club would be very useful for working parents.
- Breakfast and after school clubs would be beneficial. Possibly use gym hall for after school club or stand-alone activities. The nursery could have free flowing play to an outdoor space, to encourage choice and learning.

## **Comments received at the drop-in session**

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

### **Comments**

- This school involve the children in local happenings.
- School is a hugely important part of the community. It's where children and their parents can meet people/make friends. "Heart of the community".
- I think Methven is quite a close community and the school plays a big part in that. People, who perhaps otherwise would not engage in events in the community, do so when they have a link to the school (relative, neighbour etc).
- I live in one of the outer catchment areas for Methven PS so feel that I only really come to Methven for school. So very important.
- School seems to play an important part in the community. It always has (I'm a former pupil). I hope for this to continue, it encourages good social skills from an early age.
- Methven school is a good school not too big all children know each other and big part of the community.
- Methven School is a big part of the community – it can share resources with the community and vice versa. Nice sized classes, good opportunity for 1-1 with teaching staff, picking up problems quickly.
- Big part of local communities, and I feel it could be even more so if used for after school club, evening activities and possible breakfast club.