



PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Feedback from Informal Community Engagement

For Grandtully Primary School

February 2019

Contents

	Page
1) Summary of Community Engagement Activity	1
<u>All Comments Received</u>	
2) Option 1: Grandtully Primary School catchment area is reviewed to determine whether this would increase the school roll sufficiently to ensure the future sustainability of the school.	2
3) Option 2 – Do nothing.	8
4) Option 3: Consider closing Grandtully Primary School – pupils move to a neighbouring school.	16
5) Are there any alternative options or proposals that you feel should be considered? (Please give details).	24
6) How would you describe the community and what are your thoughts on Grandtully Primary School as part of the community?	29
7) Why do you think the population of 0-19 year olds in Highland Perthshire is decreasing?	36
8) A number of Grandtully Primary School catchment pupils attend Breadalbane Academy (Primary). What do you think are the reasons for this? (Please give details).	41
9) A number of Breadalbane Academy (Primary) catchment pupils attend Grandtully Primary School. What do you think are the reasons for this? (Please give details).	45
10) Do you have any other comments?	52
11) All Emails & Letters Received	58

1) SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY

Website and Online Questionnaires

A '[School Estate Transformation](#)' page was set up on the Perth and Kinross Council website which provided the wider community with an overview of information that the Council would be using in the options appraisal, including pupil projections and building information.

A questionnaire was also available for completion, for those people that could not attend the community engagement event. The questionnaire asked people to respond to a series of options and questions related to the options appraisal.

The questionnaire was available on the Council website from 13 November 2018 to 14 December 2018. 46 online questionnaires were submitted, a number of paper questionnaires were also received.

Drop-in Session

An informal community drop-in session was held to seek feedback from the community on the future of Grandtully Primary School. The staff and community drop-in session took place:

- Thursday 15 November 2018 Staff Session Breadalbane Academy
- Wednesday 21 November 2018 3.30 pm - 7.30 pm Grandtully Village Hall

A total of 111 people attended the community drop-in session. 57% of the attendees identified themselves as members of the community, 30% as parents/parents of past pupils, 8% as family members, 1% pupils, 1% as staff from the school and 4% as 'other', including Local Members.

The Council is grateful to Grandtully Primary School Parent Council and Community Council's from the surrounding area for their assistance in the planning and publicity for the drop-in session.

This Document

This document lists all feedback collected during the period of informal community engagement. For the purposes of anonymity personal details have been redacted.

ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED

2) Option 1: Grandtully Primary School catchment area is reviewed to determine whether this would increase the school roll sufficiently to ensure the future sustainability of the school.

Comments

1. I don't see this improving anything as you'll just be moving numbers/pupils around as opposed to fixing anything within the area.
2. Increasing the catchment area may make people feel more secure about coming to Grandtully Primary because currently I think people are scared away by the fact that the school might close. So if you make a more permanent change like that people will feel more reassured that it won't be closing (additional comment: very good point).
3. Very difficult to predict if this would improve the roll. But it's good to have several options where to send your child. No monopoly position for Breadalbane. I'm not sure this would do anything except impinge on other catchments who already serve their pupils very well.
4. Review to extend towards Dalguise and Aberfeldy (not Logierait).
5. Extend the area to Dalguise and Aberfeldy (not Logierait).
6. Option 1 is so narrow-minded – impossible to consider this action from school point of view only. When we came XXXXX years ago there was: - hotel (closed), pub (trying to sell), school (parents at war with each other and about to close). We have now XXXXX businesses, all employing many people and national level XXXXX competitions. Also threatened: Bridge to Strathtay, nearly closed by council. HELP to strengthen community is badly needed, not undermining one valued asset. You have not even provided parking for parents to collect 28 kids. What land is designated for development, a) for businesses and b) housing? What controls and facilities are allowed/provided for white water rafting and canoeists? Tourists walk from Pitlochry and from Aberfeldy, there's not a single toilet! These are all considerations for providing vibrant community and a widely deserved school!
7. If expansion is an option, extend towards Dalguise – but the school has grown from 10-28 pupils with many kids from out of catchment.
8. If you close Grandtully School, you'll be helping to damage this whole community that is the key issue.
9. Increasing catchment could work, but also risks reducing catchment for other small school – Logierait.
10. Option 1 is a feasible option as it could encourage some additional pupils to come to this school – it might make it financially viable for families that otherwise would not have this option.
11. With caution – increasing the catchment does not necessarily increase the roll. Also please make proper allowances in roll projections for the many out of catchment pupils choosing our brilliant school.
12. If this isn't based on the outcome of the catchment review and is about SUSTAINING the school.
13. Yes, but only if you remove the option to close first. So, catchment review MUST be to provide ADDITIONAL SUPPORT.
14. I feel that reviewing the catchment area could work as newer families looking to move into the area but are struggling to find properties would be more likely enrolling children into the school.
15. I would go with option 1. If the catchment area is widened it would allow people from other areas to come to the school especially if they are working in the local area.

16. Close the school to the detriment of the local community – Highland clearances all over again!
17. Great, extend and bring more children in to benefit from the award winning education of this extraordinary school.
18. If this is going to help keep the school then this is worth considering. Alternatively do option 2 as there is an increasing pupil roll at Grandtully.
19. With 28 new houses proposed within the catchment area even 50% of those could have primary aged children.
20. Advertise the school is open to all. And more parents would consider coming here.
21. Children already attending for other catchment areas and school occupancy is 63% and rising.
22. Shouldn't be required, given the number of children, who are already out of catchment, due to parental choice to send their children to Grandtully.
23. This will not help as many kids are already from outside area.
24. Don't close the school, invest in rural development, build on the eco school status and teach the kids the importance of sustainable rural development.
25. Possible but the school functions best at its present size and new proposed housing in the area may provide further placements in the school.
26. This would impact on other schools. Leave us as we are.
27. We are already demonstrating a sustainable roll with 60-78% occupancy over 2017-2022. The school will suffer if subjected to a further year of statutory consultation.
28. Overlapping catchment areas would more easily allow people to choose a school most suited to their needs?
29. Overlapping catchment area – is that possible? Gives families a choice. May help with the projected pupil numbers.
30. What about a ballot of the catchment area?? To obtain a more accurate future pupil roll.
31. If increasing the catchment area of Grandtully School would help to keep it open, then, yes, but preferably extend the area into Breadalbane's catchment and not into the catchments of other rural schools.
32. Extending the boundary would be good – easier for parents to send kids, where they want them.
33. This is the second most preferred option. The benefits of this is that the 55% of parents might get free transport for them kids to school.
34. We already have 55% of our kids coming from out of catchment we don't need this option to improve as everyone can come without this.
35. No – not taking into consideration other children and their education!
36. Given the fact that being within the catchment area is no guarantee that children will attend, expanding the catchment does not appear to be a sustainable option by itself.
37. If the school becomes too big, many of its incredible attributes will be lost.
38. If the school catchment area is increased then surely this puts other schools at risk. Leave Grandtully as it is – flourishing and with excellent pupil support!
39. This would put in jeopardy other small schools in the area which are equally important in their own communities.
40. Not sure this would help. Some pupils from outside catchment area and would affect other schools.
41. Would be happy to see catchment extended which would open up transport facilities and encourage more families 'out of catchment' currently.
42. An assessment may indeed increase school roll and ensure sustainability of the school, but this will most likely result in the closure of a neighbouring school, and possibly stretch existing resources at Grandtully Primary School. This is not a popular option for the community.
43. "Small children travelling far to school, though potentially creating a better catchment area"
44. This is a poor option as it doesn't take into account that Grandtully continues to attract a high percentage of pupils from outside its catchment area; secondly, it potentially

- impinges on other school catchment areas who are ideally situated to serve their own local populations; thirdly, there is planning for a considerable number of houses being built in the catchment and the Council's projection of the number of pupils resulting from this is impossibly low.
45. All of Highland Perthshire schools require a review of their catchment areas as there is a noticeable bias to the larger schools in the Aberfeldy area.
 46. Better of 3 options. Would encourage families moving to the area and keep a young vibrant community. Would also relieve the pressure on Breadalbane.
 47. May be worth doing to see what the proposed numbers may be.
 48. This option is certainly worth considering. As a parent of an out of catchment pupil this may well help. We felt Grandtully was the best school for our XXXXX and were prepared to drive so XXXXX could go to the school which would benefit and teach XXXXX the most.
 49. I agree.
 50. Seems a good idea to look at the catchment area.
 51. Reasonable offer depending on logistical impact and availability to the area.
 52. Considering that I am waiting to XXXXX about a XXXXX request for my XXXXX, I definitely think increasing the catchment area would be of benefit. I know that many children come to this school out of catchment because the school has such a good reputation, and I feel it would remove an obstacle to learning. I am prepared to wait but would definitely prefer my child to be in school already (we have moved from XXXXX so XXXXX currently has NO school place in the area. I could send XXXXX to my catchment school easily but I wish Grandtully. I am hoping that the council processes my request quickly as I know there is a place waiting for XXXXX.
 53. Yes, this probably would help to increase number of pupils.
 54. A bigger exposure is always good.
 55. Yes, it could make a difference to enlarge the catchment area for parents who don't have a car or struggling to get their child to school of their choice.
 56. This is only sustainable is keeping the current catchment area and possibly widening the area.
 57. Do not completely oppose this option. However this could have a negative impact on other schools in the area and would need to be sure that it wouldn't threaten Grandtully.
 58. This could be successful but consideration needs to be given to the high proportion of out of catchment pupils and the negative impact this could have on other small schools such as Logierait. Extending the catchment doesn't necessarily boost the roll. We believe that Grandtully Primary School is sustainable without the need for catchment review.
 59. Since I travel from outside the catchment and are there for not given an option for transport I think if the catchment was increased to include where I live this would be fantastic.
 60. I think this would be the most positive and sensible solution. This would take in more pupils out of catchment and as 50% of pupils are out of catchment this would in turn allow transport to be provided which would ease pressure on the car parking. As a parent with children who are XXXXX catchment I can display first hand why Grandtully is the better choice for our kids both educationally and socially as compared to Breadalbane.
 61. Grandtully primary school is very centralised to educate all the local children in the rural valley. It is therefore very important to educate the children in their own environment instead of sending them to a centralised big school where there is no personal touch.
 62. This will allow the school to remain open and serve a wider community and as such is an option that should be considered.
 63. Concern over if a change in boundaries would affect Logierait school and their future viability, if that is not the case and it is possible to do so to secure Grandtully School then this is an option.
 64. By increasing the catchment area the school roll would definitely increase. There would, however, need to be improvements to the building itself, possibly extensions, to hold

bigger classes. My XXXXX moved from Breadalbane Academy to Grandtully during XXXXX in XXXXX. There was only 11 pupils, including XXXXX. I think there are 28 at present and will only grow.

65. The school roll at Grandtully Primary has had a material change since the School Review was launched. Indeed, if the review was undertaken anytime between 2017-2022 Grandtully would not be included. The roll has been over 60% since 2017 and is projected to remain between 60% and 74% until 2022/23 when it drops to 58% (council figures used at the drop-in were not up to date, despite an email to inform them). All the parents at the school are mystified by the roll number of '43' allocated to the school. The buildings and facilities would be extremely cramped, the cloakroom can barely cope with 28 children! We have provided evidence to clearly demonstrate that our occupancy figures are robust and sustainable. When you take into account that the allocated number on which all occupancy calculations are based is unrealistic, then increasing the catchment is an unnecessary expense for the council and worry for the school, pupils and future parents. This school estates review has been so damaging for the reputation of the school, the energy of the Parent Council and the expense of the council. We just don't need another year of statutory consultation and all that goes with it. Grandtully School is a shining example of how a small rural school can thrive, please leave us all to get on with the business of running the school to the best of its abilities!
66. Yes.
67. This would support increased level of activity of children in the village and increase use of the Hall & Park. The school parents make a large contribution to organising the gala which is a village tradition. It would ensure that the school had a long-term future to attract more young families to work in local businesses which struggle to recruit. It would mean that there is still a school when the expected upturn due to A9 dualling attracts families who commute to Perth. (A development of 11(?) houses in Grandtully is currently on hold). This would help to balance the demographics of the community which are top heavy.
68. Our area is renowned for its excellent quality of life and distinct social and cultural environment. Increasing the school role at Grandtully would erode the character of the school and the community. There are 28 new homes being planned for the area. Families that move into these homes are likely to bring children who will populate the school role. In fact our school is one of the main attractions for families to move here. If the catchment area were to be increased and the school role grow, the nature of local offer to families will be damaged.
69. Grandtully and Logierait schools are both being reviewed and both are in our Community Council area. The only option the Community Council can see regarding catchment changes would be to extend catchment areas west towards Aberfeldy or south towards Dunkeld. Neither option would increase the number of pupils greatly due to the number of houses in those areas
70. It is essential for both the Grandtully and wider community that Grandtully primary continues to thrive, as it is a centre of excellence, providing its pupils with much more than a basic education, but building their self-confidence and social skills and turning them into well-balanced, rounded individuals, who will go on to play constructive roles in their community. So, if enlarging the catchment area can provide greater stability for the school roll in future, then this is to be welcomed. Any enlargement should be at the expense of the Breadalbane School's catchment, however, from which Grandtully is already attracting a significant number of pupils.
71. Depending on overall findings criteria relating other schools then reviewing with a view to expand the catchment area is a valid option.
72. Extending the school catchment towards Dalguise and further past St Mary's Church towards Aberfeldy would enable more families to consider Grandtully Primary School and remove the placing request process that families in these areas currently need to go through. The current trend which shows the number of pupils increasing could only be maintained and sustained through this extension. The impact to the Breadalbane and

Dunkeld catchment area would be insignificant. Breadalbane has a nursery. Extending the catchment area would enable more families to review their options when their children are ready for P1.

73. I'm not sure how a decision on the catchment area can be made in isolation of the options for Logierait Primary School. This question seems to assume that the present catchment area will not be sustainable - is that the case? My understanding is that the school already has a number of students from outside the catchment area, which would mean that it already does not only rely solely on pupils from the catchment area. I think this demonstrates one of the strongest assets of the school - giving parents a choice in the type of education they want / need for to suit their child.
74. By extending the catchment area would hopefully bring more families to the school. This would give families within an extended catchment area to automatically consider Grandtully.
75. I am against the wording of this question. The school has demonstrated it is growing and is successful and has the projections to support this. We do not want to have the potential of an extension of this review past the already ridiculous deadline. The review process hanging over the school is incredibly worrying and detrimental to the children learning, the morale of staff and the morale and workload of parents. This review needs to be concluded as soon as possible and a line drawn. If the council were able to say that the school could be left alone and not subject to any further review but at the same time they would review the catchment that would be ok, as long as the outcome was not a determining factor in the future of the school. It is vital the school is dropped from the review process at the earliest possible date.
76. All recent evidence suggests that the school roll is increasing. Moving forward with a catchment review just adds to the uncertainty over the future of the school and it seems may just as likely decrease numbers where people are aware that the school is under threat of closure.
77. I feel that reviewing the catchment area is necessary and i strongly feel that this has to be a REAL and ACCURATE and THOROUGH review carried out by an independent body. I fear that PKC's review of future roll presented at the drop in session on 21st Nov is not accurate. The figures presented differed from the ACTUAL figures collected by the Parent Council. PKC's figures showed the projected roll within the current 5 year period to be below 60% where by the parent council's figures strongly demonstrated the figures to be above 60%. I would like to highlight that NO-ONE FROM PKC CONTACTED US TO ASK WHAT OUR FIRST PREFERENCE OF PRIMARY SCHOOL WAS FOR OUR CHILDREN OR INDEED ANY OF OUR FRIENDS WITH PRE SCHOOL CHILDREN! This makes me question the source, intention and truth behind the figures presented by PKC.
78. "I do not think this option is at all useful. It continues to mean we are under review, We would not want to push into the catchment of Logierait and impact on this school."
79. Enable school to remain viable and a central focus for the local area. Rural areas benefit from having a local school to keep the whole area engaged, something that does not seem to happen so well with larger schools with a wider catchment.
80. Depending on the outcome of the review and the scale of the catchment area after the review, this potentially could have negative or positive outcomes. If the school was to be under review with the possibility of closure, further interested families who would like their children to attend Grandtully Primary School would be unlikely to enrol their children at the school or potentially move into the local area. If the catchment area were to increase giving families who live in the catchment free transport to the school, I believe it is likely that the Grandtully Primary roll would definitely increase.
81. This could be a good option as it could increase the number of pupils coming to the school. It would also increase the school community.
82. "I don't think it is worth reviewing the catchment area because it won't currently make much difference to the school roll and will keep the stress and extra work involved in the consultation high. It is always the case that different families will choose different schools

to reflect the needs of the individual. An imaginary boundary around the school is immaterial when choosing the right school for your child."

83. We drive from XXXXX twice a day to get to this great school, kids are like big brother and sister, they teach each other the way they understand. I would drive longer distance to have a great school like Grandtully.
 84. Not a viable option for the community and would impact on surrounding schools.
 85. Hard to say without seeing attendance numbers for other schools. Would this threaten Logierait?
 86. This is not option as so many kids are already from out of catchment area.
 87. It is vital to maintain this as an educational establishment especially as new affordable housing is planned in the area. As it is, children come in from other areas because the educational environment at Grandtully is most suitable for them.
 88. Pointless as parents from outside the catchment area can already opt to send their children here.
 89. There is great community feeling centred around the school which encourages people to the area. Because the school accepts children from out with the catchment, parents can choose the most suitable school for their children - Large urban (Breadalbane) small rural (Grandtully) there is a place for both.
-

3) Option 1: Do nothing

Comments

1. Option 2 – do nothing. Grandtully is a thriving, popular local school that is growing with happy children and parents.
2. No, review the figure for our occupancy, it cannot be right.
3. The buddy system is a big help to all the children. The older ones bring on the younger ones, reading with them, showing them how to work things out and helping with coats and shoes. The older and wee both benefit so much. When the wee one has the move up to Breadalbane they already have their old buddy to watch out for them. And out with school it's not unusual to see each other in the street for a quick hug and catch up. This is special for Grandtully kids.
4. My XXXXX studied flute in P5, 6, +7 and is now in the Breadalbane band, taking exams and Perth Youth Orchestra. Without this early introduction this would not have happened. And has helped make friends in the wider community.
5. The pipes/chanter lessons in P7 helped my XXXXX make friends, gained in confidence and even won a silver trophy in the mod. Music lessons in larger schools don't appear to be available due to cost. XXXXX has been invited to join the Blair Atholl pipers, thus helping community involvement and traditional culture.
6. The daily mile is easier to achieve in the small school as it doesn't take so long to get everyone ready. Takes fewer carers and the residents enjoy seeing them.
7. Grandtully Primary School is exceptional in doing this.
8. What makes a community is children who receive an education that is versatile, to build resilience.
9. The school is at 63% and will be next year and a new batch of pupils waiting to start. New families moving to area want choice.
10. Do nothing – Grandtully School works as it is. So this is an option if it can be afforded. Parents like small schools with v. small classes.
11. Educational trips are much more spontaneous and able to be planned and executed by the children. Parents of children often help out and also accompany trips out. Larger schools miss out on this.
12. Do nothing is the best option. The school is growing and thriving. 10-28 pupils in 3 years. Increase of 200% since 2011.
13. I think option 2 is right way forward. To help school open would be beneficial.
14. Yes! Do nothing. Everybody knows Grandtully School helps their pupils to achieve their full potential.
15. My children don't attend Grandtully School but I know many children that do go and I know from the children and parent's that it is an amazing school and a big part of the community. Please keep Grandtully School open.
16. This is a viable option but need to be proactive in getting more young families into the area. I.e., affordable housing.
17. Stay open smaller community schools support the variety of personalities in the immediate and wider community. We are all different, have different needs. This style of teaching is entirely different to Breadalbane and it works well for these students.
18. We need this school. My XXXXX is in XXXXX now and I would never change my opinion this is great school.
19. What a negative way to describe the only successful outcome.
20. This is a fantastic school, producing well rounded HAPPY children. The educational standard is far above average.
21. Much preferred. This school as a community is valued in the area and the education provided is ideally suited for its pupils inside + outside the catchment school.
22. Do nothing beyond investing in a place of excellence and a haven for vulnerable children who are being badly let down in other local schools.

23. The community needs a school here to keep/attract other families. It's the life blood of the community!
24. With a roll that is over the threshold currently and a good forecast of pupil numbers for the next 2/3 years, there should be no reason to change anything. Longer term forecasts are less reliable much can happen to change them.
25. Do nothing! The school is doing really well. Pupil numbers have increased and would increase further were it not for the blighting effect caused by the review process.
26. Small schools have more advantages such as trips, resources and extra things like music lessons. Having left primary school I noticed that kids in Breadalbane start music later than I did. I started playing the flute in XXXXX (I'm now in XXXXX). But some of my friend couldn't start until S1-S2 because it wasn't an option for them beforehand as the amount of kids in the Breadalbane Primary was too great.
27. No, remove the option to close.
28. Option 2 is the most reasonable option at the present time. All educational requirements are met by this school.
29. The best 'don't fix what ain't broke!' However, advertise that it is not closing to redress the damage done by being 'under review' and invest in nursery provision with the 'spare capacity' that the building is supposed to have.
30. Doing nothing could be an option if you take the rise of children in the past 2 years, however the number of pupils has been inconsistent in the past so it might shrink in numbers in the future.
31. Option 2 suits best in answer to closure question but on increase in funding + support would be great!
32. This whole school review is short sighted and not adhering to the needs of the community.
33. Do nothing. Allow this school to continue to grow and thrive. You take this school away, you will destroy this community.
34. Its standing room only in the school and village hall when the pupils put on a show or fundraiser. The school always plays a big part in Grandtully Gala each year. This keeps all the community close.
35. Keep it open. It will grow. We have a good parent council support, good school of teachers and good community.
36. Remove the option to close.
37. Do nothing is ideal as the primary school would still be an option for new families in the area.
38. I would go with option 2. If the school us functioning with the pupils it has now then there's no reason to change. It also gives the pupils more focused attention with less crowded classes.
39. This is self-perpetuating. BUT we buck the trend and are growing. GO AWAY + leave us to get on!
40. Keep the school open. Keep a community alive. The consequences of closing for families, children and the surrounding community are so grave. These kids are thriving here. To close it and uproot these kids could have a major negative impact on their futures.
41. The roll is projected to grow, so this is an option that is safe.
42. This is the best option as the school is thriving and projected to grow and as such will become a more integral part of the community.
43. Grandtully Primary School provides am essential service to the pupils and community. Please keep our school open!
44. YES! Or option 4 remove school from review.
45. Yes! School is flourishing & an important part of the community.
46. My XXXXX attends after a very difficult time at another school it would be dreadful if this very special school were to shut.
47. DO NOTHING. School is great, with brilliant teachers. All kids are helping each other. Great outside learning! Friendly school!

48. Please reinvest the cost of this review back into the school and give parent's thanks and children reassurances.
49. School is performing well. Heart of rural community. Estate is fine. Roll has increased – do nothing or remove from review – this process is detrimental to wellbeing of children, parents and community.
50. 11 more houses are planned within the area – where would children go? – How would they become members of the community?
51. Grandtully is doing fine. Pupil numbers are increasing. School punches above its weight. Don't fix what is not broken.
52. Don't ignore the current school roll 63%. To 'do nothing' would be preferable to school closure and keep our school.
53. Do not take a heart out of a community. A school is that HEART!!!
54. The pupils at this school get such a good ratio per pupil to teacher this school is inspiring.
55. This is the only option we feel is palatable. Though 'do nothing' feels very negative and apathetic way or reflecting the hopeful reality of keeping our school open.
56. Grandtully Primary School provides essential education for young people who would otherwise push an already overworked school to its limits. Sacrificing on quality of education and wellbeing of pupils whose support teachings have too much to manage.
57. Why do nothing? Please continue to support this school. We all need this pupils and families alike.
58. Would be delighted to carry on 'as is'. The school is functioning very well and should not even be in this review as it does not meet the criteria to be reviewed.
59. Best option! The school is a positive story for all concerned condition rating, B, suitability B, occupancy 60% and from 2017-22 closure is not a feasible option by any calculation. Keep the school open and celebrate its success and invest in its future!
60. Save money!! The school is flourishing. Leave it alone!
61. The school provides its pupils with so many opportunities in school and out with. E.g. creating the children's menu for the Grandtully hotel.
62. This is the most efficient option. Do NOTHING. School doing well and will grow in the future as many parents asking about to go here.
63. Pupil numbers have increased since the review in 2016. The school is doing great. Leave it alone!
64. My belief is that we shouldn't be in this review in the first place. So do nothing!
65. Yes – do nothing except add a nursery in to assist people to start bringing their kids to this excellent school.
66. 'Do nothing' is apathetic and does not support the very high quality school that Grandtully is. Instead, invest in the school and support it to continue to grow.
67. Do nothing – leave school 'as is' is a reasonable option. The school has high learning and development standards.
68. Grandtully is a fantastic rural school which provides a superb level of education on both personal & social level. To all of us this is a completely irreplaceable quality of Grandtully School.
69. The parents of the children run/work in local businesses + give employment to people of this area. The school as it enables them to focus. They have been extremely active on all fronts from fundraising. We need to maintain this and celebrate.
70. Nothing needs doing. The school is perfect just as it is.
71. No. my XXXXX is in XXXXX is the XXXXX of XXXXX and XXXXX – they all learn together and support each other. Outdoor activity and forest is a big bonus for education.
72. Grandtully provides the education, care, warm environment and character building education which is essential for our children. Children are not meant to sit still – Grandtully makes them learn, play + move!
73. Although 'do nothing' is a shamefully apathetic wording – I must vote wholeheartedly for this, given the alternatives. Leave Grandtully to continue its shining example of community and education and continue as the heartbeat of our lives.

74. This is the best option – leave it alone. In fact why not consider investment for our amazing wee school!
75. We share stuff + resources already.
76. XXXXX business has brought in huge increase to the area. Employs c. XXXXX people locally. Many under 40.
77. Do nothing! Leave the school as it is. It brings things to this community that only a primary school can. All the children are perfectly happy there and they're not doing anything to warrant the school closing. They're the ones it will affect the most!!
78. I would like to see some investment in the school (cloakroom etc updated play area).
79. I will complete the questionnaire online but the option of investment in this wonderful school must be mentioned. Grandtully primary is an excellent example of our education should be for this age group especially. Practically based but also inspiring with excellent teachers and in a community environment of adults who really care and who are supportive and committed to the process. Every time funding has been reduced for our school (and understand and save our school as a pensioner) our community has risen to fill the gaps ourselves. Whatever Grandtully Primary may require we're there for the children. They are our treasure. Tell us what is required and we're ready to respond. Firstly the Council has no interest in tearing the heart from Grandtully community? That effectively is the result of taking this valuable focus for the future away! Sadly not, instead, understand what is so exceptional about this place at the centre of our lives and thoughts? We plan to keep our children foremost we need confirmation in practical terms from the Council so that we can continue to attract more families interested in the community. Goals – our school is essential to that effort and worthy of your consideration as a prototype of small community rural education. Look at our results. Look at how everything here revolves around securing the future for our children in rural Scotland don't drive families away. Invest with us!
80. This option is most suited to current conditions.
81. This also seems a reasonable option. Much better to have little kids educated close to home in their own community
82. "This is a poor option as it is apathetic and doesn't promote or invest in the school; nor does it acknowledge the high level of education the students there receive. In fact, there are few circumstances regarding the education of children where a ""do nothing"" approach is the right course. That's equivalent to saying to a gardener, ""Why don't you do nothing in your garden?"" How absurd! What kind of garden does the Council want? One full of weeds and overgrown in the wrong ways, or one carefully tended into a beautiful and abundant paradise? These teachers, staff, and children have continuously, for years and without more than the minimum required Council funding, brought renown to itself, the community, Perthshire and Scotland through their local and national awards, and participation in numerous activities on every level of community. For example, this year, they are preparing to enter an international robot competition which culminates in a finals round in the USA - and if history is any marker, they will achieve very highly against the international stage. There are goals, dreams and major aspirations at this school both of teachers and students. They deserve support and encouragement, not threat of ""do nothing"" or ""close"" or ""disband and move""."
83. The school should remain open, however 'do nothing' is unacceptable as this school does require investment.
84. But for how long? Grandchildren needs security for future generations.
85. The school provides a broad general education and excels in opportunities to be creative, to develop skills to enjoy and appreciate the outdoors and to nurture the qualities of kindness and respect in the pupils. Therefore the school offers the best of the Scottish curriculum and certainly does not need tweaking.
86. Grandtully Primary's roll has grown from 10 to 28 pupils. And with the support of an active and dedicated parent council, who fund raise all year for the good of the school and talk to local parents and promote the school we will be able to keep the roll up.

Several kids have moved from Breadalbane to Grandtully as it suits their needs better. It is a vibrant caring school. We are a family.

87. I agree it's fine as it is a small safe school en.
88. Be nice to work to improve the facilities.
89. Desirable option if this can be achieved within budget. Grandtully Primary School is an asset to the community. Smaller class sizes offered by Grandtully Primary School are advantageous to improve British schooling and educational standards which are inferior to European Counterparts.
90. This is the preferable option. School is doing very well as it is now. With 27/28 kids at this time is still wee school with big ideas.
91. No. Grandtully School is a great school, such a great community and children learning from each other. It is good.
92. I think the school should have a smaller role or should have bigger facilities as cloak room.
93. The school is much needed by these young children who need that little bit of extra support do if I can be left to operate as it currently does that is fine.
94. Best option. Grandtully is a thriving school at the heart of our community and year upon year since we moved here (2016) numbers at the school have increased. Feel strongly nothing should be done to threaten this school.
95. This is a very negative way to position "Keep the School Open" and I feel very misleading and apathetic which is quite the opposite of how we feel. That said, as there are only three options from PKC, this is absolutely my preference and seems sensible given the good condition of the buildings, the very good educational provision according to last year's HMloE, and the clear ability of the school to deliver The Curriculum of Excellence, the happiness of the children and the vibrant and far reaching role of the school in the wider community. Grandtully Primary School without a doubt delivers high quality educational benefits and opportunities for its pupils who are resilient, creative, strategic, friendly, team-playing and well-balanced individuals. It met just one of the criterion for review, the roll is now over 63%, closure simply should not be an option.
96. If doing nothing means the school stays open than that is great, if do nothing means it closes then PCK would be closing a outstanding school which seems totally counterproductive if your trying to improve education in Scotland.
97. Another good option as things currently are working really well for the pupils and parents alike. Grandtully has a real family feel.
98. Local children will need this school, instead of talking of closureinvest more in the local school to give them the opportunity to exceed!
99. The school in its current state is functioning well and serving the community while being self-sufficient and as such should not be closed so "doing nothing" would maintain the status quo of a school that is serving its community as intended
100. YES Provided it secures the future of Grandtully to the benefit of the local and surrounding community.
101. I really don't think you should do anything as we all love this school, great friendly school and its still going to get even bigger with new pupils starting.
102. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" springs to mind. There is no need to close this fabulous little school.
103. YES PLEASE! Grandtully Primary School (GPS) is an amazing success story! Our buildings are rated B for suitability and condition. Our School roll has grown by 250% to over 60% since 2017 and is forecast to be between 63-74% between 2017 and 2022. We have already created and attained a sustainable school roll! GPS has an excellent reputation locally, is a high performing school with sector leading practices, a 'very good' rating in the latest HMle report and its pupils win regional awards for outstanding projects. 55% of children come from out of catchment clearly demonstrating that GPS provides a unique education and environment that people choose for their children, what a boost for the local, rural population. GPS provides for the wellbeing of each child by being inclusive, creative, positive and active with great outdoor space for play. GPS has

invested in outdoor learning and spends at least half a day a week learning outdoors. The Parent Council is hugely dedicated to the school with over 75% attendance at PC meetings, impressive fundraising support and input into educational projects. GPS is run in a cost-effective and efficient manner sharing its headship, resources, activities and school trips with Kenmore Primary School. This is a fantastic school with tremendous local community support. Please help us to invest in its future by removing the school from the review at the earliest opportunity and letting the school run to the best of its abilities without these consultations hanging over it.

104. Uncertainty about the school's future may further discourage parents who live in the catchment to start off schooling in Grandtully and closure becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy in the next few years. Investment in the fabric may be curtailed. Now started, this process needs to come to a conclusion as soon as possible.
105. Grandtully School does sector leading work. The staff work closely with the community to provide the best possible learning environment for local families. This was evidenced in our recent HMiE report which rated the school as very good. It would be a mistake to detract from the excellent work that is going on here. Initiatives like the Forest School, the daily mile and the various year round events that the community participate in with the pupils and the staff are very valuable to our children having the best start in life. The interaction with local businesses and the high participation of parents in the life of the school demonstrates that the school doesn't just have a positive impact on children, it also has a major role to play in the vibrancy of the area. Without the school our community would not be the thriving supportive network that we enjoy so much.
106. The Community Council preferred option is to do nothing. The Grandtully school is providing excellent education for children and is very much an integral part of our village and fabric. It is not possible to consider not having the school in the village.
107. If nothing is done, it seems likely that in future Grandtully may struggle to reach capacity and remain at threat of closure. So, all options should be explored to attract more pupils to the school from both inside and outside the present catchment.
108. Wait and see without trying to fully understand and contribute isn't helpful so providing information to assist with the review is a reasonable response
109. Numbers attending the school have doubled in the past 3 years and it is likely that this trend will continue without the need to do anything. However option 1 does provide more sustainability for the future.
110. "This is my preferred option. My XXXXX attended Grandtully Primary School and benefited from the excellent teaching environment and also being close to the school (they could cycle there). The school roll is healthy, outcomes for the children are excellent, and parents are delighted with the school. The school provides a special education for local children and for those who come from nearby because they want the benefits of smaller classes, composite classes, excellent outdoor facilities, and the sense of 'family' that the school engenders. Thus the school provides a useful alternative to Breadalbane Academy for those who want it, and in the long term, provides a cushion for if class sizes become too big at Breadalbane."
111. Not an option I would consider.
112. Our school is a fantastic school, the life and soul of the community and provides a base and funding for other businesses in our community. This is the only option the council has presented that is viable.
113. This would be great for the community. The school is thriving, increasing its roll in recent years and such a valuable asset, both to the community, but also as a model of inspired pedagogy to a much wider audience.
114. This is my first preference as I do not believe a review of Grandtully should even be occurring. Given the above reasons, and my subsequent lack of confidence in PKC's collation of thorough data I strongly support this option. I am disappointed that this review is even on the table and I am concerned that there is absolutely no awareness among PKC as to just what a valuable, forward thinking and all-inclusive school Grandtully Primary is. If this Primary School is closed the heart of yet another beautiful

rural village and community will be destroyed (such as Butterstone), and in future will deter young families moving to this area and indeed into the wider Breadalbane area as a whole. If this happens the follow on economic impact on the area will destroy a currently thriving and popular area.'

115. "This is clearly the most sensible option. Our roll is now 28. This is a 200% increase since 2011. We are predicting further growth, not decline. While I am aware that the capacity of the school is determined through a set standard, from walking through the school you immediately understand that having more than 40 pupils in the school would be unmanageable, therefore our % capacity will always appear as 'under' The capacity is the same for old and new builds which is ridiculous given the different set ups. We have a strong and dedicated parent council, excellent at fundraising and attracting other families to the school. The school is unique in many ways - outdoor learning, creativity, support for learners, peer - to -peer learning and the sense of community the school encourages."
116. School would remain the preferred option for local pupils and provide option for others not happy with other/larger school options.
117. By doing nothing this would allow for the strong links between the children, parents, community and school to remain with the potential to be sustained and to increase. The current learning provision has been given a 'very good' award from our recent HMIE inspection and the school is held in high regard within the community, the local authority and nationally across Scotland. Our pupil roll has greatly increased over the last three years and this is due to further families locating within the area and from families outwith the initial catchment requesting to come to the school. From speaking with parents regarding their decision to enrol their children at Grandtully, it is clear that this is due to the positive ethos, the quality of learning and teaching and for the inclusive approach that is promoted from the school. By doing nothing, it would allow Grandtully Primary School to remain at the very core of the community.
118. This would also work as parents from outwith the catchment would still have the option to choose Grandtully
119. The best option for all involved. It would be great not to waste resources, time and money on a consultation that should not be a priority. Grandtully school role has increased to a positive school role, the building and teaching is excellent. This time of school life form the building blocks of quality, flexible, well rounded individuals of the future. This impacts the future workforce in creativity & resilience. NHS will be less impacted in the future with a quality education where kids are taught about diet and exercise and looking after themselves. Country schools may cost more per head at the time but I believe the long term cost on the country is less. The heart and essence of a country is richer for its variety.
120. Support the school, more school should follow the team education. With your support, the school could have a waiting list in the next 5 years
121. This would be the preferred option. Grandtully Primary has a healthy, growing school roll, and is an essential part of the local community.
122. Roll is growing. 200% since 2011.
123. Always allow parents the option to send their child to a smaller school that allows different age ranges to mix. Not all children do well in large schools. Allows Grandtully to continue to be an attractive place to live. Look at other communities who have closed schools - they die. There is no reason for people to live there!
124. This is the option! Do nothing. School is doing well! And please remove it from the review list.
125. The school provides the right educational environment for those who value local schooling and those who need a small school environment. Nothing would be gained by closing it and much would be lost. The school functions efficiently and is vital to the life of the community.

126. Best option - the school is doing well, provides excellent education for the children and is a lovely caring environment for them. It will continue to thrive and be supported by the local community,
 127. As above.
-

4) Option 3: Consider closing Grandtully Primary School – pupils move to a neighbouring school.

Comments

1. Do not close our thriving school. It will do so much harm to the community and the children.
2. No, my children at the school wouldn't go to Logierait so it won't impact on that.
3. No to option 3 – the school is part of the community – contributes to the viability of the village hall.
4. Breadalbane is not an option for my child, nor is Logierait – now what would you suggest? To make these children move is a shocking option and we believe not an option.
5. My child doesn't want to go to Logierait, they want to attend Grandtully and remain with their friends.
6. No way. This would be devastating to our children – to uproot them would have a huge emotional impact on them.
7. The Council should prove how their projections for the roll are accurate. If that is the deciding factor, it should have to be shown how the projection is made.
8. No! As a local business owner I think this is a bad idea.
9. Please save don't shut down Grandtully School.
10. NOT AN OPTION. It would be extremely damaging to pupils at this school. They receive such a fantastic education + benefit so much from the positivity of Grandtully School.
11. Should not even be an option.
12. If closing the school is down to saving money, please remember that education is an investment and having local schools here huge benefits for the community and will attract more families with young children to the area rather than retirees.
13. Come along and see for yourselves what an asset to the community this school is – DO NOT CLOSE.
14. No not a very good option.
15. The children at this school have a varied and positive environment. To move pupils is ludicrous!! Leave Grandtully ALONE!!
16. Unanimous support against closure as an option. Having closure as an option is damaging to pupil, staff and community wellbeing.
17. The numbers speak for themselves to close the school would not be a viable option. The closure of the school would have an adverse impact on the community with the demographics changing. It will become a 'retirement' village and young families would not be attracted to the area due to the lack of a local school.
18. Please don't and the reasons I moved to this area was for this school's educational input for my son.
19. What a waste of a useful building, a history of excellent education and a vital resource for children who need a small educational environment.
20. Terrible idea – Breadalbane is not fit for purpose and cannot cope with or deal with children with additional needs.
21. Not an option.
22. This would be a very sad day for Grandtully and its inhabitants not to mention the pupils. This building + its pupils is an integral part of a vibrant village community.
23. NO.
24. No – Breadalbane doesn't even have the capacity. As a pupil I experience the lack of one-to-one teacher support daily – the Grandtully pupils are blessed ☐
25. Nope!! It's a killer for the community – and letting down the pupils, plus rubbishing the excellent teachers results.
26. This would destroy a community – once children form bonds outside their area they do not become full members of the community.

27. The A9 dualling will bring more residents to the area. This is already causing houses to sell more quickly and will more likely create increased demand for local school places.
28. Please detail in your report the COSTS + FINANCIAL IMPACT on the community of removing the school.
29. School provides a bit of buzz to an 'ageing' area which could become a bit of a sleepy hollow. School is the single biggest user of the village hall & spins off party bookings etc, contributes 13%+ of hall income. Though hall would still be sustainable, would be underutilised (park even more so).
30. School contributes to gala in village and brings in parents from outwith catchment area.
31. Impact on local economy would be MASSIVE – on local businesses, on the economy, on jobs, on housing. FINANCIAL IMPACT.
32. Do NOT close school – it provides essential environment for additional support needs kids.
33. Insanely short sighted. The economic and social damage in 10-20 years' time will be crippling. It would endanger the entire village communities which neighbour the school and are its central uniting institution.
34. Impact on learning + disruption to learning of the children.
35. Closing school would have very big consequences to the community. Not an option to close school we need a choice.
36. There would be significant impact to the other local facilities and businesses in the village. Parents on school runs also use these facilities, but only if they came to Grandtully.
37. No. Option of close school would be a 'body blow' to the community of Grandtully + Strathtay. The school is part of the culture and social interaction through events etc. that include the wider community.
38. You ask why the population of young people is decreasing – perhaps a pointless question to ask as the amenities available to them are scaled back to such a deplorable degree! What is left for them if you take their very education!?
39. The impact on the quality of education, attainment + disruption is massive if you close.
40. No. as somebody that works in the local community it would be terrible to see the school close. I have been involved in a couple of projects with the school through work.
41. Not all kids would go to Breadalbane as you plan!
42. The school is at the core of the Grandtully community. It is the heart beat. Closing it will leave this village just a couple of businesses and residences. The school is Grandtully's future.
43. We moved to the area so our XXXXX could be in a school with smaller classes and therefore given a higher level of attention and education.
44. What will be the impact of closing Butterstone on numbers?
45. How can closure actually be supported? The roll of every school rises + falls – so how is Grandtully different? Breadalbane is under capacity and not under review.
46. The benefits of rural schools outweigh the cons! A former XXXXX Primary student.
47. To close Grandtully & potentially propose sending our children to Logierait is completely objectionable due to the impact of additional travel + environmental impacts.
48. Closing the school is a preposterous, counter-productive option. The school is thriving, growing and enhancing our community. Grandtully School no longer even warrants such a review and Breadalbane cannot simply absorb the difference!
49. Totally NO!! This makes me so angry that a consideration to close such a wonderful school which thrives. A complete blow to a fabulous community. Grandtully Primary is the heard of this community and would be devastating to us all.
50. Please don't!
51. Should not be an option I dare say economic factors are driving the threat of closing Grandtully, but you can't put a price on the quality of education and nurturing that happens here as clearly indicated by the currently rising school roll.
52. Not an option.
53. A very damaging, completely unsupported option. Should not even be an option.

54. This school is a shining example of how good schools should be run. I have never been to a school where the kids look forward to going and finish each day inspired. Can't believe option 3 is even on the table – we need to be getting behind this school and celebrating it.
55. Breadalbane Academy is already overworked and understaffed moving even a small number of students to Breadalbane would compromise the quality of education they receive and the wellbeing of the pupils!
56. Closing the school would be a huge mistake for the local community as well as the wellbeing of each child attending Grandtully.
57. 2 large businesses + employees in the area – massive impact on them if no school.
58. Don't even try it! There will be a lot of local opposition!!
59. The importance of family and local community shouldn't be ignored if the kids are all dispersed throughout the area. They may lose important connections.
60. Why would you close a growing school that produces bright well rounded engaging children?
61. Grandtully School be open because everybody loves the school.
62. There is now a strong roll at Grandtully and we need to allow for more fluctuations with rural school rolls.
63. NO – this school is a vibrant part of our community + would be devastating to close it.
64. Why? I really can see NO reason other than a cost saving for PKC.
65. Potentially very harmful to the local + wider community – the availability of a local school in a key factor for inward movement of younger generation, crucial to keep a diverse community.
66. Not an option that would benefit any of the pupils or staff. Would be very disruptive to many families and create major difficulties for those children with ASN (of which there are quite a few). How can this even be considered? I moved my children from Breadalbane for good reason and would rather not change their lives again by having to move them.
67. Accepting the current situation is not 'doing nothing!' It is reflecting the positives to its pupils + to the community.
68. Young children need a safe, family's environment. A small community school provides this.
69. Help us save Grandtully School. Go save Grandtully School.
70. No, Grandtully School's location and facilities are second to none and underpin in the excellent education offered.
71. Absolutely NOT. This community will do whatever it takes to keep this school open.
72. This option should be removed with immediate effect! There are no feasible reasons to close a rural school that is thriving and at any point between 2017-22 would not be included in the school estate review.
73. The negative impact on the local community would be devastating. Discouraging young families from moving to the area.
74. There are strong ties between the school and local business, particularly the Grandtully Hotel the kids write menus and will be involved with Christmas celebrations.
75. As a member of the wider community I hear only positive things about Grandtully Primary School and closing it would be damaging I believe for the mix of residents in the local community which has seen an increase in families with young children in the local area in recent years, partly attracted by good local school facilities.
76. NOT AN OPTION. Some kids will not go to Breadalbane as they came from recently!!! And Logierait School is too far!
77. Help us please.
78. Closing the school would remove a school that provides an alternative for children that do not suit the bigger school environment.
79. By having such a long drawn out i.e. 4 years to estate I can see the motive is to close the school by seeing a % drop due to looming closure. However Grandtully has grown by 200% - do not close this school.

80. NO
81. This would be devastating for the community and most importantly the children – especially these kids who have ASN – these kids needs the stability + routine + do not fit the mould of larger schools.
82. Strongly oppose to this option. This is not a suitable option for the catchment or community.
83. Neighbouring schools are going to be quite far from kids homes, which is not good for kids or their parents. The presence of a local school encourages young families to move to an area. If you close the school, you can say goodbye to rural regeneration in the area.
84. Frankly, this is a moronic option. The educational benefits, standards, achievements, scores across every board - including the effective sharing of resources with other schools, as well as pupil happiness and a growing roll are all proof that it should remain open. In the context of a logical and unbiased analysis, there is not one legitimate reason for shutting it - except perhaps a possible additional goal of the Council to save some money, which has been explicitly stated as NOT being a criteria of the review. The Council should be mature enough to realise what an obvious a manoeuver it would be to shut Grandtully: Figures and facts would have be be massaged and findings deliberately presented in such a way as to support a premeditated Council decision. This would certainly be noted and reported to the highest authority.
85. Totally unacceptable- if the numbers were as low as they were when the review begun that would be a justified consideration however there is a thriving, creative school and community. A lot of parents have moved to the area over the last three years- setting up local business- always been impressed with how the Grandtully parents come together to support each other as a network/family as traditional support networks (parents) do not live in the area. It is a fab little school and not all children are suited to a larger setting.
86. Not an appealing option personally. We XXXXX our children to Grandtully for good reason from Breadalbane. Having to send them XXXXX would be a hugely detrimental to their lives at this stage.
87. This would be dangerous to transport young children, especially in wintry conditions. Also Grandtully school is an important part of the wider community and provides opportunities for the community to meet together.
88. Not an option! I would not move my child to Breadalbane school. It would not benefit XXXXX to go to that school.
89. This would be a disaster Even longer journeys by taxi to school and more cars on the road creating more pollution. A massive loss to the local community and less attractive to families as an area to live in. Job losses.
90. Detrimental impact on community and area. Increased traffic and more pressure on capacity of neighbouring schools.
91. I do NOT feel that this would be of benefit to anyone, parent, pupil or wider community.
92. I would not drive my child to other small school which is far away from us. And going to the big school which is only available here is scary thinking.
93. No, Children are working together, great teacher, the daily mile, outdoor forest.
94. Closing Grandtully School means that there is no alternative in nearby area for an outdoor learning school. I think this should be more promoted by council as it is a great way of learning life skills. It suits all types of children and it really bond's them and it keeps schools interesting.
95. This is a ridiculous idea, many of these children need additional support and this just cannot be offered in a main stream school, so all that this is doing is taking away learning opportunities for these young children of our future of giving them a bright and prosperous future to save some money, surely we can find ways of raising funds or making cuts in other areas.
96. Worst option. Devastating impact on our local community, the school is at the heart of our village.

97. This would be devastating and terribly disruptive for the pupils and the community with a significant reduction in the feeling of community well being. The current roll is in fact bucking trends and has grown over 200% in recent years. A huge, and unjustifiable loss. This absolutely should not be an option or given any further consideration. This is supported by all three Highland Ward Councillors and unanimously in the local community. Please listen. I cannot see any benefit other than a potential cost saving for PKC to the option for closure. In addition, I am not confident that the school roll predictions accurately reflect figures which we know of personally (new pupils) or give any allowance for the out of catchment children whose families CHOOSE Grandtully or any allowance for the proposed new housing (28 units) in the catchment. Similarly there seems to be little consideration for the outstanding ASN provision which Grandtully provides or for the commitment of the parent council and staff to develop and sustain significant roll growth (over 200%) Grandtully has sustained for the last seven years.
98. This would be terrible for the local community and for the children and their parents. Something really special is going on in Grandtully, it may be small and there for not as cost efficient for the council but it offers much more than its big sister Breadalbane in Aberfeldy can offer and also gives an alternative option for children who can't get on in large schools.
99. This would be devastating for all the children and parents alike. Since XXXXX Breadalbane, my XXXXX who is on the XXXXX and also suffers from XXXXX has changed dramatically. XXXXX now enjoys school rather than dreads it, XXXXX is starting to make real friendships, which XXXXX has never really been able to do before, and XXXXX is starting to progress academically rather than struggle to keep up. We need smaller schools as large, open plan environments with no access to green space do not work for appt of children. My XXXXXX who is XXXXX is also excelling at Grandtully. XXXXX is in XXXXX and at a recent parents evening we were informed that XXXXX is in the XXXXX group for reading and maths and is in fact top of the group! Grandtully is an inclusive school that excels in not just providing outstanding academic education but also displays really good morals and ethics allowing children of all abilities to flourish.
100. Swimming in the deep end without having a swimming licence.....don't take little people away from their safe envi.
101. This option shouldn't be considered and would result in families having to commute in excess of 30mins per day to get pupils to other catchment areas which is time that could be better spent
102. No, this option disrupts the schooling of the learners and creates doubt and uncertainty for the professionals that work in the school. Reduces the viability of the area as an option to attract new parents. It also means that children have to be bused and travel further to school, friends they might make in Breadalbane might not live close to them reducing social interaction outside school, especially those with transportation issues or low incomes as bus services are fragmented outside school/work hours. Staff morale, staff will have to provided work elsewhere if the school closes this creates doubt for their future, additionally they may need to travel more. Will an effort be made to retain these professionals to utilize their skills and passion for the job? Attracting teachers to Highland Perthshire and retention is an issue, closing schools reduces employment possibilities for professionals wishing to work here. It is healthy to have a mix of teaching professionals those who have lived here and those with expertise and an outlook that have come to this area to offer a different perspective to their peers and learners. If we are left with fewer schools, then in all likelihood those that live here who chose to become a teacher and work here will undoubtedly have been schooled themselves in the places they will teach in and that I believe is not desirable. For the future health of education in this area Grandtully Primary and the other schools on review must remain open.
103. Shouldn't be an option.

104. Absolutely not! This is a thriving school with suitable buildings in good condition and a sustainable school roll. The school is a vital part of the local community and it provides vital funds to the village hall's as its biggest customer. Having the option of a big school at Breadalbane and a small school at Grandtully offers enviable choice in a rural community making both Grandtully and Aberfeldy rural towns of choice for people. Not all the pupils would move to a neighbouring school given that over half of them come from the Breadalbane catchment area. Everyone has chosen a small school, with all of the associated benefits, for a reason. Having the option of closure has been extremely negative for the school's reputation and is working against the very occupancy levels that we have all worked so hard to achieve. There are no feasible, or logical, reasons to close such a high performing rural school. I strongly believe that closure should be removed from the list of Options pertaining to Grandtully Primary School at the earliest opportunity. If that means the Lifelong Learning Committee need to meet to discuss this, then please arrange a meeting of the executive subcommittee ASAP. The fact that a meeting is required is no reason not to propose this! We have unanimous support for this motion from every Highland Ward councillor, Pete Wishart, John Swinney, the community and all the parents, present and future. Nobody believes that closure will happen so why are we all having to waste such an enormous amount of time and energy 'going through the process'? Save that time and money and invest it back into the school where it belongs.
105. The neighbours school is completely different from the village school which allows children to enjoy a morning walk rather than transport to Breadalbane which is a larger school I think would be difficult for pupils to adjust to.
106. The school is the single biggest user of the Hall & Park and contributes 13% of income. The Hall could sustain the financial loss, but would be underutilised, reducing further its role as a community resource. Typically one parent is a Hall Trustee and this is likely to be lost. The gala is likely to fizzle out over time. There would be concerns about how the building would be used and whether it would lie empty. Teaching jobs, secretary etc roles would be lost.
107. Unthinkable. There will be a very negative response from the community if this decision were taken. Perth and Kinross is one of the wealthiest regions in Scotland. Such a move would undermine the community's faith in the Council's ability to manage the services that local people depend on.
108. There would be huge impact if the school were to be closed. It is highly valued by people in the village and there are also other pupils that are placed here - a testament to the success and reputation of the school. Several children attend our school due to needing additional support which has not been available elsewhere. The school supports local business and works in harmony with the development of these businesses in a rural economy.
109. With rural areas becoming increasingly populated by retirees and non-resident holiday home owners, the proportion of families with school-age children will probably continue to fall. Closing a local school such as Grandtully will do nothing to attract young families to the area. Once the school goes, other local services are likely to follow.
110. Not an option.
111. This option would be devastating for the pupils. Grandtully offers an alternative to main stream education present in the larger primary at Breadalbane. Having worked in Breadalbane and in larger primary schools in England I am aware of the differences. In a smaller school pupils can have their say and shape their school experiences much more effectively, due to pupil numbers and the size of the school. Pupils develop a sense of responsibility through their involvement in the school and can reflect on the impact their decisions can have ensuring they develop as responsible citizens, effective contributors and confident individuals. The school offers a nurturing environment in which staff build effective and positive relationships over time. This relationship and knowledge ensures that attainment for pupils isn't affected by a change teachers each year and accurate knowledge of how these pupils think and learn means that we have successful learners.

The setting of the school enables pupils to have many valuable outdoor learning opportunities including weekly Forest School which encourages the development of a wide range skills for life and work such as resilience, problem solving, cooperation, team work, self-awareness as well as developing a positive mindset and mindfulness. These regular opportunities are not present for all pupils in the larger school. Our parents are very active and crucial members of the school and their participation in our thriving parent council would be hard to replicate in Breadalbane. Since XXXXX the school in XXXXX, this has always been the case and many parents and families meet and mix socially. With many families who are new to the area, this welcoming group provides a much needed social group in a rural area. Grandtully Primary School closing would have a negative impact on the area. With the nearest primary schools being Logierait or Breadalbane, many families looking to move to the area may look to locate elsewhere rather than drive the distance or send pupils on buses and taxis. Two significant businesses such as the Highland Chocolatier and the new Grandtully Hotel are both run by families at the school and this investment in the area is significantly attributed to a rural community served by a rural primary school. Closing the school would indicate a decline in the area and would make Grandtully a less attractive option as a place to live and work.

112. I do not support this option. Grandtully Primary School is successful, the building and outdoor areas are in good shape and suitable for Curriculum for Excellence, and the current school roll is healthy - with a projection that it will stay much the same in the years to come. This area is lucky to have a variety of school experiences for children that suit this rural area.
113. "Not an option I would like to consider. This would take the heart out of the community and take away opportunities for the children within the community. People choose Grandtully because they want their children to have fantastic experiences and opportunities to learn within a small setting."
114. Absolutely reject this option. We have 28 pupils this year and our roll is predicted to grow for the next few years swell despite this review (unlike other schools in the process). The small school offers all pupils an incredible level of educational support and provision, and truly provides for all learners. Not something other schools can confidently say. Closing the school would be detrimental to the community as a whole, there are two significant local businesses nearby employing well over 40 staff each (within 200 yards) whose employees have pupils at the school. Many local estates staff rely on the local school. Pupils within the catchment walk to school and their parents rely on being able to walk and then go straight to work. Closure of the school would impact significantly on lifestyle and work. Many pupils are unlikely to go to the nearest local school or the school within the catchment as many of our pupils have already been moved here from other schools, closing the school would be incredibly disruptive to learning and education and well being of our pupils. There would also be an environmental impact of any school closure with more parents being forced to travel longer distances for access to school.
115. This would be a devastating blow to the community.
116. Closing Grandtully Primary School would be the most devastating outcome. Grandtully village and its surrounds is a thriving wee area which includes a growing population of young families. Grandtully Primary School may be a small rural school but it has a huge community spirit which in turn promotes a solid foundation for the development of valuable and important lifelong skills.
117. This should not be an option. The impact of closure on pupils would be massive, with many pupils already been moved to our school from elsewhere. The impact on the community would be massive. The school is the heart of the community - the parent council work closely with the community council to run the gala, we are the village halls biggest customer, the children at school have close links to local churches and businesses. The impact of closure on the pupils in terms of environment and transport would be significant, with longer journeys involved. The impact of not having a school in a rural community is massive - businesses in our area have told us they are very

- concerned about lack of school for their employees and families moving to the area. There is also an implication for staff not just at Grandtully but at Kenmore too.
118. Loose some parental and local support for the school/s involved. Reduce choice for pupils/parents.
 119. Currently the school is held in high regard from parents and the local community and that a closure would have a negative impact on local families, property and businesses. Pupils who are located close to Grandtully would also have an increased commute to a neighbouring school out with their area.
 120. I think this would be very detrimental to the community because the village school is the hub of the village and can be a factor for people moving to the area. A large school is not always suitable for some children and the smaller, family atmosphere suits some children better
 121. Closing Grandtully School would decrease the quality of education in Perthshire. What impact do we think a child's education has on their future as an adult? Our ability to make our own choices on everything from food, physical and mental health to going to work every day & forming lasting, meaningful relationships is influenced and formed in the first few years in our life. Good communities act as their own mental health management and take unnecessary pressure off the NHS. If we ignore the building blocks of a quality, self-reliant civilisation, we will create a dependant people that cost more and more to maintain. Smaller, country schools really make a difference.
 122. No, support and promote a extraordinary teaching and education, good parent and community support. If closed we would take our XXXXX to another school BUT NOT the Breadalbane campus
 123. This would have a detrimental impact on the local community, making it less attractive for families to move to the area.
 124. My nieces love this school and it really is at the heart of the Grandtully community. It would be devastating for the families and communities if the school closed.
 125. A lot of the parents sending children to Grandtully would potentially look into private school. Deter people from living in the area. This is what kills communities - it won't be long before the whole place is filled with 2nd home owners that are barely here.
 126. This is not option. Many kids came recently from Breadalbane as they couldn't cope there! Any other small schools are far away from my area.
 127. Neighbouring schools would not necessarily provide what is required: Breadalbane - too large, Pitlochry - large & distant. Logierait - could not accommodate the numbers. The school has excellent facilities for a small number of pupils: an adjoining play area, recreation ground and village hall.
 128. Outrageous suggestion. We need young families to stay in the area and help our community thrive. If the school closes families will leave businesses will struggle even more to find staff and the local economy will struggle to survive.
 129. This considerably affects the while community and will have a negative effect, reducing the benefits of living in this area and causing additional strain to other schools.
-

5) Are there any alternative options or proposals that you feel should be considered? (Please give details).

Comments

1. The council to work with the parent council we could have a waiting list for the school in the next 3-5 years – a great school.
2. A nursery in the village hall would be hugely beneficial, then my youngest could come now as well.
3. Please take out the option to close school already met criteria to remain open + not be on closure list.
4. ASN provision at school is great. The council must give more support to this.
5. Do the council ever consider the effect a school closure can have on the careers of the staff who are their employees?
6. Remove the option to close entirely. Pupil roll has increased yearly over last 5 years and projected numbers are on the up.
7. Takeaway closure! It's having a massive impact on the community.
8. Remove Grandtully from closure list. 28 pupils.
9. Remove Grandtully Primary from the review and reinvest the money this review has cost back into an excellent RURAL SCHOOL.
10. Take the school out of the process – its wasting money – unless our views will count for nothing and the decision is already taken!
11. Start – celebrating and supporting an excellent model of a successful, inclusive rural school.
12. Ballot the catchment area. It would give a more accurate projected roll.
13. Yes – further help and support for our school so that we continue to grow and thrive and deliver outstanding educational benefits for our children.
14. Alternative solution – remove us from the review! We do not meet the criteria to be in the review in the first place!
15. Further economic investment to help attract new business/employment opportunities and in turn boost population and make school roll more sustainable.
16. YES – consider improvements re early year's provision/nursery and wrap around care. Or at least support empower the parent council in delivering this.
17. YES – please remove closure as an option. For so many reasons we feel this is not a viable option and should not be given no further consideration.
18. Decisions about schools need to be taken in a broader context than counting the number of children on school rolls. The council should be looking at how stimulating local employment, providing affordable housing, expanding transport links and improving internet connections can stimulate our communities + help them thrive + grow. Schools are a part of this equation. Community schools have much more valuable local knowledge which can help inform politicians.
19. Parent council of the school doing lots of fundraising + help school in every print. Save money yourself, PLEASE, and remove Grandtully School from review list.
20. YES – formalise ASN provision so that we can support more ASN pupils and continue to make our role sustainable.
21. Remove closure as an option with immediate effect + invest the money saved into the school.
22. Remove closure as an option.
23. Rather than close the school the council should invest in its future.
24. Remove Grandtully from the review. I believe if you were to take the time to meet the children you would see how wrong it is to put us in this position.
25. Don't hold just one consultation session in mid-November when it is more likely to be dark, cold, wet evening which could negatively impact turnout from local residents.

26. Lots of young people who work in Ballintaggart have moved to the area because they want to be part of a thriving rural community and start a family in a rural area.
27. Grandtully School give the community the actual problem why there is a review. Problems are to be solved and for sure if it is all about “money” – the community will jump in to fill that gap if there is any! Quality is already there! The school is the perfect place for local children! Please rethink before acting.
28. If funding is available from £145 mil over next 6 years to provide and/or review resources.
29. One must see the support for the school is overwhelming so closing is not an option.
30. Consider removing school from closure. Maybe consider a nursery provided within community hall.
31. Expand catchment area to include Logierait.
32. Start a breakfast club or ‘wrap-around’ service for pupils to encourage parents with work commitments to choose Grandtully over Breadalbane.
33. Consider a council-run nursery provision in the village hall (wrap-around provision).
34. Support the school option 4 by removing closure as an option!
35. We need closure on the review hanging over. Option must be don’t close (but could consider review of catchment).
36. As Grandtully & Kenmore schools share a head teacher could the catchment area link them by taking pupils from north of the Tay.
37. Work with the parent council to raise the roll. Make it part of the parent council remit – we would gladly accept. Advertise small schools and their achievements.
38. Consider removing option to close. We have 28 pupils now + our projected growth is good.
39. If we really are under capacity use it for a nursery in the school!
40. Add a nursery to Grandtully so that all pupils in village get a chance to start their education here.
41. DUAL CATCHMENT. Closing Grandtully takes away choices of primary schools for parents and denies children the opportunity for a high standard of enriched education.
42. Please don’t shut Grandtully and I think we have brilliant teachers, but the truth is I don’t really want to go to school so, I’m 50% 50% - don’t want it to shut.
43. We have a business in Grandtully. Our staff are hard enough to find, compared with e.g. Pitlochry and Aberfeldy with Secondary School. PLEASE don’t take away one of our VERY FEW assets here.
44. Consider wraparound care – maybe a breakfast club or after school activities? Use the village hall as a nursery? Consider expanding the catchment.
45. Remove Grandtully from this review. With 28 pupils at present it’s well above the 60% threshold! This review is based on out of date figures from 3 years ago!
46. A nursery.
47. Remove option to close school!!
48. Nursery in village hall. Expand catchment. Support parent council to provide wrap around care.
49. Yes, you could review the catchment IF the option to close is removed first, so school future is safe + then consider extend catchment.
50. Conclude this review early. There is so much damage being done to the school reputation and roll while seen to be “under the axe”.
51. "Make the school building available for more activities. Do you have a nursery or even a commercial day nursery."
52. Before offering ideas of other options, I wish to recommend a complete review of the review process itself. Parents have been told that we should not feel the need to be defensive or that this is an "us and them" scenario. How blind of the Council to not see that their abstruse and isolating process inevitably creates this dynamic. If the Council desires another reaction, they must take a new approach to the conversation with communities about the education of the children in their midst. If the Council continues to carry out reviews in this manner, then it can be assumed that they are satisfied with

their own high-handedness and inaccessibility and the resulting anger, dissatisfaction and waste that that creates. My suggestion is that a new process be designed through personal and meaningful consultation with parent councils and local councillors. The process must include: a genuine effort on behalf of the Council to seek out and listen to the parent councils through informal and personal contact; that there is a direct and open way for community to ask questions to the Council itself; that words used and reports written are easily understandable and do not use jargon or Council specific language; that parent councils are not required to advertise the Council's review and garner support from the community, that the Council provide each school with an individual Council representative to support the parents through the process and to personally get to know about the schools they are investigating; that all dynamics which create a duty on the parent councils to campaign or defend their school be removed; that the process allow for flexibility, changes in circumstance and possibilities to change course when deemed clear or prudent. Alternative Options: 1. Consider that children are the most precious treasure a community can possess and then redefine how much of the total Council resource can be devoted to their education. 2. Give parents of our schools a period of time (perhaps 2 years) to work in their communities to promote and advertise their school among other parents to increase the roll. Make a part of parent council remit to keep pupil roll above 60%. Give a small budget to parents and schools to advertise themselves, their activities and successes so that wider community remains aware of the schools attainments. If a budget is impossible, parent councils will raise money for this purpose. 3. Create an option for schools to be self-funded by parent councils and communities. 4. Give a budget to staff a "breakfast club" at Grandtully for early morning care, as well as afterschool care and activities. 5. Review the roll capacity of Grandtully School which is too high as it currently includes a cupboard as part of its available pupil capacity. 6. Invest in the promotion of growth for rural communities and make it attractive for families to move there. 7. Ensure that services and resources are fairly spread across Perthshire so that all aspects of life are provided for - this includes medical care and ambulances, access to banking facilities, school options, and other necessities. 8. Create tax on owners of overgrown hedges - this sounds ridiculous, but if there was a tax for not keeping your hedge cut to allow safe traffic on walkways and roads, the Council would have a very good stream of income. It would allow for safe transport to school and for use of roads allowing safe access to rural areas. There are some seriously problematic hedges in our area and no one takes responsibility for keeping pavements and roads accessible - it's dangerous and a turn off for visitors to the area.

53. If the larger primary school in the area was deemed an outstanding school- maybe more parents would consider sending their children too it. At present children in this area are being failed in their education not through the teaching but through lack of strategy and lack of investment due to budget cuts. The teachers who are in place are fab however the council should reconsider its recruitment and retention program. Also if Scotland has a shortage of teachers - look at providing a qualification for English trained primary teachers to transfer north of the border. Cumbria University and Edge Hill University produce good primary teachers, however due to the lack of primary teaching jobs in the North West of England many reluctantly leave to teach abroad. I know of outstanding teachers who wish to live in Scotland however don't move or apply for jobs here as they believe they can't teach in the Scottish system. I have one friend who travels each day across the boarder from Edinburgh to teach in England even though there are jobs closer to her home! but she has been told she can't have because she trained in the English system?! SSE have developed a good transfer system and relocation package which should be looked at. In addition one year contracts are rubbish, as mortgage companies require a better commitment from employers. All worth looking into before closing these smaller schools."
54. Invest more in this amazing little school. ASN children, including XXXXX, are thriving. Large schools like Breadalbane are NOT always a suitable environment for these

- children who struggle on a daily basis. Having a smaller, more personal rural school (with a stimulating playground) works wonders. ASN is increasing in this area and this needs to be recognised.
55. Take us out of the review!
 56. Combination of 1. And 3.
 57. Nursery provision would be nice. Maybe specialist provision for children with additional needs who prefer a smaller school.
 58. Keep it the way it is, promote to new parents.
 59. I think outdoor learning schools should be more supported by the council as this is the future for mayor problems I can see ahead. Think rising numbers of children with mental health issues. If you support smaller schools more or reduce classroom numbers, it would save the government lots of money long term.
 60. Fund raising.
 61. N/A.
 62. To remove closure as an option and the negative impact the threat has. Furthermore, to showcase our brilliant wee school, celebrate it as sector-leading and support it to continue to increase its roll and thrive. We witness Grandtully Primary School maximising attainment and committing to giving the pupils the best life chances on a daily basis. A broad approach on outcomes should be taken in this review with some consultation of past pupils and families. The following National Outcomes underpin the school strategy and are present in the delivery of all education to pupils. National Outcome 4 – “Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.” National Outcome 5 – “Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.” National Outcome 10 – “We live in well- designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need.” National Outcome 11 – “We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.” Lastly, very local improvements in Early Years provision and wrap around care would help to support parents and make the school and community even more sustainable.
 63. Put money in to the school to make it even better.
 64. Consider the needs of the high proportion of ASN kids already present at the school for whom the closure could severely negatively impact their quality of life. Also consider the need of ASN children in future who would not cope in a larger school but who would thrive at Grandtully. The best alternative solution would be to remove Grandtully altogether from the review as it exceeds the requirements to be on the review in the first place! The proposed closure is a blatant cost cutting exercise disguised as a review. You cannot put a price on the level of education and the quality of environment that Grandtully provides.
 65. Centralise some local small schools together but don't ask every child in the valley to head to BreadalbaneGrandtully will be the village to keep!
 66. Keeping the school open seems to be the only viable option and hence there are no alternatives that come to mind
 67. I have concerns shared by many in the Pitlochry, Grandtully, Logierait and surrounding areas that there has been a severe lack of investment in this area, for jobs, affordable housing, business opportunities and in education since XXXXX moved here XXXXX years ago. I'm worried that this review has been brought about by this lack of spend and foresight by the decision makers in local government that have allowed the schools to fall into various states of decline. For the future viability of this area investment and a commitment by the council must be given, firstly by securing the educational choices to those here and those who wish to settle here in keeping these schools open. I am also concerned that the information used to judge class size therefore the viability of schools is not realistic to Grandtully's current role. It has grown 250% (from 11 in 2015) to 28 in 2018 and this must be reflected in the decision. Also the building has been classed B and is in good condition requiring little in the way of investment.

68. Closure should be removed as an Option for Grandtully Primary School in the Schools Estate Review with immediate effect i.e. before the Options Appraisal Report is presented to the Lifelong Learning Committee. This will save the council money by narrowing the scope of the report and save the school from further negative implications. It will also reduce stress, for the pupils who all love their school, and a huge time commitment from a very stretched Parent Council.
 69. Parents are obviously prepared to drive their children to Grandtully from outside the catchment area, so give the school a special status to meet a particular need e.g. for special talents or learning difficulties/disability - consolidating a group in Grandtully which are costly to support in a dispersed area.
 70. We consider that there should be nursery provision available at or near the school which will greatly assist parents in sending their children to the school.
 71. Grandtully community already sees a significant number of its children attending other schools, notably Breadalbane. One reason for this may be that it has a breakfast club, which makes it a more viable option for working parents. Establishment of a similar facility at Grandtully could encourage local families to use their local school and others from outside the catchment to send their children to Grandtully instead of Breadalbane.
 72. Developing the school facilities, equipment and overall potential.
 73. It is important that when people move to the area, or have children in nursery, that they are made aware of Grandtully Primary School and given opportunities to get to know the school.
 74. To consider an outdoor kindergarten in the grounds of the school. This would then feed directly into the school and the children would continue with their forest schooling.
 75. Yes, could consider using the hall in the village as a space for a council funded nursery - there is a big gap in the area for this provision. Would also like to see the council considering additional funding for our school that reflects the high level of ASN pupils we have and the support requirements for them.
 76. No.
 77. No.
 78. Adding a nursery to the school could help as a lot of pupils who go to nursery in Aberfeldy, have made friends and sometimes don't want to move to another school environment.
 79. Be positive, promote the school with the parent council. in the next 5 year we could have a waiting list and full capacity.
 80. A partner provider Forest school Outdoor Nursery would be an excellent addition to the school, complementing the strong practice being developed in this area by the school.
 81. Make it more known you request a place for your child even if you're out with the catchment area.
 82. Please remove Grandtully School from the review list. School is doing well and will grow in future.
 83. The sharing of Headteacher roles is already used. Greater involvement of local people with transferrable skills to vary the education offered.
 84. One can only conclude that this is all about politics and money/ numbers. If the school needs more money to run it tell us and the community will raise the money to keep our school.
 85. The only sensible option is to preserve the status quo.
-

6) How would you describe the community and what are your thoughts on Grandtully Primary School as part of the community?

Comments

1. This is a small community which values the inter-relationship between age groups. Losing the school would be disastrous for this.
2. Grandtully School was here for a long time.... Its WEE SCHOOL WITH BIG IDEAS. My friends, who's child went here 15 years ago are so proud about this school.
3. This school is the heart/hub of the community. Since joining in XXXXX we feel we have joined a family!
4. Community is close knit with local events regularly happening. School is a hub of Grandtully/Strathhtay village life and is a positive influence on the culture and social interaction of rural communities. The community can't afford to lose this.
5. I am an incomer, retiree living in Aberfeldy area. Our community which is volunteers, people trying to create opportunities or support others. There is a good mix of retirees – incomers/locals. One of the problems in keeping communities alive is diversity – there are many holiday/weekend properties in our area. People love nature, quiet + the community facilities, but not all invest their lives here. People who live here have more to offer the community but we desperately need younger people with children to prevent us becoming a retirement community. Younger people with children need access to schools for their children – small schools make valuable contribution to their community, perhaps more so than by schools who become 'institutions' rather than 'active' participants that is what I see as the difference between Breadalbane and Grandtully. Going into Breadalbane Campus is very often described as going through 'prison security' it is harder to get to know staff. Grandtully is more open to the outside + offers more to the children + the community – e.g. dinner for the elderly at Christmas. Grandtully is approachable Breadalbane feels incomprehensible. It may be different if you have children (grandchildren) at the school but if you are a retiree trying to involve children + families in local projects (cinema, film society) that is the difference.
6. The children/school is a vital part of the community as they integrate/interact with the older generation. Children bring a vitality and optimism to any community and they are the future of this community.
7. A school and a good school draws young people to a community. Grandtully is such a school, if Perthshire is going down in numbers closing the school will only encourage this trend.
8. We are new to the community and have been made to feel very welcome by everyone we have met. The school is a vital element of any community, providing and 'anchor' for families who then contribute to the community.
9. Community is vibrant + welcoming. The school is a vital core of the community, a focal point. The school is the village hall's biggest client. No school = no village hall = no community spirit.
10. Friendly, inclusive, engaged + generally very supportive community.
11. The community is close and welcoming. The school is vital for the survival of the community and for attracting new families.
12. As a grandparent I see XXXXX very happy XXXXX enjoying a very happy school life. Grandtully Primary is a very special school. I have a younger XXXXX whom I would not like to miss out on what the XXXXX have.
13. Happy, creative, encouraging, caring, supportive.
14. Grandtully Primary plays such an important role in bringing this community together. It is the heart of our community working closely creating events within the village. This primary school is backed by a strong parental council and work so hard in fundraising. We need this school as much as we need red wine.
15. Active, engaged, committed – caring and community focused.

16. The school is a vital part of the community. We need to keep it to encourage more families to come here to live and work. Many businesses struggle to find staff and losing the school will make it harder to get young families to live here.
17. As a local business owner we work closely with the school on projects including planting and growing a vegetable garden and developing, testing and deciding on the children's menu for our XXXXX.
18. I would wish every child in this community to have this experience – links with the community, with business, with environment excellent. Heart of the community.
19. Having lived in the local community for XXXXX years and as a business owner and parent of a child who went to Grandtully for P1-P7 and who experienced an education which nurtured curiosity, inclusiveness, attainment, love of learning + maturity.
20. The community would the school is deceptively popular and quite active. There is a strong feeling that the school is an extremely important hub whose loss would remove the focus for the community events such as the Annual Gala. Loss of the school would remove a key driver in local social interaction of families with school age children.
21. Active, inclusive community. Grandtully School is a key part of this.
22. I feel it's a lovely community and the school is very much part of the community. The children all seem to love it the teachers are great all the outdoor areas are great.
23. Vibrant, thriving, dynamic, brilliant, highly involved. Evidence of many collaborates – Gala Day, Christmas celebrations, genuine community/school working together.
24. Inclusive, friendly, communicative – good face to face, supportive.
25. Hall/park provides well used 'doorstep' resources for school. School provides the most usage of our facilities and without that revenue the community could well be under threat. We conduct events for community jointly with school such as annual gala. Support parent/council has rep/trustee on our community.
26. A fantastic place to live, work and grow out family! And our business.
27. A small but incredibly diverse community. Locals are proud of the area and the ways of life they represent. As XXXXX one of the primary reasons I moved to this area in 2017 was for THIS excellent school. Rural workers often don't have a choice in quality or location of school. Choice is vital and this school + the young people therein represent the future of the community – they should be educated and nurtured LOCALLY.
28. The school plays a very important part in the community and the community is very proud to have a school of this quality here. A small community like Grandtully benefits tremendously from having a school like this in the area.
29. Grandtully is evolving as a village with growing thriving businesses. For example Ballintaggart now employing 62 staff who have families.
30. The school is a central part of the community of Grandtully. Please do not close it.
31. School essential to community as so many people work in our community we need the school (+ a new nursery) in the village.
32. School has strong links with the church/local businesses/village hall. Also school parent council organises Gala Day and (until recently) fireworks display.
33. The school is a thriving, vibrant, happy place. The children give the community purpose. Growing up in a small community creates practical skills and good-hearted engaged people.
34. Grandtully is a huge part of the community, involved wholeheartedly in all village events. An experienced bond within the community – MUST NOT CLOSE!
35. Integral part of the community. Strong community + school links.
36. Pivotal. Children are a communities present and future. It is the last remaining addition of community life, supporting and integrating with elderly and local businesses.
37. The closure of Grandtully Primary School would be detrimental for the rural economy of this area.
38. Grandtully has a very active and thriving community and the primary school plays a massive part in this.
39. The parent council of Grandtully Primary School are very active in the local community.

40. The school regularly uses the hall – twice a week. The community are strongly opposed to the closure.
41. Very important supporting local shop – the town hall – school activity – keeping people to move in Grandtully area for the school.
42. The community needs the school to keep and build the core. We do not want to become an area of 2nd homes (Strathhtay).
43. Grandtully has a thriving community and the school is a very important part of this. Please don't close it!
44. So much goodwill emanates from the school – teachers AND parents. A tiny but regular BUZZ comes each day with parents dropping + collecting kids – much more when the school has OPEN 'dos/shows' etc.
45. Grandtully Primary brings a wider community together. The pupils and families care greatly for the school and regularly hold events and gatherings at Grandtully Primary. The closure of the school would have a huge impact to the surrounding community.
46. A primary school is incredibly important for a small community. Kids make friends that they can actually play with after school without epic journeys. They are small children and should not have a long commute to school.
47. It is a huge part of our community. The school children are a daily sight in the village, they get involved with local businesses and local people visit the school to share skills and help at the school. Without the school the heart of the village would be gone. It is a strong reason for people to move to the area, to give a good alternative to a large school, and it gives an exceptional offering for additional support needs students.
48. Great school community; parents setting up businesses and bringing employment to the area and great network for parents who support each other Ask yourselves, why would parents move to an area if there is no outstanding or good school?
49. It is the heart of the community, the children are very involved in local matters/business and in turn are supported by the local community.
50. "Grandtully community includes a wide variety of workers from farmers to restaurateurs, artists to retirees. The school works hard to include it's community. In the past it has catered for a community Christmas lunch. It has some wonderful musical and dramatic productions, which attract the wider community and give them a chance to socialise together.
51. It is an important community employer with 90 per cent of staff living in the local community."
52. The community are with the Parent council and very keen to see the school kept open. The kids have helped with bonfire night and making a guy, and turning on the lights at Christmas as well as putting on a Christmas show in the village hall. The school regularly uses the hall for P.E. and end of term showcases.
53. It's absolutely vital for semi-rural communities to exist.
54. Having lived in the area it is a central part of the local community as well as being a friendly and excellent school. Local people are involved with the school and attend events, close link to the village hall for example.
55. Grandtully is a community as it should be. It is held together by institutions such as Grandtully Primary School. Without this smaller communities will struggle to thrive. Identity is removed and transferred to larger neighbouring areas.
56. My family is new to the area but we decided on Grandtully a XXXXX ago when we first decided to move to XXXXX. It has taken a long time to sell our house and find a home here. We feel that Grandtully not only offers an excellent rounded education for children in a close knit community which is growing - because the school's reputation is spreading much further than the village itself. Grandtully provides the kind of learning environment that most parents can only dream of obtaining for their children.
57. The school is very important for community; there is still large area for people from farms and surrounding area which need the school. Some kids need small class to grow up, and stability of one teacher in primary school is so important.
58. Very good and very close.

59. It's a small community where everybody knows each other. Having an active school who organises a lot of things, brings the community young and old more together. Strathtay and Grandtully are very popular areas to live. Houses sell or rent easily, but having a school would attract more you get family's. Closing the school the neighbourhood would slowly grow old and go empty.
60. My XXXXX has blossomed since moving to this school and I really don't feel XXXXX would be doing as well as XXXXX is now if XXXXX was stayed at XXXXX normal main stream school.
61. Very active local community with a real sense of rural community / village life. Our school plays a very active role in this. The school is involved in community events, local fundraising and local business initiatives. This gives our children a real sense of place and community which they wouldn't get at any other school.
62. I would describe the community of Grandtully and Strathtay as unusual, vibrant, diverse, growing hub which is full of energy and creativity. There are a large number of successful, well established local businesses - not least the most visible, The Highland Chocolatier, The Grandtully Hotel by Ballintaggart, The Inn on the Tay and Strathtay Stores and Post Office - all testament to the closely knit, supportive and well engaged community. The villages are a very popular and important destination and meeting point for locals and visitors. Grandtully Primary School is the symbolic capital of the community but more than that, an integral part of community life. It delivers an education which is fit for purpose and for meeting the needs and aspirations of this ambitious community hence it's tag line, a wee school with BIG ideas. The school leads on some key events in the Community calendar including the Summer Gala Day, Bonfire Night and a Community Christmas service. The school is also the largest and some would say most important user of the next door Village Hall, without the School, the Hall would have an uncertain future and potentially leave two large buildings empty and unused, a very damaging proposition. In addition, the school leaders place an immense value on preparing the children to live and work in a rural community. Last year, a term was dedicated to the topic "Living and working in Highland Perthshire" and, with an innovative and flexible approach, over 50 local business were engaged, presented and completed workshops with the children and carried out interviews. All vital cornerstones of rural education and the preservation, support and development of rural communities and all inspiring and energising the children to think about a future in our area. The school is incredibly well supported locally. Over £10,000 has been raised by the Parent Council in the past couple of years, this has funded a daily healthy snack for all children, transport for school trips and to strengthen links to the nearby cluster schools with shared challenges and activities such as skiing, kayaking, The Kenmore Book Fair and The Wee Robbie Challenge. It has also funded outdoor equipment and Forest School training for the teachers which has helped to improve CPD and staff retention and deliver new outdoor learning opportunities for the children. There are parent helpers present in the school every week, often working on creative projects through Genius Hour but also supporting reading and science with individual pupils and small groups and carrying out larger projects such as planning a vegetable garden and bulbs for Spring and tidying and maintaining the school grounds and playing areas. The highly engaged Parent Council is an excellent model for the benefits of a high level of parental input and helps implement the four capacities of Curriculum for Excellence, most notably supporting children to become "responsible citizens" and "effective contributors". The Commission on the Delivery of Rural Education also recommended "A new, clearer understanding of 'a presumption against closure' should be set out by the Scottish Government in the statutory guidance accompanying the 2010 Act to reduce conflict and provide clarity and protection for communities and local authorities." We have seen no evidence of this nor does the review at this stage reflect the special and unique context in which our small community is living and working.
63. This school is outstanding and produces well rounded children, who are having a exciting and inspiring education as well as learning to develop emotionally. If you close

- this school the community will no longer have this inspiration at its centre, which is attracting young families and inspiring business ideas to this area.
64. The community is truly amazing. We feel like we have entered into an extended family. We all chip in and help each other. The kids were involved in developing the kids menu for the newly opened Grandtully hotel, they embark on litter picks and are key to the very successful annual Grandtully Gala. All of this we have experienced in the short time we have been there (XXXXX).
 65. I have seen the importance since we are in Scotland, XXXXX, this school means a lot to the community and therefore it attracts a lot of new young family.
 66. The community around Grandtully is glued together by the school and supportive of each other as a result and as such the community and the school go hand in hand.
 67. Grandtully has recently been given a positive review, (Very Good HMI) its staff works hard to give its learners an excellent education it also deals with a number of referrals for children with additional support needs that have moved from Pitlochry and Breadalbane Academy. Grandtully offers a high quality and varied education, its staff trained in Forrest Schools with excellent outdoor faculties to do so. It also has secured funding and won equipment such as robotics and coding resources. The school competes with other larger schools in art, digital film making to name but a few examples, often doing well and excelling. What comes across is passion and dedication from the day to day needs of the learner through to using technology, engaging local business and talents to come in and support the learners needs. The teaching staff have also developed a range of skills that could only have been developed in a small composite school, vital in supporting the children's needs across the whole of their primary schooling, closing the school would mean that this invested in expertise would be much more under-utilized if the teacher was working in a single year group. Grandtully Parent Council is very engaged with the school providing funding for resources and networking with business and community groups.
 68. Grandtully is a great community the school is good the kids take part in a lot of things throughout the year.
 69. Grandtully is a friendly and welcoming community. There are active, award winning businesses, a local shop, pubs and restaurants. The school is a vital part of the community bringing many people together and providing a focal point. The school is the village hall's biggest financial customer, providing vital funds to enable the hall to remain open. The school is involved in many community events and is linked with the local church as well. A thriving primary school is a very attractive part of the local offering that brings new families to a rural area. Remove the school and you remove the heart of the community.
 70. I think Grandtully School plays a large part off the village.
 71. The community is divided about the school. As many children from the catchment area go to Aberfeldy, as choose Grandtully. These parents have the burden of transportation to Aberfeldy. They tend to be the more established families, while recent incomers warm to the idea of a village school and really appreciate the ethos. In the wider community there is an emotional attachment to the school when it was in its heyday. If the school was closed it would be felt as a loss widely, feeling like a nail in the coffin of sustaining an active, balanced community.
 72. As stated earlier, the school is very much part of the community and is seen as having played an important role in the development of local rural businesses, many of which are owned and run by parents of pupils at the school.
 73. See previous comments.
 74. The school is an integral part of the Grandtully/Strathay community. It's in the fabric of our culture. The school participates in local events including for example jointly organising, managing and presenting the annual local Gala with the Hall and Park committee.
 75. The community is up and coming with young families moving into the area keen to act and put something back. The successful Ballintaggart Farm and their new Grandtully

Hotel (run by a Grandtully School family) are helping to change the face of Grandtully. The parents and pupils are active members in the community and our occupancy of the village hall for the school's weekly PE lessons provides a welcome source of regular income. The school and the welcoming and thriving community ensures that the area is an attractive option to settle, work, live and thrive.

76. The school is a very important part of the community - with strong connections to the village hall, local businesses, the recreation field, and the churches.
77. The school is an integral part of the community and we have strong links with various partners in the wider community. We work hard to ensure that we engage with the community and parents to give our children an insight into the world of work and opportunities to widen their education.
78. Our school is at the very heart of the community, we are the biggest client of the local village hall. We co-host the annual Grandtully Village summer fete which is a huge event for the community with hundreds of people and many businesses attending. The parent council help run the and are very active in our community. Our parent council is around 70 percent of the school parents and raised thousands of pounds in the past few years.
79. The school is the thriving heart of the community, providing a hub for community activities such as the summer fair and Easter/Christmas events, whilst also being a trusted source of information to engage parents, carers and the wider community in other forms of participation (courses, events, action for change). We are so lucky to live in a small rural location still thriving with shops, a pub, an outstanding hotel and restaurant and award winning chocolatier. Many of these businesses employ parents with children in the school that is all part of the mix that draws in tourism, increases employment and creates such a dynamic environment here.
80. Grandtully Primary is an integral part of a rural community. Its closure would be hugely detrimental to its surrounding young families who are already having to cope with the closure or threatened closure of other essential services such as banks and post offices. Rural communities rely on strong schooling to attract, and continue the natural regrowth of population in our local area and the closure of this school would have a long term negative impact, again, not just within Grandtully village itself but within the wider area.
81. Grandtully has over the years been at the heart of the community.
82. Grandtully Primary School is a central part of the local community and has a very good parental involvement/engagement.
83. Grandtully Primary School is considered to be at the very heart of the community. This is evident through the voice of our pupils and from our active parent council. The school is highly involved in community events throughout the year and currently holds strong partnerships with the local community who regularly work with the children throughout each academic year. The community itself generally has an older population of residents which is apparent across Highland Perthshire. However, there is a thriving younger population of residents who are greatly involved in all aspects of community life and who choose to send their children to Grandtully Primary School.
84. Grandtully PS has always played a big part in the community and in turn the community plays a big part in the school and the community is also very supportive.
85. Grandtully plays a vital part in Perthshire housing and business. Local businesses need staff. New businesses start up either from newcomers attracted to an area or perhaps young people who are skilled and motivated to start or develop their own businesses. Newcomers to the area will need schools and crucially, their choice of school may favour that entrepreneurial spirit which enabled them to move to a new area and start a new business in the first place. Grandtully School has a great reputation for its community ties and its education. Every time I compare a Breadalbane showcase to Grandtully schools showcase, I am shocked at the difference. There is a big difference in the students' ability to speak in public or play music even by the time they are five or six years old. Grandtully consistently performs better than the big school that I do not feel caters well to most students at many levels.

86. We have a lots of support and good relationship with the town hall, local shop, community, use of the sport field and the school parent council do a few activity like Grandtully gala, thrift shop, church, fundraising, quiz, show.
 87. The community is long established and close. Grandtully Primary is an integral part of the community, working well with many organisations in the local area.
 88. A strong community with the school at the heart. The school is involved in many local events and celebrations.
 89. The school has a very important part to play within the community.
 90. School was here all the time. School is needed for families/ business. Kids working with people from community small school is important in this big area where we live.
 91. This is a small community which needs the inclusion of young people. In Strathtay there are too many second houses but Grandtully has the possibility of both providing pupils and enriching their experience as many local people have skills and talents they would love to share with the children.
 92. This is very special community and the school is a huge part of it. Everyone feels very passionately about this issue and we will fight to keep our school.
 93. In every way the school is central. I am the XXXXX of a local XXXXX and we have sponsored the purchase of XXXXX for the school as we believe it is the seed to the future of this fragile local rural economy.
-

7) Why do you think the population of 0-19 year olds in Highland Perthshire is decreasing?

Comments

1. Lack of investment, no affordable houses for young families.
2. I don't understand why this question is here? It's not something we can influence or understand – stupid question.
3. Closing down of rural community services such as schools!
4. Lack of investment by the council in public services here.
5. I'm not sure it is, in fact – how is that calculated? If so, possibly because there are more job opps in larger areas. Youth 16+ want to travel + broaden experience.
6. Housing – affordable is a big problem – a lot of people can't afford to buy in this area/lack of council housing too/also rents very high.
7. Cost of housing for parents. Poor transport for evenings spent in Perth (shows, clubs etc). Schools near-total lack of contacts in community it sits in. how many teachers actually LIVE in this community. Big exception illustrates this: - the XXXXX and Mrs XXXXX.
8. What's that got to do with our school?
9. Cost of housing is too high – buy or rent (Landlords can get away with outrageous standards). What is to keep them engaged in the countryside? Services + communities are under threat in various ways.
10. Lack of affordable houses built. No new council houses built. Focus on improving Perth ad no money spent on rural communities.
11. I think the population will increase based on new businesses expanding in the area + influence of improved A9 + potential to commute.
12. Is it decreasing? This question should not even be here.
13. Because the council aren't supporting rural areas + schools, they are not encouraging people to move to the area.
14. This is the United Kingdom trend not to be aimed at specific areas.
15. Rural Perthshire's population has expanded greatly in the last 10 years – a lot of which is made up of young families. Is closing Grandtully Primary a very short-sighted option when in 5 years' time there may be a demand for an extra primary?
16. Not sure that it has. I am a young person myself and have recently moved to the area, along with a number of other people for work opportunities.
17. I think it will grow again, more families coming from England or Europe for a better life.
18. Lack of facilities, career opportunities. BUT seems to be influx of young families into local area.
19. I find it slightly insulting writing on post-its when so much is at stake.
20. My children attended a 'outstanding' ofsted school prior – it was not nearly as outstanding as this school.
21. More 'labour' jobs for school leavers and parents being available might make Perthshire even more popular.
22. It's decreasing UK wide – unfair and not relevant question.
23. We are no different to any other area. This is a national trend. We still need good local schools!
24. This is symptomatic of rural areas across UK. Perhaps due to the lack of good, local schools?
25. Glen Lyon/Rannoch/Blair Atholl will have a bearing on these stats. I think they are misleading and do not necessarily represent Grandtully/Aberfeldy what are reportedly static over the same period.
26. Historical. As a local business owner we have employed XXXXX 20-30 years olds in the past 24 months. At least ten have moved from London/Central Scotland and re-located to Grandtully area. This trend is changing.

27. There is no decline but house prices are rising and there is lack of support for local businesses won't help. We need to make this valley more attractive and that doesn't help to close school at Grandtully.
28. I think rural areas in general, but Highland Perthshire in particular is increasingly being populated by a. retirees and b. people buying holiday homes. The employment options for working-age couples with children are limited and house prices are artificially pushed up by categories A and B people above.
29. The council must invest in technology – (the net to attract more young)
30. Not enough sex!
31. This is a worrying world, having children with such an uncertain future.
32. I don't think this is true in our area Aberfeldy/Grandtully. My XXXXX was in nursery were 30/35 kids in the morning another 20/25 in the afternoon. Many classes in primary schools are with 25/30 kids?
33. I find this hard to believe. New businesses are opening, it's a beautiful and thriving area to live and work in.
34. I don't think numbers declining means you have to close an excellent learning facility. Schools, especially good ones, attract more pupils/families.
35. 1. Affordable housing is difficult to find, so families struggle to find somewhere decent to live. 2. Transport – public transport is limited + really serves the main hubs – which means people need cars, which are expensive if you are on a low income. 3. A lot of work locally is seasonal + low paid – this means people with families struggle to get a good enough income to live in a rural area (housing + transport + work). 4. It is vital that schools are local so that families stay in our area or move in. if we lose more schools we will lose more families.
36. A result of a declining population + low birth rate which is UK wide NOT unique in Strathtay + Grandtully.
37. Lack of availability of housing + cost + lack of local authority provision.
38. This question is not relevant it needs to be taken into context to the wider UK epidemiology of fertility rates within the age group. This problem is not only in Highland Perthshire.
39. There must be many analyses of why the population 0-19 year olds appear to be declining. The lack of high speed broadband up till now may be a factor, but with its arrival there should be an increase in this population as more families choose quality of life in the country.
40. Lack of affordable housing, lack of work and poor access to services including schools. Compare Aberfeldy to Aviemore!
41. I am not sure this figure is accurate and the Council needs to back up this claim. If it is true however, perhaps it is because of the dismissive treatment these communities receive from the Council? Perhaps it is because our local Councillors appear to have little voice in Perth? Perhaps taking away our amenities (like ambulances and small hospital care) and investing so little in rural development compared to other investments means that other amenities (such as banks and stores) leave or never open? Perhaps Perth city could forego miles of beautiful Christmas lights, roundabout statues and new road systems while some of our rural schools operate in dilapidated porta cabins, can't afford to make photocopies for the children, can't find teachers who will stay, or give consistent access to opportunities for music, arts and extra-curricular provision for all schools (not just the newest ones)? Perhaps the Council needs to review where the vast majority of the money is going? Perhaps the Council should ask the secondary school children why they will want to leave?
42. House prices are very expensive; not enough social housing and affordable rents. Too many properties are holiday homes. Fuel costs are very expensive here and public transport issues.
43. Rural communities suffer when small businesses close, local pubs, shops etc. Children grow up and move away, not being replaced by new families taking their place. Having a good local school is top of the list when looking for a new home. If we lose our rural

- schools the community as a whole will be in decline and will be taken over by an ageing population.
44. There is not enough social or affordable housing for young parents to stay in the area.
 45. Is it? House prices going up. It's a desirable area for retirees who push up the price of houses so the young can't afford to live here.
 46. I didn't realise this was an issue plenty of young families in Aberfeldy area.
 47. Expensive housing. Second homes and holiday homes. Virtually no public transport. A lack of affordable housing in the area.
 48. Funding to remote and small communities is increasingly cut in the name of austerity. Small communities with their traditions, close-knit networks and no-nonsense approach to problem solving are the backbone of society.
 49. This is a difficult one as our family has just decided to make it our home. It may be that parents are wanting more exciting city life (unlike us!) and that is why they do not choose the quiet and peaceful setting here. It may be that because so many more jobs feature either technology or retail, there is simply less employment which makes families less likely to settle.
 50. I don't think so. It is still lots of families around with small kids. Why big school have classes of about 25-30 pupils in one class? My child was in nursery where was 36 kids on morning class and another 30 for afternoon.
 51. I am surprise did think it would be the other way.
 52. Because everything happens in cities. Not enough facilities in smaller villages. If you don't invest it will decrease more. This has to do with politics
 53. People want to live in larger towns and cities where things are more easily accessible
 54. Generally an ageing population but Grandtully is bucking the trend here. As a small rural village we have four thriving new businesses and as owner of one of them we have attracted new young talent to the area who have moved from Scottish cities to establish a new family life in the countryside. This will increase the young population of Grandtully.
 55. A constricting population. Lack of quality, affordable family housing. We are working very hard as a Parent Council and wider community to continue to make Grandtully and Strathtay and attractive place to live and work and to provide new employment and training opportunities for our young people. As a business owner, we have engaged in Visit Scotland's year of Young People and are providing opportunities for work experience, to deliver workshops and careers advice in schools and ultimately new employment opportunities. We believe there is some evidence of a reversal of decline in our area as a result of lifestyle migration and our family is certainly an example of that having moved from XXXXX ago to successfully grow our family and our business, XXXXX one of the area's XXXXX employers with over XXXXX employees.
 56. I imagine that people are having less children in a country were headlines read like the following: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/nov/14/un-austerity-destroying-lives-philip-alston-poverty-uk> I'm not sure I would be encouraged to have children now. This governments seems to be on a trajectory of never ending austerity measures. this review is a result of such measures and is indicative of a government who's intention seems to be to sell off School estates and NHS buildings up and down the country . I also think PKC need to make better internet a priority if it wants to attract young professionals to this rural area as this is the way of the future.
 57. Lack of housing available due to the rise in holiday homes and Air BNB.
 58. House prices, infrastructure, job vacancies..... investments are still necessary and therefore the existing businesses and employments need to be stimulated!!!
 59. Parents of the 0-19 years olds are being drawn to bigger commercial areas/cities like Glasgow and Edinburgh to further careers or better employment opportunities and as such are moving their families out of Highland Perthshire.
 60. Lack of investment by local government and business drives young people looking for opportunity elsewhere. If a future strategy exists for this area then I doubt that closing schools is part of that to create a thriving community. Diversity of opportunity (in where we are schooled and range of job prospects) is vital to keeping young people here. This

must happen to offset the current spending happening within Perth (Bertha development) that will further siphon young talent away. Also we have to attract people to return, keeping schools, services and investing in people here will do that.

61. I wasn't aware the population of 0-19 year olds in Highland Perthshire is decreasing. I find that hard to believe!
62. As a Primary School, 0-11 year olds would be a more appropriate measure to use. I think the data is extremely misleading - the remote rural areas of Rannoch, Glen Lyon and Blair Atholl will have very different trends to the more populated areas closer to Perth of Grandtully and Aberfeldy. One of the council ladies present at the drop-in confirmed that Grandtully's population has in fact been static over the same period. However, if you are aiming to reduce the population of school children in Highland Perthshire, closing rural schools would definitely be a quick way to do so as families would not be able to live and work in the area! Please keep our thriving school open and support the rural population!
63. People using property as holiday. Homes and cost off property been out with in a average family budget need more affordable homes.
64. Nationwide and worldwide birth-rates are falling, exacerbated by cost to buy and rent in the catchment area. Incoming families (recently typically from Europe) find towns more affordable. Tourism being seasonal and low paid attracts young single people who go back to their homes and don't settle here. Many houses are second homes. This area attracts people who are retiring. Highland Perthshire is aging and it is a worry that this is increasing and could result in lack of workers and able bodied neighbours, volunteers etc. in the future.
65. It is not clear that it is decreasing. Other developments such as the A9 improvements will likely increase the population in the future - and possibly contradict the current PKC predictions.
66. See previous comments.
67. Lack of affordable housing - housing generally and moving away to higher level study or work/career opportunities.
68. Over the last 10 years we have suffered economic recession effecting the small businesses in the area. The cost of living in Highland Perthshire is high and property prices are also out of reach for many. We obviously don't have the infrastructure of the larger cities but have also suffered from little investment in this area in the last 10 years. Services for pupils with additional needs are often Perth based and there is no Autism base in Highland Perthshire. Our out of hours health service continues to be awful, with patients facing over an hours trip to Dundee. The increased traffic on the A9 and resulting slow commutes to nearby Perth mean that many families who's jobs are in Perth, would prefer to live nearer the city. New housing projects such as the one in Grandtully have also suffered, and a proposed housing development was never begun.
69. Lack of affordable housing. I believe in the area of Grandtully/Strathtay some 25% of housing are holiday homes. There has been little house building in the area suitable for young families (like Creag Eilidh development).
70. An aging population. Lack of housing for young families to move to the area and find suitable work. People having less children also may have an effect.
71. Lack of investment in the area and lack of good quality small schools won't be helping! Is this question accurate and relevant to our school? The population of 5-12 is all that's relevant to a school like ours, how does that population look.
72. That is a huge age range to be considering when looking at a potential primary school closure. Without more information it is hard to answer this. My feeling would be that older children are drawn further afield for opportunities. My feeling is also that Grandtully businesses are becoming more of a local hub of opportunity for the younger elements of the workforce, supported by a great school.
73. This question is wholly irrelevant to this review. It is after all a primary school review, so I feel this question and its focus on such a large swathe of population can only lead to a warped presentation of resulting figures. Perhaps the question, if it needs to be one at all, should concentrate on the age bracket 4/5 to 11. Inevitably from the ages of 15-16

upwards there will be significant number of young adults that relocate to college or university. This question is an unfair one and again leads to a misrepresentation of the actual figures. In my experience having moved to Aberfeldy just more than 10 years ago the young family sector in and around Aberfeldy has increased. I feel that the lack of houses in recent years that have been available to buy or rent in the local areas is evidence of this increasing population. As to is the current number of proposed new builds.

74. House prices, lack of affordable housing means families cannot afford to live here. Lack of work - employment tends to be seasonal. Complete lack of public transport means it is not an easy place for families to move about in.
 75. As the ability of working from home/remote locations and the local infrastructure improves (A9) more people are moving to once remote parts of the countryside including Highland Perthshire.
 76. I believe this is due to the limited further education routes that are available in the area along with the variety of current jobs available. The cost of living and housing is also relatively high.
 77. Affordable housing and jobs I think are the main factors
 78. I believe the village of Grandtully 0-19 year olds population is in fact static over the time period in the survey. Numbers quoted are affected by remote areas. Primary school age is 5-12 not up to 18. The best way to reduce Highland populations is to remove the basis of people living in the area. Please keep Grandtully School open to continue to maintain the local population.
 79. It is not the census is wrong, lots of people share accommodation or work in hospitality like hotel, holiday park, restaurant and they have accommodation with the job and they are not register on electoral roll.
 80. House Prices are a major factor: many young families cannot afford to buy in the area. Transport links are also very poor, making finding and getting to work in the area difficult for many. Childcare in the area is very hard to come by, with little in the way of wrap around care, to enable parents to work.
 81. House prices (lack of affordable housing & number of 2nd homes). Job opportunities. Lack of public transport. Cost of living. Council cutting services!
 82. I don't think the population decreasing! There are not many kids in one class in Breadalbane Primary!
 83. Lack of employment for young families. Too great an emphasis on tourism therefore employment is seasonal. Too many second houses, holiday lets and large houses.
 84. It's not just this area - it's a national trend.
 85. There are fewer job opportunities. Were the school to close this would only exacerbate the problem as young couples are less likely to move into the district.
-

8) A number of Grandtully Primary School catchment pupils attend Breadalbane Academy (Primary). What do you think are the reasons for this? (Please give details)

Comments

1. Often there are family reasons i.e. an older sibling at secondary school.
2. Historical reasons. No longer relevant as the school is growing.
3. Breakfast club. After school clubs in Campus. Gaelic medium only in Breadalbane. Some families come from city where kids was already in big class.
4. Great school that encourages children and pushes them to greater achievements.
5. Breadalbane has wraparound care so if you are a working parent (9-5) you may need this option in order to manage your family. Similarly it has a nursery. Similarly if you have both children primary & secondary age it may be easier to have them at the same school.
6. Parents may work in Aberfeldy therefore it is easier to drop children off prior to work.
7. May have older siblings at the school.
8. Older siblings at Breadalbane. Parents working in Aberfeldy. Parental choice.
9. For wrap-around care. And/or Gaelic education. Older siblings at Breadalbane so transport is easier.
10. Every individual will have their own reason for preferring to send/take their child(ren) to Breadalbane. Suspect it is usually to fit in with work requirements – it certainly cannot be for a superior educational experience. If you really want to know the answer – ballot them.
11. Some parents don't want the transition to secondary school to be any more worrying for their child/ren.
12. Transport issues/ease of getting to school/proximity to parent's work. Not necessarily based on being a better school.
13. My XXXXX commented that the bigger school 'looked more like school' so initially wanted to go there – this has now thankfully changed. It is a different learning environment and a child moving from another area may be unnerved by it. Individual child/individual needs.
14. Parents more concerned about sending their kids to the same school as their friends go to as opposed to the quality of education and manner in which the school is run.
15. Maybe because their parents find it more convenient? Closer to where they work so they can drop (collect) children more easily?
16. Parental & pupil preference. Older sibling may attend the academy. Parents who work within Aberfeldy area may find it easier children attending Breadalbane.
17. BA may suit working parents who have senior school children @ BA already. Choice!!
18. Breadalbane provides a straight-through experience so it easier for parents. My two went here and then B Academy – the difference was of benefit in my view.
19. Wrap around care provision? Family & work links? Access to after school clubs? Personal choice? Who knows???!!!
20. Easy drop off re travel to work. Convenience factor. Childcare access.
21. After school provision @ Breadalbane.
22. Convenience factor – easy to drop off/pick up. Wraparound/breakfast club. Logistics – working in Aberfeldy or family in Aberfeldy.
23. Breakfast club/after school activities. Like larger environment & the skills that teaches. Suits family needs + dynamics. Keeps friends/siblings together.
24. Breakfast and after school care. Older siblings. They only looked at the shiny building.
25. Lack of a nursery at Grandtully. Lack of wrap-around or other siblings.
26. Older siblings attend the school – easier having children at same school – should not take away choice for others.

27. "Review process" has scared many away. Need breakfast club and nursery provision to retain even locals desperate for this service who then continue where they started.
28. Morning club. Evening nursery. After school. People work 9-5pm need to drop kids before 9am in school + bus transport.
29. A possible reason for this might be because of the threat of the school being closed (not saying it will (please don't close the school)). Because of this parents don't want to send their kids to Grandtully in fear of it being closed and then leaving to send their children elsewhere which will make an impact on their children.
30. Parents travel that way to work, so it's more convenient. Declining numbers mean that a kid can be the only girl/boy in their year group, so they are missing out on social.
31. In my opinion, there are many reasons for this and some are: There is no nursery or early morning care option at Grandtully for families who need it; the after school activities are also provided for at Breadalbane; some families prefer a larger school option; when an older sibling moves on to Breadalbane the younger ones often go at the same time; there is no active advertisement for the school promoting its benefits to the community
32. Because their children require a smaller setting/ learning environment. Also this years P3 pupils did not have a permanent teacher last year- totally unacceptable. Not all parents agree in through schools. This idea was developed by 1997 governments- it only works if all pupils attend and there is no selective education and private education providers. There is excellent work happening at Breadalbane but there should be a forestry school provision too.
33. Possibly it's easier for parents who work in Aberfeldy. There is no nursery or breakfast club/after school club at Grandtully.
34. Can't comment. Not sure of the reasons.
35. There can't be many but maybe their parents work in Aberfeldy.
36. Possibly because they offer Gaelic medium option which I know is a popular choice also because the Class sizes are a lot smaller
37. They start in nursery and then there is pressure to keep them there. Some prefer a larger school. Some people work there so travel in anyway. A fear the local school Grandtully will close.
38. Choice of pupils or parents.
39. I think it is probably due to Breadalbane being able to provide an 'all through' education and parents then do not have to change their child's school. I myself will have one child at a separate nursery for the next two years before they are both in one place. Many parents are not in the position to do two different school runs. I also think that many parents are embracing the Gaelic Medium which at the moment Grandtully does not provide and Breadalbane does.
40. Some kids goes to Gaelic medium which is only available in Breadalbane academy. Some families came from big cities where children already attended big classes so put them in the school where was 9 or 11 kids in whale school was not choice for them. Breadalbane offer breakfast club and after school clubs are straight over there, so this give parents more flexibilities for their work if they need.
41. Early drop off to breakfast club, Late pick up from ABC or after class activity
42. They never considered Grandtully as they think it hasn't any facilities as Breadalbane. Some had problems with siblings in same classroom. Some people think bigger is better like in big brands but never did any research. Other reason there isn't a nursery in Grandtully, so parents find it difficult to send their children to a different school as their friends.
43. Parents choice.
44. Older siblings attending the high school. Historically a smaller role at Grandtully. Parental choice.
45. Parental and pupil choice. Older siblings at Breadalbane Academy. Gaelic provision. Easier access to the Community Campus.
46. I think they just presumed that their kids would be better off joining the main school, I imagine most of them did not even look at our school, had they I am convinced they

- would have sent their children to Grandtully. I looked at Kenmore, Breadalbane and Grandtully. Grandtully out shone all three, it was a very easy choice to make once I had physically been into each school. Perhaps it might be worth having a local open day so that young families could come and see the magic of their local school
47. I know some of these children and I know in their case it is because of convenience of the parents work, provision of breakfast club and after school clubs, and the proximity of after school care such as grandparents.
 48. Some examples we know had been a result of following each other to Aberfeldy. So a couple of families gave up their trust to Grandtully School. Instead of fighting together with the school to find solutions for any problems! We have seen pupils coming back now to Grandtully because at Breadalbane wasn't a personal touch for issues.
 49. Parents working in our around Aberfeldy may find it easier to have their children closer to their own work environment in case of emergencies or for support and or convenience
 50. I'm also aware that Breadalbane catchment pupils attend Grandtully and not privy to the reasons why families make that choice, though I think having the choice to do so is preferable to having less or no choice at all.
 51. Usually due to older siblings attending Secondary school.
 52. At least 4 of the local catchment children attend the Gaelic Medium class at Breadalbane. Fantastic to have that choice locally. Others were not able to attend Grandtully as there is no breakfast club or after-school facility. Many of the children have older children at the senior school and it makes sense logistically for both children to be in the same place. I think back when the school roll was 11 some parents felt like it was too small and have intimated that had the school roll been what it is now they would have sent their children to Grandtully.
 53. Breakfast and after school care also. Facilities i.e. football club and swimming lessons ETC.
 54. Philosophical beliefs regarding the pros and cons of a large "normal" school with wider subject choice, team sports, after school activities etc. and exposure to more children and teachers and easier transition to secondary school versus a sheltered, small scale environment. Concerns about siblings spending 24 hours a day in the same space is the reason for some parents.
 55. As stated above, it seems to be due to the lack of nursery provision at Grandtully School, which the community council recommends be introduced
 56. See previous comments.
 57. Travel to work patterns of parents, historical ties, linking with Aberfeldy child care facilities
 58. Families may work in the area and therefore can drop off and collect pupils. Breadalbane offers a breakfast club meaning that families have the option to drop pupils off early before leaving for work. The facilities of the community campus such as the swimming pool may appeal, yet these facilities are available to Grandtully pupils also who attend the campus for swimming lessons. The transition from primary to secondary is easier in the through school. Breadalbane has a nursery and many pupils in the Grandtully catchment area attend this which can make Breadalbane an automatic choice.
(Extending the catchment area would enable more families to review their options when their children are ready for P1)
 59. Lack of awareness and understanding of what Grandtully Primary School offers and benefits of a small school. Forming of social groups during playgroup and nursery for parents and children. Wrap around care at Breadalbane. Some prefer larger classes. Some pupils benefit from a larger mix of pupils.
 60. Convenient for the parents working and Breadalbane offers after school care. Some families prefer a larger school and larger class sizes.
 61. Wrap around provision, especially breakfast clubs and after school clubs provided by the school or run at the campus. Also those children have an elder sibling in the secondary school so there is a practicality in both children attending the same place. Transport also a consideration

62. Maybe having older siblings at the high school, but I don't know. Why don't you ask them?
 63. There are likely to be a few reasons for this ranging from parents working in Aberfeldy, or younger or older siblings attending a nursery in Aberfeldy or secondary school. I know some parents whose children attend Breadalbane who have stated that Breadalbane Academy has not been their first choice of Primary School for their children but have "sadly" had to enrol their children there for more practical reasons, such as travel, work or time conveniences.
 64. The majority of pupils attend nursery at Breadalbane, make friends and then don't want to lose that attachment they have built up. Local nursery ABC does school runs to Breadalbane but not to any other schools therefore parents using it for childcare have limited options. Many families use grandparents/family/friends for childcare many of these live in Aberfeldy so Breadalbane is handier.
 65. Parents like choice for various reasons. Sometimes this is due to the perceived choice offered in smaller/larger schools or sometimes personality clashes!
 66. I believe this is due to the different opportunities Breadalbane Academy can offer such as a variety of after school sporting events, up to date facilities and single level class options.
 67. Some parents don't like the smaller schools and prefer a large school environment. They seem to think that the smaller schools don't offer the same as bigger schools but in my opinion smaller schools offer so much more.
 68. At least 4 Grandtully catchment kids attend Gaelic medium class at Breadalbane. Others may not be able to attend Grandtully due to no breakfast club or after school facility. Many children have older siblings in the senior school at Breadalbane and this helps with logistics. When Grandtully was smaller, local families may have thought it too small for their kids. This is no longer the case.
 69. Early morning and after class activity, breakfast, nursery. lots of family work 9am to 5pm and it is more practical for them.
 70. The lure of a big campus with lots of opportunities for after school activities. The perceived benefits of a larger peer group.
 71. Lack of work for parents.
 72. Some parents may want their children to settle into Breadalbane from primary age if they intend to send them to the secondary school. Other school child care may be more readily available in Aberfeldy.
 73. Breakfast club. After school clubs or other activities straight in campus > more flexible for working people Gaelic medium class is only in Breadalbane some kids grow better in big class with more pupils.
 74. Some families have older siblings at Breadalbane and therefore transport is easier for a whole family. Some children need a large school environment just as some need a small school. Some families have members employed in Aberfeldy and need their children nearby for collection etc.
 75. Usually it's because they have an older child at Breadalbane so it's easier for parents doing one school run. Also after school childcare are is more easily accessible if children are at Breadalbane. It is not a reflection on Grandtully Primary School.
 76. The parents of their children where they would benefit from being at a larger school.
-

9) A number of Breadalbane Academy (Primary) catchment pupils attend Grandtully Primary School. What do you think are the reasons for this? (Please give details)

Comments

1. Smaller capacity schools provide a different learning experience. We are supposed to be training kids for the rich variety of life. Grandtully offers and delivers quality attention, care and attention to the individual. Thanks ☐
2. Unique & positive school experience with opportunities/experiences not available in larger schools. All the kids seem very happy! ☐
3. Doesn't the chart showing how many children out of catchment are attending Grandtully School say it all? Parents want their children to come here.
4. There must be many reasons. Some I know. 1 some children thrive in the smaller school. 2 perception of a more personal education. 3 Transport is less of an issue if parent want something better for their children and Grandtully is thought by many to be outstanding.
5. Amazing outdoor learning experiences at Grandtully that a larger school just couldn't offer – i.e forest school. There's more individual attention for children – they can learn at a speed that better suits their needs.
6. Greater focus on one-to-one teaching. Smaller class sizes. Allow for more attention given to all students.
7. Brilliant peer to peer support amongst the children – they look out for each other.
8. Excellent ASN provision which just isn't being provided by Breadalbane – what would happen if the school were to close – send them back there?
9. Breadalbane is a big school, this may seem a bit daunting + intimidating for young children from small rural areas. Grandtully Primary offers so much more than just a school. Some children may travel to Breadalbane as their parents work there.
10. Because not every kid can cope with a large school and class! The early learning years are so important and we should have the right to choose which school we want.
11. Children with additional needs or complicated lives do not get enough support at Breadalbane. Too big a community. No relationship building.
12. Make pupil oriented more personal. Greater input into social skills because of smaller classes. Higher opportunity for learning empathy, understanding and respect for all.
13. Some pupils reach their full potential in a smaller school.
14. Undoubtedly more pupil focused teaching in a main reason. The Academy can be daunting – for some children so parent choice.
15. Grandtully is needed to provide support to kids who need more individual focused attention.
16. Access to more direct pupil/teacher needs – environment – travel to work – confidence.
17. If you want your child to develop as a unique individual you do need small classes where the teacher-pupil relationship is meaningful. Not swamped by numbers – the child or the teacher.
18. Smaller schools can benefit children who lack confidence in larger environments. Grandtully is also recommended for its excellent teaching.
19. Grandtully Primary School over a huge campus where kids get lost in the system and play within a caged playground. It's obvious why we will send my kid to Grandtully.
20. Choice for parents. Grandtully also offers a smaller, environment for those children who may find BA too big.
21. Smaller schools meet individual needs. ASN quality teaching. Greater opportunity for parent involvement in kids education.
22. Grandtully is a caring creative school were the kids love to learn. They have the same teacher for continued security and learning.

23. Better support. More time per pupil. Forestry school – outdoor learning. Great teachers. Some prefer smaller environment.
24. Ask those specific parents – that's 1 day to make 15 phone calls! The neighbouring school provision is failing those pupils. Grandtully is offering extraordinary education.
25. Because it's a great school, with a very positive learning ethos.
26. This school offers opportunities that no other school does. That is why parents travel so far to care.
27. Some children are better suited to smaller, caring schools. It has an amazing inclusive environment! Fantastic outdoor learning experiences/opportunities. Very creative + positive. Great reputation, active parent council + involvement. Whole school approach + peer-peer learning.
28. Surely this is because some parents feel the smaller school with a wonderful reputation is the better choice for their child.
29. The parents should have a choice which school is best and Grandtully School provides a perfect, caring environment with good standards of education.
30. Ethos, leadership, commitment to person-central learning. Community links, environmental education, excellent teachers – not all of this at Breadalbane.
31. Small class. Almost one to one learning. Mixed ages in the class – pupil's help each other. Great learning – outside area – forest school. My XXXXX was very shy, now in XXXXX very confident child.
32. The service and attention to each individual is better focussed at Grandtully. Breadalbane hasn't the capacity to cope with special cases.
33. From what I have heard it's a great school very nurturing and a lot of children have moved from Breadalbane to go to Grandtully it seems to support children especially good for children with additional support needs.
34. Grandtully Primary gives a unique and friendly introduction to a fulfilling education. Larger schools struggle to supply this.
35. Amazing for a rural community to be able to choose between different schools, to suit both parents who want to be involved in their children's education + children who thrive in a confidence + resilience building boosting family environment.
36. This school is the best school in the area therefore why wouldn't you travel.
37. We looked at all the school, this is the best in the area.
38. Every school and child has its 'personalities' and traits. Its quite normal for parents to select different schools dependent on the perceived needs of their kids.
39. The smaller school and individual learning is second to none. Children are provided with support for their needs rather than the 'class' achieving a government 'tick box' approach (XXXXX).
40. A unique learning environment offering our local children first class schools not always available in larger schools.
41. Children with additional needs are not having their needs met by Breadalbane. Excluded and ignored. Rot starts at the top and has spread down.
42. The cohesive nature of the school along with the heuristic and holistic learning is unmatched by any other school due to the size of the classes and dedication of the teachers.
43. Forest school. Creative. Inspiring teachers. Academic. This is why we travel.
44. People like to choose the school they think will best suit their children. Breadalbane can offer a bigger campus, more facilities + proximity to work/leisure. Grandtully offers a smaller more 'family' type school and is very creative.
45. Many children are far better suited to schooling in a smaller environment – Breadalbane is big for more nervous pupils.
46. Quality of education. Nurturing environment. Individual attention – attention so often lacking in larger schools. Local ethics + values supported by wider curriculum.
47. Parental choice. Quality of educational benefits. Wellbeing for pupils and community. Outdoor learning/forest school.

48. Many of the pupils coming to Grandtully from Breadalbane are ASN children who are treated abysmally (as are their parents) at Breadalbane. For them Grandtully is a lifeline, which they cannot afford to lose.
49. Breadalbane has a very low, unsupportive level of ASN care. XXXXX moved XXXXX to Grandtully to benefit from the attitude of the teaching staff and were overwhelmed by the change – do you suggest we send XXXXX back?! NO! as well as excellent teaching the school is exceptional at outdoor education – learning maths in the snow – fantastic. Children don't want to sit still they want to be active and learn. Next year my child will ski (XXXXX) on a trip with money the children have raised – fantastic school!!
50. Parents travel to Perth, so drop off and pick up are easier. Some small children cope badly with a bigger school.
51. A smaller school often means better education for children; some children do not do well in a large school setting; the quality of teachers at Grandtully is second to none; the location and facility are beautiful, peaceful and natural; the outdoor education possibilities are unique; the children grow over the years together as a family and for "only children" classmates are like siblings; the fact that children have to learn to get over challenges with each other means they have real-life experience of living in a community setting; the teachers know the children from year to year and can give a very personal education that takes into account individual ability and motivations; Grandtully is widely-recognised for being outstanding and inclusive with additional support needs pupils; the active and close-knit parent council creates deep family friendships and social opportunities for the adults in the school families; parents can be part of the school and its activities and this is a very important difference for parents who do want involvement in their children's education. As a marker for parent involvement, Grandtully parents raised £15,000 last year for the school, which is higher than the amount raised by Breadalbane parent council - a school many times the size of Grandtully.
52. Facilities and their children like a bigger setting to learn. A lot of the children in Grandtully area also attend private schools too. Lack of childcare that works around their working hours.
53. Speaking from personal experience, we moved our children to Grandtully due to our XXXXX poor experiences and lack of support and understanding at Breadalbane. Segregating a child to a 'box' within the main playground doesn't exactly reflect Breadalbane's claim to inclusion. XXXXX was bullied on a daily basis. Staff training needs a major overhaul for ASN kids. Grandtully have embraced XXXXX and given XXXXX confidence and are teaching XXXXX valuable life skills. Our XXXXX are thriving in a school that's promotes a reward rather than a traffic light punishment system.
54. Because the school offers a caring, nurturing environment on a smaller scale which some children respond well to.
55. Breadalbane wasn't the right school for their children. Noisy big classes don't suit every child. Also change of teachers every year is unsettling. The yellow, red, black card system for naughty behaviour is not helpful! The amazing outside space at Grandtully and the fact they have forest school. They do a daily mile and the parent council fund a healthy snack. Grandtully is caring and creative and all ages learn to work together. The children strengths are celebrated.
56. It's small school with big great ideas and it's in a beautiful setting
57. I initially used Breadalbane and moved my child to Grandtully after half a term. I had moved up from XXXXX and was shocked at the low expectations in Breadalbane and lack of green space. Grandtully was much better. The rim art at Breadalbane is an add on to a secondary school and we did not like it at all. Other children are just happier in a smaller school and it is good to be able to have a choice. Using the catchment school was easier because a XXXXX collected my child which worked well. Lovely green space at Grandtully and good teaching.
58. Preference of smaller and more family oriented setup.
59. Grandtully has such and excellent reputation and learning ethos that it draws parents in. Our family chose it because it offers so much more than the larger schools can,

particularly with extracurricular activity and outdoor learning. Also there is a much higher staff/pupil ratio so that children can have more individualised learning. I also feel that learning at Grandtully may not place the kind of pressure on its children that larger establishments do.

60. Small class was important for my child. There is almost one to one learning. Great outside learning/Forrest school. Great support from teachers, parents work well together, we doing lots of fundraising to help kids in the school for their projects. I like idea of classes of different age group to put together, kids helping each other, they grow as a siblings.
61. It is a great school, It is a big family,
62. At Breadalbane the children didn't get the support they needed. Maybe these parent did research in quality of school. A big school isn't for every child. Less children in class more attention/support.
63. Parents personal choice.
64. Place value on the fantastic and unique education and experience offered by our Primary school. This cannot always be the case at large schools. Parental choice.
65. Parental choice. Quality educational benefits and staff. Suitable ASN provision. Small class sizes and peer to peer learning. Highly engaged Parent Council. Outdoor learning and Forest School Provision. Successful delivery of key National Outcomes for an inspiring, relevant education that maximises attainment. A very supportive community feel.
66. I think Breadalbane has a reputation of not being able to accommodate the needs of children struggle with large schools, they seem to become isolated and unhappy and unable to thrive in this large particular school. There are many different types of children and we must nurture and proved options for all their needs if we are to be a inclusive and fair county.
67. As one of these parents it is due to the superior level of education, green space and ethics of the school.
68. See answer above, not enough personal attention to each individual.
69. The Grandtully Primary school has smaller classes with more personal attention and support for pupils which some parents would place a greater value on over convenience of location or ease of access to the closer Breadalbane academy and as such don't mind being inconvenienced by the extra commute to ensure better opportunities and development for their children as a result of being at the Grandtully Primary school
70. Attractiveness of choice, Grandtully has a very good reputation specialising in the individual needs of learners whatever they may be.
71. Grandtully is a smaller school so they get more time with their teacher. All the kids know each other.
72. I am in the catchment for Breadalbane but moved my XXXXX to Grandtully as XXXXX is XXXXX. Grandtully have given XXXXX the one to one learning XXXXX needs, they have provided Teachers for the XXXXX, who attend regularly to assist with my XXXXX needs. Grandtully have fantastic staff who are committed to the school. While at Breadalbane, my XXXXX class saw around 7 teachers come and go.....in the first 4 years!!!!
73. Grandtully has a fantastic reputation for the following: - being a small inclusive school with an extremely positive and creative ethos: - having the best outdoor learning opportunities locally; - engaging in more of a child-led education than larger schools; - working more like a family with associated peer-to-peer learning benefits; - being in a smaller group means social behaviours have to be addressed and resolved creating a good learning opportunity at an earlier age; - children have more opportunity to go at their own speed through the curriculum;- teacher/pupil relationships and understanding is increased over the longer period of teaching i.e. P1-3 / 4 not an annual change of teacher; - in a small school everyone has the opportunity to be involved in everything, there is nowhere to hide from areas of learning disliked and there is no need to always be 'the best' to be given the opportunity to have a go or be part of the nativity or be

chosen to undertake a special project; - to be a part of a highly engaged parent council and make a difference to your child's education; Grandtully has been a nurturing start for our XXXXX who could be quite shy. XXXXX has grown tremendously in confidence over XXXXX first year. As a well behaved and conscientious XXXXX would likely have been 'lost' in the mix in a bigger school.

74. Choice off smaller. Village school.
75. I believe there is a high proportion of special needs pupils along with their siblings in Grandtully and they find the teacher ratio and small pupil numbers easier. Also a lifestyle choice - the village school being more in-keeping with rural living. I am told that the school has a distinctive approach to outdoors, nature in line with this. The children are sheltered from the rough and tumble of a town school. Aberfeldy has known social issues (relatively speaking) and Breadalbane does not seem to have a great reputation.
76. The Grandtully school provides a very different and much needed environment which clearly benefits many pupils, even ones that would be expected to attend Breadalbane Academy.
77. See previous comments. Also, Breadalbane primary does not have a good reputation locally and is particularly poor at supporting ASN children, several of whom have been taken out of Breadalbane by their parents and moved to Grandtully, where they receive a much better experience.
78. Reputation of the school. Recognition of the many awards achieved by the school, standard of education provided is known to be high, facilities such as the Park/woodlands next door.
79. Many pupils have joined the school because of its reputation backed up by the latest HMI report. This reputation has often been spread by word of mouth by our enthusiastic and passionate parents. Pupils who were unable to have their needs met at Breadalbane, thrive in the rural school environment where relationships are key to pupils developing. The open plan setting of Breadalbane has often been cited as a cause of problems which have impacted pupil's ability to learn effectively. Grandtully offers a very creative integrated curriculum which not only raises achievement but suits many of the pupils who were unable to engage with the curriculum on offer at Breadalbane. Smaller class sizes enable staff to personalise the curriculum to one that motivates and supports the pupils. Parents at Grandtully have many opportunities to become very involved, engaged and have influence on the school which appeals to many families as such active engagement from the majority of parents isn't available and not possible in a larger primary.
80. They prefer the small class sizes, lots of outdoor learning, family feel to the school. Welcoming. Some change to avoid bullying issues at other schools.
81. Families prefer a smaller school setting. Families feel that their children benefit from smaller class. Forest school and more outdoor learning opportunities.
82. Because its an amazing school, its small and offers the sort of provision you don't get in a big school and that works for some pupils. The key factor here is CHOICE AND ESPECIALLY parental choice. Our ASN provision is outstanding, and Breadalbane is very poor on this front at the moment so our school is effectively picking up the slack for Breadalbane. Health and Well being is a real issue in this area for young people and our school is great in this sense.
83. Because Grandtully School is so wonderful, providing a really nurturing environment on a smaller scale that really works for some children. If we are trying to nurture the talents of our dynamic children, then recognising that different types of provision should be encouraged for the different needs of our children, rather than closed down, is essential.
84. We know many young pupils within the BA catchment area that attend Grandtully Primary. Parents reasons tend to be: 1) A smaller more intimate school environment allowing for better staff to pupil ratio. 2) A smaller environment being more conducive to developing and building greater personal and social skills. 3) Creating a more positive and open learning environment allowing children to confidently express themselves more easily and comfortably. 4) Nurtures a more 'happy' learning environment. 5) A feeling

- that a smaller environment lays stronger foundations for teaching and learning respect, resilience and caring attitudes. 6) It is less easy for pupils to blend or escape into the background of a larger classroom and 'get lost in the system'. 7) The standards of education and subjects available to pupils at Grandtully Primary are well known and respected within Perthshire. 8) The outdoor learning element encouraged within Grandtully Primary is a phenomenal approach within today's education system and has huge, far reaching and long term life benefits.
85. Many parents prefer a small school setting and the ethos of Grandtully Primary. We have a strong outdoor learning approach which works well for a number of families. We work very closely with parents and families.
 86. See above. Some children seem to thrive better in schools where there are less people and possible more individualised support or the perception of support.
 87. The high standard of learning and teaching that is currently in place within the school and has been for many years. Grandtully Primary School and the educational experiences that pupils are part of at Grandtully are held in high regard within the community. The inclusive ethos of the school also encourages parents to consider Grandtully Primary School as an option for their children as the needs of all learners are very well met.
 88. Some children settle better into a small school environment and cannot cope with the bigger schools.
 89. Grandtully Primary School engages the children in more ways than the larger Breadalbane school. It's Outdoor learning and opportunities are the best of any local school. It's inclusive small school feel with its positive and strong ethos has a tremendous reputation. The schools ability to work through and resolve issues and challenges that pupils are having has a real impact on their ability to form relationships and move on with their learning. What fantastic life skills. With P1-4 pupils having the same teacher, they are better supported in their learning and growth. In a smaller school, the students have involvement in every aspect of school life. They are encouraged to try everything such as public performance, all subjects and activities are experienced with more fully than in a larger school where it is possible to avoid non favourite subjects and experiences.
 90. Because Breadalbane School and class are over 20/25 by class, kids don't learn so well if they are a little slow on understanding. Teacher keep changing class and the children lose continuation. Not enough outdoor activity, not enough support from the parents in parent council meeting. only 10% or less parents attend compare to Grandtully is 90% supported The P1 to P7 are the base of education not a castle market like many big school
 91. The attractions of a smaller setting works for many children: many parents do not want their children to be 'lost' in a big campus. The school has specific expertise in Forest School and Outdoor learning, with good school grounds to support this. The school also has a reputation for creative, progressive teaching.
 92. Maybe the families have not visited the school and are not aware of how brilliant it is. This was certainly the case with my XXXXX in law when XXXXX moved to the area.
 93. Parents prefer what Grandtully has to offer in terms of Forest school activities and having opportunity to send children to a smaller school. More focused attention for each child, Confidence building for some children who don't do well in large groups - don't underestimate the importance of this!
 94. Small class different ages together, they help to each other. Individual learning; great support from teacher. Brilliant outside learning/ pine/ forest school.
 95. Excellent education - the school has a good reputation. Children need different environments - a big school does not work for many of them. Breadalbane has not always enjoyed a good reputation in the area for its discipline and educational opportunities.
 96. It's a great school and offers a wonderful environment for children in their early years of education.

97. The converse is the case.

10) Do you have any other comments?

Comments

1. We are a very active parent council and are constantly fundraising and supporting the school.
2. We moved here because there was a choice of schools. We were not impressed with Breadalbane and not every child does well in large class.
3. As an XXXXX of Grandtully, Logierait and Strathtay Church I can say the congregation support the school in their fight against closure.
4. Strong community vibe. Businesses are increasing in Grandtully. You would take out the heart and could decrease population.
5. Timescale of review is unsettling for pupils/teachers/parents and potential affects decision making of parents choosing Grandtully.
6. Check out the range of awards etc achieved by Grandtully. School offers a wide range of learning and development options such as outdoor learning and forest school.
7. It would be an educational dis benefit to have to send my XXXXX to another school.
8. Why are we in this review? We do not fit the criteria.
9. Grandtully Primary did a lovely project with XXXXX work ahead of the new XXXXX opening in the village. XXXXX went along to do some cooking and menu testing for the new children's menu. I think it is so important to be able to do things like that.
10. 2021-23 statistics columns must be removed. They are outside the scope of this review, based on figures highly susceptible to change and totally skew what otherwise stable figures.
11. These sticky notes are not just words, but heartfelt messages. Please take them seriously + give them respect.
12. The process is wrong, you should have engaged before options were considered.
13. Grandtully Primary provides vital safety net for those who might not do well in a much larger more intimidating academic environment eg, those with particular special needs, learning difficulties etc. it must not close.
14. Council to work with the school. We could have a waiting list in the next 3 to 5 years.
15. Review the disengaged manner in which the review process itself is carried out. For ex. Members of the ECS dept come to meet the Parent Council BEFORE the whole process begins – it would improve the relationships with community.
16. Take Grandtully Primary off the closure list. We should not be in the review.
17. The educational benefit at Grandtully is huge for each child. They have healthy minds and bodies. A caring creative way of teaching and forest school and daily mile.
18. The school is already very self-sufficient – there is a very strong and active Parent Council who carry out a lot of fundraising. In the last 2 years they have raised 10k – this is used for things like – providing transport, morning snack, equipment, clothing etc.
19. Closure would mean people (families) may leave the area or not come to it. What affect would this have on jobs and local businesses?
20. Individuals in the community should be seen as a RESOURCE and then interests USED by the school. In-house expertise such as cooking school lunches, should not be scrapped for efficiency reasons.
21. Please amend the projections to be based on actual pupil figures.
22. As per usual all of this realistically comes down to money, nothing else. Makes people like me extremely angry and sad.
23. Don't fix what is not broken. This whole process was not warranted and has costs lots of financial cost and wasted time.
24. Why is attainment not being considered when educational benefit is being considered for every option? I'm confused.

25. We need to set firmly behind inspiring schools like Grandtully where the teacher can really engage with the children and where education has become enjoyable. The kids here learn to set on with all age groups and to use their imagination.
26. Take a successful and flourishing school out of the review, spend the money saved on equipment.
27. Is this truly about the school's popularity/excellence/creativity/or is it about MONEY??
28. Rural disadvantage caused by the closure of a local rural school. Business owners not coming into the area because no school. Workers not able to serve hospitality/agricultural forestry/tourism sectors.
29. This is an extremely worrying time for all parents and children and the process has been unclear and felt rather unfair.
30. It looks like attendance is up to the required % and is projected to rise. I'd recommend saving yourself money and take Grandtully off the review (additional comment: seconded).
31. The effect on our ASN kids will be devastating. Allow other children with ASN the option to choose this school as it is far more suitable than Breadalbane. DO NOT CLOSE US!
32. Our school is sitting at 63%. The cut off for your review was 60%. Remove us from the review.
33. How much is this review process costing?
34. I would seriously encourage you to use Highland Community schools to develop more space in schools – 46 capacity would do tremendous harm to the kids mental health. Kids need space. We really should be moving on from a war era style of packing kids in rows. Mental health is ignored at massive cost to consecutive governments. It needs to be established at Primary Schools. Take a stand and modernise and be proud of good decision making.
35. Grandtully School is lucky to have creative and motivated teachers who stimulate and care for their children and interact with their community – this school has helped the local film society get a short film competition going for children in the area. They have also won twice and come third this year. Great contribution for all of us.
36. Small schools are picking up the slack after the larger ones have failed. Closing them is going to create more problems in the longer run.
37. Remove Grandtully Primary from the review.
38. Please! What is the problem! Give the local community the chance to act properly! Instead of filling in forms etc. WHAT is the problem? Money?
39. This process has been brought on through the conservative manifesto which is creating austerity up + down the country.
40. I feel very pessimistic that this is not a determined process which is very frustrating.
41. This review is so damaging for a thriving school. There are no feasible reasons to close such a rural success story. Please can the council accept that Grandtully is an anomaly and remove closure as an option + speed the review process up + leave the school to thrive.
42. Yes. I have spent three hours writing this, I hope it is read by a human being who will respond to the points made.
43. Go back to the drawing board and formulate an excellent strategy for school provision in Highland Perthshire that does not necessarily put all children under one roof. Long term planning is essential not short term quick fix's.
44. If the council and our government really care about GIRFEC, they won't shut Grandtully School. If the money can found to invest in new ventures like Bertha Park, surely the council can invest the institutions we have already in place that do so much for our children.
45. The closure of Grandtully would mark the loss of a special and precious school community. Children should be entitled to be educated in their own community and therefore have a feeling of belonging.
46. We chose this area to move to because it had a choice of schools. We looked at all 3 schools, Kenmore, Breadalbane and Grandtully. And then made our decision. Our child

is not on the spectrum but needed a more caring smaller school. Grandtully offers that to children with and without learning difficulties. They all muck in together, play and help each other. My child has grown so much in the XXXXX years XXXXX has attended Grandtully. XXXXX loves learning outside, doing the daily mile, performing in school showcases and helping the younger children in class and helping the parent council fund raise, bag packing, running stalls at the Grandtully Gala. The other children are XXXXX sisters and brothers. They are family. We are the Grandtully Family and we want to stay together for the good of the children and their education.

47. Grandtully is an excellent school and deserves to remain it is important to the community.
48. This school continues to provide very high quality education and its reputation speaks for itself (in our case we chose it as the right school for our children before we had even put our house on the market in XXXXX, waited a year to be able to sell/move here, and then found ourselves XXXXX so we are waiting for council approval before our XXXXX can start school). Closing it would be a huge mistake.
49. A parent letter why the school is so good.
50. Really concerned about consequences about closing schools in this area. Especially financial consequences in long term in different areas.
51. Grandtully Primary offers a fantastic and unique learning environment for local children and is at the heart of the Grandtully local community.
52. This seems a totally unbelievable situation. The pressure that the council is putting on our school and on our fantastic children and their very busy parents is really shameful. To start a review in 2015 and still not be finished in 2018 seems like a very inefficient way to run any review. I understand you have five full time employs who are being paid by the tax payer to sabotage local schools slowly, the money spent on this could have gone in to providing for the schools not running them in to the ground slowly. My feeling is that this has already been determined by PKC and that this is a drawn out way of killing the school which are at the heart of our community.
53. Grandtully should not be in the review in the first instance. It is very easy to make statistics read however you want them to read without taking in the whole facts of what is actually provided. All of the information coming back seems skewed towards the closure of the school using false and misleading information. The recent projections on future attendance are a farce and do not accurately predict the children who would attend from out of the current catchment.
54. The local community need to stick together and keep it personalised. Where are we heading in this world.....like in Holland where we become all uni educated but there are no craftsman left....personal touch for each individual is the most important thing in life!
55. My wife and I XXXXX from a massive city in XXXXX and very much wish to ensure our XXXXX experiences and enjoys a more peaceful and considered school career than what XXXXX would've received in a big city school environment with overcrowding and under staffed classrooms and while the Breadalbane Academy is a great asset to the community it shares similar characteristics with big city school environments and as such we think the closing of the Grandtully Primary school would leave a vacuum which the Breadalbane Academy simply cannot fill.
56. I've mentioned investment is needed in this area, diversity of choice needs to be maintained, quality of education, skill and commitment of staff at the school as important factors. I'm also concerned that future investment by businesses (other than tourism) here is less likely if the community stagnates. Our economy rests heavily on tourism with low wages, this needs to be addressed. Diversity in what our area offers is vital to its attractiveness as a place to live and work, keeping Grandtully school and investing in Pitlochry and Logierait is key. Removing Grandtully removes the possibility of the village and surrounding area attracting young families, Grandtully Primary has it has earned its right to exist and serve the local community now and into the future by all that it has done and continues to do. The school thrives, it's roll has grown since 2015 due to the efforts of staff and parents. Staff, parents and community are activity engaged securing funding

for resources and opportunities for learners all this and more has created an incalculable asset, more than just bricks and mortar to the community. Keep Grandtully Primary open.

57. Please don't close this fabulous school. The staff can provide a much better education for the children who just wouldn't get the chance at a bigger school. The parent council are fantastic in what they do, raising money to provide better equipment etc and playing a big part in the school. I am in my XXXXX and know people who went to Grandtully Primary. There really is no need to close this school.
58. The School Estates Review process has been extremely frustrating for parents. We have put a HUGE amount of effort in by reading and researching various council documents and Phase 1 reports, establishing the facts of our school and projected roll for our school, meeting with the community, councillors and other schools, emailing the council to try and obtain data etc etc. By the time of the drop-in session arrived today we had pretty much concluded our efforts and are extremely well informed. For the council officers to be merely starting their journey at the same point in time and simply data-gathering with no opinions or answers is hugely frustrating. The drop-in is our ONLY opportunity to present our views to the officers. The fact that this is a one way street with no discussion or debate is ridiculous and unfair. We have no further opportunity to debate the potential closure of our children's school yet the officers can now take 5 or 6 months to prepare a report that we will only have 10 days to review before we have the opportunity to defend it at the Lifelong Learning Committee meeting in May. That is if the work is completed by then! The whole system is dysfunctional and the process has been extremely damaging to all concerned. The data provided on our school roll at the drop-in session was incorrect. XXXXX with the correct occupancy data and asked for it to be XXXXX so that the correct information was presented to the community, but the data was not used because a school system I have no knowledge about (and our teachers are not able to get involved in this review and help) had not been updated and nobody took the time to tell us. Parents, community members and councillors consider Grandtully to be an anomaly in this review, given its material change in occupancy. Everybody tells us that the school will not be closed. So why are we all wasting valuable time and resources going through 'the process' just because?? Please will the council acknowledge that closure is not a feasible option for Grandtully and have the flexibility and clear judgement to remove closure as an option with immediate effect. Take legal counsel, have another meeting of the LLC to discuss it and do something about it, please!
59. I would love to send my other XXXXX as XXXXX lives in Aberfeldy but unsure with school closure threat and travel.
60. I trust this will be treated in confidence as my role identifies who I am.
61. 111 people turned out to the consultation meeting this week - this is a sign of the support for the school. The role has increased substantially since the decision was taken to review this school and the projected role is set to grow further. The School condition and suitability are graded B - so the Community Council sees absolutely no reason why the school should be closed. Everyone wants it to continue with, hopefully, a nursery too.
62. See previous comments. Also, if the main driver for considering closure of Grandtully is economic, it is worth pointing out that the benefits to local children and the community, both present and future, cannot be measured in monetary terms.
63. The criteria demanded to avoid participation has already been met. Legal issues around school closures.
64. Rural schools such as Grandtully offer an alternative education in an alternative environment to the modern day large campuses. To lose this would be devastating for pupils and parents now and in the future. A decision to close would be foolhardy.
65. It was hard to find this survey on the website - please make the link more obvious. The drop in session was well organised and very busy! I think it is very important to move quickly to the next phase - which I would hope would be either 'do nothing' or change the

- catchment area - which would then give confidence to current and future parents that the school is not closing and they can commit to the school.
66. Yes, the review has not been handled especially well. Very poor consultation with locals, with parents and the community. Little or no engagement aside from one meeting on a rainy evening. At that meeting I found the head of the LLC leading this and some staff had limited interest in engaging with people in the community - lots of chatting amongst themselves at the front of the room which was disheartening for some. The review process itself is very difficult for schools - it can impact on our roll, reputation and morale and education of the kids. The community has demonstrated how powerfully it feels this must be listened to and respected.
 67. It seems so sad that such a dynamic, inspiring, creative school, with great inspections from HMI, and a year on year increasing roll, is being put under this pressure (to parents, staff, the community), the continued threat of which will likely in itself affect the future roll.
 68. It is such a shame that Grandtully Primary school is not promoted by Perth and Kinross council as a model school for all of the reasons laid out in question 7. It is hugely concerning that PKC's figures currently indicate a very negative outcome for Grandtully Primary, especially when these are not REAL figures. Coupled with current council planning to develop new build areas within the Aberfeldy area I feel it is enormously short sighted to close neighbouring and thriving Primary schools particularly when, by XXXXX own admission, one of PKC's representatives admitted that further research needed to be done in order to find out if Breadalbane Academy had the capacity to absorb such an increase in population, and also to absorb pupils, in a worst case scenario, from all schools currently under review for closure. It is my hope that this review is not just an exercise in ticking boxes. It is also my hope that all schools under review in Perthshire will be granted a pardon. It would be a shame if schools had to be reopened due to current short-sightedness, which sadly happens all too often. Perhaps more time should be spent recognising the benefits of living in a rural area and supporting the promotion of these benefits on a social and economic scale.
 69. Being involved in the review has been a very unsettling experience. I understand that reviews such as this need to have a 'clinical, detached' approach to appear objective however the impact this has had is to make some staff feel that the work they have done for many years within the school is unimportant and irrelevant. It is incredibly demoralising.
 70. If the physical building of Grandtully Primary School was to be updated to mirror some of the up to date facilities Breadalbane Academy can offer, I believe that many parents who live locally would choose to send their children to Grandtully instead.
 71. If Grandtully school closes it will take the heart out of the community and take away options of schools for parents.
 72. There are many examples in my above responses of why Grandtully Primary School is vital to Perthshire's livelihood. Please digest these and support this thriving, valuable school for the part it plays in Perthshire's population and businesses and its contribution to the future of Scottish creativity and quality workforce that will be inspired to stay and reap the rewards of a Scottish future. I hadn't mentioned playground opportunities which at Breadalbane are quite frankly shocking. How did we get to thinking that a tarmac, 'prison' yard with a high fence around it was GOOD for kids!? Which parents want their kids growing up with such a disconnection between movement, coordination and risk? Their outdoor and playtime provision directly impact future decision and risk taking such as young drivers.
 73. Keep Grandtully school open, we already have more children in school since September. Some Parent like us do care on our children education in a small environment.
 74. The schools closure should be a last resort. Closing schools deter people from staying or moving to the area.
 75. Please remove Grandtully School from review list. School is doing well and will do in the future. Save the money and time. Thank you.

76. Closing the school would leave a useful building with a safe play area wasted. The school makes excellent use of the adjoining village hall its closure might threaten the viability of that community. What could be done with the school building/ land? New Housing? If so - there would be no school for the children.
 77. Please leave our school alone!
 78. The long term sustainable solution is to continue with a diversity of educational facility to provide choice and give children the best opportunity for a future in Scotland.
-

11) EMAILS & LETTERS RECEIVED

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have heard that decisions may be made soon regarding Grandtully Primary school. I notice that there are three options to be considered and I strongly believe that the "Do Nothing" option is the correct one.

I am writing to express how valuable I feel Grandtully Primary school is. My XXXXX attended there from XXXXX to XXXXX and left in XXXXX. I realised that the large class size and the disruption caused by a few children in the class at Breadalbane Academy P.S. was having a marked affect on my XXXXX so by the end of XXXXX, I moved XXXXX to Grandtully school. XXXXX was very ill for many years. At Grandtully they were able to commit to XXXXX and understand XXXXX fears and feelings that came with having a seriously ill XXXXX and frequently absent parents because of it. I truly feel that XXXXX would have had much less support if XXXXX had stayed at Breadalbane due to the teacher constantly coping with disruptive behaviour in the classroom. XXXXX is a quiet, academic person who will get XXXXX degree XXXXX this year. XXXXX has very fond memories of Grandtully School and friendships that have continued on from there. In my opinion it is a wonderful school and should be kept running for many more years

Yours sincerely
XXXXX

Dear Sirs,

We, the undersigned, have recently been made aware that Grandtully Primary has been included in the PKC School Estates Review, one possible outcome of which is the school's closure. We understand that the Council has not yet taken a position on its future and so, to try to give you an indication of the local community's feelings on the issue, we are writing to you know to relate our own experiences of the school and what it means to us personally.

Our XXXXX grandchildren XXXXX attend Grandtully, although they are resident in Aberfeldy and until XXXXX were pupils at Breadalbane School. Our grandXXXXX has become diagnosed with XXXXX, andX XXXX received so little support at Breadalbane that XXXXX life became utterly miserable there: XXXXX was badly behind with XXXXX studies, suffered bullying and found it almost impossible to form friendships.

XXXXX move to Grandtully XXXXX rapidly transformed XXXXX life: XXXXX is much happier, has made friends and is doing well in XXXXX studies – a tremendous turnaround in just a few short months. There is a wonderfully supportive and nurturing environment at Grandtully, and we are aware of several other children with additional support needs who have made the same move from Breadalbane for that reason. The school has become something of a haven for such children and represents (as much for mainstream children as for those with special needs) as extremely valuable local resource, which cannot be measured in monetary terms; for this family, and I'm sure for many others in the community, it would be a tragedy to see it closed or for the wonderful service it provides to be disrupted by amalgamation.

Your sincerely,
XXXXX

Grandtully Primary School, PKC Estates Review

To whom it may concern,

We are writing as parents who have recently elected to XXXXX our children from Breadalbane Academy, Aberfeldy and XXXXX Grandtully Primary School as we have learned about the three options being proposed regarding the future of Grandtully.

We cannot stress enough how important the school is to the extended community but, more selfishly, to us as a family.

We have XXXXX children, a XXXXX in XXXXX and a XXXXX in XXXXX. Our XXXXX is very academic and loves going to school. Our XXXXX, like many children in the Aberfeldy area, has additional support needs and can find everyday tasks, including schoolwork, challenging as XXXXX is on the XXXXX.

Our children both previously attended Primary School at Breadalbane in Aberfeldy until XXXXX we decided to remove them. This is due to how much our XXXXX was struggling with life at the school. XXXXX was struggling with both the curriculum and making good social relationships. The school is a good school and on paper has a lot of resources at it's disposal along with many good teachers. HOWEVER, the school layout of open plan classrooms, large class sizes, very busy and congested social areas and very limited open space with virtually zero facilities for stimulation (a bare concrete yard surrounded by a 10Ft fence). None of which benefits any child with social anxieties or sensory issues, of which there are many children like this in this area.

Our XXXXX was getting into trouble and the way which this was dealt with was to segregate XXXXX from XXXXX peers which included, at different times, alternative seating arrangements in class (removing XXXXX from the main group, or even facing a different direction from the main group), separate break times, separate cloak room arrangements, removing XXXXX from certain classes (classes which XXXXX enjoyed) such as PE and music (without our consent or knowledge!), and the final straw for us which was to place XXXXX in a separate fenced off area within the playground either by XXXXX or with another XXXXX who bullied XXXXX outside of school. Is this inclusive?

This is not uncommon practice within Breadalbane as we know several parents / children who have suffered similar experiences. As I stated earlier it does not come from lack of good staff or resources available, it comes from something that budgets can't buy which is environment and attitude.

Since sending our children to Grandtully they aren't just getting on better, they are thriving! Both are making strong friendships and both are working academically at a level far beyond where they were.

Environment:

Grandtully has a wealth of green space with grass, trees and woodland surrounding the school, all of which they get to utilise. They even have their own garden where kids can get some real-life skills which they thoroughly enjoy!

Another huge plus for the learning environment is the smaller pupil – teacher ratio along with the amalgamated classes of P1-P3 and P4-P7 which allows pupils greater opportunity to work at a level which is right for them without the stigma of feeling left behind by their peers.

Attitude:

The whole ethos of the school has blown us away. The kids very often come home with projects on the environment, recycling, community involvement and are being taught how they impact and need to respect the environment they live in.

The school is also very pragmatic with their approach to our XXXXX additional needs. Rather than segregate XXXXX they educate those around XXXXX and teach respect. They have also learned that if XXXXX is having an “off day” that nature’s therapy of the outdoors works wonders and get XXXXX digging in the garden! Mucky kids are happy kids. Kids also get to actually enjoy sports events even when they are not particularly strong at various activities as they only compete with themselves at such events by beating their previous times / scores and don’t have to come home year upon year with never receiving an award.

Our kids (and us) don’t just feel like part of the school, we honestly feel that we are part of an extended family where differences are accepted and challenges met with pro-active solutions and understanding. That is the definition of inclusion!

We are not the only parents who either elect to remove our children or to not send them at all to schools which may be closer to our homes, and for many different reasons. We are also not the only parents of children with additional support needs who opt for Grandtully as the best solution for our needs. And with very good reason.

This is strongly represented by the fact that 50% of the role at Grandtully is made up of kids out with the catchment of the school and will continue to attract people out of catchment for years to come as is the outstanding reputation of the school.

For our sake and all our children’s sake, please do not vote for closure of this most valuable and needed of PKC assests.

Kind regards,
XXXXX

Dear PKC

XXXXX and are in the process of choosing a primary school for our children. From viewing four available schools in the area it is abundantly clear that Grandtully offers more than any other school, including the local Academy. We ourselves are some distance away but seriously considering the regular journey in order to provide the best for our children, as indeed many other parents at this school already do.

The class sizes are small and encourage cohesive learning throughout the age groups, the setting is wonderful and the school offers a level of outside learning that is unmatched by any other school that we have come across. Please keep this school open and allow the teachers to continue providing an outstanding learning environment.

Yours sincerely,
XXXXX

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support for the campaign to keep the thriving primary school at Grandtully in Perthshire open. My XXXXX is now at secondary age but XXXXX had XXXXX nursery and primary years at Glen Lyon Primary school with a school roll of around 18 pupils. This was an incredibly positive start in life for a very sensitive and shy child. As a result of XXXXX experience at a very similar school to Grandtully XXXXX is a confident teenager with a huge amount to offer the world. XXXXX can mix with all ages, works well with others and has a strong sense of environmental and social justice. These are the sorts of qualities that small rural schools in Scotland foster in their pupils. These small schools help form the root and branch of healthy communities in Scotland, producing confident and responsible global citizens. They are also at the heart of rural life in Scotland, linking up an unbroken bond with our collective past. To sever this bond and force children into big schools in towns and cities is to tear away at the very fabric of Scottish society and identity. Please don't do it.

With Kind Regards,
XXXXX

Dear Sir / Madam,

I have two XXXXX at the Grandtully School and I was saddened to hear that the school is now under review. I have been super impressed with the school since my XXXXX started going there and a large part of that is down to the school's size, superb teachers and the way all the pupils interact together and have learnt to get with each other, leaving behind the standard "only communicate with those in your own year" routine, which is so dreadful.

My XXXXX have grown greatly in confidence, have friends of all ages and are able to communicate with other children of a variety of ages. They look forward to going to school for the first time ever and it's not hard to see why. The classes they attend are inspiring, well thought through, useful and fun.

Grandtully is a shining example of a school that has its act together and should be congratulated for performing so well and for engaging its pupils on a whole new level.

I am definitely keen for this wonderful school to remain as it is and to continue on its path of excellence.

Kind regards
XXXXX

Dear Sir,

As a concerned and involved citizen of Highland Perthshire I would like to register my wholehearted support for the Parents Council of Grandtully School. Both the School and its Council are excellent examples of the best in rural education.

I must say I am completely surprised that the School is even involved in any reassessment with the track record it has shown over the last few years.

My main roles in our community are;

Highland Perthshire Community Partnership (HPCP)	XXXXX
Heartland FM Radio	XXXXX
Mid Atholl Community Council	XXXXX
Friends of Pitlochry Hospital	XXXXX
Rotary Club of Pitlochry	XXXXX

Yours truly,
XXXXX

I am writing to you in support of Grandtully Primary School.
My XXXXX is in XXXXX, and during the past few years I have become aware of what a happy school it is and how active the Parent Council is in the local area.
The school plays a pivotal part in the local community, increasingly so as the numbers rise, as they have done steadily in recent years.
Smaller schools offer a more diverse educational experience, and some pupils have been moved to Grandtully for this very reason.
I do hope you will consider these points.
The closure of Grandtully Primary School would not only be a great loss to the wider local community, but would greatly reduce the educational opportunities in the area.
XXXXX

Dear XXXXX,

I would just like to offer an observation I made in my XXXXX year connection with the school when I was the XXXXX. It is that, while the majority of families now are one or two child, a small school like Grandtully gives them almost the experience of being in a big family.

The big ones learn to look after the little ones, teach the games in the playground, including how to keep the rules. The little ones learn to take their turn. I used to enjoy seeing how well they all mixed at the parties etc.

In the bigger Primary schools the classes are much more segregated, and that continues right through Secondary, so that 'natural' mixture of ages does not go on.

I would very much like to see Grandtully School go on doing the excellent work it always has. Please feel free to quote this email if it is any help in your campaign.

Yours Sincerely,
XXXXX

Dear Estates Review Team,

I believe that the School Estates' Review for Grandtully Primary School should be reconsidered and that this thriving and vibrant school should remain open.

To include Grandtully Primary in the School Estates' Review is a devastating decision and I am hugely saddened that it might not be an option to enrol our child.

Based on a combined XXXXX years of teaching within an outdoor environment, we recognise the positive, crucial and long term educational (including personal and social) benefits of Grandtully's inclusive approach to teaching. We firmly believe this educational

model is what makes Grandtully Primary a leading, unique and inspirational school in rural Perthshire and makes it our first and only choice of quality schools for our child.

Its buildings are in good condition and suitable for purpose (both rated B in the School Estate Report), it has excellent staff who deliver sector leading educational opportunities and was rated “very good” in last year’s HMIe report. Its school roll has grown over 250% from 11 in 2015 to 28 in 2018. With over 55% out of catchment children, Grandtully Primary School also provides a vital choice in Highland Perthshire for other parents and children who recognise the quality and suitability of its learning environment. It is truly inclusive and offers equal opportunities for all pupils including many with Additional Support Needs. There are 28 housing units with approved planning permission in the current catchment area and the school will continue to be an important attraction to families considering making the Grandtully area their home.

In addition, the school is incredibly well-supported. The Parent Council is highly engaged, with over 75% of parents attending regular meetings and almost £10,000 raised in just two years which funds outdoor equipment, learning resources and teacher training, free healthy daily snacks and transport for new learning opportunities. All three Highland Ward Councillors, The Mid-Atholl, Strathtay and Grandtully Community Council, Grandtully and Strathtay Village Hall Committee, local NFU and local businesses are unanimous in their support. The School also enjoys widespread support from the local community working together on outdoor learning initiatives including the daily mile and weekly Forest School to create and perform showcases and collaborate on community events including The Grandtully Gala and Grandtully Fireworks (in past years) and a Christmas service and celebration. There is a Community Reading Initiative and regular partnerships with local businesses and individuals who give their time to inspire and help pupil projects including gardening, and skills-led “Genius Hour”.

Most importantly, Grandtully Primary School provides a safe, nurturing and inspiring learning environment for the pupils who are well-balanced, creative, problem-solving, resilient, respectful, ambitious, curious and sociable growing ups! A successful wee school with BIG ideas. Please therefore support our school by recommending the "do nothing" option and helping us to continue to grow and develop with support from our community.

Yours Sincerely,
XXXXX

Dear Estates Review Team

I believe that the School Estates’ Review for Grandtully Primary School should be reconsidered and that this thriving and vibrant school should remain open.

I am really saddened that this fantastic school is being even considered for closure; I fully support the school and I am hoping to enrol my XXXXX in school year XXXXX.

Everyone involved in the decision to do nothing option have worked so hard and tirelessly to get people behind Grandtully primary school staying open, I really hope that you see are able to see the huge response and support from everyone involved and keep our community school open.

Its buildings are in good condition and suitable for purpose (both rated B in the School Estate Report), it has excellent staff who deliver sector leading educational opportunities and was rated “very good” in last year’s HMIe report. Its school roll has grown over 250% from

11 in 2015 to 28 in 2018. With over 55% out of catchment children, Grandtully Primary School also provides a vital choice in Highland Perthshire for parents and children who recognise the quality and suitability of its learning environment. It is truly inclusive and offers equal opportunities for all pupils including many with Additional Support Needs. There are 28 housing units with approved planning permission in the current catchment area and the school will continue to be an important attraction to families considering making the Grandtully area their home.

In addition, the school is incredibly well-supported. The Parent Council is highly engaged, with over 75% of parents attending regular meetings and almost £10,000 raised in just two years which funds outdoor equipment, learning resources and teacher training, free healthy daily snacks and transport for new learning opportunities. All three Highland Ward Councillors, The Mid-Atholl, Strathtay and Grandtully Community Council, Grandtully and Strathtay Village Hall Committee, local NFU and local businesses are unanimous in their support. The School also enjoys widespread support from the local community working together on outdoor learning initiatives including the daily mile and weekly Forest School to create and perform showcases and collaborate on community events including The Grandtully Gala and Grandtully Fireworks (in past years) and a Christmas service and celebration. There is a Community Reading Initiative and regular partnerships with local businesses and individuals who give their time to inspire and help pupil projects including gardening, and skills-led "Genius Hour".

Most importantly, Grandtully Primary School provides a safe, nurturing and inspiring learning environment for the pupils who are well-balanced, creative, problem-solving, resilient, respectful, ambitious, curious and sociable growing ups! A successful wee school with BIG ideas. Please therefore support our school by recommending the "do nothing" option and helping us to continue to grow and develop with support from our community.

Yours Sincerely,
XXXXX

To ECS Resources, Perth and Kinross Council

Re Grandtully Primary School Review

We are writing to express our support for Grandtully Primary School which we understand is under review by Perth and Kinross Council.

Grandtully Primary School has been involved in the Young Indies Short Film Competition for children and young people in Highland Perthshire since 2016 when Heartland Film Society set up the competition as part of the Aberfeldy Film Festival. Staff and parents at the school have been very supportive of the competition and encouraged not only the children attending Grandtully to make films but also encouraged colleagues and children at other local primary schools in Highland Perthshire to participate. Grandtully pupils have also attended film making workshops run by Heartland Film Society outside school time. The school teachers generously share their experience, ideas and contacts with the film society to help us make the event successful every year.

Grandtully won the Junior prize in 2016 and 2017, and 3 out of the 5 films they submitted this year have been shortlisted (the prizes will be announced on Sunday 18 November). This school seems to have it all – great partnership working with the local community, supportive parents and creative ways of working with all their enthusiastic pupils. We sincerely hope they will be allowed to continue and thrive for the benefit of us all!

XXXXX
XXXXX
XXXXX
XXXXX
XXXXX
XXXXX

Dear Sir/Madam,

In relation to Perth and Kinross Council's School Estate Review of Grandtully Primary School 2018.

We don't really understand why our School is included in this review and feel very strongly that it shouldn't even be a part of it – this is a very worrying time for our children, our parents, our teaching staff and the community alike.

We believe that the review is based on a school roll of 11 pupils back in 2015, however this figure is now well out of date, with 28 pupils at present attending the school it is now above the 60% capacity and we believe the school building itself is sound so should it not be excluded from this review when actually it doesn't even meet the criteria for inclusion anymore?

Would the Council therefore consider removing our School from this review? It doesn't seem to make economic or social sense – it must be costing the Council a lot of money to continue with this?

If the council will not remove our School from this review then would it please not consider the option to close it – the impact of this would be devastating on our children's education and thriving community.

Our XXXXX attends Grandtully Primary School and looks forward to going to School every morning and that is important to us. XXXXX is our XXXXX child and when we were considering what School to go to everyone we spoke to only had positive things to say about Grandtully. We visited Breadalbane first but felt that our XXXXX just wasn't suited to a larger School environment and would struggle. We knew as soon as we had visited Grandtully that it was the School we wanted to go for we were so impressed.

So what makes our School so special?

- There are amazing outdoor learning experiences which a larger School just couldn't offer- the School has Eco School status and has a Forrest School which is brilliant.
- Fantastic teachers who are very supportive, there is a genuine nurturing environment and the children are happy and engaged. What emotional impact would closure have on our children? Uprooting them would have a huge impact.
- There is brilliant peer to peer support amongst the pupils – the older children look out for the younger ones
- There is more focus on the individual child's needs and children can work at a pace that best suits them as opposed to a bigger School that is maybe more focused on "achieving results"
- Our wee School is thriving and there is actually quite a high proportion of children attending who are out of the catchment – surely this proves the importance of the School to stay open?

- Our School is very self-sufficient – the School shares Head and Deputy teachers with Kenmore Primary therefore spreading costs. There are also shared events with Kenmore Primary and other rural Schools i.e. – the Wee Robbie, Sports Day and Skiing for example. There is a very strong and active Parent Council who organise a lot of fundraising and this pays for a lot of things like transport for School trips, outdoor clothing, daily healthy morning snack for the children etc.

So how does the possibility of closure affect the community?

- The School plays an essential part in our local community – Grandtully has a thriving community. The Parent Council organises the Annual Grandtully Gala every year and other events. The School plays an important part in attracting new families to our area, closure would mean that families may leave or not be attracted to the area anymore- this would also have an impact on jobs and local businesses. We understand there is planning permission for 28 homes in the Grandtully, Strathtay and Little Ballinluig areas at the moment what about these families?

This is a very worrying time for everyone, we are all concerned, please do not consider the option of closure – the effects of this would be devastating, instead please consider removing our brilliant wee School from this review before any more time and resources are spent on this.

Thank you
Yours Faithfully
XXXXX

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing to you to express my objection to PKC school estate review of Grandtully Primary school.

Both my children attend Grandtully Primary school, which is under your review. The building is not in disrepair nor does our school fall below the required 60% attendance levels.

The review started in 2015 when Grandtully only had 8 children attending and at this time the school was told they would not be a part of the review. Since then the school has grown 200% and now has a 28 pupils. 55% of which travel from out of catchment because of the outstanding nature of this school. This school should not qualify for review.

The very way that the review is carried out in my opinion is questionable. To start to review a school in 2015 and to still be undertaking that process in 2018 raises questions in my mind about the efficiency of this process and the tactics. It is possible to effectively run a schools in to the ground by taking this long drawn out approach. As the attendance could potentially go down and down due to the school being caught in this process. The fact that it has not ,is testament to the popularity and success of this school. It shows very little respect for the children or the parents who count on the support of the council, to at the very least support our children's chosen place of education.

Meanwhile we pay our council tax and tax to fund five full time wages to carry out this long and I imagine expensive review. When in fact this money would be better spent on reinvesting in to our amazing school.

The children at Grandtully are thriving, they are developing as well rounded individuals, inspired to learn, nurtured and respected by their peers and teachers. This is a highly creative and academic school that is turning out outstanding children.

We visited Breadalbane and Kenmore first, as soon as we entered Grandtully school we knew this was something special. My XXXXX attended XXXXX which is rated outstanding by Ofsted, however the ratio of pupils to teachers and sort of learning experience and environment is not even close to what Grandtully school offers.

My feeling is that this is all about how things look on paper for the council, projections and numbers. When actually it should be about preserving a fantastic school which is at the very heart of the community.

I have no doubt that closing the school would be huge mistake. And a loss for the area, I can see no benefit it this.

The review is already causing huge disruption and bad feeling amongst parents who are already over stretched by their commitment to their jobs and home commitments.

We run a very active and positive parent council that raises a lot of money for our school and really this is where we should be putting our time and funds not fighting PKC which is meant to represent our best interests.

Please come and see for yourself, you'll find a multicultural school which is educating children of all backgrounds and abilities, to such a high standard. You should be celebrating and congratulating us on the success of the school, not threatening us with closure.

Yours Sincerely
XXXXX

To whom it may concern.

We were deeply saddened to attend a meeting at Grandtully School only to learn that it could face closure.

Our XXXXX has XXXXX and attends this school as did XXXXX who also has XXXXX. Our XXXXX was so overwhelmed at Breadalbane school Aberfeldy that it came to breaking point. With little or no help from the system our XXXXX had to do all the ground work XXXXX to get a place for XXXXX at Grandtully. For XXXXX years XXXXX blossomed at this school as XXXXX children cannot cope in large classes so much so XXXXX achieved an outstanding award before XXXXX left to go to Breadalbane High school where XXXXX is back to square one struggling to cope in a huge class.

Getting back to our XXXXX at Grandtully XXXXX loves the school and the teachers are awesome, so please do not overlook the success of this small school and put children at risk of developing crippling disadvantages at a bigger school.

At the end of the day, take stock of what is of best interest to the children and their parents who are deeply concerned about the welfare of their children and like ourselves the future for our little XXXXX who is only XXXXX years of age.

Please consider the future for this school and keep it open.

Headline news this week is the closure of The New School Butterstone where is the future for these young adults with special needs?

Mr John Swinney will be our next port of call if the future for this superb school is not saved.

Concerned Grandparents,
XXXXX

Dear Sir/Madam,

Reference School Estate Review - Grandtully Primary School - 25th November 2018

I am writing on behalf of the XXXXX.

We share the concerns expressed by what appears to be the majority of the local community, including business owners regarding the School Estate Review. There has been an overwhelming local reaction in support of retaining Grandtully School and dismay that an option under consideration is closure of the school.

The school is an integral part of the local community and contributes significantly to the culture and social integration of what is a geographically dispersed residential rural society.

The school organises and participates in a variety of local community events for example the annual Village Gala which is a joint event with The Village Hall and Park Association. This popular social annual event is very well attended, involves the business and residential community and includes activities for both adults and children. It takes place behind the Hall in the Park which is adjacent to the school.

The school has achieved awards for its contribution to the Learning and Development of our children. The provision includes a wide range of innovative L&D opportunities including for example participation in Forest Schools using the woodlands which are part of the Park area and involves Forest Schools qualified teachers from the schools staff.

The Grandtully and Strathtay Village Hall and Park Association provide the facilities of both the Hall and Park/ Sports Ground to the local community and the school. XXXXX rely on income from the hire of facilities to enable the maintenance of the Hall and XXXXX ongoing ability to continue to serve the community as it has done for many years. XXXXX facilities are next door to the school and provide a useful resource. Grandtully School is XXXXX most valuable consistent user of facilities and the loss of revenue from the school's hire of facilities would have serious negative consequences for the community.

We recognise the need to review the provision of Learning and Development of our children. Standards have to be maintained and of course the economics attached to that have to be considered. Grandtully School do in fact meet the criteria that would exclude them from the review but we have to accept the review as it stands. The options of increasing Grandtully's catchment area and doing nothing, thereby retaining the school are the only two that in the view of the XXXXX are valid.

The XXXXX and XXXXX members of the XXXXX, by the very nature of what XXXXX are in constant touch with the wider community. The contribution made by our school both in terms of Learning and Development of our children, the high standards it consistently achieves and its relationship with the community is something that needs to be preserved within rural

Perthshire. The option of closure and its wider implications is in the view of the XXXXX and our community is not valid.

The high regard in terms of what and how the school provides for the Learning and Development our children and its contribution to the community has resulted in the XXXXX and XXXXX engaging in discussion about what we can do to assist with the decision making and decision taking process. We have debated and consulted, have attended and contributed to meetings and hope the views within this letter are helpful. We respectfully propose that Grandtully school remains and is not considered to be worthy of closure.

Regards,
XXXXX

To whom it may concern

As someone who has lived in nearby Aberfeldy for over XXXXX years I was shocked and very concerned at the announcement of the possible closure of the brilliant little Grandtully School. This may be small but has played a major part in our wider community since I moved here and long before that. As well as providing the local village children with their very own LOCAL school, it also acts as a perfect foil to the much bigger and noisier Breadalbane Primary and has given local parents in Aberfeldy as well as the Grandtully surrounds, a valuable choice in the environment their children learn in, and the style in which they are taught. Not all children are the same... and as the XXXXX of XXXXX with very varying needs from each other, let alone their other XXXXX siblings, I know first-hand the need for different types of education in a variety of settings, more than most. Although none of my children in the end accessed Grandtully for their own education, I was aware the choice was always there to be explored - sometimes a huge comfort in times when my children struggled with needs within the education system. Choice for parents is surely essential, and in offering a completely different educational environment with the ability to concentrate on individual needs due to the small size, Grandtully School punched well above its weight in giving that choice and fulfilling local need.

Through my experience of parenting and attempting to find the most conducive learning environment for my own children, I have often been called on to advise and give practical help to other parents struggling with similar issues. I have found myself often advocating the possibility of Grandtully school as a viable option for children with an ASD or anxiety diagnosis on several occasions, emphasising as it does, the individual learner and a more activity led approach to learning - ONLY possible due to its comparative tiny pupil roll; the very reason, it appears, that it is up for closure! Of all the parents of special needs pupils who have applied to transfer their child to Grandtully, I am not aware of even one that has regretted their decision or reversed it. Praise indeed. Certainly, if its reputation as such a caring environment had been as strong when my own XXXXX was at primary age, I too would have seriously considered requesting a transfer there.

In short, closure of such a gem of a local school (and community powerhouse by all accounts) would be a crying shame and yet again deplete the resources and options open to the Special Needs children in our wider community. I urge you to reconsider.

Yours sincerely
XXXXX

Dear Estates Review Team

I write in support of Grandtully Primary School and Option B 'do nothing' in the School Estates Review being undertaken by Perth & Kinross Council. I am a parent of XXXXX children at Grandtully Primary School, XXXXX. We live in the XXXXX catchment area and were delighted to be successful in our XXXXX for Grandtully Primary School. Grandtully has provided the education and environment that we were hoping for - a small, inclusive, nurturing, family-like community with excellent teaching and outdoor opportunities that has enabled our XXXXX child to thrive and grow substantially in confidence over XXXXX first school year.

As the following points clearly demonstrate, Grandtully Primary School is an amazing success story for a small, rural school:

- The school has an excellent reputation locally, evidenced by a growth of over 200% in school roll over the last 3 years. This is a material change since the review was launched in 2016.
- Over 50% of the children are from neighbouring catchments which clearly shows that parents are making a positive choice to send their children to Grandtully.
- Occupancy levels are projected to be over 60% over the 5 year period from 2017-2022 with two of the projected years being over 70%. These figures do include families out with the catchment who have confirmed their intention to send their children to Grandtully with members of the parent council. These figures do not include any additional children who may attend due to the 26 houses with approved planning permission in the catchment area.
- Grandtully is a high performing school with sector leading practices. It is rated "Very Good" in the HMIE report. The children win regional awards for their work and projects.
- There are significant small school benefits of peer-to-peer learning, strong teacher/child relationships which are developed over a number of years, a flexibility of progression through the curriculum according to each child's abilities and quick decision making by management/parent council.
- The school provides for the wellbeing of children through an inclusive, creative, positive and active environment with great opportunities for outdoor learning.
- It is already run in an efficient and cost-effective way in conjunction with Kenmore Primary School - sharing its headship, resources, activities and school trips.
- The school buildings have been classified as fit for purpose in terms of suitability and condition.
- The teachers and pupils enjoy the support of a highly engaged Parent Council in terms of fundraising, input to management and skills input to curriculum subjects. This level of parent council support is exceptional amongst most local schools.
- The school is closely involved with the community and provides vital financial support to the Village Hall Committee for use of the hall and park facilities.
- There is unanimous support from parents, the community, all Ward Councillors and various MSPs. I have yet to meet someone who thinks the school should close.

In view of the incredibly positive impact the school has on its pupils and the local rural community and the material and sustained change in occupancy levels since this review started, I cannot see that Option C, Closure, is a feasible option on any level. The inclusion of 'closure' as an option in this review has already had a damaging impact on the reputation of the school and the ability of the parent council to support it, given the enormous amount of work that has been invested in its defence. Option A, consultation on the catchment area, will require a prolonged consultation period which will continue to have a damaging impact on the school and is unlikely to have a material impact on the school roll, given the surrounding population. I therefore sincerely hope that Option B, 'do nothing' is concluded at your earliest opportunity so that the school and its pupils can continue to thrive.

Yours sincerely
XXXXX

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to voice XXXXX concern over the possible closure of Grandtully Primary School. Here at XXXXX we are committed to encouraging and supporting a vibrant community in Aberfeldy and surrounds. XXXXX of our members of staff have young children that they intend to send to Grandtully School when they reach primary age.

Grandtully school is an integral part of this rural community and its loss would have a huge impact on young families who are already having to cope with the roll back of essential services such as the bank closures in the town. We rely on good and diverse schooling to attract employees to the area and the closure of this school would have a long term detrimental impact on our business, together with other small businesses in the area.

With Best Regards,
XXXXX

Last night was Grandtully Primary's Christmas showcase. Please look at our Facebook page for a flavour of the evening. It was a magical night which the children had planned and written. They performed songs and told stories of life in the Crannog and Iron Age Britain. They had designed and made jewellery to set off their costumes. The Parent council helped with costumes and hanging lights and providing food. And we all took part as families.

Grandtully primary school is a very special school which functions as a big family. If you can find a way to extend the catchment round Aberfeldy (as closure for me is not an option) and keep this school going.

It is a school that offers something different from the other schools and we went to see all 3 before choosing Grandtully over Kenmore and Breadalbane. We are XXXXX the XXXXX for Grandtully but we decided the drive was doable to get the right school for our XXXXX. XXXXX is not on the spectrum but a large noisy school wouldn't have benefitted XXXXX. XXXXX has grown in confidence at Grandtully and we are very happy with XXXXX education. But it is in XXXXX growth as a young person, XXXXX is caring an helpful and looks out for XXXXX friends. And I feel this has to do with atmosphere in the school. And the fact that they are allowed to develop at their own speed. They also spend a lot of time learning outside which keeps them engaged. We never have a problem in a morning getting XXXXX to go school as XXXXX wants to go.

The Grandtully primary kids are happy mentally and physically with their daily mile and forest school, art and drama. Which in this day and age is so important.

So take closure off the table and try and extend the catchment if possible or do nothing and leave the school as it. The good word from the parents draws in more out of catchment area parents and their kids.

Best wishes
XXXXX

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing on behalf of XXXXX to express our concern that Grandtully Primary School is under review for possible closure.

As a XXXXX in the local area we feel that our rural schools add unquantifiable amounts into the community's identity and vibrancy. Grandtully in particular plays an integral role in keeping the surrounding areas tradition of smaller schools alive. I feel that by channelling all pupils to Breadalbane we will lose some of this identity, all too easily done in this day and age with the stroke of a pen.

It must also be stated that Grandtully represents a diversity in modern schooling. A forward thinking primary that can think outside the box to offer the pupils something a wee bit different. My XXXXX will soon be at Primary school age and I had earmarked Grandtully as our primary choice (even although I reside in XXXXX).

Grandtully Primary School also has a strong "outdoor" ethos, one in which my business XXXXX can strongly relate to. I fear that using the outdoors in learning is often seen as a luxury option. This couldn't be further from the truth - in rural communities it helps pupils understand where they live, link their lives back into the tradition and prepare them for a life living in rural Scotland. This is poles apart from an ethos where school children are encouraged to spend their playtime in what can only be described as a metal cage!

I feel that PKC has the opportunity to make a decision that will help people see that they understand and value rural schools.

Thanks you for your time,

Best Regards
XXXXX

Dear School Estates Review Team

We write in full support of our incredible school.

Grandtully Primary has an excellent reputation, only last year receiving an outstanding inspection from HMIE. The academic achievement, health and well being of the pupils was rated very good. This is testament to the teaching, the value of the school in the community and the dedication of pupils and parents to support the school.

We have provided clear projections for the school roll which are attached to this response. We look forward to seeing these reflected in the report to the LLC clearly demonstrating the predicted roll above 60% for several years for our school.

In addition to the above, we have shared with the council data on granted planning and housing permissions for an additional 28 units in Grandtully, Strathtay and Little Ballinluig. We would also like to see consideration given to the impact on housing and schooling of the A9 dualling, as well as additional housing units in Aberfeldy

We expect the council report to reflect these figures and find it incredible that the school has remained under review despite these figures and projections. Being in the review is, in itself very detrimental to our future. We have now clearly demonstrated growth for the five years and beyond since the review launched. As such, we urge the council to remove the option to close our school as soon as possible.

We would like the council to also reflect all responses received, as well as a summary from our online petition against closure – this received over 1,067 responses 100% of which were

against the idea of closing the school. This demonstrates the incredible strength of feeling for this option in our community. We have provided a summary of the responses to the consultation and been assured this feedback will form part of the report to the committee. We do not support the option to extend the catchment of the school. The review process itself is detrimental to pupils, parents and teachers. We do not want the review hanging over our school while catchment extension is considered and do not feel this would add any significant benefit. Nothing we have seen from the council or members of the community demonstrates otherwise.

The fact we have a large number of pupils from out of catchment demonstrates the fact that parents make an active choice to attend our school and will continue to do so. The community, school, teachers and parents support them to do so and we should be building on this excellent reputation we have.

Our school also has exceptional ASN provision and is well-known for this locally. Many of our pupils have moved from other schools (especially Breadalbane) where the ASN provision was very poor. These parents are especially concerned about the closure of the school, and the review process drifting on and having a negative impact on the school. Financially our school is very efficient – we share head teacher and assistant head with Kenmore primary. We share many resources – books, play equipment, kayaks and other learning and outdoor resources. We share sports days, ski trips and as a parent council we raise significant funding across the year, provided forest school training for the staff, transport for school trips, and healthy tuck throughout the year for all pupils amongst a great deal of other additional support. Just this week we funded two days of a trained storyteller to work with pupils and staff on oral storytelling, history and its place.

Our school is an eco-school and has a vital place in the community and wider Highland Perthshire community too. We have been working with the National Trust for Scotland, Scotland National Heritage, with local businesses and farmers on projects in recent years to ensure the children understand the importance of looking after their community and the world they live in. They have a great pride in their wee school.

The links to the community are vital to school and community. We are the biggest client of the village hall and work closely with them on events and other things throughout the year. We organise the gala/ fete day in the summer, share Christmas events and so on. The community are invited and join us at termly shows and showcases and parents and community members work with the school each Friday as part of our “genius hour” sessions where we share our learning with one another.

The following National Outcomes underpin the school strategy and are present in the delivery of all education to pupils.

National Outcome 4 – “Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.”

National Outcome 5 – “Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.”

National Outcome 10 – “We live in well- designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need.”

National Outcome 11 – “We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.”

The clear ability of the school to deliver The Curriculum of Excellence, the happiness of the children and the vibrant and far reaching role of the school in the wider community.

Grandtully Primary School without a doubt delivers high quality educational benefits and opportunities for its pupils who are resilient, creative, strategic, friendly, team-playing and well-balanced individuals. We would like to the council to invest in CPD for our teachers, and to invest in additional support for ASN provision.

We feel strongly that the option to do nothing is the only feasible option. However we would like the council to consider:

- Formally review of the capacity of the building as a fourth option

Finally, in conclusion as discussed many times with the council officers and to re-iterate here, we would like to strongly urge the council to remove the option to close the school as soon as possible and not wait until the conclusion of the review. The impact on staff morale, pupils learning and parent workload is significant and we would like to change this position as soon as possible.

We look forward to meeting the review team early in the New Year to hear initial thoughts and direction of travel and meeting the LLC members in due course.

Kind Regards,
XXXXX

Dear School Estates Review Committee

I am writing on behalf of our businesses here in Grandtully which need to employ over XXXXX local people in order to remain viable. The future of our businesses is at risk due to this review.

Please register our strong opinion that Grandtully School remain open and answer our questions below.

Will members of your Committee vote on keeping open or closing this school based on the their individual judgement of the facts and stakeholders opinions which you have requested or will they follow party lines?

Grandtully School has received multiple awards for educational attainments across a broad spectrum. Will Perth and Kinross promote this as exemplary to other schools?

Grandtully School's reputation for social and educational attainment for individual pupils as well as its community integration has resulted in over half its student population being brought by parents outside its defined catchment areas, whose children are being failed by standards in other schools. What will you do to solve these failings if you close Grandtully School?

Your own reports show the condition of the buildings and estate are good and not requiring significant investment. Beyond the initial cost of shutting the school, there would be a short term saving by shutting a small school and creating an economy of scale with bigger schools. However there would be enormous long term costs to the Council and local residents by having to rebuild broken rural communities which have disintegrated due to the removal of basic community institutions such as a school, leading to people leaving the area, ageing of remaining residents and reduction in building projects and business developments as people no longer are attracted to the area due to lack of facilities. Does your Committee consider these high long term costs?

You will have been made aware of the severe damage done by the way the review process has been carried out, namely by schools such as Grandtully being placed "under review for potential closure" for years on end so that their school rolls drop rapidly as current and potential parents fear an imminent closure. Will your committee change the review process to avoid damaging future schools, which may well not be closed, and will you take responsibility for corrective advertising to the public for the damage already done to Grandtully School?

It was noted by us at the one and only display of data which the Council's staff intend to present to your committee to base their decisions on, that there was estimated data for possible school rolls in years 4 and 5. The current and near term rolls show stable growth but adding these years completely changes the perspective although it is based on the least reliable and long term data. These years are outside the 3 year scope of the review and should not be included in documents on which you should be voting. Will this biased data be removed from the documentation presented?

Sincerely
XXXXXX

Dear Estates Review Team

As a consortium of local businesses we write in wholehearted support of Grandtully Primary School.

The Aberfeldy area currently benefits from a choice of a large or a small rural primary school which is a real plus for those living and working here and a key factor for any family considering moving to the area for work. Rural schools are the lifeblood of their local communities. They provide for a younger population which, in turn, is the lifeblood of any rural economy. A younger population produces local entrepreneurs and an essential employment pool for rural businesses. Recruitment is already a serious issue for our businesses in Highland Perthshire, as the Council knows. In addition, we are told that the population in the Highland Ward is both ageing and declining. Against this background it is clear that rural schools such as Grandtully Primary School are a vital resource that should be protected and invested in, not diminished. They are a key part of the economic sustainability of our area.

The basis of the school estate transformation programme is the occupancy, suitability and condition of the school. Grandtully Primary School's buildings are rated ok by the council in terms of suitability and condition. It's occupancy levels have increased dramatically since the School Estates Review was undertaken to be above the threshold of 60% and we understand that these levels are projected to be sustainable. In addition, and most importantly, the school is rated 'Very Good' in all categories in the 2017 HMIE report. It makes no sense, on any level, to close a thriving, well attended rural primary school such as Grandtully Primary School. The knock on effects of closure would affect us all and have long term, detrimental consequences for the wider rural community and economy.

We are in full support of Option B, to 'do nothing' and we strongly urge the council to do everything in their power to invest in the diversity of our rural schools.

Yours sincerely
XXXXX

Dear Estates Review Team

As a consortium of Aberfeldy businesses we write in wholehearted support of Grandtully Primary School.

The Aberfeldy area currently benefits from a choice of a large or a small rural primary school which is a real plus for those living and working here and a key factor for any family considering moving to the area for work. Rural schools are the lifeblood of their local

communities. They provide for a younger population which, in turn, is the lifeblood of any rural economy. A younger population produces local entrepreneurs and an essential employment pool for rural businesses. Recruitment is already a serious issue for our businesses in Highland Perthshire, as the Council knows. In addition, we are told that the population in the Highland Ward is both ageing and declining. Against this background it is clear that rural schools such as Grandtully Primary School are a vital resource that should be protected and invested in, not diminished. They are a key part of the economic sustainability of our area.

The basis of the school estate transformation programme is the occupancy, suitability and condition of the school. Grandtully Primary School's buildings are rated ok by the council in terms of suitability and condition. It's occupancy levels have increased dramatically since the School Estates Review was undertaken to be above the threshold of 60% and we understand that these levels are projected to be sustainable. In addition, and most importantly, the school is rated 'Very Good' in all categories in the 2017 HMle report. It makes no sense, on any level, to close a thriving, well attended rural primary school such as Grandtully Primary School. The knock on effects of closure would affect us all and have long term, detrimental consequences for the wider rural community and economy. We strongly urge the council to do all they can.

We are in full support of Option B, to 'do nothing' and we strongly urge the council to do everything in their power to invest in the diversity of our rural schools.

Yours sincerely
XXXXX

Dear sir/madam,

The XXXXX wholeheartedly and strongly supports the Grandtully School which is currently being reviewed by PKC. The school is very well run and greatly appreciated by pupils, parents and the wider community. The school is an integral part of the community and its presence has supported the development of our local and rural economy.

XXXXX attended the consultation session last Wednesday and formed part of the 111 people who turned out to support the school and to argue for it to be allowed to continue as is. The only suggestion about change has been for the provision of a nursery at the school which we believe will enable even more pupils to attend this school in future.

In discussions with local residents and parents of other pupils it is clear that the type of educational environment that Grandtully School provides is hugely appreciated and needed. Several pupils attend this school specifically because of this and if Grandtully School should cease to operate there would be a huge impact on pupils, their education and their wellbeing.

It is noted that since the decision was taken to review Grandtully School, the role has grown to such a level that it would no longer be put into a review. Furthermore the role predictions, by all parties, show further sustained growth in the future. The school has been rated B for condition and usability which combined with the current/future role means that there is absolutely no reason to consider closing the school.

I attach the XXXXX online questionnaire response (already submitted) for reference.

Yours sincerely

XXXXX

The Schools Consultation Team.

I write to confirm my opposition to any attempts to close Grandtully Primary School.

Grandtully Primary is a shining example of a rural school providing a high-quality education to local children – indeed, its 2017 inspection report rated the school as “very good” in all categories.

With a pupil roll of 62%, and the council’s own projections showing the school roll will be above 60% (and as high as 70%) over the next few years, there is clearly a local need for the school and a demand within the community for a high class educational facility.

Moreover, there is overwhelming local support for the continuation of Grandtully – I am informed that there were 111 attendees at the recent consultation, against an electoral roll of 506 for the village.

To that end, it is inconceivable that this well-run, well-attended school could be considered for closure. I therefore join with the local community in calling for the removal of the threat of closure from Grandtully Primary, and for no other actions to be taken.

Yours faithfully,
John Swinney MSP

Dear Estates Review Team

I am writing to you as the XXXXX and XXXX employer in Grandtully with a couple of thoughts for consideration as you put together the review of Grandtully Primary School.

One of the main reasons Grandtully was so attractive to me as an investor when I was looking for an area to create and grow a business XXXXX was the very vibrant, diverse and in many ways atypical community that exists here in this small Highland Perthshire ward.

Please consider Grandtully and Strathtay as very unusual in that they mutually support and benefit from two churches, a golf course, a beautifully refurbished village hall and an attractive recreation ground, a world class chocolatier who serves locals, tourists and exports worldwide, a 7 day a week post office and shop which is extremely well used, a well-established local inn, and many users and businesses which support a nationally recognised rapids and water sports and outdoor adventures businesses alongside a world renowned engraver and jeweller, XXXXXXXX, many farmers and several traditional estates offering hunting, fishing and shooting, a thriving yoga teacher and studio owned by XXXXX, a busy camp site and many notable accommodation providers and artists besides. Impressive for a population of just over 500 people.

Grandtully Primary School is small but growing steadily and is an important “heart” for village life with excellent engagement within the community and a far reaching impact.

We have so enjoyed working alongside the village hall and primary school in the past year to provide XXXXX for the annual Gala Day, to develop the children’s menus for XXXXX and next week will be hosting an evening of festive treats, to which all are welcome following the

school's traditional nativity at St Andrew's church not to mention providing a new gathering place for community groups and many of the local families to relax and enjoy.

Moreover, and crucially for my businesses growth and success, the provision of a good local primary school has a deep impact on recruitment. If I am to attract new people to the area along with my fellow business owners and to continue to establish Grandtully as a destination in its own right with huge economic impact for the small area, many potential new recruits will look carefully at educational provision and could be swayed by the provision or lack of primary school.

Please give this serious thought and remove closure as an option and continue to help our school and our village to thrive, not just for the parents and children now but for the whole community and for the future.

Yours sincerely
XXXXX

Dear Sir/Madam

Grandtully Primary School

I am writing to confirm my opposition to any attempts to close Grandtully Primary School.

The school roll has grown to 62% since the school estates review was first announced. It looks set to continue to grow over the next few years, closer to 70%. I am quite sure that this level of support for the school is because of its reputation to deliver a high quality of education. Indeed the 2017 inspection report rated Grandtully as "very good" in all categories. This is an excellent accolade for the teachers, pupils and everyone who is involved with the school.

During a recent visit to the school I learned how the pupils are being taught about robotics. I believe that we should be offering a diversity of education across Highland Perthshire and to be considering the closure of such a well thought of school will limit the educational horizons of the pupils.

Grandtully Primary school has demonstrated, through the high educational standards and the increasing school role, that it should have been removed from the estates review. I would like join with the many requests that threat of closure be removed from Grandtully Primary School, and no other action to be taken.

Yours faithfully,
Councillor Mike Williamson
Ward 4 Highland

Dear XXXXX,

School Estates Review: Grandtully Primary School

I am writing to you in relation to the on-going School Estate Review (SER) of Grandtully Primary School being undertaken by the Education & Children's Services Department (ECS).

The Review

Firstly, I would like to say that I think that the way the Council has chosen to carry out this School Estates Review is fundamentally combative with the communities involved, my local communities, have felt like they're under attack mainly due to the option of closure being put on the table in the initial consultation. These communities have received a number of service/job losses in recent times including their local RBS banks within the last six months and to open up the door to further significant service loss is incredibly insensitive. This review has seriously damaged the Council's reputation in these communities and in future I would suggest that a model closer to that being currently used by Angus Council where school management groups or geographical areas are holistically looked at, and an open conversation takes place with the community about the current situation and how it could be improved would be a much better model. I as a Councillor who fundamentally disagrees with this review and the process – have had to spend considerable amounts of time trying to reassure the community that closure is not inevitable and has not already been decided on.

I would also like to state that I feel the communications around the review have been incredibly poor. No posters were put up in the local area except by the Parent Councils and no letters were sent home promoting the informal consultation events in some cases. The information about the schools was not available until after the consultation events had been announced – it would have been much better if these had been made available at the same time. The local councillors were also the last people to be informed about the options for our local schools – after the staff, Parent Councils, Community Councils in some cases and the press. This was incredibly discourteous and prevented us from being able to properly perform our role. However, I would like to also take this opportunity to say that the staff who have been directly supporting the review, have been great. They have been very helpful at answering any queries I, Parent Councils or others have had since the start of this process and showed great professionalism at all the informal community consultation events.

The Options

In regards to your first proposed future option for the school of “Grandtully Primary School catchment area is reviewed to determine whether this would increase the school roll sufficiently to ensure the future sustainability of the school”. I would be supportive of a limited catchment review to extend towards the Dalguise direction and to extend towards Aberfeldy to see if there may be pupils already attending Grandtully Primary School from these areas or who may wish to attend the school if home to school transport was to be offered. Additional pupils from these areas may further increase the school roll and provide greater security for the school in the longer term. I would be strongly opposed to any consideration of extension into the Logierait Primary School area.

In relation to your departments second proposed option for the school of “do nothing”. Whilst I feel this is clearly a viable option given the very strong roll at the moment of over 60%, rural school rolls are open to significant fluctuation as Grandtully has proven over the last two years and therefore I would prefer option one was explored in the first instance to see if there was any potential to extend the catchment that was not to the detriment of Logierait Primary.

With regards to your third proposed option of “Consider closing Grandtully Primary School - pupils move to a neighbouring school”. I am totally opposed to this option. As I stated to ECS officers in August I do not believe Grandtully Primary School should have been left in the SER when it was looking likely to exceed 60% capacity in the new school year. It was at 58% when I asked for its removal on 20th August 2018. However, now that it has been left in and public consultation has taken place, I believe this opportunity should be used by the Council to help secure the future of the school by looking at a limited catchment review as

outlined above. The school currently has a healthy role and the Parent Council have provided ECS officers with the names and addresses of future children who will join the school in the coming years showing it has a healthy future. I believe the option of closure should be ruled out.

The School

Last year I attended a meeting at Grandtully Primary where the schools Quality Improvement Officer read out the glowing feedback by the Education Scotland inspectors following their inspection of the school. In that meeting parents and I were told about some of the “sector leading practice” that was taking place at Grandtully. Therefore I do not believe that there could be any educational benefit to closing Grandtully and moving the children to their next nearest catchment primary school, Breadalbane Academy Primary. Many of the children attending Grandtully Primary are there on placing requests and live within the Breadalbane catchment area. These children struggled in the bigger school setting, but now thrive at Grandtully. Similarly some parents of children from the Grandtully catchment area chose to send them to Breadalbane Academy Primary as their children prefer the bigger school environment. We must not remove rural parent’s ability to choose the type of school they want to send their child to.

The Community

The Grandtully area is thriving economically with lots of new businesses and considerable amounts of capital being spent in the area. Flagship businesses such as The Grandtully by Ballintaggart which opened in September 2018 have attracted significant numbers of younger workers into the area who are looking to make lives in the area. These new businesses chose to establish in Grandtully because of it’s well connected village setting, including because of the good local school with many of the new workers sending their children to the school. If the Council were to close Grandtully Primary School the local businesses will struggle to recruit staff and we will likely see even further de-population of young people from the area. The Council should be actively looking to support this kind of positive economic development and try and prevent further depopulation from the Highland Perthshire area by building more rural affordable housing which is seriously lacking. The Council has let down our rural communities as it continues to focus its investment and ambition towards Perth.

Next Stage

As I stated in my email to you on 9th September 2018, I am totally opposed to any consideration of Logierait and Grandtully as a single paper. The vast majority of children in the catchments of both schools would not go to the other should one of them close. Geographically speaking the vast majority of the Logierait PS catchment is in and around the Ballinluig area, which is closer in travel time to Pitlochry PS than it is to Grandtully PS and the communities around Ballinluig have a much closer affinity to the Pitlochry community, with many working there as the major local employment centre as well as accessing GP services, supermarkets etc. Grandtully PS similarly is closer to Breadalbane PS and the Grandtully & Strathtay communities have stronger links to Aberfeldy and generally access more services from West Highland Perthshire, including sharing a linked parish. Grandtully and Strathtay are a fairly affluent community within Highland Perthshire, compared with Ballinluig which is less affluent area. Given the differences between these two communities and the small number of houses in the area between the two schools it would not seem reasonable in my view to consider these two schools together as mostly all they share is a catchment boundary in the middle of some fields.

Conclusion

In summary, despite the Council's lack of interest in our rural economy, the Grandtully area is thriving, as is its school roll. Therefore the only option the Council should be considering is to keep the school open and look at ways it can further support the school to grow, including considering a limited catchment review towards Dalguise and Aberfeldy.

Yours sincerely
Councillor Xander McDade
Ward 4, Highland

END