

Comment 1

From:

To: [Future_Schools](#)

Subject: Tarfside School

Date: 10 August 2018 15:57:04

10th August 2018

Dear Sirs

TARFSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

I understand that the future of Tarfside School remains under review by Angus Council. I believe that the present position is that it has been "mothballed" owing to the present lack of pupils in the Glen. You may be aware that there are a number of new pupils in prospect over the next few years and that the parents concerned have asked Angus Council to confirm "mothball" status and defer any long term and final decisions at this juncture.

Dalhousie Estates has a long association with the Glenesk community and, along with the other three estates in the Glen provides employment for around forty individuals, mostly in their 20's, all potential parents over the next few years. Tarfside Primary School has always enjoyed an excellent reputation locally and has been well supported by the community and is capable of being, again, a really valuable resource within that community. I write therefore to express the support of Dalhousie Estates for those who are seeking postponement of any final decisions in regard to the school for at least five years and I would urge the council to see beyond the present short term demographic situation which is likely to change for the better and lead to a viable school roll.

Yours sincerely

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Submission 2

From:

To: [Future_Schools](#)

Subject: Tarfside School closure

Date: 19 August 2018 14:20:40

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing to express my concern regarding the permanent closure of Tarfside School. As a former teacher who did supply work at Tarfside and a mother of two children who were educated there, I know how good the education was. Both of my children went on to Brechin High School, coping well with the transition to the larger school and going to University. They both have good careers, one running her own business and the other working for SNH.

The argument that children from small rural schools are socially disadvantaged certainly did not apply to my children or those who went to Tarfside School in general, many of whom have gone on to have good careers. They came out of primary school as independent individuals who could get on with their peers and adults, often a comment made when I attended parent's evenings. The level of education they got was also of a high standard, both beginning secondary school at the same or better levels of attainment than their peers who attended other schools.

Every effort was made by the teachers and staff to make sure that they were able to mix with other schools to develop social skills. This included sports days, drama and presentations to parents and other members of the community. The community 'family' was a great aspect of the education in the glen. The school was one of the main hubs of the community and had great support from everyone whether they had children attending there or not. In the past year, when the school has been closed, it is noticeable that this community spirit has diminished. It was one way that Glen people could keep in touch and know what was going on.

I hope that the members of the council can agree that the school should not be permanently be closed but mothballed. We would like to think that more young people would be encouraged to live here but that is unlikely if there is no school or nursery provision.
Yours sincerely,

Submission 3

From:

To: [Future_Schools](#)

Cc:

Subject: Closure of Tarfside primary school and nursery

Date: 20 August 2018 10:20:06

I am writing to express grave concerns re the proposed permanent closure of the educational facilities in Tarfside, Glenesk and would ask that these concerns are added to any others expressed supporting maintaining these facilities with the glen. My son was educated in Tarfside primary school and I give enormous credit to the schools staff and the community at large for forming him into the well rounded young man he is today with an all round education and a wide range of social skills.

Being educated in a small rural school brings many benefits to all concerned. The school and nursery in Tarfside was the heart of the village - a key point where all could meet on a daily basis during the school year and drop off children, and participate in events led by the school. This was not just restricted to families with children at the school - the whole community of glenesk was part of the school community and actively engaged with school projects and entertainment supporting the children from nursery upwards to P7 with educational projects, fundraising, sports events and many other activities.

The children learnt so much from engaging with the community from their earliest years and it was noted on many occasions by visitors to the glen how confident and happy the children were to engage with a wide age range of adults and older children, forming a cohesive and nurturing environment for all concerned.

By removing these facilities from the glen will be to deprive future generations of glenesk children these educational and social development opportunities which will be to their detriment and the detriment of the community as a whole, and destroy the social and educational heart of the glen. In such a small community all links help to bond the families together maintaining the central ethos of community and service to each other.

Whilst I appreciate it is difficult to Maintain the school at the moment due to low numbers of children of school age in the glen at this time (there will always be highs and lows in numbers due to demographic changes) I know there are young children coming through who will require a nursery place in due course and these children would go on to require the educational benefits further on down the line. Schools in Edzell and beyond are already at breaking point without adding more children from the glens, and adding upwards of 30/40 minutes transporting small children to school and the same amount of time home on a daily basis is not a good basis for starting school for children as young as 5 a with 7 years travelling out of the glen to primary school.

This is difficult enough in reasonable weather but difficult in the extreme, and frankly dangerous in the winter months if the weather is inclement for long periods due to the ice and snow on the glen roads.... I know how hard it can be just to get to Tarfside let alone in to Edzell or Brechin.

Keeping the nursery open where it could form a focus for community and playgroup facilities for the younger children at this time, with the option of re-establishing a school should numbers rise through new families moving in to jobs in the glen, or natural progression of the younger children must be considered as a real option to maintain this vital asset to our community. The people of the glen would support these proposals and the facilities would make a real difference to all concerned.

Please add these options to your objections to the permanent closure of the school.

I am more than happy to be contacted regarding the above at this email address at any time

Yours in hope

Sent from my iPad

Submission 4

From:

To: [Future_Schools](#)

Cc: Enquiries@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk

Subject: Tarfside Primary School Consultation

Date: 20 August 2018 16:37:43

Attachments: [Tarfside Consultation Paper - Comments.docx](#)

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to you not only as a parent but also on you behalf of the parents and community of Glenesk.

Since the consultation closed in May to the public, there has been significant changes in our glen community.

We have now in actual fact got 5 children under the age of 3 living in the glen. North of Tarfside.

I am writing to ask you to consider the consultation, on closing Tarfside Primary School and Nursery door permanently, very seriously, as you would be removing a huge asset to our rural community.

The population in our glen is very much peaks and troughs. In some cases, with the nature of the work on estates, family's can come and go. Which has unfortunately left us in the situation we are now. I fought very hard to reinstate our nursery a couple of years ago and was delighted to see it supported by the council and reopened. I was deeply saddened to see the nursery and schools numbers decrease. Which made for some very difficult decisions for my family with our eldest son, who now attends Stracathro Primary School. However that said it has began to pick back up again. The parents of the children are in secure managerial positions, meaning they are less likely to move in the near future. Some have moved into the glen for what the area has to offer and the schools facilities were a vital influence in their decision. They are also former pupils of Tarfside.

We fully understand that in the meantime it would be difficult for you to open a school with zero pupils. However there is a demand now to use the schools facilities for community use as a parent and toddler group with scope to reinstate the nursery facilities in the very near future. We are asking to be able to use these facilities and for the primary school to have the same five year moratorium that Stracathro Primary School was granted. Living on Dalhousie's Invermark Estate myself and married to the head keeper, I know that our staff on the estate are young couples in their 20s who are in serious relationships, carving their careers out here in Angus and are beginning to settle down. When employing people we look for families to keep the school going. One keeper is due to be married next year. Another one of our keeper's partner is finishing her degree to be a primary school teacher and wishes to be employed in the Angus area once her course is complete in the very near future. She has expressed that if the opportunity was to present its self in the future, she would love a position at the school. Only a 4 mile commute.

We can never predict the future or the Glens population, however just look at the change and rise since May 2018.

It would be wrong of the council to deprive and deny these young children a stage of education.

Opening the preschool provision would also relieve the catchment area which is currently bursting at the seams between Edzell - Brechin.

The school is the beating heart of the community. I moved into the glen with my husband five years ago. It was a very difficult move for me personally and I found the remoteness extremely difficult. My son was only a few months old at the time and the school opened its doors to us. Allowing me to meet members of the community and get to know my neighbours and fellow residents of the glen. Allowing my son to meet the other children who is has grown up with. These children don't live next door to one another, play dates

are few are far between as homes and families are miles apart in the glen. The sense of community that surrounds this school is wonderful. The setting itself for children to grow and learn is truly unique. Tarfside has excellent outdoor learning facilities which I have watched my son and his friends thrive in. The glen has no through road, it's one road in and one road out and trust me it's a long way from the bottom to the top.

Living at the top of the Glen, it would mean I would have to travel past an excellent preschool provision right on my doorstep with my youngest son and travel 40 minutes plus to get him to the next nearest facility. Rather than a 10 minute, 5 mile commute to Tarfside.

I know the work that went into reopening the Nursery, it has had a complete revamp with new toilet facilities etc. Surely allowing community access and reopening the Nursery facility in the future will not cost the council as the work has been done. It's literally brand new, ready to go!

This would inject a new lease of life into the community which has been missed since the school since closed its doors last summer in 2017.

The children's nativity, laying down our poppy wreath on Remembrance Day, coffee mornings and sports days have been missed terribly especially by our elderly community. (The list could go on!!)

The toys outside the school lay on the grass untouched since the children last played with them....eagerly awaiting new life to pick them up and explore and play. It's like a ghost town and a sad sight to drive past.

Having met with residents and the estates their is huge sense of community support, something that probably would have fed into the consultation at the beginning if it was brought to their attention more effectively. I am sure you have received numerous letters in the last week alone. Should the community be allowed use of the facilities and pre-school provisions, Estates would be willing to make a contribution towards certain costs. There are community members who enjoy supporting the school, whether its gardening projects to local history, they are willing to support the children's education in any way they can. I have gone through the consultation and have found a number of inaccuracies. Especially in the cost savings!! All highlighted in the document attached.

We feel it will not cost a lot to keep the school under a "mothballed" status. It would also give our extremely remote and rural community an option for their children of now and the future, something that you just can't put a price on! As you can see by the picture attached, we may only have a few children but we have a large community who want to keep this school!

It would be greatly appreciated if you would consider our alternative proposal and I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards

Submission 5

From:

To: [Future_Schools](#)

Cc:

Subject: TARFSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

Date: 20 August 2018 14:11:54

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposal to permanently close Tarfside Primary School and Nursery, thus losing a vital resource for young people, their families and the community as a whole. There are currently 5 children under the age of three living in Glenesk and the indication is that these numbers will increase. Undoubtedly, as is the nature of rural communities, these numbers will continue to ebb and flow as has been the case since I first moved to make my home here in 1997.

My son, who started his Secondary Education at Brechin High, this year, had the privilege to attend Tarfside Nursery and School up until Primary 6 - a fantastic start in his schooling from the perspective of both parents and child, which has prepared him so well for the next stage in his journey.

I am aware of a large number of pupils who have grown up in the Glen, attended Tarfside Nursery/Primary School and gone on to do incredibly well in their Secondary Schooling, Further Education and in the Employment market. It is essential to look at how we can make use of the excellent building, resources and facilities that have already been financed and developed to meet the needs of our community and which have, only recently, been put in place.

At this stage the obvious need is for an accessible parent/toddler group for those living within the community.

In line with recent initiatives in Angus this would provide the means for building on the Intergen Project - a link up between Rural Wisdom (<http://ruralwisdom.org/>) and other Primary Schools. This project is keen to explore and encourage more inter-generational relationships within rural communities.

This has always been paramount for Tarfside and is an aspect of community life that has suffered enormously since our School was 'mothballed' back in August 2016. It is imperative that Tarfside Primary School remain open if all those living in Glenesk are once again to be involved and if the community is to grow and survive

Although my priority is to ensure Tarfside Primary School's presence for parents and children now and in the future. It is my firm belief that it's absence will result in a continued paucity in the life of this community.

I trust that you will take the points above into account at the forthcoming meetings regarding this matter and when reaching your decision.

Kind Regards

Yours Faithfully

Submission 6

From:

To: [Future_Schools](#)

Subject: Re: Plea for TAR SIDE school.pages

Date: 21 August 2018 12:15:03

Dear Sir or Madame

We ... The Parents, past & present, Pupils past & present, the Farming community & the Long Term residents, some of whom are 2nd & 3rd even 4th Generation, are very concerned as to the future of our LITTLE but IDYLLIC & ACADEMICALLY SUCCESSFUL ... TAR SIDE INFANT & JUNIOR SCHOOL in GLENESK.

As you will be aware, being a 'closed' Glen we are mainly subject to the 'ebb & flow' as it were of the Families employed on the Farms & Estates to keep the School full & viable.

At this moment in time we are indeed lacking in children & awaiting for the babies to grow & new couples with children to take over the jobs in The Glen.

If the School was to close, we fear it would not re-open & the wonderful opportunity it offers for an early education in such a Rural setting would be lost for future generations.

To this end we would like to propose the idea that the vacant places in the school be offered to children in Edzell or where ever appropriate. I'm sure there are many Parents who would relish the idea of their children being involved in a School which encourages participation & creates a strong aura of individual confidence, which is a great boon to their further education.

Their projects have been many, which includes contact with Schools abroad. Their participation in the Angus Glen's School project & subsequent video & public cinema presentation was very professional.

The Glenesk bus travels up the Glen twice a day, transporting school children back & forth, so it is perfect for our cause. If there is concern about youngsters traveling, Parents are pretty good at creating Rotas for such occasions.

The school at present is in funds & any child that takes up the opportunity will surely come with its own educational allowance?

We ask you please to consider our proposal before you make any final decision as to the fate of THE MOST DELIGHTFUL GLEN SCHOOL.

THE School, The Church & The Retreat are the sole source of community spirit & entertainment here in the Glen, there are no shops or other fascillities & the loss of the school would be a major catastrophe!

At the last few social events at the school ... The Keepers, Farmers, Residents & Parents all did a wonderful job of Community spirit & collected several thousands of pounds for school & charity.

Glenesk is about 18 miles long & the next school is many more miles further away so for the young wives, some with babies & the elderly residents who look forward to the school events, the Keepers who just manage to grab time to attend their children's event ... getting to any of the school social events would be very difficult when they do not drive or don't have their own transport available or are have limited time available.

Hoping for your kind consideration & to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,

Submission 7

From:

To: [Future_Schools](#)

Cc:

Subject: The future of Tarfside Nursery and School

Date: 22 August 2018 16:40:32

Sirs,

We write to add our objections to the proposal to close permanently the nursery and School at Tarfside. Please place this message before the relevant councillors, officers and committee.

Our family has a long association with Glenesk, going back 4 generations, and since 2002 we have owned a house in the Glen. In 2004, whilst we were resident in the Glen for several months, our 2 children attended Tarfside School. We therefore have direct knowledge and experience of the benefit of the small rural school setting and, in our experience, its unique ability to bring out the best in children in a supportive and creative learning environment. We were greatly saddened to learn that pupil numbers had fallen to a level where mothballing had become necessary, but in a community of the size of the one in Glenesk, there will always be ebbs and flows in the number of School age children. We know of 2 youngsters born to families resident in the glen since the mothballing, the latest only last Friday. So we feel it is hard for any reasonable local authority to declare, other than on a very short term view, that there will not again be a need for a school in the community. Others with longer experience of the School will no doubt make an excellent case for its retention – at least on a longer term mothballed basis – on the strength of its record in educational terms alone. We won't repeat that case here save to say that we found it an outstanding experience for our 2 children, both of who have gone on to excellent academic attainment at secondary and now university level.

The point we wish most to emphasise is the potential long term effect on the community in this rural Glen if the School is closed on a permanent basis. For many years now the Glen has had no post office or village shop, and the School had become the community focal point; a place where local people and their children met and could enjoy common pursuits and social activity. If removed on a permanent basis, how is a community such as this to attract new residents investment in new enterprises and even additional (much needed) housing provision ?

Councillors may be aware that an old cottage in Tarfside was expanded / renovated into 2 new houses in 2016. The resulting attractive properties took over a year to sell. We also understand that earlier this year the (only) weekly bus service which took villagers to the shops in Brechin was discontinued. It seems that little by little local provision is ebbing away and starving the Glenesk community of accessible services.

In making this no doubt difficult decision, Councillors should consider not just the provision of education and related facilities, but the sustainability of the community itself. More is at stake than just a nursery and school.

Yours faithfully

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Submission 8

From:

To: [Future_Schools](#)

Cc:

Subject: Closure of Tarfside Primary School

Date: 23 August 2018 10:28:39

Dear whoever this may concern,

I am emailing in regard to the closure of Tarfside Primary School. As a future Primary School teacher, and resident of Glen Esk, I feel this would be detrimental to not only me but the wider community as a whole.

The School has always been the hub of the community and the effects of its closure has been felt throughout the glen ever since its closure. The school does not only provide employment in the glen, but also allows children the opportunity to learn in a nurturing and familiar environment.

I feel that rural schools, Tarfside in particular, encompass and create the environment which promotes the Scottish governments overall aims of primary education and the curriculum for excellence.

For example, SHANARRI and GIRFEC: the teacher has a more personal role with the children due to small class sizes, this leads to the classroom being a nurturing environment and one that children can thrive in. The smaller school environment also allows the children to create positive relationships with both their peers and members of staff and help them feel that they are in a safe and encouraging environment - which, as we know, is essential to becoming successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective communicators. Furthermore, this type of environment is crucial to safeguarding children and helping teachers to understand the wider experience of the child to adapt their learning to this.

Community involvement: Glen Esk already has a strong rural community and Tarfside is absolutely supported in many ways by this. In my opinion, the governments aims to make education and schooling more involved with the wider community is already being done at Tarfside. This includes not only the parents and family members of the children but the wider community of farmers, gamekeepers and local residents who are willing and eager to make the school a success.

I feel it is in the children's interests, in relation to the strong health and wellbeing policies that the Scottish government implements, to not have to travel a further 30 minutes to get to school. This is, understandably, a considerable amount of time for a five year-old, for example, to travel to school. I currently live at the top of the Glen and travel down every day and I, personally, know that this can be extremely tiring. It would be much more beneficial if the children would be able to travel a short distance to and from school.

I understand that the number of children in the glen has dropped significantly, however, I feel that this is normal in such a rural area. There is, however, a budding group of young Glen Esk residents who would love to send their future children to Tarfside Primary School. This is not including those who have recently moved into managerial positions in the glen that have children.

Overall, I feel the benefits of keeping the school open are more substantial than the factors determining its closure. I hope this email will be taken into consideration to keeping our school open. Thank you for taking the time to read it.

Yours Sincerely,