



Moray Council

Inveravon Primary School Mothballing

Public Meeting

25 September 2017

Inveravon Primary School Mothballing Public Meeting (25.09.2017)

In attendance:

Graham Jarvis, Head of Lifelong Learning, Culture & Sport
Vivienne Cross, Head of Schools & Curriculum Development

Gillian Bailey, Community Support Unit-Officer
Lindsey Stanley, Business Support Team Manager
Stewart McLauchlan, Quality Improvement Officer

Elected Members In Attendance:

Apologies received from Cllr Laing (SNP), Derek Ross (IND), Walter Wilson (CON)

Number of representatives in Attendance:

17 Members of the public

Graham Jarvis welcomed all attendees to the meeting and provided an introduction to the Inveravon Primary School Mothballing Consultation. Graham Jarvis and Vivienne Cross then carried out a presentation on the proposal, and provided an explanation on the term 'mothballing'. A question and answer session followed the presentation.

Questions & Answer Session

Q	Why are there no elected members here tonight when they have been quoted in the press regarding Inveravon proposals?
A	Elected Members were advised of the meeting. Apologies were noted from Cllr Laing (VC), Derek Ross (GB), Cllr Wilson (GJ).
Q	This is a valuable resource to the community and has been used for various activities by the Church; would the continual use of the building for such activities continue?
A	No, if the building is mothballed; the building would be made 'wind and water tight' but the water, heating and electricity would be turned off and there would be no caretaker or cleaning facilities. Primary school estate is not normally used for let purposes; lets' are normally for the secondary schools only. (GJ)
Q	Activities have been run in the primary school in the evenings recently and we would like to see these continued.
A	If the primary school is mothballed there will be no lets' authorised. As per the policy, there are no official lets listed for the Inveravon Primary School outside school hours.(GJ)
Q	Concern was raised that the local community would have nowhere to go to carry out activities as there are no other central buildings that can be utilised.
A	Officially, the Council's current position is that there are no lets listed for Inveravon Primary School. This means there is no charging and no official key

	holders listed. All lets are to go through the High School to ensure the necessary insurance is in place if anything was to happen to the people using the facilities (GJ)
Q	If there were preparations in place to keep the primary school clean and insurance sorted, could it be used for groups?
A	I will review the level of use of the primary school and we shall discuss further. (GJ)
Q	What is the cost of mothballing of the primary school?
A	Not sure of the total cost at present; this will be reviewed and feedback directly. (GJ)
Q	What is the future viability to re-opening the school; is closing or selling the school not a more viable option?
A	The Moray Council do not own the ground the primary school sits on. If the Council were to stop using the site for educational purposes it would revert back to Ballindalloch Trust. If the use is no longer specifically for a school, the ownership is to revert back to the original estate owners. (GJ) As we are currently talking about mothballing, this process is suspended. (VC)
Q	Elected Members have instigated that the primary school cannot be used; why?
A	There are currently no children enrolled at Inveravon Primary School and this is why the mothballing process has begun. The Council could not consider an asset transfer request for Inveravon primary school as we do not own the site. (GJ) No parents have come forward to date to show interest in enrolling their children to attend Inveravon Primary School. (VC)
Q	How long will the mothballing process take before a decision is made?
A	We have to allow time period for people to consider the options before any decisions are made. We also have to take into consideration the process of transfer of land back to the original owners as the Council do not own the site of the primary school sits on. (GJ)
Q	As the Trust does not own the primary school, there must be some kind of identifiable figure for mothballing?
A	The Property department will supply a figure. (GJ)
Q	As it is tax payers money keeping the primary school open for the mothballing period; would it not be better to allow the community groups access to the building during this time to raise some income and to help with the cost?
A	If the primary school was re-established as a community facility; this may be for only a short time. This would also need to be agreed by Ballindalloch Trust as it would no longer be used for educational purposes but for community purposes. This would need to align with Ballindalloch Trust purposes. Graham Jarvis will review the figures and supply directly. (GJ)
Q	How many children would it take to re-open the primary school?
A	There are no exact numbers. (GJ)
Q	There are a number of pre-school children in the area; does this potentially mean it could re-open in the future?
A	This is why we are going through the mothballing process as this will allow parents to decide which primary school they wish to enrol their children into. (GJ)
Q	If the school is mothballed, parents may use this as a reason not to enrol their

	children to Inveravon Primary School. Is there any point with the mothballing process; would use of the facilities for community initiatives not be more viable?
A	If a school closure was to be considered and proposed to the Scottish Government there is a process that the Council must adhere to (2010 Schools Act as amended 2014). The Scottish Government would then make a decision via the School Closures Panel. The Council would not start this process unless we are confident that we have the community backing; it is an important decision that impacts on the community. (GJ)
Q	A number of the children enrolled in Knockando Primary School; is there capacity for this continual enrolment?
A	Yes, at the moment the current numbers show that Knockando Primary School can accommodate the rise in the enrolment figures. (GJ)
Q	Can a school that has been categorised as mothballed take on the character as a community facility in the interim?
A	Not during the mothball process. If the school was to close the Council could not make this decision as the ownership will have to revert back to Ballindalloch Trust. (GJ)
Q	It is difficult to know who contact at Council staff to report damage or strange occurrences at the site.
A	If it is vandalism or strange circumstances the first report would be to Police Scotland. If, for example there is a water leak you would contact the Council via the main switchboard 01343 543451 who will redirect your call.
Q	What will happen with the resources (e.g. iPads and laptops) that have been purchased by the Parent Council? The Parent Council is a registered charity
A	Purchases made by the Parent Council are treated as a gift to the school and go with the pupils. (GJ)
Q	What happens to the registered charity Parent Council of Inveravon Primary School?
A	It will only be if the primary school is closed; the Parent Council as a charity would result in dissolution as set out in your constitution as per OSCR. During the mothball state it remains in limbo. You can consider joining the parent council that your children currently attend. (GJ)
Q	What happens to the assets of the Parent Council?
A	Out with the charity status; normally purchases made by the Parent Council become property of the school; results in a school asset. (GJ)

It was noted that due to the decision being in limbo regarding the status of Inveravon Primary School; the community are unable to utilise the building for activities and community use.