

Appendix E

Statutory Consultation on Closure of Longhaven School

Online Survey Results

The public was consulted on closure of Longhaven School proposal during the statutory consultation period between 7 December 2021 and 24 February 2022.

For the duration of the consultation period the survey was available to all identified stakeholders and community members to complete.

The survey provided a summary of the proposal associated with maps. The proposal is to discontinue education at Longhaven School, which is currently mothballed, and re-assign its catchment area to:

Option 1 - Boddam School

Option 2 - Port Erroll School

Option 3 - Boddam School and Port Erroll School creating a dual zone

Alternative methods of contact were also suggested for residents wishing to comment but uncomfortable with completing a survey.

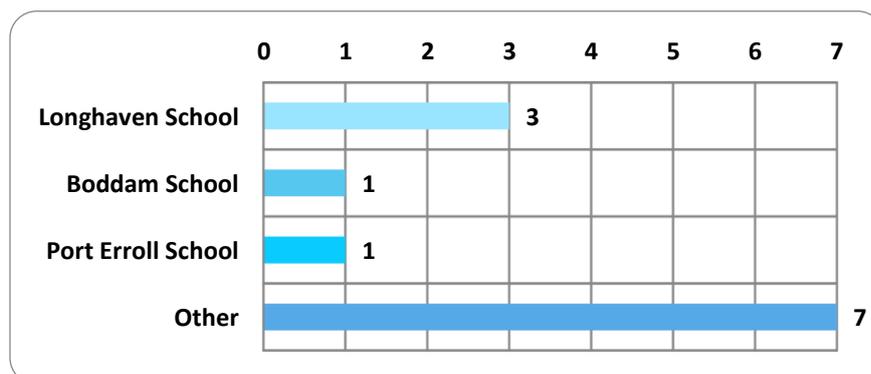
12 respondents completed the survey and 10 open ended comments have been received. Out of those 12 respondents four chose not to leave any comment.

The surveys have been analysed and are summarised below.

Question 1 - The participants were asked if they live in the Longhaven School catchment area, Boddam School catchment area, Port Erroll School catchment area or Other.

Most of the respondents (58%) reside in the catchment area other than Longhaven, Boddam or Port Erroll. Three (25%) lives in the Longhaven School catchment area.

Chart 1



Further analysis of the survey show that, out of the three respondents living in the Longhaven catchment two support the Longhaven School closure. Of those two one is a parent/carer of a child in school age and supports *Option 2* of the proposal. Other two Longhaven residents support *Option 3*.

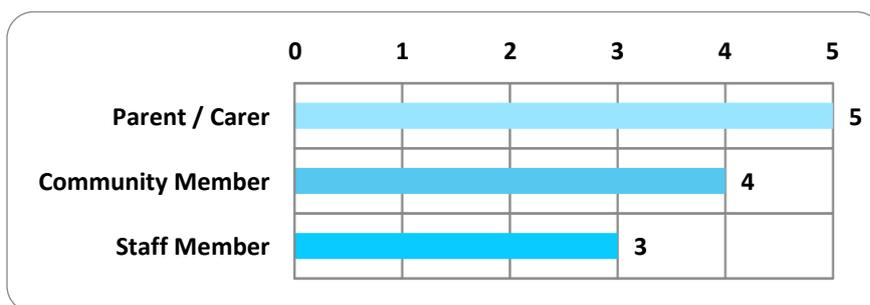
Opinions of those living in the Boddam and Port Erroll catchments are divided, as one respondent supports Longhaven School to be closed while the other one is against the closure. Those respondents are in favour of *Option 2* and *Option 3*.

Of those residing in other than Longhaven, Boddam and Port Erroll areas, five (71%) support the school closure and two (29%) don't. Six (86%) are in favour of *Option 3*.

Question 2 - The participants were asked if they are a Parent/Carer, Pupil, Community Member or Staff Member.

Chart 2 below shows that the highest number of respondents were parents/carers. The survey was completed by five (42%) parents/carers, four (33%) community members and 3 (25%) staff members. No pupil took part in the survey.

Chart 2



Further analysis of the responses shows that, out of the five parents/carers, three support the school closure and two are in the opposition. Three parents/carers voted for *Option 3* and two for *Option 2*.

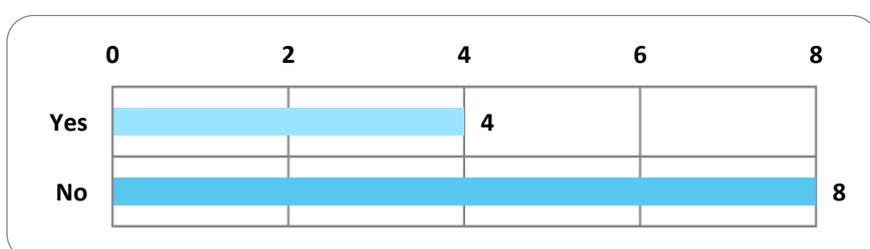
Out of three staff members who completed the survey, two are in favour of the closure and *Option 3*, while one does not support the closure and voted for *Option 1*.

The closure is supported by three community members of out four and all of them are in favour of *Option 3*.

Question 3 - Parents/carers, community members and staff members were asked if they have a primary aged child(ren) or younger child(ren) affected by the changes to Longhaven School in their families.

Four (33%) respondents have a primary aged child(ren) or younger child(ren) in their families affected by the changes to the school. The majority of the respondents (67%) have none.

Chart 3

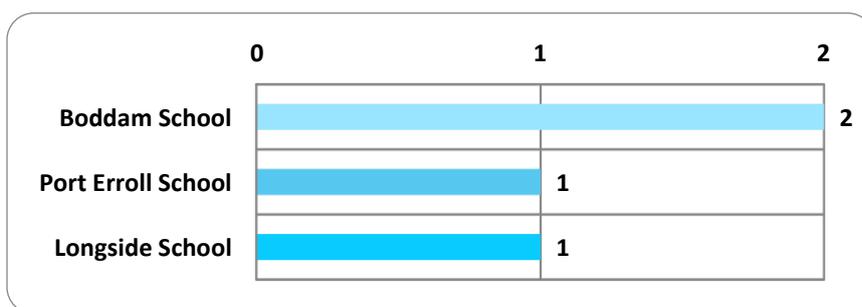


Those four respondents are parents/carers with a child(ren) affected by the proposal. Of those four only one lives in the Longhaven catchment area and is in favour of the school closure and *Option 2*.

Question 4 - The participants were asked which school their child(ren) attends if they have a primary age child(ren) affected by the changes to Longhaven School; Boddam School, Port Erroll School, Dales Park School, Hatton (Cruden) School, Longside School or under school age.

Four (67%) respondents have a child(ren) affected by the changes to Longhaven School. Two attend Boddam School, one Port Erroll School and the other one Longside School.

Chart 4



Parents/carers of children attending Boddam School generally do not support the closure, while parents/carers of two other children attending Port Erroll and Longside School are supportive of the proposal.

Question 5 - Pupils were asked which school they attend, Boddam School, Port Erroll School, Dales Park School, Hatton (Cruden) School, Longside School and Other.

No pupil took part in the survey.

Question 6 - The participants were asked which option they prefer for the Longhaven School Catchment Area:

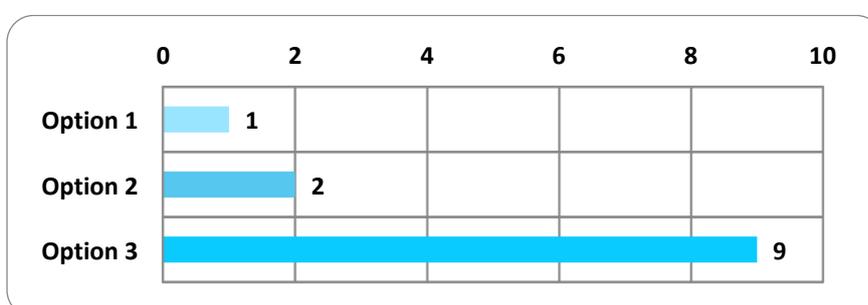
Option 1 - Close Longhaven School and merge with Boddam School,

Option 2 - Close Longhaven School and merge with Port Erroll School,

Option 3 - Close Longhaven School and create a dual zone between Boddam School and Port Erroll School.

As shown in the chart 5 below, nine (75%) respondents are in favour of *Option 3*, two (17%) support *Option 2* and one (8%) *Option 1*.

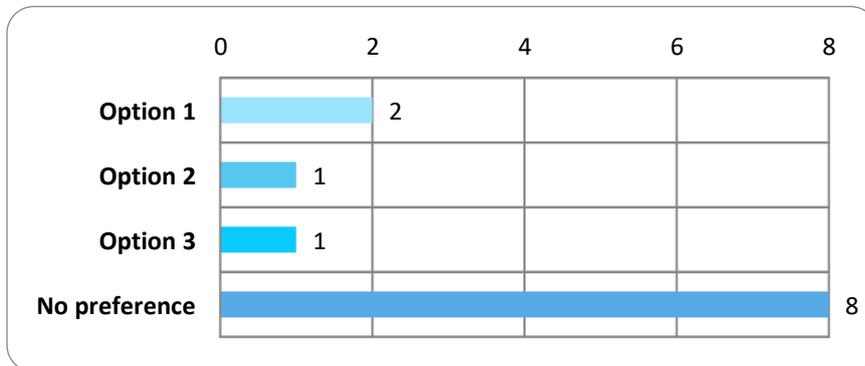
Chart 5



Question 7 - The participants were asked which of these options should be discounted; Option 1, Option 2, Option 3 and No preference.

Out of all respondents, two believe that *Option 1* should be discounted, while the other two are against *Option 2* or *Option 3*. The majority had no preference which is shown in Chart 6 below.

Chart 6



Question 8 - The participants were asked to state reasons for their choice of a discounted option.

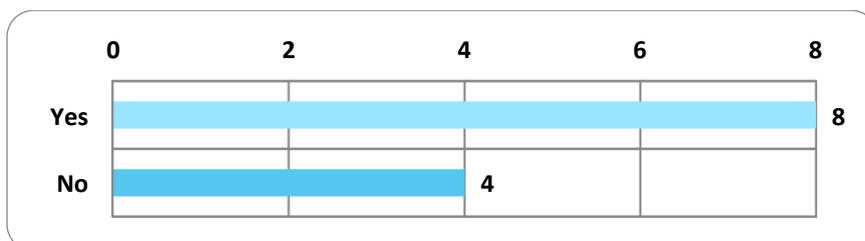
The reasons are listed below:

- Option 1 - it makes more sense, transportation wise, splitting the catchment between two schools utilising existing transport,
- Option 2 - there should be choice for parents/pupils rather than making them go to a school that may be in wrong direction for commuting etc; also may live close to community that go to other school,
- Option 3 – so pupils in the Longhaven area can have friends in the village.

Question 9 - The participants were asked if they support the closure of Longhaven School.

The result of the survey was that eight (67%) respondents support the closure of Longhaven School, while four (33%) are in opposition. This outcome is presented in the below Chart 7.

Chart 7



The vast majority, as out of eight respondents who support the closure of Longhaven School, seven chose *Option 3* as a preferred one.

Question 10 – The participants were given the opportunity to leave any comments or feedback for officers to consider.

Below is the summary of the comments made by the respondents supporting the closure of Longhaven School:

- Longhaven children have settled at other schools and moving them back to a smaller school could be detrimental,
- it is the right decision to close the school and move pupils to other schools due to various reasons,
- the total cost of keeping the school open, it is a financial white elephant; teacher, head teacher, McCrone cover, admin, cleaners, providing canteen facilities and visiting specialists on to of heating and lighting costs,
- the school should have been closed years ago,
- the school should be sold,
- given current financial climate and the fact that we are looking for ways to help the environment it is not viable to run and staff such a small school when other schools are nearby,
- the school is no needed if there are no pupils going there and there is no plan to build housing in that area.

Below is the summary of the comments made against the Longhaven School closure:

- Longhaven has traditionally been a very good school,
- it was a brilliant school, our child received the best education there and has gone on to be a successful young person,
- the school is the heart of the community and this would be ripped out if the school was to close.

Other comments left by the respondents are summarised below:

- resources could go to other schools,
- sell off the land and give proceeds to the two schools that will need to accommodate more pupils,
- staff resources need to go to the two schools,
- remaining resources left in the school are distributed between Port Erroll and Boddam to provide them with more resources and ensure these don't go to waste,
- former pupils of the school should be given the opportunity to go back and visit the school.

Conclusion

It is felt that members of the community accepted the situation given the circumstances where the school had found itself; though, emotional attachment to the school within the community can still be felt.

Participants of the survey are generally in agreement with Longhaven School being permanently closed and its catchment re-assigned to Boddam School and Port Erroll School, creating a dual zone and allowing parents to choose between one of these schools.