

# Appendix 4: Responses From Organisations

## Blackness Parent Council

### Question 1: Do you agree with this proposal?

Response: No

### Question 2: How will the proposal affect you?

Response: Children's mental health and education

### Question 3: If you do not support the proposal, what are your reasons:

Response: The PTA at Blackness play a massive part in the children's activities and wellbeing at the school - the community the school and residents within blackness and outwith all come together!

The proposal to close our school has caused significant mental health issues amongst the children following a visit from the director and head of education - interrogating the children making them feel they had done wrong, answered questions wrong - which for us as parents are more than proud of the answers they gave but they should not have been put in the position they were put in by members so senior!

The school to our children is the heart to their education where they can all learn at different levels, all have the same opportunity to be involved in events, learnings, etc unlike a pupil in a class of 33+

Bullying isn't a thing within Blackness and any differences are sorted out within the classroom with understanding,

Educational benefit to the class size means we have very little absences, better attention to the child's work.

The report states that children are better off in a bigger school and can be involved in more clubs, more peer groups etc - this is something a school/teacher is responsible for this for a parent to decide and for a report to highlight as a recommendation just sums up the level of this report.

The PTA have had brought to our attention that catchment families and non over the last 5 years plus when applying for a placement have had a phone call to say that the Blackness Primary is closing which will have had a knock on effect to the school role numbers - how can a Falkirk council employee be able to say that?

We have catchment and non catchment children wanting to attend our fantastic school given the housing developments in Boness where the catchment Grange Primary will not and can not educate the level of pupils outlined. The catchment area should be widen to accommodate given the two schools are under a shared headship. Again the report isn't correct with numbers.

Closure of the school would bring on adverse mental health issues with children even more so that we are seeing at the moment, it would break up a community and wouldn't actually save the council anything.

We have resounding support to remain open - please ensure ALL comments are made available and not want the report writers want the officers to see.

**Question 4: The Proposal Document considers a range of alternative options to permanent closure. Do you have any comments on these or any suggestions for other alternatives to closure that should be considered?**

Response: Option 2

**Question 4: We are wanting to find out your view on the impact of the proposal. If the proposal was to go ahead, what are your thoughts about:**

**4 a) The educational benefits**

Response: None - this would have a negative impact on there mental health and education

**4 b) The impact on your local community**

Response: we wouldn't have a community

**4 c) The effect on travel arrangements for Blackness children to Grange Primary School**

Response: increased emissions, anxiety with travel

**Question 5: Do you have any further comments on the proposal?**

Response: Keep Blackness open and focus on the two schools 2.6miles apart with far less catchment children

**Blackness Community Council**

**Question1: Do you agree with this proposal?**

Response: No

**Question 2: How will the proposal affect you?**

Response: This will have a detrimental effect on the community, families and children.

**Question 3: If you do not support the proposal, what are your reasons:**

Response: No response

**Question 4: The Proposal Document considers a range of alternative options to permanent closure. Do you have any comments on these or any suggestions for other alternatives to closure that should be considered?**

Response: Option 2

**Question 4: We are wanting to find out your view on the impact of the proposal. If the proposal was to go ahead, what are your thoughts about:**

**4 a) The educational benefits**

Response: The children's education would have a significant negative impact on their education and mental health.

There no benefits to our school closing, there is no significant cash benefit and significantly no benefit to the children.

#### **4 b) The impact on your local community**

Response: We wouldn't have a community. This would be broken up due to school being closed and hall usage would reduce over time!

#### **4 c) The effect on travel arrangements for Blackness children to Grange Primary School**

Response: Increased anxiety and stress on the children, further increase on the carbon footprint plus the extra cost

#### **Question 5: Do you have any further comments on the proposal?**

Response: Blackness CC strongly disagree with proposal - let's hope you read and acknowledge all the comments.

### **Bo'ness Community Council**

#### **Question1: Do you agree with this proposal?**

Response: Yes

#### **Question 2: How will the proposal affect you?**

Response: No response

#### **Question 3: If you support the proposal, what are your reasons:**

Response: Disproportionate use of council funds when more populated schools suffer with a lack of funding to support Bo'ness primary pupils educational needs

#### **Question 4: The Proposal Document considers a range of alternative options to permanent closure. Do you have any comments on these or any suggestions for other alternatives to closure that should be considered?**

Response: No response

#### **Question 4: We are wanting to find out your view on the impact of the proposal. If the proposal was to go ahead, what are your thoughts about:**

#### **4 a) The educational benefits**

Response: Funds should be re-directed to other schools within Bo'ness to meet teacher allocation and additional support needs

#### **4 b) The impact on your local community**

Response: no response

#### **4 c) The effect on travel arrangements for Blackness children to Grange Primary School**

Response: no response

**Question 5: Do you have any further comments on the proposal?**

Response: no response

