

Dear Mr Cornes,

Torrance Community Council is writing to you with concerns about the proposed cuts at EDC.

Firstly, to suggest that the school crossing patrol should be axed in Torrance is totally unsafe and we urge you to reconsider the proposal.

Many parents at the school are already expressing concerns about this. The school crossing at the junction of Main Street and Campsie Road is particularly dangerous. It is used by primary and nursery school pupils and we consider it essential that it should be maintained. If however the council considers it essential to discontinue it then we, the Torrance Community Council, wish to see and discuss the risk assessment that has been undertaken to support this action.

In addition, the Caldwell Halls are well used and the closure of these halls would directly affect many people. The criteria in place for hall closures is 30 hours use per week or less and both the Caldwell Halls and the Torrance Community Centre are each used more than 30 hours per week.

An organiser of the Childminding group has already expressed concerns about the closure. Most of the user groups could not afford to relocate to Torrance Primary School hall as the charges for the use of the school hall are particularly excessive relative to the charges made for the use of the other two community halls in Torrance.

The school hall is also not available during school hours and there would undoubtedly be clashes in timetabling if you were to suggest that groups relocate to the Community Centre. Could East Dunbartonshire Council please explain the decision to close the Caldwell Halls?

We also note a subtle change in the wording between the proposals which was for community ownership whereas the later statement is for management. Could you please define which is applicable and define the basis?

Thirdly, to stop the services of the mobile library is targeting the most vulnerable people in our community, namely the elderly and children at the primary school. In addition, we understand that EDC is only one year through an eight year lease of the library van. How does this make financial sense?

Children at the school look forward to their visits from the mobile library. I can remember myself, what a treat it was to get some time out of the classroom and choose a book to read. Surely it is important to encourage children to read, not discourage?

For those that have difficulty getting around and visiting the libraries, who have come to depend on the mobile library visits, the proposed cuts will have a major impact on the simple pleasures in their life. Not to mention their independence. How does EDC plan to accommodate these people if the mobile library is axed?