

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report to:	Executive Committee
Date:	September 19 2016
Subject:	Modernising Schools on Anglesey – Report following publication of statutory notices for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New primary school in Bro Aberffraw • Ysgol Parc y Bont to become a community school and federalise Ysgol Brynsiencyn
Portfolio Member(s):	Councillor Kenneth Hughes
Head of Service:	Delyth Molyneux
Author of Report: Phone number: E-mail:	Emrys Bebb
Local Members:	Councillor Ann Griffith Councillor Peter Rogers

A – Recommendation(s) and Reason(s)
<p>Reasons:</p> <p>In order to conform with the School Standards and Organisation Act (Wales) 2013 and the School Organisation Code, the Authority jointly, with the Church in Wales, issued Statutory Notices of their intention to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Combine four schools - Ysgol Bodorgan, Ysgol Dwyran, Ysgol Niwbwrch and Ysgol Llangaffo – in one new school on a site in Newborough (Niwbwrch) and that the new primary school will be under the Church in Wales’ voluntary control. b. Not support Ysgol Parc y Bont that is at present maintained by the Isle of Anglesey County Council as a school under the voluntary control of the Church in Wales and set up a new Welsh-medium community primary school to be maintained by the Isle of Anglesey County Council on the site of Ysgol Parc y Bont for 3-11 year old boys and girls. Ysgol Brynsiencyn will be federalized with another school. <p>The Statutory Notices were issued on June 17 2016 and there was a period of 28 days to object to the proposal to follow. Therefore, the objection period ended on July 15, 2016. One objection was received to proposal (a) above but no objection was received to the above Statutory Notice (b).</p> <p>In accordance with the School Organisation Code 2013 issued by the Welsh Government, the proposer or proposers, namely the Authority together with the Church in Wales in this case, need to issue a report describing any objections received i.e. an objection report. See the objection report in Appendix 1.</p> <p>Changes in the School Organisation Code came into force on 1 October 2013. The way that the Council dealt with objection to statutory notice was changed. The Executive</p>

Committee decided in its meeting on 4 November 2013 that if objection is received to a decision by the Isle of Anglesey County Council's Executive Committee to issue a statutory notice to close a primary school under the new School Organisation Code that came into force on 1 October 2013, that the matter should be referred to the Executive Committee.

Therefore, in accordance with the 2013 School Organisation Code, section 5.3, the Executive Committee needs to "decide whether the proposals should be approved', rejected or approved with adaptations."

It is recommended that the Executive Committee:

- i. Decide to approve the original proposals namely:
 - Propose not to support Ysgol Bodorgan (Bodorgan, Anglesey LL62 5AB), Ysgol Dwyran (Dwyran, Anglesey LL61 6AQ), Ysgol Niwbwrch (Newborough, Anglesey LL61 6TE) and Ysgol Llangaffo (Llangaffo, Anglesey LL60 6LT) that are at present maintained by the Isle of Anglesey County Council and to set up a new Welsh-medium primary school under the Church in Wales' voluntary control to be held by the Isle of Anglesey County Council on a site in Niwbwrch on land by Morawelon, Newborough, LL61 6TH for 3-11 year old boys and girls.
 - not to support Ysgol Parc y Bont (Llanddaniel, Ynys Môn LL60 6HB), that is at present maintained by the Isle of Anglesey County Council as a school under the voluntary control of the Church in Wales and to set up a new Welsh-medium community primary school to be maintained by the Isle of Anglesey County Council on the Ysgol Parc y Bont site for 3-11 year old boys and girls. Ysgol Brynsiencyn will be federalized with another school
- ii. Authorize officers to continue with the process of
 - (a) building a new primary school in Newborough (conditional on the site being suitable);
 - (b) adapt Ysgol Parc y Bont and change its status and
 - (c) adapt Ysgol Brynsiencyn and federalize it with another primary school.

Background:

In its meeting on September 8, 2014, the Council's Executive Committee resolved:

- To authorize officers of the Lifelong Learning Department to enable them to hold an informal or non-statutory consultation process on the primary education process in the South West of Anglesey.
- Prepare subsequently several options on the way forward by the first part of 2015.

The Council has consulted with parents, governors and staff in the six schools in the area and also with the local communities, local councillors and with the Welsh Government and other stakeholders. The consultation period ran from November 17th 2014 until December 21st 2014.

Consultation meetings were organized with the staff, governors and parents of the 6 schools involved over this period. Consultation meetings were held with community councils in the Bro Rhosyr and Bro Aberffraw areas.

A number of possible options were considered on the way forward for the primary education provision in the Bro Rhosyr and Bro Aberffraw areas in the non-statutory or informal consultation process. Two possibilities arose from the detailed analysis held:

Option A

This would be based on Option 2, namely a *new school for Bodorgan, Brynsiencyn, Niwbwrch, Dwyran and one new school for Llangaffo and Parc Y Bont.*

In this context, locating one of the new schools in the Newborough area means that around a third of the children are able to walk to school.

Any remodelling of Parc y Bont needs to address the transport problems identified at the beginning and end of the school day.

This option could also include the federalization of Ysgol Brynsiencyn with another school i.e. maintain the school on the present site and under a different management arrangement.

Option B

This would be based on Option 4, namely *a new school for Bodorgan, Niwbwrch, Dwyran and Llangaffo and one new school for Parc y Bont and Brynsiencyn.*

Any remodelling in Parc y Bont would need to address transport problems identified at the beginning and end of the school day.

This option could also include federalizing Ysgol Brynsiencyn with another school i.e. maintain the school on the present site and under a different management agreement.

In this option, **EITHER** the present Ysgol Parc y Bont, together with Brynsiencyn, would continue to be a Church in Wales school **OR** the new school would be in the Newborough area (new school for Bodorgan, Niwbwrch, Dwyran and Llangaffo) able to become a school under the Voluntary Control of the Church in Wales .

In its meeting on **March 16, 2015**, the Executive Committee decided:
Authorize officers to go ahead to the formal or statutory consultation process where they will be consulting on Options A and B above.

In its meeting on **October 19 2015**, the Executive Committee resolved:
"To approve option B4a as the option favoured for providing primary education in the Bro Rhosyr and Bro Aberffraw areas as outlined in the report, namely

- New school under the VC of the Church in Wales for Bodorgan, Niwbwrch, Dwyran, Llangaffo
- Parc y Bont to become a community school
- Federalize Ysgol Brynsiencyn with another school.

B – Which other options did you consider and what were their reasons for declining them and/or choosing this option?

9 options were considered by the Executive Committee in its meeting on March 16, 2015 for a possible formation of the primary education provision in the Bro Rhosyr and Bro Aberffraw areas. In that meeting, the Executive Committee decided to support Option B4a namely

- A new school under the Church in Wales' VC for Bodorgan, Niwbwrch, Dwyran, Llangaffo
- Parc y Bont to become a community school and
- Federalize Ysgol Brynsiencyn with another school.

As an optional choice the Executive Committee. The options can be seen in the report to the Executive Committee for the meeting on the above date and in the informal consultation document.

12 sites were considered for the proposed new primary school. The analysis of the possible sites in the Sites Options Appraisal Document can be seen.

C – For what reason is this a decision for the Executive Committee?

The Executive Committee is responsible for school organisation matters.

D – Is this decision consistent with the policy approved by the full Council?

Yes

DD – Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?

Yes – The Strategic Outline Programme plans approved by the Executive Committee on January 13, 2014. There will be a Full Business Case for the above plans in Bro Rhosyr and Bro Aberffraw all being presented to the Executive Committee in January 2017.

E – With whom did you consult?		What were their observations?
1	Chief Executive / Senior Management Team (SMT) (mandatory)	No specific comment
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	No specific comment
3	Legal / Monitoring officer (mandatory)	No specific comment
5	Human Resources (HR)	Any staffing issues that may arise should be dealt with in accordance with recognised consultation and other HR processes.
6	Property	No comment received
7	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	No comment received
8	Scrutiny	No comment received
9	Local Members	No comment received
10	Any external bodies / other(s)	The Church in Wales is satisfied that Isle of Anglesey County Council officers have followed the statutory process for establishing a new primary school. The Church remains supportive of the concept of a new Church in Wales VC primary school and looks forward to serving the children of the Bro Aberffraw area.

F – Risks and any mitigation steps (if relevant)		
1	Economic	Not applicable
2	Anti-poverty	Not applicable
3	Crime and Disorder	Not applicable
4	Environmental	Mitigation steps are part of the planning application
5	Equalities	Not applicable
6	Result Agreements	Not applicable
7	Other	Not applicable

FF - Appendices:
Appendix 1 – Objection Report
Appendix 2 – Objection Letter

G – Background Papers (please contact the Report author for any further information):
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee for March 16, 2015. 2. Non-statutory Consultation Document and the Statutory Consultation Document and the Consultation Report 3. Strategic Outline Programme (SOP/RhAS) presented to the Welsh Government in December 2013. 4. Letter by the Welsh Government dated January 31 2014. 5. Minutes of a meeting of the Executive Committee held on October 19, 2015. 6. Report to the Executive Committee dated November 4 2013. 7. School Organisation Code 2013, sections 1.2 to 1.14 and section 5. 8. Minutes of the consultation meetings with staff, governors and parents held in June and July 2015. 9. Site Options Appraisal Documents 10. Statutory notices dated June 15 2016



Objection Report

1. Background

In order to conform with the School Standards and Organisation Act (Wales) 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2013, the Authority issued together with the Church in Wales, **Statutory Notices** of their intention to:

- a. Combine four schools - Ysgol Bodorgan, Ysgol Dwyran, Ysgol Niwbwrch and Ysgol Llangaffo – in one new school on a site in Niwbwrch and that the new school will be under the voluntary control of the Church in Wales.
- b. Not to support Ysgol Parc y Bont that is at present maintained by the Isle of Anglesey County Council as a school under the voluntary control of the Church in Wales and to establish a new Welsh-medium community primary school to be held by Anglesey County Council on the site of Ysgol Parc y Bont for 3-11 year old boys and girls. Ysgol Brynsiencyn will be federalized with another school.

The **Statutory Notices** were issued on June 17 2016 and there was a period of 28 days to oppose the following offer. Therefore, the objection period came to an end on July 15, 2016. **One objection was received to proposal (a) above but no objection was received to Statutory Notice (b) above.**

Under section 49 of School Standards and Organisation Act (Wales) 2013, proposers have to publish a summary of the statutory objections and respond to those objections ("the objection report") – this is what this document is. This has to be carried out in 28 days at the end of the objection period namely by August 12 2016.

2. Objections

The letter (in English) that states parents' objection to the proposed new primary school under the voluntary control of the Church in Wales in Appendix 2 can be seen.

Basically, the parents say:

- i. That the proposers have not consulted with everyone whom they should have consulted
- ii. That there was no mention in the consultation meeting with the parents of Ysgol Bodorgan pupils of the possibility that the new primary school in Bro Aberffraw would be a primary school under the voluntary control of the Church in Wales and
- iii. That the parents do not have an alternative school to which to send their child.



Objection Report

The Authority's response to these points is outlined as follows:

i. Not having consulted with everyone

Five sets of consultation meetings were organized with staff and governors. Although 6 primary schools are part of the consultation, Ysgol Dwyran and Ysgol Niwbwrch have been federalized and therefore one meeting was held for the staff of both schools and another meeting for the Governors as there is one Governing Body for both schools.

For the parents of the pupils in the 6 schools, a meeting was held in every school for them. See the following table that confirms the times that the consultation meetings were held:

School	Date (in 2015)	Meeting with		
		Staff	Governors	Parents
Brynsiencyn	Monday 29 June	3.45	5.00	6.00
Parc y Bont	Tuesday 30 June	3.45	5.00	6.30
Llangaffo	Wednesday 1 July	3.30	4.30	5.30
Bodorgan	Thursday 2 July	3.30	5.00	6.30
Dwyran	Wednesday 8 July			7.00
Niwbwrch	Thursday 9 July	4.00	6.00	7.00

Letters were sent to the parents through the schools to inform them of these meetings and minutes from the meetings show that the consultation meetings had taken place.

ii. No suggestion that the new primary school would be a primary school under the Church in Wales' voluntary control.

The statutory consultation document stated:



Objection Report

“A number of possible options were considered on the way forward for the primary education provision in the Bro Rhosyr and Bro Aberffraw areas in the non-statutory or informal consultation process. Two possibilities arose from the detailed analysis held:

Option A

This would be based on Option 2, namely *a new school for Bodorgan, Brynsiencyn, Niwbwrch, Dwyran and one new school for Llangaffo and Parc Y Bont.*

In this context, locating one of the new schools in the Newborough area would mean that around a third of the pupils are able to walk to school.

Any remodelling of Parc y Bont would need to address the transport problems identified at the beginning and end of the school day.

This option could also include federalizing Ysgol Brynsiencyn with another school i.e., maintain the school on the present site and under a different management arrangement.

Option B

This would be based on Option 4, namely *a new school for Bodorgan, Niwbwrch, Dwyran and Llangaffo and one new school for Parc y Bont and Brynsiencyn.*

Any remodelling in Parc y Bont would need to address transport problems identified at the beginning and end of the school day.

This option could also include federalizing Ysgol Brynseincyn with another school i.e. maintain the school on the present site and under a different management agreement.

In this option, **EITHER** the present Ysgol Parc y Bont, together with Brynsiencyn, would continue to be a Church in Wales school **OR** *the new school in the Newborough area (a new school for Bodorgan, Niwbwrch, Dwyran and Llangaffo) could become a school under the Voluntary Control of the Church in Wales.*

In its meeting on March 16, 2015, the Executive Committee decided:

To authorize officers to go ahead into the formal or statutory consultation process where they consult on Options A and B above.



Objection Report

This document is a basis for **the formal or statutory consultation for reviewing the primary education provision in the south West Anglesey area**. The purpose of the formal or statutory consultation is to consult with stakeholders e.g. parents, children, staff, governors and elected members on the options decided upon above by the Council's Executive Committee."

It is seen that the possibility that the new primary school would be under the voluntary control of the Church in Wales is clear in the consultation document that was a basis for statutory consultation.

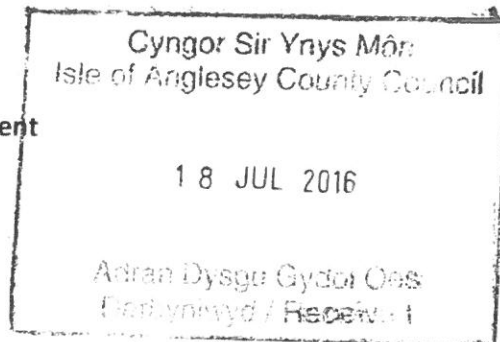
Additionally, the minutes of the consultation meeting with the parents of Ysgol Bodorgan pupils show that the Education Officer who was chairing the meeting with the parents in Ysgol Bodorgan had raised the matter asking what was the parents' opinion about a "church school". The minutes do not detail the subsequent discussion and the matter was discussed.

No alternative school to which to send their child

It is taken that the parents mean that there is no alternative community school for them to which to send their child. The nearest alternative community school is Ysgol Henblas in Llangristiolus which is around 3 miles from their home along the B4422. This is similar to the distance from the new primary school in Niwbwrch that would be the catchment school for them if they sent their child there.

Programme Manager
Lifelong learning Department
Council Offices
Llangefni
Anglesey
LL77 7TW

14th July 2016



Re: Statutory notice of Bro Rhosyr/Bro Aberffraw school restructuring.

Objection letter.

Dear Sir/Madam

Having perused the Statutory Notice regarding the closures of Ysgol Bodorgan, Ysgol Dwyran, Ysgol Niwbwrch and Ysgol Llangaffo and the building of a new Church in Wales school in Newborough, we firmly object to these proposals.

The Statutory Notice states that this joint consultation was carried out by Anglesey County Council and Church in Wales. It also states that all required persons were consulted. We take this to mean parents, teachers and governors. This is not the case.

We as parents of a child at Ysgol Bodorgan attended all the consultation meetings held at the school and not once was it suggested that the proposed new school would be a Church in Wales voluntary controlled primary school, essentially a faith school. We can produce several witnesses who can verify that this was never mentioned during the consultations held at Ysgol Bodorgan.

As atheists we strongly disagree with sending our child to a faith school and by closing all the schools in our area to build this new school, it would leave us with no alternative school.

Yours sincerely