

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date:	16 March 2015
Subject:	Modernising Schools on Anglesey - report on the non-statutory consultation in the Bro Rhosyr and Bro Aberffraw areas
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Ieuan Williams
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Local Members:	Councillor Hywel Eifion Jones Councillor Peter Rogers Councillor Ann Griffith Councillor Victor Hughes

A –Recommendation/s and reason/s

At its meeting on September 8, 2014, the Isle of Anglesey County Council Executive Committee resolved:

- To authorise the Officers from the Lifelong Learning Department to enable them to conduct an informal or non-statutory consultation process on the primary education provision in South Western Anglesey.
- To subsequently prepare several possible options on the way forward by early 2015.

The Council have consulted with parents, governors and staff at 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 arranged with school stakeholders over this period:-

School	Date (in 2014)	Meeting with		
		Staff	Governors	Parents
Bodorgan	Monday 24 November	4.00	5.30	6.30
Dwyran	Tuesday 25 November	4.00	6.30	5.00
Niwborough	Wednesday 26 November			5.00
Llangaffo	Thursday 27 November	3.30	5.00	6.15
Brynsiencyn	Tuesday 2 December	3.30	5.00	6.30
Parc y Bont	Thursday 4 December	3.30	5.00	6.30

Consultation meetings were held with community councils as follows:-

Council	Date (in 2014)	Time	Location
Bodorgan Community Council	Tuesday December 9	7.00pm	Bodorgan School
Llanddaniel Fab Community Council	Monday December 15	7.00pm	Siop yr Efail, Llanddaniel Fab
Llanidan Community Council	Tuesday December 16	7.00pm	Y Ganolfan, Ffordd Barras, Brynsiencyn
Parents of pupils of Ysgol Bodorgan living in Aberffraw	Wednesday December 17	5.30pm	Village Hall, Aberffraw
Aberffraw Community Council	Wednesday December 17	7.00pm	Village Hall, Aberffraw

This report contains several possible options on the way forward for the primary education provision in the Bro Rhosyr and Bro Aberffraw areas. These are summarised in the table below:-

Option 1:	Build a new school for the area
Option 2:	A new school for Bodorgan, Brynsiencyn, Newborough, Dwyran and one new school for Llangaffo and Parc Y Bont
Option 3:	A new school for Bodorgan, Newborough, Dwyran and one new school for Llangaffo, Parc y Bont and Brynsiencyn
Option 4:	A new school for Bodorgan, Newborough, Dwyran and Llangaffo and a new school for Brynsiencyn and Parc Y Bont.

These options were analysed and scored in the report. Two possibilities arise from the detailed analysis conducted:-

Option A

This would be based on Option 2, namely *a new school for Bodorgan, Brynsiencyn, Newborough, 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 about a third of the children are able to walk to school.

Any remodelling at Parc y Bont would need to address the traffic issues identified at the start and end of the school day.

This option could also include the federation of Ysgol Brynseincyn with another school i.e. maintaining the school on the present site but under a different management arrangement.

Option B

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

Any remodelling at Parc y Bont would need to address the traffic issues identified at the start and end of the school day.

This option could also include the federation of Ysgol Brynseincyn with another school i.e. maintaining the school on the present site but under a different management arrangement.

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

It is recommended that the Executive Committee:

Authorise officers to proceed to the formal or statutory consultation process wherein they will consult on Options A and B above.

B – What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this option?

The following suggestion in relation to changes to the present configuration was received in the responses to the consultation document and meetings.

- i. Many respondents from Brynsiencyn offered the following possibility merge Dwyran and Brynsiencyn at Brynsiencyn, merge Bodorgan and Newborough at Newborough and merge Llangaffo and Parc y Bont at Llanddaniel.

Suggestion (i) has not been included in the analysis as initial consideration suggests that the model would not lead to a long-term sustainable solution, not address leadership capacity and would have limited success in addressing surplus places.

C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?

The Executive Committee is responsible for school organisation matters.

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

Yes

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

Yes – It is one of the plans in the Strategic Outline Programme that was approved by the Executive Committee on January 13, 2014.

E – Who did you consult?		What did they say?
1	Chief Executive / Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) (mandatory)	
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	No comment
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	
5	Human Resources (HR)	
6	Property (Planning)	No comment
7	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	
8	Scrutiny	
9	Local Members	
10	Any external bodies / other/s	

F – Risks and any mitigation (if relevant)		
1	Economic	
2	Anti-poverty	
3	Crime and Disorder	
4	Environmental	
5	Equalities	
6	Outcome Agreements	
7	Other	

FF - Appendices:

G - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Executive Committee meeting minutes for September 8, 2014. 2. Informal Consultation Document 3. Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) presented to the Welsh Government in December 2013. 4. Letter from the Welsh Government dated January 31 2014.



CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL

SWYDDOGOL – OFFICIAL

**YMATEB I'R YMGYNGHORIAD ANSTATUDOL - ARDALOEDD
BRO RHOSYR A BRO ABERFFRAW
RESPONSE TO THE NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION - BRO
RHOSYR AND BRO ABERFFRAW AREAS**

**Tachwedd 17 – Rhagfyr 21, 2014
November 17 – December 21, 2014**



**CYNGOR SIR YNYS MÔN / ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL
ADRAN DYSGU GYDOL OES / LIFELONG LEARNING DEPARTMENT**

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1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Anglesey County Council is committed to providing the very best educational provision for all the children and young people of the island.

As part of this commitment, the Council recognises that modernising education and ensuring that our school buildings create an attractive learning environment that motivates children and young people to become effective learners and achieve life skills is a major priority.

In this context, the Council wants to modernise schools to:

- improve educational outcomes for children and young people and break the link between deprivation and low educational attainment,
- further improve standards of leadership and the quality of teaching and learning,
- deliver sector leading schools and sector leading standards for every community.

The delivery of this ambitious modernisation programme will require the merging of existing schools through a combination of school federations, extensive catchment area reorganisation based on the remodelling of existing school buildings or the building of new area schools and the closure of schools that are not fit for purpose.

2. DRIVERS FOR CHANGE AND MODERNISATION WHICH WILL INFLUENCE THE DECISION ON THE BEST PROVISION FOR THE AREA

Noted below are some of the drivers for modernisation which will influence the decision on the best provision for the area:

Raising educational standards

The Council is committed to raising standards significantly if we are to reach our goal of being in the top 5 best Local Authorities in Wales. Current research suggests that it is difficult to correlate standards with school size. However, recent reports suggest that in larger primary schools [over 100 (or 105)] leadership teams have greater capacity to bring about improvement; teachers develop more expertise in specific areas which can then influence other teachers' practices and consequently have a positive effect on standards of children's work. In smaller schools [of around 50 or less] mixed age classes sometimes span more than one key stage. This poses a significant challenge for teachers if they are to ensure that all children are stretched to the best of their abilities. The schools' modernisation strategy aims to eradicate examples of classes with more than 2 age groups.

Reducing the number of surplus places

The number of surplus places within primary schools has now reached 15% but there are 31% surplus places in the 6 schools under consideration which is considerably higher than the Welsh Government target [15% on Authority level and 10% in individual schools]. The Council therefore needs to reduce the number of surplus places in order to meet Welsh Government expectations and respond to one of Estyn's criticisms in their report in 2012. This means that the required aim is to reach a position whereby schools are more than 85% full and that 90% of the places have been filled across the primary sector.

Reducing the variation in cost per head

The cost per pupil varies substantially, from £2,857 to £7,550, across primary schools in the county. The Council's expenditure on primary schools in 2014-15 [£4869 per pupil] is the highest but one in Wales. The modernisation programme will aim to normalise the cost per pupil across the authority and align it with the average for Wales.

Ensuring that school buildings create the best possible learning environment

Improving the quality of school buildings and ensuring the very best learning environment [that reflect those in our more recent school build – Ysgol y Graig – which will be used as a benchmark] for our children is of paramount importance to meet the needs of learning and teaching in the 21st century. This type of environment includes teaching and learning facilities of the best quality, suitable play areas, appropriate staff and administration areas, the safety and security of school buildings and school sites together with excellent IT facilities. Estyn note that “Improvements in the quality of buildings have a very beneficial effect on the quality of teaching and morale of staff which has a positive effect on pupil performance.” All children will have access to appropriate facilities in order to provide a whole range of educational experiences.

It is not possible for the Council to maintain a large number of ageing school buildings which are costly to maintain. A new pattern of schools has to be established in order to remove the shortcomings in existing buildings, including significant health and safety issues related to buildings or sites. There is a need to develop a system of schools wherein their maintenance arrangements are sustainable.

Creating the conditions for Headteachers to succeed – increasing leadership capacity

Effective schools are well led. Successful schools have strong leadership at all levels, including governors. The challenges associated with leading and managing a school have increased substantially during recent years and the expectations are continuing to increase. Headteachers need adequate non-contact time to ensure teaching and learning is of the highest quality, and to focus on evaluating and raising standards, developing robust self-evaluation procedures and ensuring the continuous professional development of staff. These expectations are substantial. It needs to be ensured that Headteachers have a minimum of 50% non-contact time. This means that each school [or federation of schools] should have at least 100 pupils if they are to give the Headteacher the necessary time to successfully undertake the leadership role.

Ensuring a sufficient number of Headteachers for the future

In the next five years it is likely that nearly 50% of our Headteachers will be retiring. As many of these Headteachers are leading small schools, the Council needs to consider the most effective and sustainable leadership models for the future. The number of applicants for headship posts is declining and a cause of some concern. The school modernisation programme needs to address this by ensuring suitable leadership development opportunities in individual schools. We need outstanding leaders for our schools. The modernisation programme will address succession planning issues and secure the leadership talent that we have in our schools.

Use of the school building by the community

Research suggests that schools with additional provisions such as breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, child-minding provision, summer and weekend activities achieve higher standards and secure parental and community engagement. Schools are also expected to be a resource for the local community in order to promote community activities that include parents, members of the community and local groups. This type of activity is important in relation to developing the link between schools and the local community. Schools developed as part of the modernisation programme will operate as area schools i.e. providing a range of services and activities often beyond the school day, to help satisfy the needs of pupils, their families and the wider community.

Welsh medium and bilingual provision

Any arrangement developed as part of the modernisation programme will give priority to strengthening and safeguarding the Welsh language / bilingualism.

3. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

The Council have consulted with parents, governors and staff at 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 arranged with school stakeholders over this period:-

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4. COMMENTS FROM THE CONSULTATION MEETINGS

Below is summary of points raised at each of the above consultation meetings:

Concern amongst staff about jobs was common across all of the schools.

Bodorgan

Concern about the Community Centre.

Parents unable to drive not being able to collect their children from school when ill.

Newborough

After-school club in Dwyran – easier for parents to go there if they work.

Concern about nursery provision if the school closed.

Favoured Option 3.

No car to collect children when ill.

Dwyran

Concern about nursery provision if the school closed.

Class sizes are likely to be larger.

Definition of a 21st century school.

Transport and escorts on buses.

Favour two area schools.

Brynsiencyn

Concern about nursery provision if the school closed.

No one will travel back in the direction of Bodorgan.

A high number of children walk to the school.

Llangaffo

There is a reason why parents choose the school.

No issue with surplus places in the school.

Characteristics of a 21st century school.

Parc y Bont

Everyone wants to come to the school. Want to see the school continue as it is.

Closure would have a significant impact on the village.

Parents would not go in the Brynsiencyn direction – they would choose to go towards the A55.

Parents bring their children there as it is a church school.

Excellent education at Parc y Bont. Everyone needs to be given the same opportunity.

Question why Parc y Bont was part of the consultation bearing in mind the school is full.

Aberffraw

Praised the support at Ysgol Bodorgan.

Concern regarding the lack of an escort on the bus.

See [Appendix 1](#) for Anglesey County Council's definition of a 21st Century School.

5. RESPONSES FROM YSGOL BODORGAN

- 5.1 A total of 88 responses were received from the school's stakeholders.
- 5.2 61 or 69% of these responses were presented in the form of a standard letter. The main points in the letter were as follows:-
- Following the closure of Aberffraw School, the closure of Bodorgan School would mean leaving "a substantial rural area in the South East of Anglesey without educational facilities".
 - The closure of Bodorgan School would be a "serious threat to the existence of rural communities and could mean the end of the Welsh language".
 - Suggested that the authority should reduce administrative costs to a minimum.
 - Concern about transporting young children and "exposing them to antisocial behaviour".
 - Concern about the future of the Community Centre and also the school and the local community.
 - Why have the schools in Pencarnisiog a Rhosneigr not been included in the consultation?
- 5.3 4 respondents (5%) were concerned that **class sizes** would become large if any reorganisation took place.
- 5.4 8 respondents (9%) **praised** the school and staff for their good work.
- 5.5 2 respondents or 2% were concerned about the implications of any reorganisation on the local **Cylch Meithrin** nursery group.
- 5.6 4 respondents (5%) were of the opinion that it would be better to **spend** on improving the quality of the Bodorgan School building rather than spending on a new building.
- 5.7 7 respondents (8%) were of the opinion that the **school site is big enough** to allow the extension of the school building.
- 5.8 A petition with 60 signatures was received asking the Authority to "keep Bodorgan School open".
- 5.9 No letter was received from the Governing Body of Bodorgan School.
- 5.10 A letter was received from Bodorgan Community Council who "totally oppose any plan to abolish an educational establishment from the community of Bodorgan". The other points noted were similar to those noted in 5.2. above. A copy of the letter from Bodorgan Community Council has been included in [Appendix 2](#).
- 5.11 A letter was received from the Chair of Bodorgan Community Centre "totally opposing any plan to abolish basic education provision from within the community of Bodorgan". A copy of the letter from the Bodorgan Community Centre has been included in [Appendix 3](#).
- 5.12 The Malltraeth Ymlaen company were not supportive either of "any plan to remove primary education provision from this community". A copy of the Malltraeth Ymlaen company's letter is included in [Appendix 4](#).
- 5.13 5 of the standard forms were signed by residents of Aberffraw but a parent stated in a letter that she praised the school staff for their work and the good progress made by her children. She felt that

Bodorgan School should be extended so that other children could benefit from the education there.

5.14 Some Aberffraw residents agreed with this concern and that some pupils may have to “face a change in their primary education for the second time as the village school closed in 2011”.

5.15 A copy of the Aberffraw Community Council letter has been included in [Appendix 5](#).

6. RESPONSES FROM BRYNSIENCYN SCHOOL

6.1 A total of 151 responses were received from school stakeholders – 31 or 21% of them from parents. Of these, 44 or 29% were presented via the comments form with a standard covering page. 12 respondents or 8% agreed with the recommendations in relation to the ‘reasons for change’. The responses received in the feedback forms were grouped under the categories noted below.

6.2 One proposal supported by many (67 respondents, 45%) was to :

- “Merge Dwyran School and Brynsiencyn School at Brynsiencyn”
- “Merge Bodorgan School and Newborough School at Newborough
- “Merge Llangaffo School and Parc y Bont School at Llanddaniel”.

Related to this, 14 respondents or 9% of the respondents were of the opinion that the school site was big enough to allow the extension of the school. 3 respondents (2%) mentioned that Dwyran School was “susceptible to flooding”.

6.3 A number of stakeholders (32 or 21%) felt that Brynsiencyn School was a school born out of the **community** “and that it was central to village life”.

6.4 Many respondents (23 stakeholders or 15%) mentioned that they could **walk** to school with their children in the mornings and go to meet them at the school in the afternoon, at the end of the school day. They were of the opinion that the school site was safe to enable them to walk to school. They also argued that transporting the children to school in a location outside of the village would increase the carbon footprint and that it would be unsafe to **transport** them by bus (37 respondents or 25%).

6.5 9 respondents (6%) were concerned about the potential impact of any primary school reorganisation plan in the area on the **Welsh Language**, with reference to statistics in the consultation document that 72% of pupils come from Welsh speaking households.

6.6 Other factors referred to were:-

- What implications would there be to the local **Cylch Meithrin** nursery group (7 respondents or 5%).
- **Class sizes** in any new school (2 respondents or 1%).
- **Installation of photovoltaic or solar panels** in the existing school to reduce costs (2 respondents or 1%).

6.7 A copy of the letter from the Governing Body is included in [Appendix 6](#).

6.8 A copy of the letter from the “Save Brynsiencyn School Action Group” is included in [Appendix 7](#).

6.9 A copy of the letter from Llanidan Community Council is included in [Appendix 8](#).

7. RESPONSE FROM DWYRAN SCHOOL

- 7.1 Only one response was received from Dwyran School stakeholders, from a parent. She supported option 2 “one new school to replace Bodorgan, Brynsiencyn, Newborough and Dwyran schools and one new school for Llangaffo and Parc y Bont”. She was not in favour of option 1 as, in her opinion, it would not “give a pupil the sense of community that should be given by a smaller school”.
- 7.2 A letter was received from the Bro Rhosyr Governing Body, the Governing Body for the Newborough and Dwyran schools. A copy of the letter has been included in [Appendix 9](#).

8. RESPONSE FROM NEWBOROUGH SCHOOL

- 8.1 The only response received from Newborough School was the letter from the Bro Rhosyr Governing Body which is the Governing Body of the Newborough and Dwyran schools. A copy of the Governing Body’s letter is included in [Appendix 9](#).

9. RESPONSES FROM LLANGAFFO SCHOOL

- 9.1 A total of 96 responses were received from school stakeholders.
- 9.2 73 or 76% of these responses were in the form of a standard bilingual letter. The main points in the letter were:-
- Concern that the closure of Llangaffo School “would have a detrimental effect on the social and economic future of the whole village”.
 - The school is “performing well” and signatories of the letter saw “no reason as to why this shouldn’t continue”.
 - They objected to “any proposal to merge” Llangaffo School with Newborough School as the basic values and culture of both schools were entirely different”.
 - If the school closed, they were concerned “that neither current parents nor prospective parents would have a choice as to the type of school or atmosphere within which their child would be taught”.
 - According to stakeholders, “most parents who send their children to Llangaffo School do this because of the size of the school, the links with the Church and the school’s reputation”.
 - Having noted that they were “totally against the closure of the school”, the stakeholders stated, if the Authority “decided to proceed with the closure of the schools and build a new school or schools”, the “only acceptable option would be to merge with Parc y Bont School, Llanddaniel as both schools are Church schools”.
- 9.3 Llangaffo School staff stated “that a wise starting point would be the merger of the Dwyran, Newborough and Brynsiencyn Schools” in a new school and that both schools (Llangaffo and Parc y Bont) should be federalised”. A copy of the letter from staff is included in [Appendix 10](#).
- 9.4 An e-mail was received from the Plaid Cymru Parliamentary Candidate for Anglesey. He was eager for the Authority to “consider federalisation as part of any final solution”. In his conclusion, he stated that he “believed that the final solution lies in a combination of the options and not in one specific option”. He thanked the officers for “all the effort involved in conducting the consultation” which was “extremely comprehensive and thorough”.
- 9.5 One former pupil stated that there weren’t “many church schools on the Island” and asked “Do you want to close two of the church schools?”. Another question he asked was “Why close and waste money when the Llangaffo and Parc y Bont schools are successful in all they do?”

10. RESPONSES FROM PARC Y BONT SCHOOL

- 10.1 A total of 40 responses were received from the school and 24 or 60% of the responses were received from parents.
- 10.2 14 or 58% of these parents thought that Ysgol Parc y Bont should be left as it is and that it should not be included in this consultation.
- 10.3 An important factor for 8 parents (33%) was the value and use of the school for the community.
- 10.4 The suggestion put forward by 5 parents (21%) was that Parc y Bont School should be extended to include Llangaffo School pupils.
- 10.5 6 (25%) parents praised the school staff and 3 parents (13%) stated that the fact that both schools were church schools [voluntary controlled] was an important factor in choosing a school for their child.
- 10.6 As regards the options put forward, 4 parents or 16% were in favour of option 2.
- 10.7 Other factors which were a cause of concern for other parents were:-
- That the decision had already been made.
 - The impact of any change in the primary education provision in the area and the travel time to school.
 - What would be the impact of any change in the primary education provision on pupils' special educational needs?
 - A lack of information regarding the potential costs of any change in provision in the area.
 - The impact of any change in the primary education provision in the area on the Meithrinfa Siwgr Plwm nursery located in Llanedwen.
 - The impact of any change in primary school provision on the Welsh culture of the island.
- 10.8 6 of the remaining respondents thought that Parc y Bont School should remain as it is and that it should not be included in this consultation.
- 10.9 Other factors mentioned by respondents who were not parents:-
- The value and use of the school for the community.
 - The school is a Church School [voluntary controlled] and this is an important factor in any reorganisation.
 - Option 2 should be the favoured option.
 - The impact of any change in the primary education provision in the area on the After-school Club.
 - The cost of any change.
 - A suggestion that option 5, some kind of federation, should be the favoured option.
- 10.10 Two petitions against the closure of Parc y Bont School were received with 248 signatures of former pupils and the other with 246 signatures.
- 10.11 A copy of the Governing Body letter is included in [Appendix 11](#).
- 10.12 A copy of the Llanddaniel Fab Community Council letter in [Appendix 12](#).

11. RESPONSE FROM THE CHURCH IN WALES

- 11.1 Lifelong Learning Department officers consulted with the Bangor Diocese Education Department before the informal consultation period. Despite being under no obligation to do this, a similar procedure to that outlined in the School Organisation Code 2013, part 3.4, paragraph 3 [page31] was followed. A bilingual letter was received from the Bangor Diocese Education Department via e-mail on 21 December 2014. Eight bullet points were noted in their letter but, in terms of options, the Bangor Diocese Education Department is of the opinion that “Option 2 would be an appropriate option, although the Diocese would have concerns, if one of the existing school sites would be used for a new school, that all parents of the pupils in the other school would not transfer their children to the ‘other’ site, because of local geography, road infrastructure and the apparent tendency for parents to travel north towards the A55, rather than east or west ‘out of their way’”. A copy of the letter from the Diocese’s Education Department is included in [Appendix 13](#).

12. OTHER RESPONSES

- 12.1 Lifelong Learning Department officers also consulted with several other stakeholders and a reply was obtained from *Undeb Cenedlaethol Athrawon Cymru* (National Union of Teachers Wales or UCAC). A spokesperson stated on behalf of the union: “UCAC is glad to see a range of options being presented and hopes that the Council will give full regard to any other options suggested as part of this consultation. While recognising that the *status quo* is not a realistic choice, UCAC is not in a position to support any individual option at the expense of others”. A copy of the e-mail from UCAC is included in [Appendix 14](#).

13. PARENT QUESTIONNAIRES

- 13.1 A questionnaire was sent to parents asking which factors were important in making the decision about which school their child attends. Parents were asked to list the factors of importance to them when they chose a school for their child. The results are summarised in the table below: -

Importance of the factor	Bodorgan	Brynsiencyn	Dwyran	Newborough	Llangaffo	Parc Y Bont
First	14	6	1	14	6	14
Second	6	14	14	1	14	6
Least but one	4	4	10	10	7	7
Least	10	10	4	4	10	10

The table below defines factors 1, 4, 6, 7, 10 and 14:

No.	Factor
1.	Ensuring my child attends the school of our catchment area
4.	The status of the school i.e. whether it is a ‘church school’
6.	The school has a good name in the community
7.	The school’s near the grandparents/childminder’s home
10.	You want your child to attend a large school (<90)
14.	The school is well led and managed.

It can be seen that factors 14 (The school is well led and managed) and 6 (The school's reputation in

the community) is important for parents across the 6 schools whilst factor 10 (You want your child to attend a large (> 90)) is the least important to parents in 4 of the schools.

Factor 4, the status of the school i.e. if it is a 'church school', was the fifth most important for parents of pupils at Llangaffo School while it was the ninth most important factor for the parents of the Parc Y Bont.

A questionnaire was sent to prospective parents to for them to inform the authority as to which factors were important to them in deciding which school their child attends. Prospective parents were asked to list the factors of importance to them when they choose a school for their child. The results are summarised in the table below: -

Importance of the factor	Bodorgan	Brynsiencyn	Dwyran	Newborough	Llangaffo*	Parc Y Bont
First	None received	14	None received	1	6	None received
Second		8		2	14	
Least but one		1		4	7	
Least		2		10	10	

*These questionnaires were completed by parents who had children in the 'main' school.

The table below defines factors 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 14:

1.	Ensuring my child attends the school of our catchment area
2.	Distance to the school – able to walk there
4.	The status of the school i.e. whether it is a 'church school'
6.	The school has a good name in the community
7.	The school's near the grandparents/childminder's home
8.	Child's friends attend the school
10.	You want your child to attend a large school (>90)
14.	The school is well led and managed.

Apart from the questionnaires above, highways officers asked parents about their reasons for choosing the school that their child or children attends:

School	Reason for choosing the school										
	Local	No response	Good school	Good and local	Church	Small	Family in the area	Local school closed	Used to live there	No other nursery	Other
Brynsiencyn 1	100%										
Brynsiencyn 2	92%	8%									
Bodorgan	95%									5%	
Dwyran	93%										7%
Newborough	100%										
Llangaffo 1	47%		16%	11%	21%	5%					
Llangaffo 2	42%		37%		16%						5%
Parc y Bont	33%	2.5%	50%			2.5%	7	2.5%	2.5%		

The figures show that for the school to be a local one is important to the vast majority of parents in Brynsiencyn, Bodorgan, Dwyran and Newborough Schools but was not as important in the other two schools. The second and third most important factors for parents at Llangaffo and Parc Y Bont Schools were a good name for the school and connections with the Church (in Wales).

14. FEEDBACK FROM PUPILS

14.1 Officers from the Youth Service held short meetings with a representation of pupils from each of the six schools.

It was explained to the pupils that a consultation had been held with the adults in the community, but this was the opportunity for the children from the area to voice their opinions on the Council's plans for school modernisation. This was a chance for the children to have their say on the options being proposed for this area. Officers from the Youth Service said they will then feedback this information to the Councillors as part of the Informal Consultation.

It was explained that the reasons for modernising were:

- Anglesey has too many vacant places in the schools
- It was costing too much to continue with the current number of schools
- Make sure all pupils had a good education
- Make sure that every school was modern and had good equipment

They could name all 6 schools that are part of this Modernisation Plan. They are Newborough, Brynsiencyn, Bodorgan, Dwyran, Llanddaniel (Parc y Bont) and Llangaffo.

Each group was asked the following questions:

- What did the pupils like about their current school?
- What do you think of the options (in the consultation document)?
- Did they agree with the reasons for change?
- Other comments from the Questionnaires

The responses are outlined below (a more detailed report is included in Appendix 15).

14.2 **Question:** What did the pupils like about their current school?

Bodorgan	Brynsiencyn	Dwyran
We don't get lost here; lot of room to play; everyone are friends; kind teachers and they look after us well; the focus is on individuals – and we have plenty of time to finish our work; there is a lot to do in playtime – hopscotch, netball, a large playing field with lot of equipment, and ball games; plenty of books to read; I learn a lot more here than I used to in my old school; I mix with a lot of friends; there is no bullying in this school as there used to be in my old school; there are evening activities held in the school – bingo, line dancing; there are clubs in the school – breakfast club, computer club, gardening club; I would like to start a nature and trees club; this school is	Playing with friends x 4, and everyone are like a family; Learn Welsh, maths and nature; Good Teachers; Football; Gold Time on Friday – play with computers – and we have chips + pizza for dinner; the Garden; work displayed on the walls help us with our work; Clubs – Urdd, Football, Folk Dancing, Disco + Games; A large playing field – with room for football, rugby, bike classes, and tree planting; the work; have fun; technology and computers here; lots of work on display; school uniform; learn a lot and lots of good work done here; games at playtime when it rains; gymnastics; singing lessons; I like [REDACTED] the dinner lady; Trips	Good Teachers and other support staff; it is a welcoming school and the children feel comfortable in it; everyone know each other; they like the after-school club and the breakfast club; had participated in Campau'r Ddraig; the Green Club had started making a greenhouse out of plastic bottles; having a playing field is important to them; they liked being able to walk to school.

<p>different to all other schools; it's fun; I learn a lot here; I have more attention from the teachers; good teachers; I can turn to the teachers if I have a problem; we are healthy here; there is a large yard and playing fields; I've been here for a year and I have learnt to speak Welsh, where I didn't learn the language at all when I was in a Welsh language stream in my last school</p>		
Newborough	Llangaffo	Parc Y Bont
<p>Lego; Good Teachers; they learnt well with their friends; the children produced good work, the layout of the classes, Teachers that make the lessons fun; Good Playground, Gardening with the pupils growing all sorts of vegetables; everybody know each other.</p>	<p>Feels like a family; I know everybody; Friends; Work well as a group; No need to travel very far; No bullying, Respectful Teachers; Good work being done; Everybody has fun; Feel safe here; Able to walk to school; Can bike to school; Nice things; Kind and excellent teachers; I know the school; We are rewarded (the Treasure Box scheme); Technology is good – white board, wi-fi, computers, I-pads, kindles; Friends close to home; I like lessons like maths, writing stories and the teacher helps me; Good games on the yard - Chicken or hero, hopscotch, football (although the field is too wet in winter); lovely setting with the view of the mountains, and beautiful when there is snow; nature; nice to be close to school; the best school in the world, the best friends in the world, and the best staff in the world [REDACTED] at helping me; everybody is nice in the school.</p>	<p>It's a happy school, they have friends here; a small school and you know everybody; like the work; I Like playing challenge and having fun and playing games; It's nice to speak Welsh; one pupil had moved here from another school because of bullying; the clubs that meet in the school are a hub for the community; they would be worried about bullying in a big school; if the school closed the community wouldn't be so close; there is a football club, cookery club, craft club, youth club, fun club, breakfast club, a gardening club, a Christmas Fair, and a choir here; we like the school; we feel like a family; there are no bullies here; we're comfortable here – we know the routine; good teachers; the school is the only thing left in the village – no village hall or shop here; we like the two cooks.</p>

14.3

Question: What do you think of the options (in the consultation document)?

Bodorgan	Brynsiencyn	Dwyran
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None of the pupils want to see Ysgol Bodorgan close, and most noted that they did not want to see any change. All other options were a second choice (and some pupils would not consider any of the options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None of the children wanted Ysgol Brynsiencyn to close. All the options were a second choice. 9 did want to see the school close, and did not want to consider any of the other options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The three members of the Council were in agreement that they preferred Option 1 – that is have a new school for pupils of all 6 schools. • A chance to make new friends, and they already

<p>as a second choice)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One was of the opinion that the Council should be closing all large schools because of the bullying that went on in them, and maintain the small schools. • Everyone is like a family in a small school and look after each other. • The only advantage that may be considered in a large school, would be having more teachers, and better equipment e.g. laptops instead of computers. • They wanted the teachers to move with them • Some pupils would move to Ysgol Pencarnisiog, rather than the options that were being offered in the modernisation plan. • A new school would cost an enormous amount of money, and would probably cost a lot more than keeping the small schools. • Several pupils did not want any option that united them with Newborough school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 were willing to consider Option 1 – join all the schools to have a new school, as long as it was in Brynsiencyn • 3 wanted Option 1 – Superschool – offering an imaginative array of resources including science, a bakery, swimming, café, football, cricket, tennis and rugby, and a fashion school • 11 wanted Option 2, but to have the new school in Brynsiencyn • 1 wanted Option 2 (but with all the resources listed with the list for the ‘superschool’) • 2 wanted option 3 (but with all the resources listed in the s’superschool’) • 4 wanted Option 4 (but only if it was in Brynsiencyn) • 1 wanted Option 5 – i.e. move the children from Llangaffo to the present school at Brynsiencyn 	<p>knew children from other schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They wanted the school to be central to the area, as they didn’t like travelling • They liked being able to walk to school as they did now • They wanted to still have somewhere to meet for evening activities like the Urdd and Youth Club etc • They were uncertain if they would move on to Ysgol Llangefni or David Hughes • They wanted more playing area, a garden and a football pitch in the new school • They would like to design the logo for a new school and see the plans
<p>Newborough</p>	<p>Llangaffo</p>	<p>Parc Y Bont</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern about small children having to travel by bus to a school in a central area – one pupil told us that she had a little sister in the Infants. She would not want to see her having to go to school by bus. • They were worried that the teachers would not have the time to give the children the same level of attention • They did not want more than 2 school years in one class • There would be more children to make friends with • Would there be more bullying in a big school, and would the teachers have enough time to deal with this • What if a child was sick. Would there be a room for them to wait for mum or dad to come and fetch them. What 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None of the children wanted to see Ysgol Llangaffo close, and all the options were a second choice. • Option 1 – 4 chose Option 1 (unite 6 schools) – a chance to make new friends, have a class with everyone the same age. One wanted to join the other schools, only if the new school was in Llangaffo. • Option 2 – 9 opted for Option 2 (join with Ysgol Parc y Bont), but only if they could take their teachers with them, and didn’t have far to travel. 1 felt there was less room in the village (Llanddaniel ?). One wanted to unite both schools in Llangaffo, extending the present building. • Option 3 – 2 wanted Option 	<p>Join some of the present schools and no new buildings</p> <p>Verbal comments and comments on the Questionnaires</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None of the pupils want to see Ysgol Parc y Bont close, and all the other options were second choices • They were in agreement, if change was needed, then they would like to suggest another option, which was to keep Ysgol Parc y Bont, and extend it to bring the pupils from Llangaffo to join them, as that is also a Church School. • If they had to have a new building, then it needed to be somewhere central,

<p>would happen if mam didn't have a car?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They would want their present teachers to move with them • Sad face if he had to travel from one end to the other of a big area. New school needs to be central • 3 of the children said they suffered from travel sickness if they had to go any distance in a bus, and this worried them. 	<p>3 (join Parc y Bont and Brynsiencyn)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 4 – 1 opted for Option 4 • 5 pupils would want to move to Ysgol Niwbwrch in its current situation (Option 5) as it was close enough for them to walk to school. • Option 5 – were still adamant that they did not want any of the other options, but that Ysgol Llangaffo should remain open. 	<p>but they did not want to see more than 150 pupils in the school, and they would prefer it to be for 120 pupils, as was suggested in Option 2.</p>
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14.4 **Question:** Did you agree with the reasons for change?

Bodorgan	Brynsiencyn	Dwyran
They understood the reasons but did not agree with them.	They understood them, but were not in total agreement with them	3 agreed with the reasons for change
Newborough	Llangaffo	Parc Y Bont
6 didn't agree, and one agreed (but was uncertain)	About half and half in agreement/disagreed with the reasons for change	They understood the reasons but did not agree with them.

14.5 **Question:** Any other comments?

Bodorgan	Brynsiencyn	Dwyran
<p>Concerns</p> <p>Bullying was noted a concern in most questionnaires</p> <p>Having different teachers</p> <p>Travelling to school, as everyone currently live close by</p> <p>They wanted the teachers to move with them</p> <p>Concerned about getting to know other children in a large school as they were shy</p> <p>One noted that he/she would have a 'nervous breakdown' if there were too many children</p> <p>Children being pushed around</p> <p>Mosts expected to move on to Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni, but some also intended to go to Ysgol Uwchradd Bodedern.</p>	<p>Many saw it as a chance to make new friends</p> <p>More room and a bigger yard to play football</p> <p>If we move then we would want more ipads, more things to play with and a swimming pool</p> <p>Transport would have to be provided</p> <p>Many imaginative resources listed as requirements for a 'Superschool'</p> <p><u>Concerns</u></p> <p>Travelling – and having to wait for a bus in the rain</p> <p>Did not want to see Ysgol Brynsiencyn demolished</p> <p>Lot of pupils will mean a high level of noise – a big concern for one pupil</p>	<p>In the any other comments all 3 noted that they would like to make new friends. Also that they wanted somewhere to meet in the evenings, or in evening clubs.</p>

	<p>It will be dark when we set off and when we come home Didn't want to see the infants and the children in Ysgol Feithrin having to travel by bus Wouldn't know everyone - 'rivals' Difficult for parents who don't have cars Noisy Bullying x 8 Wouldn't know where the toilets are No room to play Losing good teachers Infants would be far away from home Would affect the Welsh language Too many children Swearing I wouldn't see my big sister in the yard, and no big yard</p>	
Newborough	Llangaffo	Parc Y Bont
<p>If you had to choose, which option would you prefer?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 agreed with Option 2 • 4 agreed with Option 5 – of these 2 would want to see children from Dwyran joining Newborough, 1 would want to see children from Dwyran and Bodorgan coming to Newborough, and 1 wanted to see children from Dwyran or Bodorgan joining them. • 1 undecided 	<p>In the comments 16 have noted that they want to take their teachers with them, and 5 complimented their teachers. One wanted to take the Headteacher with them as well. Concerns if they had to move: - More bullying in a bigger school - Didn't want far to travel - Would take time to settle - Might get lost - I wouldn't know everyone</p> <p>Things that may be good in a new school - New building - More friends - More new things (technology) - Not so much change to go from a bigger school to High School - Would like some team building sessions before moving - Would like the chance to get to know some children from other schools before moving - One group wanted to take their art work, which had meant a lot of work, to the new school</p>	<p><u>What they would like to see if they had to move to a new school</u> 2 – would want the teachers to move with them 2 – noted that they liked their teacher 2 – wanted to remain in this school Good School Council Eco School 3 – wanted to stay in a church school</p> <p><u>Concerns</u> Bullying x 4 Wouldn't know everyone Many children with the same names All the children were likely to go to Ysgol David Hughes when they moved up to Secondary. If they were united with Llangaffo, then it would mean some pupils would go to Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni.</p>

14.6 Conclusion

Bodorgan	Brynsiencyn	Dwyran
<p>The children were united in a strong feeling that all the options were a second choice, as they did not want to see Ysgol Bodorgan close. 4 selected Option 2 – with one noting that a larger school would give more opportunity to learn science and having a café; 1 opted for Option 1, but 9 were not willing to put their name to any of the Options, as they wanted Ysgol Bodorgan to remain as it was.</p> <p>Some stated that they had already moved from other schools – 3 from parental choice, and several had been moved from Aberffraw when that school closed, therefore they were unwilling to move again.</p>	<p>The pupils were united in saying that they would prefer to stay in their current school.</p> <p>Many saw merit in having a new school, but there was a difference of opinion with whom they would like to share a school, but all wanted a new school to be built in Brynsiencyn, because there is a large site here, and it is on the way to work for parents from other villages.</p> <p>9 did not want to consider moving or any of the options</p> <p>4 were willing to consider Option 1 – that is bring the pupils from all the schools together, and there were very imaginative ideas, of what they wanted to see in this new school. The highest number (12) favoured Option 2 (uniting with Dwyran and Newborough) to have better resources, but they wanted to see the school in Brynsiencyn.</p> <p>An imaginative list of what they would require in a new school – good playing fields for rugby, football, and cricket, science resources a priority for quite a few pupils, a fashion school and a Swimming Pool!!</p> <p>There were no strong feelings in this school about not wanting to join with any specific village, as long as the other schools were moving to join them.</p>	<p>The children were unanimous in wanting Option 1.</p>
Newborough	Llangaffo	Parc Y Bont
<p>On the whole, the children did not want to see schools being joined together, even if it meant a new school, but if they had to join, then they saw joining with Dwyran, Bodorgan and possibly Brynsiencyn as the best option for them.</p>	<p>Unanimous feeling that they did not wish to move from Ysgol Llangaffo. If they had to then there was a majority feeling that uniting with Parc y Bont, or Parc y Bont and Brynsiencyn, would be the preferred option, but some also would rather move to Newborough, if it meant they could walk to school. They were</p>	<p>The children were united in a strong feeling that they did not want to see the present school close, and did not want to move from Parc y Bont. They want to see the school remain in the present building, but wanted the councillors to consider a new suggestion, to extend the current school, and bring Llangaffo</p>

	willing to discuss in a reasoned and balanced manner, and didn't see a move as a huge threat, but only if they had to move (as long as the teachers moved with them).	children to join them, as this is also a church school.
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14.7

The responses highlighted some common issues.

In relation to the question "What did the pupils like about their current school?", common responses included "good teachers, playing with friends, "able to walk to school" and "learning and speaking Welsh".

The question: "What do you think of the options (in the consultation document)?" drew varying responses e.g not wanting "to see any change", "preferring Option 1", "a chance to make new friends". There was some concern about travelling to a new school and opinion about the options was mixed.

The third question - "Did they agree with the reasons for change?" revealed that the pupils understood them but on the whole did not agree with them.

Point raised under "Other Comments" included:-

- Concerns about bullying
- Having different teachers and wanting their current teachers to move with them
- Concerns about having too many children in the school
- An opportunity to make new friends
- Concerns about travelling to a new school

In summary, most pupils did not want change although some still had imaginative ideas for a new school

15. TRAFFIC SURVEYS

15.1 During the Informal Consultation period of November 17 – December 21 2014, parents voiced their concern about traffic safety issues outside some of the schools under consideration. It was decided that an officer from the Highways department of the Council should complete a traffic survey at each of the 6 schools in question during the month of January 2015 (weather conditions were recorded). The survey consisted of two parts:-

In the first part, the Highways Officer recorded the number of children arriving on foot and by car - during the morning drop offs and the afternoon collection times. In the second part, the parents were asked to complete a short 3 question survey designed to identify where had they travelled from (home post code), and to where was their onward journey. The Highways Officer observed some traffic safety issues on some of the school sites - these are recorded in the issues log below.

Brynsiencyn School

Of those arriving at the school, 69% arrived on foot on one day and 76% arrived on foot on another day. The parents' postcodes indicated that all lived within the school's catchment area. The onward journeys of those not returning home were towards Llangefni, Menai Bridge and Bangor.

The Highways Officer observed:- “Very little use [is made] of the entrance at the front of the school. Most picked up and dropped off at the side entrance of the school. Fairly high percentage of parents parking on the School Keep clear area on the road in Tre Fenai as the area either side of this was occupied by householders living nearby. Once the morning drop –offs got a bit busier the large area car park (opposite the side entrance) was then used. Gate at side of school locked after 9.00am every morning by staff.”

The “Pick up in the afternoon was staggered and almost all people parked in a safe manner further along Tre Fenai road or most parked in the large area car park area.”

The risk here is people parking on the School Keep clear signs.

Recommendations

1. Encourage the use of the front of the school.
2. Install bilingual sign reading ‘no access for vehicles except school staff and deliveries’

The figures show that a large percentage of pupils walk to the school as they are local to the school. Traffic arrangements around the school are deemed to be safe.

Llangaffo

Of those arriving at the school, 63% arrived on foot on one day and 52% arrived on foot on another day. The Highways Officer recorded the number of children arriving on foot on two different days and the parents' postcodes indicated that 21% and 28% lived within the school's catchment area. The onward journeys of those not returning home were towards Llangefni, Caernarfon, Menai Bridge, Bangor and Colwyn Bay.

In his report, the Highways Officer stated:-“Some congestion on the main B4419 road outside of the school. Staff all park on both sides of the main road adding to the congestion. Most parents avoid parking on the Keep Clear road markings, with some parking for short periods on end of these markings. Drop off in the morning from 8-8.30am fairly uneventful. 8.30 onwards can result in parents parking either side of the private estate road which is not ideal for traffic attempting to exit the estate. Collection of children after school at 3.10 and 3.15pm slightly congested on the B4419 road again parking near the private estate entrance. The chicane caused by the parking regime can have a beneficial effect in slowing the through traffic down somewhat.

One single pedestrian access in use – no formal crossing point available because of lack of any footway in front of the old garage.

Recommendations

1. Space on the Llangefni side of the school could be utilised for staff parking to reduce the numbers of long term parking on the main road. Construct a new entrance and gate to let staff park within the school grounds that is not utilised by children – Approx cost £1000.
2. Classes are let out at 3.10 and 3.15pm – any increase in this staggered time would likely reduce the amount of parents queueing in the afternoon.

Many pupils attend this school from outside the catchment area. However, the Highways Officer describes congestion problems in the morning and afternoons on a fairly busy B road and the lack of a formal crossing point.

Dwyran

Of those arriving at the school, 65% walked to the school. parents' postcodes indicated that 80% lived within the school's catchment area. The onward journeys of those not returning home were towards Llangefni, Bodorgan, Bangor and Holyhead.

Observation

Drop – offs to school between 8.00and 8.30am and from 8.30 onwards make use of the significant length available of parking spaces. Pick-up from school at the 3.00pm and 3.30pm periods again reduce the amount of people waiting on the roads without any problems. Staff parking within the school grounds came in at a time that did not conflict with arriving children.

Recommendation

1. Drop – offs to school between 8.00and 8.30am and from 8.30 onwards to make use of the ample parking spaces.
2. Pick-up from school at the 3.00pm and 3.30pm periods again reduce the amount of people waiting on the roads without any problems.
3. Staff parking within the school grounds came in at a time that did not conflict with arriving children.

The figures show that a large percentage of pupils walk to the school as they are largely local to the school. Traffic arrangements around the school are reasonable but parents park on the road out of the village.

Newborough

Of those arriving at the school, 83% walked to the school. Parents' postcodes indicated that 89% lived within the school's catchment area. The onward journeys of those not returning home were towards Llangefni, Menai Bridge, Bangor and Conwy.

The Highways Officer observed that “cones put out every morning along the front of the School Keep Clear road markings to ensure compliance”.

He noted that there is “enough room along the highway in front of the school to accommodate all vehicles dropping off children. Many vehicles parking quite near or on the junction to the B4421 Road and is technically a motoring offence. Afternoon pick up of children is staggered and shows no congestion or risk. All staff park within the school boundary. A 20mph zone is established in the area. Main gates closed after 9.00am.”

Recommendations

1. Staff to arrive at work at an agreed time, to avoid the rush of children coming into the main entrance between 8.45 and 8.55am.
2. A higher visibility school warning sign on the main B4421 road could be introduced to warn that there is a school after taking the left turn in to Newborough. Estimated cost £400

The figures show that a large percentage of pupils walk to the school as they are largely local to the school. Traffic arrangements around the school are deemed to be safe.

Parc Y Bont

Of those arriving at the school, 46% walked to the school. Parents' postcodes indicated that 53% lived within the school's catchment area. The onward journeys of those not returning home were towards Llanfairpwll, Menai Bridge, Dwyran, Brynsiencyn Bangor and Holyhead.

The Highways Officer's Observations were :-

“School staff parked early on in their dedicated 7 parking bays before the majority of children are delivered to school. On the day of observation 3 bays for pickup and drop-off in front of the school were occupied by people either attending a course at the school that day or may have been the school's own staff. This left 2 parking bays for dropping-off children in the morning.

At 8.0-8.30am traffic was partially congested as parents had only 2 dedicated drop –off parking bays to use and hence started to double park in front of the staff parking area. Vehicle speeds were low and the drop –offs at the school were fairly calm and people crossed over to the school safely as the centre of the road was mostly clear.

During the period around 8.45am for about 5 minutes many cars arrived at roughly the same time. As a result there were numerous vehicles double parked in front of the staff parking area, the pick up and drop off areas were full and vehicles were trying to traverse the remaining area of road left in the middle and also park and drop off in this same ‘live lane’. Both sides of the school road were full up as far as the junction with the main Highway.

The afternoon pick up was staggered at 3.00pm and the next was at 3.15pm. There were about 18

cars parked on both sides of the internal school road just before 3.00pm and some out on the main Highway. Children did not come out of the school all at once but were naturally staggered (for whatever reason) and parents collected their children without much conflict from other vehicles. There were numerous activities on in the school after hours and a further 15 children were staying on to be picked up at later times.

The risk is “that as the number of parents bringing their children into school has increased over the years, ... the existing Traffic layout in front of the school has not been designed to accommodate such numbers or can handle sudden influx of vehicles.”

“During the busy five minutes when many cars appeared at the same time a situation of increased risk has arisen with two lanes of stationary parked vehicles and one live lane of traffic sometimes dropping children off being in conflict with each other. There was a small risk of vehicles coming into contact with each other at slow speeds and in itself might not be dangerous but the risk of people coming into contact with vehicles would be more serious. There may only be a low probability of a child or parent being injured in some form of collision with but the consequences of such an event would be serious in nature, and so an effort should be made to reduce the risk.”

Recommendations

1. Ensure pick-up and drop off areas are not used for parking throughout the day (by school staff enforcement)
2. Increase the number of pick-up and drop-off spaces – possibly the area between the school front boundary wall and the Highway – i.e. convert the verge into 7 spaces. Wall would need removal – cost approx. £15k.
3. Build more parking places for staff and visitors – land availability would be a problem and each space costs £1.5 – 2.0K.
4. Stop any double parking in front of the staff parking area. (Enforcement by school staff?)
5. Encourage more people to walk to school with their children Manage the arrivals of vehicles by staggering times of arrival for different classes.

Many pupils attend this school from outside the catchment area. The Highway Officer’s comments point out the potential dangers of parking at this school and that an “effort should be made to reduce the risk”

Bodorgan

Of those arriving at the school, 0% walked to the school, 12% arrived by minibus and the remaining 88% arrived by car. Parents' postcodes indicated that 80% lived within the school's catchment area. The onward journeys of those not returning home were towards Llangefni, Malltraeth, Bangor, Talwrn and Aberffraw.

The Highways Officer’s observations were:-

“Currently all staff park within the school confines at the front. Keep clear signs painted all along the front of the school are in place and a few vehicles park on them and drop children at the school. Most parents park in front of the side entrance to the school which technically may not be illegal as there is enough space between the Keep Clear markings and the boundary wall of the school to accommodate 2 vehicles. 5 vehicles were observed reversing up along the side of the school, parking and dropping off the children. At one time 3 vehicles were parked in front of each other in

this location.

Of the vehicles dropping children off at the school only 2 vehicles parked in the lay-by some 100 metres towards Malltraeth on the A4080 and walked along the path to deliver their children to the school.

Pick up - Staggered into 2 separate times – even with the reduced number of vehicles coming to the school the lay-by on the A4080 has insufficient capacity to accommodate the vehicles turning up and so for the last 8+ years the pattern is for vehicles to be allowed into the rear of the school from entry into the side road into the school, parking in an organised fashion and collecting the children from the main entrance and escorting them to their parents vehicles.

Recommendations

1. Stop people reversing up the side road. Gate can be used to close the area off, but this is a single low bar gate that a child might hit their heads on. A cone has already been supplied to the school to be put out by staff in the mornings to prevent vehicular access.
2. Pick up of the children in the afternoon (staggered times) is fairly low risk and would recommend that this practice continues.
3. Would recommend that no one drops off their children in the morning along the Keep Clear Markings as the existing road width makes this potentially dangerous. If the resources are not available to enforce the Keep Clear Markings then the drop-offs at the wider part of the road will continue and are less risky in nature.
4. Ideally everyone should drop off in the lay by and walk their children into school and the only residual risk is crossing the junction of the A4080 road. Making people walk 100m may prove difficult to enforce.

None of the children walked to school on the day of observation. The Highway Officer's Comments point out the potential dangers of parking at this school.

Of the 6 schools, the traffic situation was deemed to be safe in Brynsiencyn and Newborough. Parking near the Dwyran site was reasonable but parents park on the road that leads out of the village. This is also the case in Llangaffo which leads to congestion and potential dangers. The traffic situation around Bodorgan School is also potentially dangerous as there are no pick up and drop off points within the school site. Although there are also potential dangers at the Parc Y Bont site, these could be minimised but would require expenditure.

Therefore, the most suitable sites for use or development to the future, in relation to health and safety concerns, are Brynsiencyn School, Newborough School and Parc y Bont School.

16. OPTIONS ANALYSIS

The following suggestions in relation to changes to the present configuration were received in the responses to the consultation document and meetings.

- i. One response was received from Dwyran supporting option 2 - one new school to replace Bodorgan, Brynsiencyn, Newborough and Dwyran schools and one new school for Llangaffo and Parc y Bont.
- ii. Some Llangaffo parents stated that if the Authority decided to proceed with the closure of the schools and build a new school or schools then the only acceptable option would be to merge with Parc y Bont as both schools are Church schools. This is part of option 2.
- iii. Many respondents from Brynsiencyn offered the following possibility merge Dwyran and Brynsiencyn at Brynsiencyn, merge Bodorgan and Newborough at Newborough and merge Llangaffo and Parc y Bont at Llanddaniel.

Suggestions (i) and (ii) are addressed in the scored options analysis below. Suggestion (iii) has not been included in the analysis as initial consideration suggests that the model would not lead to a long-term sustainable solution, not address leadership capacity and would have limited success in addressing surplus places.

- 16.2 In the absence of other suggestions from the consultation process regarding possible reconfigurations, the options analysis concentrates on the 4 options outlined in the consultation document. The options are listed below.

Option 1:	Build one new school for the area
Option 2:	A new school for Bodorgan, Brynsiencyn, Newborough, Dwyran and one new school for Llangaffo and Parc Y Bont
Option 3:	A new school for Bodorgan, Newborough, Dwyran and one new school for Llangaffo, Parc y Bont and Brynsiencyn
Option 4:	A new school for Bodorgan, Newborough, Dwyran and Llangaffo and a new school for Brynsiencyn and Parc Y Bont.

Each of these options is evaluated and scored out of 10 against the drivers for change outlined below.

- Raising educational standards
- Reduce the number of empty places
- Reduce the variation in cost per pupil
- Ensure that school buildings will create the best possible learning environment
- Ensure that school buildings are in good condition and that no health and safety issues
- Increase the capacity of leadership
- Community use of school building
- Provision of Welsh medium and bilingual
- Geographical Factors and travel.

- 16.3 The overall evaluations are presented in the following section. The comments and resulting scores need to be considered alongside the following observations.

- All the schools under consideration can be classed as small schools [<100] although the numbers attending Ysgol Parc y Bont is close to this figure. If the number of out-of-catchment pupils is taken into account then the number of pupils in Dwyran, Bodorgan and Llangaffo is very close to or below 30 – maintaining schools with this number is unsustainable.
- The area is characterised by a substantial number of parents choosing out-of-catchment

provision. The information collected from parents suggests that the standards achieved and the school's reputation in the community are key factors in parental choice. In this context, the overall standards achieved - and parental perception – varies across the area. Greater consistency is required in relation to standards achieved.

- In the two schools where the number of out-of-catchment pupils is high – Parc y Bont and Llangaffo – traffic related health and safety issues were observed at the beginning and end of the school day. Any reconfiguration needs to address this.
- In all of the meetings, stakeholders noted that closing the school would have a significant impact on the village.
- The possible effect of reorganisation on increasing class sizes was also raised in all of the meetings. This needs to be considered alongside the response provided in the meetings namely that the Authority would ensure that class sizes would remain below WG expectations.
- The % of parents walking their children to school appears to be higher in two schools – Newborough and Brynsiencyn.

16.4 The detailed analysis for each of the options noted in 16.2 is presented below.

Note - If an option is implemented that involves combining pupils from two or more schools, the new catchment area is likely to be the combined catchment area. However, the Authority has the right and the powers to change school catchment areas and can amend these following consultations.

Option 1 – Build one new school for the area

Drivers	Criteria within the driver	Commentary	Score
Raise educational standards	<p>Size [100 or more]</p> <p>The capacity of the leadership team to ensure improvements</p> <p>Teachers with more expertise in specific areas, which in turn influences the practices of other teachers</p> <p>Reduce the number mixed age classes with more than 2 age groups.</p> <p>Raise standards further</p>	<p>The new school would have a capacity of about 300. According to Authority's formula, this would mean that the Headteacher would not have a teaching responsibility for most of the week. The school would form a senior management team to lead on teaching and learning.</p> <p>There would be about 10 classes in the school which in turn provides an opportunity for individual teachers to act as leaders for the development of literacy and numeracy and the individual subjects.</p> <p>There would be no more than two mixed age classes in the school other than the possibility of combining age groups for offering specialist provision for pupils with additional learning needs.</p> <p>It is anticipated that schools of this size can offer more flexibility to meet the needs of individual children would in turn lead and raise standards across the ability range.</p>	10
Reduce surplus places	<p>Contribute to reduce surplus places across the Authority so that surplus spaces are 15% across the Authority and 10% in individual schools</p> <p>Individual schools more than 85% full</p>	<p>The new school would lead to a reduction of 116 in surplus places across the area – and would be designed to have no more than 10% surplus places. This option would reduce surplus places across the 6 schools from 35% to 12% and the new school would be 88% full. The surplus places for the Authority would also be reduced to 12%. One risk to this would be if some parents would choose to try for a place for their child in a school outside the catchment area of the new school.</p>	8
Reduce the variation in cost per pupil	<p>Reduce the variation in the cost per head across the Authority and across the area so that the cost per pupil is closer to the average of the Authority. This leads to financial savings by also using the budget more effectively and efficiently</p>	<p>Establishing a new school would reduce the cost per head across the area from £5,137 to £4,557. It would reduce the average cost to below the average of £4,869 for the Authority.</p> <p>Annual net savings of around £233k [less interest costs on capital loan].</p>	9

<p>Ensure that school buildings will create the best possible learning environment</p>	<p>Teaching and learning facilities of the highest quality within the building and outside.</p> <p>Appropriate play areas</p> <p>Appropriate staffing and administration areas</p> <p>State of the art ICT facilities</p>	<p>Establishing a new school will lead to an improvement in the learning environment. Class facilities would include classrooms of adequate size, good natural light, good quality toilets close to the classes etc. Areas designed for teaching and learning would be located near the classroom.</p> <p>Dedicated play areas designed for pupils of different ages.</p> <p>There would be suitable accommodation for the Head and administrative staff, staff room and a room for teachers' PPA periods.</p> <p>The school would have networked ICT resources which are integrated into the design of each classroom.</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>Ensure that school buildings are in good condition and that no health and safety issues</p>	<p>The condition of the buildings will reduce maintenance costs at the area level.</p> <p>Health and safety issues:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to the site and building security 2. Parking for staff, parents and visitors 3. General 	<p>Establishing a new school would eliminate backlog maintenance. It would also be an opportunity to establish a system to ensure that periodic maintenance is being addressed appropriately.</p> <p>The design of the new school would ensure that safety matters regarding the building are properly addressed from the outset.</p> <p>The design would give due attention to the traffic on the site to ensure the safety of children / pedestrians.</p> <p>It would also give due attention to issues regarding parking for visitors and for drop-off point suitable for buses.</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>Increase leadership capacity</p>	<p>Capacity of the school to provide adequate non-contact time.</p> <p>Capacity to be able to provide a deputy and management team.</p>	<p>The Headteacher would not be teaching a class for much of the week. The school would form a senior management team to lead the teaching and learning</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>Community use of school building</p>	<p>Pre and after school provision e.g. breakfast clubs, after school activities, child minding club.</p> <p>Summer and weekend activities</p> <p>Community provision to promote community activities</p>	<p>Facilities in the new school would be very suitable for breakfast clubs, after school clubs and other activities outside of school hours.</p> <p>The resources would be very appropriate for community activities e.g. a hall of sufficient size for the activities will be promoted by the Community, a suitable hall for activities such as fitness e.g. badminton.</p>	<p>10</p>

	that include parents, community members and local groups.		
Provision of Welsh and bilingual medium	Priority to strengthen and protect the Welsh and bilingual education.	This would ensure that any new appointments to the school are fully committed to further build on the strong foundation that has been laid in the area and are current in relation to the use of Welsh and bilingual proficiency.	10
Geographical Factors and travel	Travel distance. Direction of travel Transportation costs	Establishing one new school will increase the distance and travel time for many children. The number of children who walk to school would be significantly reduced. This is entirely dependent on the choice of site for the new school e.g. if the new school in Newborough then about a third of the children would be in a position to walk to school with the rest travelling on buses. It is also possible that the direction of travel to a new school can be contrary to the parents' direction of travel to work. Transport costs would be higher than current costs.	4
Total			81

Option 2 - One new school instead of Bodorgan, Brynsiencyn, Newborough and Dwyran Schools and one new school for Llangaffo and Parc y Bont

Drivers	Criteria within the driver	Commentary	Score
Raise educational standards	<p>Size [100 or more]</p> <p>The capacity of the leadership team to ensure improvements</p> <p>Teachers with more expertise in specific areas, which in turn influences the practices of other teachers</p> <p>Reduce the number mixed age classes with more than 2 age groups.</p> <p>Raise standards further</p>	<p>The two new schools would provide for about 170 and 135 children.</p> <p>According to the Authority’s formula, this would lead to a situation where the Headteachers would have a teaching responsibility for part of the week. It is anticipated that schools of this size could have a small management team.</p> <p>There would be 5 or 6 classes in the schools which would in turn provide an opportunity for individual teachers to act as leaders for the development of literacy and numeracy and in individual subjects.</p> <p>There would be mixed-age classes in the school of 135 and mixed age classes for 2 age groups in the other.</p> <p>It is anticipated that schools of this size can offer more flexibility to meet the needs of individual children which would in turn raise standards across the ability range.</p>	6
Reduce surplus places	<p>Contribute to reduce surplus places across the Authority so that surplus spaces are 15% across the Authority and 10% in individual schools</p> <p>Individual schools more than 85% full</p>	<p>The new schools would lead to a reduction of 141 in surplus places across the area – and would be designed to have no more than 10% surplus places. This option would reduce surplus places across the 6 schools from 35% to 11% and the new schools would be over 90% full. The surplus places for the Authority would also be reduced to 11%. One risk to this would be if some parents would choose to try for a place for their child in a school outside the catchment area of the new school.</p>	9

Reduce the variation in cost per pupil	<p>Reduce the variation in the cost per head across the Authority and across the area so that the cost per pupil is closer to the average of the Authority.</p> <p>This leads to financial savings by also using the budget more effectively and efficiently</p>	<p>Establishing two new schools would reduce the cost per head across the area from £5,137 to £4,640 which is below the average of £4,869 for the Authority.</p> <p>Annual net savings of around £210-220k [less interest costs on capital loan].</p>	8
Ensure that school buildings will create the best possible learning environment	<p>Teaching and learning facilities of the highest quality within the building and outside.</p> <p>Appropriate play areas</p> <p>Appropriate staffing and administration areas</p> <p>State of the art ICT facilities</p>	<p>Establishing new schools will lead to an improvement in the learning environment. Class facilities would include classrooms of adequate size, good natural light, good quality toilets close to the classes etc. Areas designed for teaching and learning would be located near the classroom.</p> <p>Dedicated play areas designed for pupils of different ages.</p> <p>There would be suitable accommodation for the Head and administrative staff, staff room and a room for teachers' PPA periods.</p> <p>The school would have networked ICT resources which are integrated into the design of each classroom.</p>	10
Ensure that school buildings are in good condition and that no health and safety issues	<p>The condition of the buildings will reduce maintenance costs at the area level.</p> <p>Health and safety issues:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to the site and building security 2. Parking for staff, parents and visitors 3. General 	<p>Establishing new schools would eliminate backlog maintenance. It would also be an opportunity to establish a system to ensure that periodic maintenance is being addressed appropriately.</p> <p>The design of the new school would ensure that safety matters regarding the building are properly addressed from the outset.</p> <p>The design would give due attention to the traffic on the site to ensure the safety of children / pedestrians.</p> <p>It would also give due attention to issues regarding parking for visitors and for drop-off point suitable for buses.</p>	10
Increase leadership capacity	Capacity of the school to provide adequate non-contact time.	It is anticipated that a Headteacher of a school of 150 would be teaching for some of the time.	7

	Capacity to be able to provide a deputy and management team.	In addition, in schools of similar size there is usually a small management team.	
Community use of school building	Pre and after school provision e.g. breakfast clubs, after school activities, child minding club. Summer and weekend activities Community provision to promote community activities that include parents, community members and local groups.	Facilities in the new school would be very suitable for breakfast clubs, after school clubs and other activities outside of school hours. The resources would be very appropriate for community activities e.g. a hall of sufficient size for the activities will be promoted by the Community, a suitable hall for activities such as fitness e.g. badminton.	10
Provision of Welsh and bilingual medium	Priority to strengthen and protect the Welsh and bilingual education.	This would ensure that any new appointments to the school are fully committed to further build on the strong foundation that has been laid in the area and are current in relation to the use of Welsh and bilingual proficiency.	10
Geographical Factors and travel	Travel distance. Direction of travel Transportation costs	The establishment of two new schools means less travel than to one new school but would increase the travel distance for a number of children. Travelling time is likely to be less than to one school. The number of children who walk to school are likely to be higher than for a single school e.g. if the new schools were located in Newborough and Llanddaniel then about a third of the children would be able to walk to school; this is entirely dependent on the choice of site for the new school e.g. if one new school was located in Newborough then about a third of the children would be in a position to walk to school with the rest in bus travel. It is also possible that the direction of travel to the new schools would be contrary to the parents' direction of travel to work. Transport costs would be higher than current costs.	6
Total			76

Option 3 - One new school instead of Bodorgan, Newborough, Dwyran Schools and one new school for Llangaffo, Parc y Bont and Brynsiencyn Schools

Drivers	Criteria within the driver	Commentary	Score
Raise educational standards	<p>Size [100 or more]</p> <p>The capacity of the leadership team to ensure improvements</p> <p>Teachers with more expertise in specific areas, which in turn influences the practices of other teachers</p> <p>Reduce the number mixed age classes with more than 2 age groups.</p> <p>Raise standards further</p>	<p>The two new schools would provide for about 120 and 210 children.</p> <p>According to the Authority’s formula, this would lead to a situation where the Headteachers would have a teaching responsibility for part of the week in the school of 120 pupils. It is anticipated that a school of this size would not be able to maintain a management team of more than two persons.</p> <p>In the school of 210, the Headteacher would not have a teaching responsibility for most of the week. The school would form a senior management team to lead on teaching and learning.</p> <p>There would be about 4 or 5 classes in one the schools and about 7 or 8 classes in the other which would in turn provide an opportunity for individual teachers to act as leaders for the development of literacy and numeracy and the individual subjects.</p> <p>There would be mixed-age classes in the school of 120 and mixed age classes for no more than 2 age groups in the other.</p> <p>It is anticipated that schools of this size can offer more flexibility to meet the needs of individual children which would in turn raise standards across the ability range.</p>	7
Reduce surplus places	<p>Contribute to reduce surplus places across the Authority so that surplus spaces are 15% across the Authority and 10% in individual schools</p> <p>Individual schools more than 85% full</p>	<p>The new schools would lead to a reduction of 116 in surplus places across the area – and would be designed to have no more than 10% surplus places. This option would reduce surplus places across the 6 schools from 35% to 12% and the new school would be 88% full. The surplus places for the Authority would also be reduced to 12%. One risk to this would be if some parents would choose to try for a place for their child in a school outside the catchment area of the new school.</p>	8

<p>Reduce the variation in cost per pupil</p>	<p>Reduce the variation in the cost per head across the Authority and across the area so that the cost per pupil is closer to the average of the Authority.</p> <p>This leads to financial savings by also using the budget more effectively and efficiently</p>	<p>Establishing 2 new schools would reduce the cost per head across the area from £5,137 to £4,842 which is just below the average cost of £4,869 for the Authority.</p> <p>Annual net savings of around £228k [less interest costs on capital loan].</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>Ensure that school buildings will create the best possible learning environment</p>	<p>Teaching and learning facilities of the highest quality within the building and outside.</p> <p>Appropriate play areas</p> <p>Appropriate staffing and administration areas</p> <p>State of the art ICT facilities</p>	<p>Establishing new schools will lead to an improvement in the learning environment. Class facilities would include classrooms of adequate size, good natural light, good quality toilets close to the classes etc. Areas designed for teaching and learning would be located near the classroom.</p> <p>Dedicated play areas designed for pupils of different ages.</p> <p>There would be suitable accommodation for the Head and administrative staff, staff room and a room for teachers' PPA periods.</p> <p>The school would have networked ICT resources which are integrated into the design of each classroom.</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>Ensure that school buildings are in good condition and that no health and safety issues</p>	<p>The condition of the buildings will reduce maintenance costs at the area level.</p> <p>Health and safety issues:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to the site and building security 2. Parking for staff, parents and visitors 3. General 	<p>Establishing new schools would eliminate backlog maintenance. It would also be an opportunity to establish a system to ensure that periodic maintenance is being addressed appropriately.</p> <p>The design of the new school would ensure that safety matters regarding the building are properly addressed from the outset.</p> <p>The design would give due attention to the traffic on the site to ensure the safety of children / pedestrians.</p> <p>It would also give due attention to issues regarding parking for visitors and for drop-off point suitable for buses.</p>	<p>10</p>

Increase leadership capacity	Capacity of the school to provide adequate non-contact time. Capacity to be able to provide a deputy and management team.	It is anticipated that a Headteacher of a school of 120 would be teaching for some of the time whilst the Headteacher in the school of 210 would have no teaching responsibility for much of the week. In addition, in schools of 120 pupils, there usually is a small management team whilst there would be a larger management team in the school of 210 pupils.	7
Community use of school building	Pre and after school provision e.g. breakfast clubs, after school activities, child minding club. Summer and weekend activities Community provision to promote community activities that include parents, community members and local groups.	Facilities in the new school would be very suitable for breakfast clubs, after school clubs and other activities outside of school hours. The resources would be very appropriate for community activities e.g. a hall of sufficient size for the activities will be promoted by the Community, a suitable hall for activities such as fitness e.g. badminton.	10
Provision of Welsh and bilingual medium	Priority to strengthen and protect the Welsh and bilingual education.	This would ensure that any new appointments to the school are fully committed to further build on the strong foundation that has been laid in the area and are current in relation to the use of Welsh and bilingual proficiency.	10
Geographical Factors and travel	Travel distance. Direction of travel Transportation costs	The establishment of two new schools means less travel than to one new school but would increase the travel distance for a number of children. Travelling time is likely to be less than to one school. The number of children who walk to school are likely to be higher than for a single school e.g. if the new schools were located in Newborough and Llanddaniel then about a third of the children would be able to walk to school; this is entirely dependent on the choice of site for the new school e.g. if one new school was located in Newborough then about a third of the children would be in a position to walk to school with the rest in bus travel. It is also possible that the direction of travel to the new schools would be contrary to the parents' direction of travel to work. Transport costs would be higher than current costs.	6
Total			75

Option 4 – One new school instead of Bodorgan, Newborough, Dwyran and Llangaffo Schools and one new school instead of Brynsiencyn and Parc y Bont

Drivers	Criteria within the driver	Commentary	Score
Raise educational standards	<p>Size [100 or more]</p> <p>The capacity of the leadership team to ensure improvements</p> <p>Teachers with more expertise in specific areas, which in turn influences the practices of other teachers</p> <p>Reduce the number mixed age classes with more than 2 age groups.</p> <p>Raise standards further</p>	<p>The two new schools would provide for about 180 and 150 children.</p> <p>According to the Authority’s formula, this would lead to a situation where the Headteachers would have a teaching responsibility for part of the week. It is anticipated that schools of this size would be able to maintain small management teams.</p> <p>There would be about 6 or 7 classes in the schools which would in turn provide an opportunity for individual teachers to act as leaders for the development of literacy and numeracy and the individual subjects.</p> <p>There would be mixed-age classes in the school of 150 and mixed age classes of 2 age groups in the other.</p> <p>It is anticipated that schools of this size can offer more flexibility to meet the needs of individual children which would in turn raise standards across the ability range.</p>	7
Reduce surplus places	<p>Contribute to reduce surplus places across the Authority so that surplus spaces are 15% across the Authority and 10% in individual schools</p> <p>Individual schools more than 85% full</p>	<p>The new schools would lead to a reduction of 116 in surplus places across the area – and would be designed to have no more than 10% surplus places. This option would reduce surplus places across the 6 schools from 35% to 11% and the new school would be 89% full. The surplus places for the Authority would also be reduced to 12%. One risk to this would be if some parents would choose to try for a place for their child in a school outside the catchment area of the new school.</p>	8
Reduce the variation in cost per pupil	<p>Reduce the variation in the cost per head across the Authority and across the area so that the cost per pupil is closer to the average of the Authority.</p>	<p>Establishing 2 new schools would reduce the cost per head across the area from £5,137 to £4,699 which is below the average cost of £4,869 for the Authority.</p> <p>Annual net savings of around £208k [less interest costs on capital loan].</p>	6

	This leads to financial savings by also using the budget more effectively and efficiently		
Ensure that school buildings will create the best possible learning environment	<p>Teaching and learning facilities of the highest quality within the building and outside.</p> <p>Appropriate play areas</p> <p>Appropriate staffing and administration areas</p> <p>State of the art ICT facilities</p>	<p>Establishing new schools will lead to an improvement in the learning environment. Class facilities would include classrooms of adequate size, good natural light, good quality toilets close to the classes etc. Areas designed for teaching and learning would be located near the classroom.</p> <p>Dedicated play areas designed for pupils of different ages.</p> <p>There would be suitable accommodation for the Head and administrative staff, staff room and a room for teachers' PPA periods.</p> <p>The school would have networked ICT resources which are integrated into the design of each classroom.</p>	10
Ensure that school buildings are in good condition and that no health and safety issues	<p>The condition of the buildings will reduce maintenance costs at the area level.</p> <p>Health and safety issues:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to the site and building security 2. Parking for staff, parents and visitors 3. General 	<p>Establishing new schools would eliminate backlog maintenance. It would also be an opportunity to establish a system to ensure that periodic maintenance is being addressed appropriately.</p> <p>The design of the new school would ensure that safety matters regarding the building are properly addressed from the outset.</p> <p>The design would give due attention to the traffic on the site to ensure the safety of children / pedestrians.</p> <p>It would also give due attention to issues regarding parking for visitors and for drop-off point suitable for buses.</p>	10
Increase leadership capacity	<p>Capacity of the school to provide adequate non-contact time.</p> <p>Capacity to be able to provide a deputy and management team.</p>	<p>It is anticipated that a Headteacher of a school of 150 would be teaching for some of the time.</p> <p>Additionally, in schools of this size, there usually is a small management team.</p>	8

Community use of school building	Pre and after school provision e.g. breakfast clubs, after school activities, child minding club. Summer and weekend activities Community provision to promote community activities that include parents, community members and local groups.	Facilities in the new school would be very suitable for breakfast clubs, after school clubs and other activities outside of school hours. The resources would be very appropriate for community activities e.g. a hall of sufficient size for the activities will be promoted by the Community, a suitable hall for activities such as fitness e.g. badminton.	10
Provision of Welsh and bilingual medium	Priority to strengthen and protect the Welsh and bilingual education.	This would ensure that any new appointments to the school are fully committed to further build on the strong foundation that has been laid in the area and are current in relation to the use of Welsh and bilingual proficiency.	10
Geographical Factors and travel	Travel distance. Direction of travel Transportation costs	The establishment of two new schools means less travel than to one new school but would increase the travel distance for a number of children. Travelling time is likely to be less than to one school. The number of children who walk to school are likely to be higher than for a single school e.g. if the new schools were located in Newborough and Llanddaniel then about a third of the children would be able to walk to school; this is entirely dependent on the choice of site for the new school e.g. if one new school was located in Newborough then about a third of the children would be in a position to walk to school with the rest in bus travel. It is also possible that the direction of travel to the new schools would be contrary to the parents' direction of travel to work. Transport costs would be higher than current costs.	6
Total			75

Option 2c - One new school instead of Bodorgan, Newborough and Dwyran Schools and one new school for Llangaffo and Parc y Bont. Federate Brynsiencyn School

Drivers	Criteria within the driver	Commentary	Score
Raise educational standards	<p>Size [100 or more]</p> <p>The capacity of the leadership team to ensure improvements</p> <p>Teachers with more expertise in specific areas, which in turn influences the practices of other teachers</p> <p>Reduce the number mixed age classes with more than 2 age groups.</p> <p>Raise standards further</p>	<p>The two new schools would provide for about 120 and 135 children and Brynsiencyn School would remain</p> <p>According to the Authority's formula, this would lead to a situation where the Headteachers would have a teaching responsibility for part of the week in all of the schools. It is anticipated that a school of this size would not be able to maintain a management team of more than two persons.</p> <p>There would be 4 or 5 classes in the school of 135, 4 classes in the school of 120 and 2 to 3 classes in Brynsiencyn School. This would partially provide an opportunity for individual teachers to act as leaders for the development of literacy and numeracy and in individual subjects.</p> <p>There would be mixed-age classes in the 3 schools.</p> <p>It is anticipated that schools of this size can offer more flexibility to meet the needs of individual children which would in turn raise standards across the ability range.</p>	5
Reduce surplus places	<p>Contribute to reduce surplus places across the Authority so that surplus spaces are 15% across the Authority and 10% in individual schools</p> <p>Individual schools more than 85% full</p>	<p>The reorganisation would lead to a reduction of 113 in surplus places across the area – and the new schools would be designed to have no more than 10% surplus places although surplus places would remain high (currently 37%) at Ysgol Brynsiencyn. This option would reduce surplus places across the 6 schools from 35% to 12% and the two new schools would be over 90% full. The surplus places for the Authority would also be reduced to 12%. One risk to this would be if some parents would choose to try for a place for their child in a school outside the catchment area of the new school.</p>	8
Reduce the variation in	<p>Reduce the variation in the cost per head across the Authority and across the area so that the cost per pupil</p>	<p>Establishing two new schools would reduce the cost per head across the area from £5,137 to £4,916 which is 1% above the average of £4,869 for the</p>	8

cost per pupil	<p>is closer to the average of the Authority.</p> <p>This leads to financial savings by also using the budget more effectively and efficiently</p>	<p>Authority. The cost per head consist of £5,375 for Brynsiencyn (10% above the Anglesey average) , £4,636 for the new primary school (5% below the Anglesey average) and £4,935 for the new school for Llangaffo and Parc Y Bont (1% above the Anglesey average).</p> <p>Annual net savings of around £210k [less interest costs on capital loan].</p>	
Ensure that school buildings will create the best possible learning environment	<p>Teaching and learning facilities of the highest quality within the building and outside.</p> <p>Appropriate play areas</p> <p>Appropriate staffing and administration areas</p> <p>State of the art ICT facilities</p>	<p>Establishing new schools will lead to an improvement in the learning environment. Class facilities would include classrooms of adequate size, good natural light, good quality toilets close to the classes etc. Areas designed for teaching and learning would be located near the classroom.</p> <p>Dedicated play areas designed for pupils of different ages.</p> <p>There would be suitable accommodation for the Head and administrative staff, staff room and a room for teachers' PPA periods. However, the overall layout of Brynsiencyn School would not change much. If this option were chosen, at least one additional classroom would be required at Ysgol Parc Y Bont along with ancillary facilities e.g toilets and cloakrooms.</p> <p>The school would have networked ICT resources which are integrated into the design of each classroom.</p>	9
Ensure that school buildings are in good condition and that no health and safety issues	<p>The condition of the buildings will reduce maintenance costs at the area level.</p> <p>Health and safety issues:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to the site and building security 2. Parking for staff, parents and visitors 3. General 	<p>Establishing new schools would eliminate backlog maintenance. The backlog maintenance for Brynsiencyn School would be cleared if this option was chosen and some remodelling would be done.</p> <p>The design of the new school would ensure that safety matters regarding the building are properly addressed from the outset.</p> <p>The design would give due attention to the traffic on the site to ensure the safety of children / pedestrians.</p> <p>It would also give due attention to issues regarding parking for visitors and for drop-off point suitable for buses.</p>	10

Increase leadership capacity	Capacity of the school to provide adequate non-contact time. Capacity to be able to provide a deputy and management team.	It is anticipated that a Headteacher of a school of 120, 135 and Brynsiencyn School would be teaching for some of the time. In addition, in schools of similar size there is usually a small management team.	7
Community use of school building	Pre and after school provision e.g. breakfast clubs, after school activities, child minding club. Summer and weekend activities Community provision to promote community activities that include parents, community members and local groups.	Facilities in the new school would be very suitable for breakfast clubs, after school clubs and other activities outside of school hours. The resources would be very appropriate for community activities e.g. a hall of sufficient size for the activities will be promoted by the Community, a suitable hall for activities such as fitness e.g. badminton.	10
Provision of Welsh and bilingual medium	Priority to strengthen and protect the Welsh and bilingual education.	This would ensure that any new appointments to the school are fully committed to further build on the strong foundation that has been laid in the area and are current in relation to the use of Welsh and bilingual proficiency.	10
Geographical Factors and travel	Travel distance. Direction of travel Transportation costs	The establishment of two new schools and retaining Brynsiencyn School means less travel than to one new school but would increase the travel distance for some of children. Travelling time is likely to be less than to one school. The number of children who walk to school are likely to be higher than for a single school e.g. if the new schools were located in Newborough and Llanddaniel and Brynsiencyn is to be retained, then more than a third of the children would be able to walk to school; this is entirely dependent on the choice of site for the new school e.g. if one new school was located in Newborough then about a third of the children would be in a position to walk to school with the rest in bus travel. It is also possible that the direction of travel to the new schools would be contrary to the parents' direction of travel to work. Transport costs would still be higher than current costs.	8
Total			75

16.5 The table below summarises the information in the above analysis.

Drivers	Option				
	1	2	3	4	2c
1. Raise educational standards	10	6	7	7	5
2. Reduce surplus places	8	9	8	8	8
3. Reduce the variation in cost per pupil	9	8	7	6	8
4. Ensure that school buildings will create the best possible learning environment	10	10	10	10	9
5. Ensure that school buildings are in good condition and that no health and safety issues	10	10	10	10	10
6. Increase leadership capacity	10	7	7	8	7
7. Community use of school building	10	10	10	10	10
8. Provision of Welsh and bilingual medium	10	10	10	10	10
9. Geographical Factors and travel	4	6	6	6	8
Total	81	76	75	75	75

16.6 Attention is drawn to the following issues.

- The scores for factors 4, 5, 7 and 8 are very similar in that the new schools will ensure that specific issues related to school buildings, health and safety issues, community use and Welsh medium and bilingual provision will be addressed in a similar fashion whatever the final configuration.
- Option 1 - one area school - scores the highest. However, this option also scores the lowest in relation to geographical factors and travel time – the number of pupils travelling by bus and cost would be the highest, the time of travel from one extremity [Llanddaniel to Newborough for example] would be close to the maximum time limit noted by WG.
- The scores for the four other options – two new area schools - are all very close. Each of these options score higher than Option 1 on the geographic and travel driver.

16.7 In view of the above it is suggested that the preferred option should be based on a two new area school configuration.

16.8 Locating one of the new schools in the Newborough area would mean that about a third of the children are able to walk to school. It is suggested that this area school should replace the current schools at Newborough and Dwyrn [as the two schools already operate as a federation], Bodorgan [as a substantial % of pupils live in the village of Malltraeth and the road link is good] and possibly Llangaffo [as a substantial % of pupils in the school have Newborough postcodes and the road link is good] and Brynsiencyn [as the road link to the Newborough area is good]. A location in the Newborough area would also be convenient for many parents from Newborough and possibly Malltraeth who travel on the B4421 towards the A55 to work. This is perhaps not the case for parents of pupils in Llangaffo and Brynsiencyn. However, it should be noted that a large number of Llangaffo parents live within the Newborough postcode.

Locating the other new school in a remodelled Parc y Bont would ensure that parents who live in Llanddaniel and in the area around the A4080 would be able to attend their catchment area school. In addition, if the present designation as a Church in Wales school was to continue then pupils in the present Llangaffo could choose to attend the school. In this context, the existing Parc Y Bont site would need to be modified to address the traffic issues identified at the start and end of the school day. It is also possible that the new school could cater for pupils attending Brynsiencyn as a number of Brynsiencyn parents already choose to attend Parc y Bont and Llanfairpwll [thus travelling along the A4080].

The above suggests that options 2 [including 2c], 3 and 4 could be appropriate.

17. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

17.1 Each of the four options appraised above have been evaluated from a financial perspective. The following have been considered for each option - capital costs, revenue savings, transport costs, capital receipts and borrowing costs have been considered for each of the four options.

It should be noted that the costs and savings are the *best estimates* available at this point.

17.2 Option 1: Build a new school for the area

Option	Capital cost	Revenue savings	Transport costs	Capital receipts
1	£8,320,000	£315,821	£82,650	£1,583,000

Net savings	£233,171	Net project cost	£6,737,000
		Cost to be financed	£2,577,000

The estimated net savings from this option are £233,171 and the estimated net project cost is £6,737,000. Borrowing costs, to service the £2,577,000 of unsupported borrowing, will peak at £236,000 p.a. in 2019/20.

17.3 Option 2: A new school for Bodorgan, Brynsiencyn, Newborough, Dwyran and one new school for Llangaffo and Parc Y Bont.

Option	Capital cost	Revenue savings	Transport costs	Total transport	Capital receipts
2a	£4,700,400	£230,225	£47,880	£65,930	£545,000
2b	£1,252,000	£54,823	£18,050		£198,000

Net savings	£182,345		£4,155,400
	£36,773		£1,054,000
	<u>£219,118</u>	Net project cost	£5,209,400
		Cost to be financed	£2,233,200

The estimated net savings from this option are £219,118 and the estimated net project cost is £5,209,400. Borrowing costs, to service the £2,233,200 of unsupported borrowing will peak at about £190,000 p.a. in 2019/20.

17.4 Option 3: A new school for Bodorgan, Newborough, Dwyran and one new school for Llangaffo, Parc y Bont and Brynsiencyn

Option	Capital cost	Revenue savings	Transport costs	Total transport	Capital receipts
3a	£4,195,000	£135,236	£31,160	£65,930	£220,000
3b	£5,078,700	£92,618	£34,770		£523,000

Net savings	£104,076		£3,975,000
	£57,848		£4,555,700
	<u>£161,924</u>	Net project cost	£8,530,700
		Cost to be financed	£3,893,850

The estimated net savings from this option are £161,924 and the estimated net project cost is £8,530,700. Borrowing costs, to service £3,893,850 of unsupported borrowing, will peak at about £319,000 p.a. in 2019/20.

17.5 Option 4: A new school for Bodorgan, Newborough, Dwyran and Llangaffo and a new school for Brynsiencyn and Parc Y Bont.

Option	Capital cost	Revenue savings	Transport costs	Total transport	Capital receipts
4a	£4,700,400	£209,258	£46,360	£63,080	£418,000
4b	£1,252,000	£62,666	£16,720		£325,000

Net savings	£162,898		£4,282,400
	£45,946		£927,000
	<u>£208,844</u>		Net project cost £5,209,400
			Cost to be financed £2,233,200

The estimated net savings from this option are £208,844 and the estimated net project cost is £5,209,400. Borrowing costs, to service the £2,233,200 of unsupported borrowing, will peak at about £197,000 p.a. in 2019/20.

17.6 Option 2c: A new school for Bodorgan, Newborough, Dwyran and one new school for Llangaffo and Parc Y Bont but including Brynsiencyn in a federation with another school.

Option	Capital cost	Revenue savings	Transport costs	Total transport	Capital receipts
'2c'	£4,195,000	£205,058	£31,920	£49,970	£220,000
2b	£1,252,000	£54,823	£18,050		£198,000

Net savings	£173,138		£3,975,000
	£36,773		£1,054,000
	<u>£209,911</u>		Net project cost £5,029,000
			Cost to be financed £2,305,500

Note – The cost of backlog maintenance for Brynsiencyn School (c£90,000) has not been taken into consideration. If Brynsiencyn School was federated, the Headteacher's post would be removed thereby creating a saving although these have not been costed at present.

The estimated net savings from this option are £209,911 and the estimated net project cost is £5,029,000. Borrowing costs, to service the £2,305,500 of unsupported borrowing, will peak at about £188,000 p.a. in 2019/20.

17.7 A summary of the figures presented in sections 17.2 – 17.6 is presented below.

Option	Financed cost	Net saving	Peak borrowing cost
1	2,577,000	315,821	236,000
2	2,233,200	219,118	190,000
3	3,893,850	161,924	319,000
4	2,233,200	208,844	197,000
2c	2,305,500	209,911	188,000

The figures show that options 2, 2c and 4, namely

- Option 2: A new school for Bodorgan School, Brynsiencyn, Newborough, Dwyran and one new school for Llangaffo and Parc Y Bont;

- Option 4: A new school for Bodorgan School, Newborough, Dwyran and Llangaffo and a new school for Brynsiencyn and Parc Y Bont;
 - Option 2c: One new school instead of Bodorgan, Newborough and Dwyran Schools and one new school for Llangaffo and Parc y Bont. Federate Brynsiencyn School
- are the most affordable options, lead to the highest revenue savings and best match the foreseen Peak borrowing cost. Option 2c has the lowest peak borrowing costs and would give rise to the largest overall saving.

The only difference between the option is the location of Ysgol Llangaffo in the reorganisation.

Ysgol Llangaffo could be included as part of the new area school in the Newborough area. The advantages of such an option are proximity to the new school, quality of the road link to the new school etc. One possible disadvantage is that pupils from the Llangaffo catchment area wanting to attend a Church in Wales school would have to attend an out of catchment area school in Parc y Bont.

Ysgol Llangaffo could be included as part of the re-modelled Parc y Bont. The main disadvantage of this option is the road infrastructure between Llangaffo and Llanddaniel. This reflects Bangor Diocese Education Department's concern that parents from Llangaffo might not choose Parc y Bont because of local geography, road infrastructure and the apparent tendency to travel north towards the A55, rather than east or west. However, the findings from the parental questionnaire need to be noted, namely that the status of the school was the fifth most important factor for parents of pupils at Llangaffo School.

As noted in section 6, the Governors of Brynsiencyn School expressed an interest in working in partnership with another school, thus keeping the school on the existing site but under a different management structure. They also emphasised that a substantial % of pupils walk to school [as is the case for Newborough] – this has been proven in the traffic survey. This suggestion could be incorporated in the reconfiguration by officially federating Brynsiencyn with another school. This would lead to Brynsiencyn becoming part of another school with one governing body and one budget - one school on two sites. The reasons for considering this option are listed below.

- Journey times. If Brynsiencyn School was closed and the pupils were to be transferred to the new school in Newborough, the travel time from Brynsiencyn to Newborough would involve picking up pupils along the way in Dwyran and other places and would mean that the journey time could be close to the maximum time limit noted by Welsh Government i.e. 45 minutes.
- A large percentage of pupils at Brynsiencyn walk to school and sustainability is an important issue for Welsh Government. The document “**One Wales: One Planet** - The Sustainable Development Scheme of the Welsh Assembly Government” of May 2009 stated: “We want to increase the percentage of children who walk to school to match the UK average”.
- Figures from the 2014 School Census showed that 30% of pupils receive free school meals – this is the joint highest in the area. This measure is generally regarded as a measure of deprivation. This is higher than the average of 21.4% for Anglesey primary schools and higher than the average for Wales (20.8%). This would tend to support the point raised by some parents in Brynsiencyn that many do not have a car. It would also tend to strengthen the argument that Brynsiencyn School is a school for the community.
- The percentage of Welsh speakers in Brynsiencyn is the highest out of the 6 schools under consideration at 72%. This would support the ‘*Welsh medium and bilingual provision*’ driver for change specified in section 2 of this report.
- Journey to Llanddaniel. If Brynsiencyn School was closed and the pupils were to be transferred to

the remodelled Ysgol Parc y Bont, a 50 seater bus or coach would be required for transporting the pupils. However, the bus or coach would have travel on an unclassified road to Llanddaniel. Although the road is “generally more than 4 metres wide” according to Ordnance Survey maps, it is not an ideal route.

- Traffic arrangements around the school are deemed to be safe.
- The school is widely used by the community for example by the village football club, community council, elections, parties and other activities. Closing Brynsiencyn School would mean the loss of this facility for the community.
- As outlined in section 16 of the report, the
 - net project cost would be 3.5% less (£5,209,400 minus £5,029,000) for option 2c compared to option 2. In other words, the new school in the western part of South West Anglesey would not cost as much because it would not need to accommodate so many pupils. However, remodelling work on Parc Y Bont would still be required;
 - net savings would be 4% less (£219,000 minus £210,000) for option 2c compared to option 2;
 - peak borrowing costs would be 1% less (£190,000 minus £188,000) for option 2c compared to option 2;
 - cost the Authority would need to finance option 2c (£2,305,500) is 3% higher than for option 2 (£2,233,200).

- 17.8 The analysis also needs to take account of the need to consider the current and future Church in Wales provision. In this context, it is important to compare the provision in a community school (e.g. Ysgol Brynsiencyn, Ysgol Bodorgan, Ysgol Dwyran and Ysgol Niwbwrch) and a voluntary controlled (V.C.) Church in Wales school (e.g. Ysgol Parc Y Bont and Ysgol Llangaffo).

There are minor differences between a community school and a voluntary controlled (V.C.) Church in Wales school. Some of these are outlined below.

Areas in common with other schools

As for any other school, a VC voluntary controlled school is required to

- follow the National Curriculum;
- present Religious Education as part of the curriculum following the Anglesey Agreed Syllabus;
- hold a daily act of collective worship (namely hold a service every day for the whole school, in departments or class by class;
- nurture moral and spiritual values as well as other principles such as respect for others;
- inform parents of their right to withdraw the child from the collective worship and the Religious Education if they wish.

Differences in a Church in Wales VC primary school.

- A minority of governors are appointed to the Governing Body by the Church in Wales following statutory guidelines.
- The school’s collective worship and Christian character is supported and monitored by the Church in Wales.
- The Headteacher is asked to support and develop the school as a church school and its Christian character and values. Some of the Christian values are noted below:
 - Inclusion, namely equal opportunities for everyone, promoting each learner’s welfare and encouraging young people to achieve their full potential;
 - opportunity for pupils to consider the spiritual dimension to life;
 - respect each other’s background by encouraging young people to discover and understand

what they have in common, nurture a positive attitude to a variety of faiths. It should be noted that these are values developed in the six schools in question and shows that the difference between a voluntary controlled school and a community school is minimal.

18. RECOMMENDATION

18.1 Option A

This would be based on Option 2, namely *a new school for Bodorgan, Brynsiencyn, Newborough, 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 about a third of the children are able to walk to school.

Any remodelling at Parc y Bont would need to address the traffic issues identified at the start and end of the school day.

This option could also include the federation of Ysgol Brynseincyn with another school i.e. maintaining the school on the present site but under a different management arrangement.

Option B

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

Any remodelling at Parc y Bont would need to address the traffic issues identified at the start and end of the school day.

This option could also include the federation of Ysgol Brynseincyn with another school i.e. maintaining the school on the present site but under a different management arrangement.

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

21st Century Schools

The Isle Of Anglesey County Council considers that a 21st Century School should be able to provide the following:

Teaching and Learning Facilities

Suitable teaching areas, including sufficient:

- Classrooms of an appropriate size which are spacious and well lit (as specified in the current Welsh Government guidance and Construction Bulletins)
- Suitable facilities for the Foundation Phase, including outside areas (as specified in the current Welsh Government guidance and Construction Bulletins)
- Areas for specialist practical work, including technology and art activities
- Modern ICT equipment
- Adequate storage areas (as specified in the current Welsh Government guidance and Construction Bulletins)
- Access to a learning resources room (as specified in the current Welsh Government guidance and Construction Bulletins)
- Smaller rooms for smaller groups e.g. targeted and SEN pupils
- An open air teaching area in the school grounds
- A school hall and dining facilities of an appropriate size (as specified in the current Welsh Government guidance and Construction Bulletins). Depending on the size of the school, this could be a dual use hall. Spring floors may be required for dual use school halls. There must be a dedicated store for dining tables.

Community Facilities

A 21st Century School must be able to provide community services during school hours, in shared or dedicated areas. Consideration must be given to enabling wide ranging community use while prioritising the safety of children.

Sports Facilities

- A grassed, private and safe area of adequate size within the school grounds (as specified in the current Welsh Government guidance and Construction Bulletins)
- A hard playing area (school yard) of appropriate size bearing in mind the capacity of the school (as specified in the current Welsh Government guidance and Construction Bulletins)

Staff and Administration Areas

- Staff room(s)
- Separate staff toilets
- Staff working area (PPA)
- Head teacher's office
- Secretarial / Administration office
- Medical / Patient room
- Resources / Photocopying room
- Interview room

General

- The school buildings must be in excellent condition and maintained at that level
- There must be disabled access to the full range of facilities.
- The building/buildings must be safe and include the following features:
 - A signposted reception area
 - Can be locked during the day with a single controlled access point to areas used by children
 - A safe fence surrounding the school site, but allowing public access to the school playing fields outside school hours, and a burglar alarm system
 - A fenced/enclosed area for Foundation Phase activities
 - Internal and external security cameras
 - Meeting the current building regulation standards for school buildings
 - Smoke detector and sprinkler systems installed
 - Meeting the requirement of the Equality Act 2010 for the whole building to be accessible to all
 - Separate access for vehicles and pedestrians
 - Bus loading and unloading point (where appropriate)
 - Safe bike storage area
 - No mobile classrooms or temporary learning areas
 - The appropriate number of washbasins / toilets / cloakrooms for the number of pupils
 - Use of renewable technologies where appropriate, e.g. wind turbines, solar / photovoltaic panels, recycling facilities, ground source heat pumps and / or wood burning boilers conforming with BREEAM standards, thereby reducing the carbon footprint
 - All references to size and space standards should conform with the relevant guidance published by Welsh Government and included in the appropriate Construction Bulletins

CYNGOR CYMUNED BODORGAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Clerc/Clerk -

9 December 2014

School Modernisation
Education Service

C
Park Mount
Ffordd Glanhwfa
LLANGEFN1
Ynys Môn LL77 EY

Dear Sir,

Re: Future of Ysgol Gymuned Bodorgan

I write on behalf of Bodorgan Community Council following its special meeting to consider your plans for rationalising schools in South West Anglesey.

The council is firmly and strongly opposed to any plan to close the educational facility in the community of Bodorgan. Since the Aberffraw area is part of the Ysgol Bodorgan catchment area (by parental choice), and since Ysgol Aberffraw has already been closed, closing Ysgol Bodorgan would leave a large part of south west Anglesey in an educational wilderness.

Education has been the historic strength of rural Wales, nurturing its unique culture and traditions. It has also been responsible for the survival of the language and its current strength through bilingual learning. Families are active and supportive in the communities themselves and this largely explains why the culture flourishes and extends to non Welsh speaking homes. Closing schools in rural communities would destroy all of this and it would endanger the future of the language itself in the long term.

In Bodorgan, the school building provides the only community facility in the whole area, on which several groups depend. There is a long term legal agreement safeguarding community use of the building at the County Council's expense. This undertaking would significantly reduce any financial savings the Council hopes to make.

The Community Council accepts and understands that the County Council is facing financial pressures. They do not accept, however, that reducing education is the way forward in response to necessary cut backs. They believe there are several other ways the Council could respond more effectively - by reducing waste, cancelling some of the madcap schemes which have recently been outlined in the press and taking a more constructive approach to reducing central expenditure.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Chair, BODORGAN Community Council.



Cano/fan Gymunedol **BODORGAN** *Community Centre*

CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL
19 DEC 2014
ADRAN ADDYSG A HAMDDEN
DERBYNIWYD/RECEIVED

10 December 2014

School Modernisation
Education Service
Park Mount
Ffordd Glanhwfa
LLANGEFN1
Ynys Môn
LL77 7EY

Dear Sir,

Re: Future of Ysgol Gymuned Bodorgan

I write on behalf of the Management Committee of the community centre. Naturally, they are completely opposed to any change which would remove basic education from the community of Bodorgan. They believe that there would be no real saving from closing the school since the existing long term lease means that the County Council has to meet a financial obligation which cannot be avoided.

Removing education from this rural community would create terrible harm and endanger the future of the community itself. The long term effect of this course of action would be to harm the culture and future of the Welsh language. We realise that politicians have exceptionally short term horizons. It is vital that they understand the long term implications of the plan they have approved. They should realise that this community will ensure they are held to account for any harm resulting from their action.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Elusen Rhif/Charity No -700192
Cadeirydd/Chairman -.
Ysgrifennydd/Secretary -.

Malltraeth Ymlaen 'cyf'

Tel:
E-bost:

10th December 2014

Rheolwr Rhaglen (Moderneiddio Ysgolion)
Gwasanaeth Addysg
Parc Mownt
Ffordd Glanhwfa
LLANGFNI
Ynys Môn
LL77 7EY



Dear Sir,

Re: Community School Bodorgan

I write on behalf of the Community Group Bodorgan to express our total opposition to any plan to move primary education away from this community.

Our reasons are many and varied and we will make them clear if the current proposals are move beyond the informal consultation period.

The authorities have decided to invest in "smarter working" but would do better to consider "smarter thinking" and realize the harm that would result from the closure of rural schools.

The strong Welsh culture has been derived from the traditions and cultures of rural communities, and prospered by providing education locally. Deleting the education provision in the local communities would destroy them and ultimately destroy the associated culture and even the language as well. A rural people identify themselves with their local communities and are willing to work together to strengthen communities, with the local school as the focal point. If the school is closed, the cooperation with the community cannot be transferred to other centers.

In Bodorgan, the school building is the only community facility available, and fortunately it a long term lease. Within the lease that has financial implications on the County Council - the financial implications that would significantly reduce any potential saving of closure. As it appears that funding is the main driver of this program, we suggest respectfully that you eliminate waste and central costs first before trimming any frontline services.

(Signed)

Copiâu - Clerc Cyngor Cymuned Bodorgan
Y Cynghorwyr

MALLTRAETH YMLAEN cyf—cwmni cyfyngiedig drwy warant.

CYNGOR CYMUNED
ABERFFRAW
COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Clerc / Clerk:

Education Service,
Isle of Anglesey Council,
Park Mount,
Ffordd Glanhwfa,
Llangefni,
Ynys Môn
LL77 7EY.

19/12/2014

Dear ,

Review of Primary Schools in South West Anglesey

I would like to thank you on behalf of Aberffraw Community Council for your presentation on Wednesday evening 17 December.

You will be aware that the response of Council members to the proposals was varied and I hope they take the opportunity to voice their opinions individually.

On behalf of Aberffraw Community Council in general, I confirm that the Council accepts that the current situation is unsustainable and must be changed towards a system which provides for larger primary schools.

With regard to the village and community of Aberffraw specifically, some expressed concern about having to face a change in primary education for the second time since the village school closed in 2011.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Clerc

Ysgol Gynradd Brynsiencyn

Appendix 6



18th December 2014

C

Programme Manager
The Education Service
Anglesey Council
Park Mount
Glanhwfa Road
Llangefni
Anglesey
LL77 7EY

Dear ,

Re: Primary Schools Review - South West Anglesey

Please find enclosed the response of the Governing Body of Brynsiencyn School to the Non-Statutory Consultation – Bro Rhosyr and Bro Aberffraw Areas.

We look forward to receiving the initial response to this process and the recommendations made by the Officers to the Executive Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Chairman

Ysgol Gynradd Brynsiencyn



Anglesey LEA Schools' Modernisation Programme Proposals

The Governing Body of Brynsiencyn School is committed and enthusiastic in supporting the staff to ensure that the children receive the best possible education in order to achieve their predicted targets both in the Foundation Phase and at Key Stage Two.

The Governors have met on five occasions and discussed the above proposals. Three of these meetings were convened specifically for this purpose. As a result of these discussions we, as a Governing Body, would like to make the following observations:

Regarding the current provision and facilities at our school:

Brynsiencyn School is built on a large, ideally located site where there would be ample scope for expansion to accommodate larger numbers of pupils without losing valuable sporting and play opportunities for pupils, particularly those in the Foundation Phase. The outside area for play and learning is essential and a very important aspect of the Foundation Phase Curriculum. The main entrance to the school is in a very safe location whilst the access road is wide, with parking bays on both sides of the road outside the school gates. Brynsiencyn itself is on a direct route to the A55 and the two Bridges, which allows parents good access to other areas of Anglesey and the mainland. The majority of traffic flows through the village in an eastward direction in the mornings, and does not impinge on the vehicular access to the school. In contrast, other schools in the area have considerable problems with congestion at school drop off and collection times. The large, spacious site has allowed for provision of a poly tunnel and an area for growing vegetables and wild flowers, making the children aware of the joy of growing flowers, their own food and of healthy eating. Members of the local community have been involved in supporting this initiative by working with the staff and children on a regular basis. Further outdoor projects, such as keeping chickens (successfully piloted in Ysgol San Sior, Llandudno, and featured on last week's BBC Countryfile) could be developed on the site, allowing for the development of key skills in innovative and even financially profitable ways encouraging the children to learn about elements of entrepreneurship. There is also ample space and a southerly aspect which would be perfect for installing energy efficient technology to utilise

wind and solar energy, leading to long term savings particularly for heating the buildings which represents a large proportion of a school's budget nowadays.

At present, 96% of the children in Brynsiencyn School come from the village itself. The vast majority of children (about 90%) walk to school and there is a separate pedestrian access, situated away from the main entrance, leading from the main residential part of the village. This confirms the fact that Brynsiencyn is a true community school. The environmental and health benefits of being able to walk to school are well documented and we would be sad if our children were denied this opportunity. Not using cars or buses is also of great benefit to the environment, and must constitute an important factor, which should be considered when the LEA make their decision. For older Primary children, being able to walk to school unaccompanied encourages self-confidence and a degree of autonomy. The parents have stated firmly that they would not wish their young children to travel any distance to school, especially by bus.

There is a Breakfast Club held in the school and After School provision is being offered by local provider, Siwgr Plwm Day Nursery, which provides a similar service for another local school. This service would be a great advantage for parents wishing to drop their children off on their way to work and collect them at a convenient time after finishing work. It is likely that an increase in school numbers would create a greater demand for after school provision.

Our school is very much part of the village community with most children having extended family members living locally. This is significant as many families do not have their own transport, and grandparents and other extended family often step in to take and collect children from school, or collect children taken ill during the day. Children are also able to take part in many extra-curricular activities, such as The Urdd and sport, without the need for transport being provided. In a school with a high percentage of children receiving Free School Meals (26% in 2014, the second highest in the area) this is an important consideration ensuring that all children have equal opportunities. The local community is also strongly supportive of the school through attending special events and fundraising such as the Christmas Fair, Harvest Festival Service, and Christmas Concert. The children are regularly invited to take part in the Church Carol Concert and the Vicar of the Parish and the Local Minister visit the school on a regular basis to partake in various ways.

There is a strong Welsh cultural and linguistic ethos in the school with 72% of pupils speaking Welsh at home, the highest of any school in the review. The families, staff and Governors are committed to maintaining this and we are particularly concerned that this strong emphasis on the Welsh language could be subtly eroded by amalgamation with schools where a weaker Welsh language ethos prevails and with fewer first language Welsh speakers

The school has a strong family atmosphere with older siblings or extended family members offering support to younger children when they are settling in to their new surroundings. An independent Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin cylch meithrin currently

uses a room in the school, giving the very young children an opportunity to become familiar with the school environment before they start attending the Reception Class. The standards of education and test results for the school are excellent with professional and experienced staff having created a warm and caring environment for the children.

As a general response to the Consultation document we wish to offer the following comments:

Two of the main drivers for change are the need to reduce surplus places across the area and the need to reduce the overall spend-per-head. We, as a Governing Body, challenge the fact that these performance indicators are applied equally, and unfairly, to urban and rural areas. Please see our letter to Rhun ap Iorwerth AM, which is attached, on these points. That said, we appreciate that the LEA is under considerable pressure to make space and cost savings, and that this may lead to some unavoidable closures. Across the 6 schools surplus places could be significantly reduced with relatively little disruption by closing those buildings which are less adaptable for expansion, and investing in those which remain to make them fit for the 21st century.

A key priority in Modernisation is that of raising standards. We would wholeheartedly agree with this, but feel that this will be best achieved by investing in Leadership and Management rather than the construction of new school buildings. The LEA presentation highlighted the fact that good schools are well led, and that non-teaching Heads are needed to provide excellent leadership and management of teaching staff. Appointment of non-contact Head Teachers is not viable in small schools, so the argument is made that a larger school or schools is needed. In a rural area such as ours, however, we would suggest that this key priority points instead to the need for Federalisation. Taking schools away from villages would be disastrous, but linking schools so that they share a non-teaching Head, responsible for co-ordinating the curriculum, with possibly a team of shared specialist-subject teachers, could be an effective and resource-efficient model. Teachers, rather than children, could move between school sites, minimising the need for additional transport, and providing subject-specific days at each school. A structure such as this might offer a more rewarding and exciting career prospect for Heads and teachers alike, attracting more candidates to education in the area.

Whilst modern buildings may be desirable, school reputations ultimately rest on teaching standards, quality of Head Teachers and staff, and high quality teaching resources more than state-of-the-art buildings. Parents who choose to drive their children out of their catchment area do so because they feel local schools are offering a poorer standard of education. The way to combat this is not to build more 'out-of-the-area' schools, but to invest in the local schools to attract parents back to their localities. The LEA presentation suggested that it cannot be assumed that children born in a locality will go on to attend school in that locality. If local schools are replaced by one large school for an area this will become a self-fulfilling

prophecy. An investment in local schools, on the other hand, could be the key to attracting all local children back to their neighbourhood school. The fact that housing stock retains or increases its value in communities where there is a local school bears out the fact that virtually all parents would prefer their children, especially those of Primary age, to be educated in the local community.

New schools may be built as 'fit for the 21st century', but in a relatively short time they too will be outdated and in need of repair. In housing terms it is not general practise to knock a building down and start again from scratch, but to renovate, extend and modernise. We question why schools should be any different, especially when saving money is a priority. The purchase of new land, disposal of current assets, building, borrowing and legal costs will all be far more expensive than extending and improving existing facilities such as those in Brynsiencyn. Financial plans for the proposed modernisation measures seem to rely heavily on the sale of existing sites. However, it is unlikely that these sites will be attractive to housing developers if they are in localities which will no longer have a village school and also if the developer has to meet current Planning requirements for building Affordable housing as part of an overall project. The Council could be left with money tied up in unsaleable assets and with the financial burden of a massive funding gap if this policy is pursued. We also wish to challenge the backlog maintenance figure of £120K quoted in the document for Brynsiencyn School, as some maintenance work has already been carried out. We believe that, having looked at the breakdown of costs, that a more accurate estimate would be under £80K.

The LEA presentation drew attention to the considerable movement of children between catchment areas across the Bro Rhosyr district, presumably to suggest that many people are already prepared to travel some distance to school. This movement, however, is by families who can afford to drive, probably dropping off children on their way to work, and should not be used to argue for greater mobility across the area. Poorer families rely on good education being provided in an easily accessible local school. Apart from the huge costs associated with transporting children to larger, centrally located schools, we are very concerned that this aspect of the proposals has not been fully thought through. A bus service could see children as young as four travelling several miles each day and families without their own transport might not be able to collect them from school if they were ill. Bussing children to schools further away will be particularly detrimental to children from deprived areas as presumably only one bus service would be available each way. The problem with this is that pre and after-school extra-curricular activities (mentioned in the LEA presentation as a vital part of education) would either be forced upon, or denied to all children from families without cars, as they would be reliant on the transport provided. Their children would either miss out on a range of extra-curricular opportunities, or have a long school day forced upon them so that they would have no chance to simply go out to play after school. This again would not be conducive to equal opportunities for all.

Issues of Health and Safety and Child Protection would also need serious consideration if transport to schools was provided, and for these reasons we would regard Escorts on buses as essential. Children's emotional security and wellbeing must be safeguarded by providing protection against bullying and intimidation, as well as a responsible adult to deal with health problems and other emergencies. Drivers cannot be expected to take responsibility for these safeguarding issues.

Furthermore, the Consultation document states that "transport is not provided for part-time nursery pupils" (p.22), so nursery provision within walking distance is more important in areas of greater deprivation. Closure of a school such as Brynsiencyn would threaten this provision, where the nursery is housed in the school, but independent of it, as it would be unlikely to survive as a stand-alone service.

Conclusion:

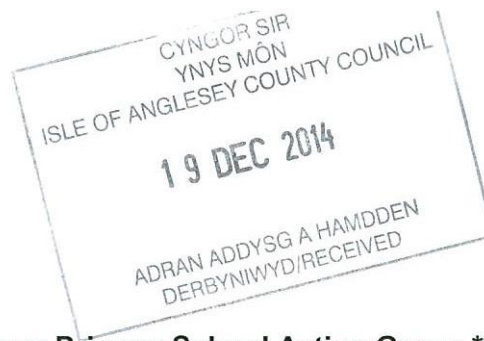
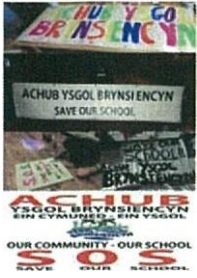
The current situation, and a comparison between the 6 schools in question, does not throw up an *obvious* solution, and this should lead to careful consideration of *all* possible options without bias before a decision is made. Whilst the provision of excellent education for our children is paramount, consideration should also be given to the geography of the area, most parents' reluctance to have their young children travel any distance to school, and the impact of closures on each local community when discussing what measures to take. In Brynsiencyn a recently formed Action Group protesting the proposed closures has gained some 400 members, with posters around the village and peaceful protests demonstrating the overwhelming strength of support for our school within the community. They are also preparing their own response to the Consultation Document.

We accept that some change is likely in the review area which may include closing some schools, but feel strongly, for the above sound reasons, that Brynsiencyn should not be one of them. We also accept that in due course children from the catchment area may use Brynsiencyn School, and we could see Federalisation as part of the overall solution.

On behalf of the Governing Body of Brynsiencyn School

Chairman

17 December 2014



**** Save Brynsiencyn Primary School Action Group ****

The Brynsiencyn 'Save our school action group' believes that Ysgol Gynradd Brynsiencyn offers ideal conditions for our young children's learning. Personal attention leads to a sense of identity and a belief that effort is worthwhile. The current Loyal, committed teachers work as a team, with the children staying well on task. A typical example, The 2014 Christmas school concert demonstrated the outstanding excellence by devoted staff at all levels and by the young infants and juniors.

PLEASE NOTE: Smaller schools are caring places, close to home, family and community.

Tired old arguments that small schools cannot cope with the curriculum are now being thoroughly refuted in ways the public understands. In Estyn inspections and national tests in Wales, small schools are doing as well as and often better than the rest!

Children in small schools are secure, work hard, co-operate effectively, are happy to accept responsibility, have self-esteem, and behave very well. We the 'Save our school action group' believe that small schools are essential to the future well-being of society, ideally placed to serve as significant enterprises in their communities. Both the education of the children and the life of the community are enriched. We firmly believe that small schools represent a valuable stake in community provision.

As the 'Save our school action group' we object to any of the proposals tabled in the consultation document that would lead to Ysgol Gynradd Brynsiencyn being closed. The proposals completely fail to demonstrate that replacing our school would lead to **an improved education for our children**. Observing the options tabled for Ysgol Gynradd Brynsiencyn, the proposals are clearly driven solely by 'resources management' and **not by school improvement, the interests of our children or their educational benefit**.

By closing village schools this will also distract young families moving into that community and overtime would become just an elderly populated community which certainly is not good for the communities of South-west Anglesey.

Ysgol Gynradd Brynsiencyn has served its local community with distinction for many years. It would be a terrible cultural and emotional strike against the village of Brynsiencyn if this historic primary school is closed down. Many professional people such as Doctors, Accountants, Barristers, Policemen/women, nurses, midwives, Social workers, Engineers, Teachers & Actors etc. have started their early education in this school and progressed through the education systems to achieve their ambitions.

It is acknowledged that some efficiency changes can be made to reducing the number of surplus places, this will result in considerable financial savings for the authority, but not for the sake of changes as for the building of brand New Schools.

The consultation document identifies SIX reasons for change. They do not all apply to Ysgol Gynradd Brynsiencyn.

1. Reducing the number of surplus places

It is noted that the given figures for the year 2013, (Page 3) of the consultation document is misleading, because it fails to admit that Anglesey is now currently on target to achieve the Welsh Government's 2015 target of 15% of surplus places as the result of changes made in other school establishments within the authority.

It can be said there is no longer the same urgency to reduce the surplus of places in South-West Anglesey. The consultation paper is also deceptive by using different figures for surplus places – on page 13, the latest figures (September 2014) are used, for a total of 143 surplus places across the six schools but then on page 15 the total has jumped to 156 by using out-of-date January 2014 figures, making the position in the area seem even worse.

2 Financial matters

It is also acknowledged that spend per pupil at Ysgol Gynradd Brynsiencyn is 4¹" in the comparison table (page 16) for the area in consideration. Estyn's 2012 inspection said **"In general, financial management is good and relevant decisions are based on improvement needs; considering its outcomes, the school offers good value for money"**.

- > The consultation document is misleading in the sense, no allowance is made for the capital costs involved in building one or more schools or any indication of how many years Anglesey would be paying off the debt and what the total cost would be; as ratepayers surely we have the right to know.
- > There is no breakdown of transport costs just a given cost of £29,000 for each of the options within the document.
- > What about cost for administrating and developing new schools or upgrading existing that may be kept open and also staff redundancy cost!
- > The Authority's official consultation document 2014 for reorganisation of primary schools in the Holyhead area noted that **"it is also important to develop a sustainable education system by using resources more effectively whilst reducing fuel consumption and carbon emissions."** Why is this not a consideration in the South-West Anglesey consultation document?
- > Families living beyond walking distance from the new school or schools but are not far enough away to qualify for free transport is also completely overlooked
- > What about the costs of road improvements to South-West Anglesey which also needs to be considered. The road access from the A4080 Llanedwen junction to Llanddaniel Fab is very poor in parts and the same can be said from the A4080 Dwyran to Llangaffo.
- > Backlog maintenance costs on Ysgol Gynradd Brynsiencyn appear incorrect, this needs reviewing and updating ASAP

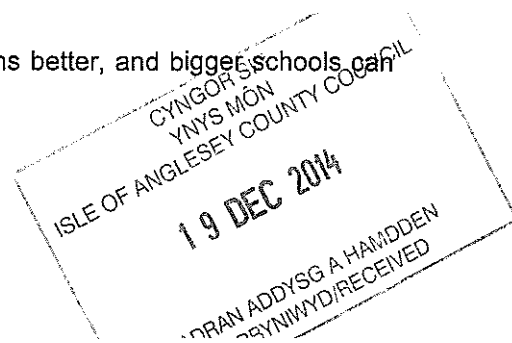
3 Raising standards

The consultation document says that **"the need to further improve standards is a priority"** but fails to explain why building new schools in this area will lead to higher standards than those currently being achieved.

"School size and educational effectiveness" (The Estyn report - December 2013), highlights the following:

- > "The differences [between schools of different sizes] are generally small and represent trends that do not determine the performance of all individual schools. **Schools of all sizes can perform well or badly.**
- > "There is generally little difference in the percentage of pupils achieving the expected level in the Foundation Phase or end of key stage 2 teacher assessments for different sizes of schools."
- > **"Small primary schools [100 or less] generally have better attendance levels** than medium-sized [101 to 300] and large [more than 300] primary schools."

The report also indicates that it is not the case that bigger necessarily means better, and bigger schools can have their own problems.



The standard of teaching is of good quality almost without exception across the school. (Estyn Report on Ysgol Gynradd, Brynsiencyn June 2012)

4. Ensure up-to-date resources in relation to schools and classroom resources

The consultation document says "Welsh Government's expectation is that schools should be buildings that meet with the expectations of the twenty first century. This means that they should be modern, fit for purpose buildings that make best use of modern technology."

PLEASE NOTE: It is only fair to treat all primary school consultations equally; we would like to compare and again refer to the Holyhead area consultation document during 2012 which stated:

"The Welsh Government has identified as a priority that schools should have buildings that meet twenty first century expectations that are fit for purpose, in the right place and that meet the needs of learners whilst providing a resource for the community. It is also important to develop a sustainable education system by using resources more effectively whilst reducing fuel consumption and carbon emissions."

It is not just about having modern buildings, but taking care to see that these buildings are in the right place, are a community resource, and are environmentally appropriate.

Ysgol Gynradd Brynsiencyn is a fairly modern building built in 1972, and fit-for-purpose. Yes lack of maintenance expenditure by the authorities over a number of years and by no means the fault of the school management. This can be rectified and no doubt much cheaper than building new school(s).

Again referring to the Holyhead consultation document notes, it is a priority that schools are in the right place. Ysgol Gynradd Brynsiencyn is already in the right place, not just within its catchment area but within the village. It is within walking distance for many pupils, helping reduce fuel consumption and good access.

The council must make *"more effective use of limited capital programmes"*, as the document states, no doubt would be best done by NOT building a new school but to consider merging schools.

A point worth noting is that one of the schools in question is sited on a 'Flood Plain' and seemingly has had water damage during the past few years.

Suggestions we would like the Authority to consider:

- Leave Ysgol Gynradd Llangaffo and Ysgol Pare Y Bont (Church school) as stand-alone schools, both schools are currently up and full to capacity;
- To merge Ysgol Gynradd Dwyran with Ysgol Gynradd Brynsiencyn;
- to merge Ysgol Gynradd Bodorgan with Ysgol Gynradd Niwbwrch

5. Break the link between deprivation and low educational attainment

We firmly believe there is absolutely no explanation of how the Building of a brand New School(s) will improve educational outcomes for our children, whatever the pupil's background.

6. Leadership and management capacity

We agree that *"good schools are well lead"*. So does Estyn, which said in their report - December 2012 "School size and educational effectiveness" that:

"A common feature of successful schools is good leadership. All schools, irrespective of size, can perform well where the quality of leadership is good or excellent."

Ysgol Gynradd .Brynsiencyn; has excellent and devoted staff at all levels, and this is reflected in its,success.

Since the appointment of the head teacher to his permanent post in September 2010, an effective vision has been created for the school.

7. Community Role and Knock on Effect for the Community

Again the Welsh Government recognises that **"it is a priority that schools also provide a resource for the community"**. It is also noted from the Holyhead consultation document mentioned earlier. There is no indication in the South-West Anglesey consultation document as to how this priority would be achieved by considering closing Ysgol Gynradd Brynsiencyn; this priority is not even mentioned.

Ysgol Gynradd Brynsiencyn is a community school and is well respected by the community to organise various community events, e.g. carol singing, members of the community are invited to attend school concerts and to the numerous activities held at the school, e.g. Christmas and Summer Fairs, Harvest Service, etc.

The existence of Ysgol Gynradd Brynsiencyn, in its current state, is essential to the community life here in Brynsiencyn, without it, there would be no life, or focus in the village; the school accommodates the Cylch Meithrin nursery school, and this year has celebrated 40yrs in Brynsiencyn. The Cylch also provides the school with children for the new academic term.

Over the last two years (summer holidays), the school has invited parents and members of the community to assist with the conservation of the vegetable plot, flower garden and Polly tunnel. The community and parents would meet on a Saturday morning with their children and work together to keep the area clean, tidy and well maintained.

8. Conclusion

We wish to make it quite clear; that the proposed consultation document gives the indication of being about **'resource management 'ONLY' rather than school improvement**, which is contrary to **Estyn's guidelines**.

It proposes to endanger the futures of our children, by assuming that new schools will necessarily lead to better educational outcomes, without any evidence to back this up and no doubt will have a major impact on the wider community.

We urge the Education Department/Council to **exclude** Ysgol Gynradd Brynsiencyn from closing, the community will welcome with open arms for another school to merge with our school in working towards success.

We ALL wish to "Thank you for taking the time to read our response".

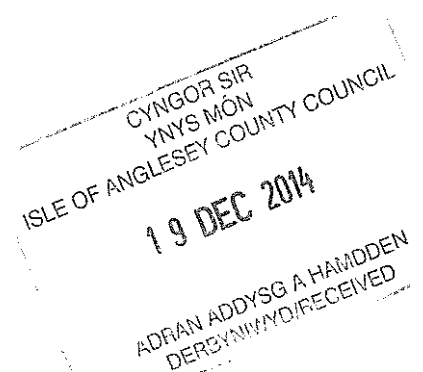
We the undersigned object to any of the proposals put forward in the consultation document that would lead to Ysgol Gynradd Brynsiencyn being close; but certainly will welcome another school to merge with our school:

Signed on behalf of the action group

Chairman

Vice Chairlady

Secretary



CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANIDAN
LLANIDAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Clerc / Clerk:
Rhif Ffon / Tel No:
E-bost - E-mail:

December 18, 2014

/
(Programme Manager
Lifelong Education Department Park Mount
Ffordd Glanhwfa
LLANGEFNI LL77 7EY

Dear Sir,

NON STATUTORY CONSULTATION - BRORHOSYR AND BRO ABERFFRAW
ARENON STATUTORY CONSULTATION

(November 17 - December 21, 2014) RE: YSGOL GYNRADD BRYNSIENCYN

I write to you on behalf of Llanidan Community Council to thank you and your team for attending the meeting held on 16 December 2014 to explain the situation and the options for the future of primary education in the area.

The matter was discussed by the Council at a special meeting. It was resolved that I should inform you that the Council strongly favours the retention of Ysgol Brynsiencyn, but is prepared to see federalisation as the way forward in the present circumstances.

The Council supports the Governors' comments in the document.

The main reasons for keeping the school at Brynsiencyn are as follows:

- It is a community school which is well used and supported by local residents.
- The school is located close to a housing estate by a comparatively quiet road and there is ample room to expand in the future.
- A significant number of the pupils (72%) come from homes where Welsh is the first language and the parents are proud of the strong Welsh character

- A large number of pupils (approximately 90%) walk to school and the parents do not wish to see their children having to travel by bus to another school.
- Children are given opportunities to attend extra-curricular activities without having to travel. This is important since 30% of the pupils receive free school meals.
- The building is used by Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin, and therefore the smallest children get to know the school environment.
- Following a public meeting in the village an Action Group was formed which now, it appears, has 500 members. The large number who have joined the Group reflects the strength of local feelings.
- It is unfair to compare the expenditure per head in a rural area such as this with that of urban areas.
- If the children had to travel to another school which might not necessarily be the parents' choice, then the parents suffering greatest deprivation (e.g. those without a car) would be at a disadvantage by having their choice restricted.

Yours sincerely,

Clerk of Llanidan Community Council

**Corff Llywodraethu BRO RHOSYR Governing Body
YSGOLION NIWBWRCH / DWYRAN SCHOOLS**



Cadeirydd / Chair:
Pennaeth Mewn Gofal/Head in Charge:
Clerc / Clerk :
Niwbwrch
Dwyran



December 15, 2014

Dear ,

Thank you for the meeting held on Tuesday 25 November. As a Governing Body we have now had an opportunity to discuss your proposal. We found it difficult to come to a decision based on the information given at the non statutory meeting since there were several incorrect or misleading points.

The governing body has not received any acknowledgement of the points raised at the meeting to enable us to make an informed judgement. The on-line information has not yet been amended, which is very disappointing.

Niwbwrch and Dwyran schools are at the heart of the community. Ysgol Dwyran is a community building where many activities take place. These events are arranged by a committee. If the school closes, the council has no other facility to take its place. Because of the rural nature of the two schools, their closure would have a detrimental effect on the children, parents and the community at large.

In the case of a new area school or schools, we have concerns about school transport to the new school(s) and feel that this will influence the choice made by parents. We are also concerned about supervision during school transport. There will, consequently, be unnecessary cost to the council if parents make their own arrangements to carry their children to the school of their choice. We are aware that parents have expressed concern about the location of a new school in terms of its distance from the A55 and travelling times. As a governing body, we are satisfied with the educational standards in both schools. A new building will not directly improve standards.

There is no analysis of the school maintenance costs. You will be aware that Ysgol Niwbwrch has needed a new boiler for some time and the council has already built a room to house the system. It is very difficult to make an informed decision without the full facts.

To summarise, our governing body has looked at the consultation document but has not come to a decision based on the current information provided. We look forward to receiving revised information and a response to this letter. We are content for you to send your response to the clerk.

Yours sincerely

Chair and Vice Chair of the Governing Body

Adolygiad Ysgolion Cynradd De Orllewin Mon
Primary Schools Review South West Anglesey -
Ffurflen Sylwadau / Feedback Form

1. Do you agree with the reasons for change?

No, we don't.

2. Which option do you support?

None of the proposals.

3. Do you have other suggestions?

The main difficulty in discussing modernisation in this area is the fact that so many parents opt to take their children to other schools. In the event of any change, it would therefore be almost impossible to predict parental choices. It's a pity that the report did not also include data about Ysgol Henblas and Ysgol Gaerwen, since any change will surely have an impact on these two schools as well.

It would be wise in my opinion to begin by merging the schools of Bodorgan, Dwyran, Newborough and Brynsiencyn, building a single new school. Significant expenditure is needed in these four locations and they all have a high percentage of vacant places.

The two remaining schools are almost full and have the lowest expenditure projections. They are both Church Schools as well. Thinking of a central location to build one new school is difficult. Undoubtedly, convenience is a very important factor when parents choose a school. The connecting roads are in a terrible state. I believe that these two schools should be federalised.

4. Are there any other matters you would wish to draw to our attention?

I would like to draw your attention to the following excerpts from the recent ESTYN report on Ysgol Llangaffo.

- Pupils have a strong commitment to the school and staff
- As they co-operate on tasks or move around the school, nearly all behave responsibly and show respect and care for each other and towards visitors.
- Pupils enjoy coming to school.
- The practice of taking part in a variety of activities in the village strengthens pupils' involvement in their local community considerably.
- The school's physical environment is good and has plenty of room
- The school's buildings and surrounding grounds are used effectively by pupils and adults and are well maintained.
- The school is a happy and orderly community
- The school is a happy and inclusive community that promotes equal opportunities regularly for all pupils and adults.

We accept that being a pupil in a large new school has its advantages, but we should not underestimate the advantages of being a pupil in a small school either. Here, every pupil takes an individual role in religious services, every child takes part in every sports day event, every parent comes to the school fair. Ysgol Llangaffo is a community and a family, and the experiences and opportunities enjoyed by each and every child at this school gives them very firm foundations for the future.

5. Providing your details in the following box is optional.
Post /Category of Respondent

Staff Ysgol Llangaffo

Dychwelwch unrhyw sylwadau at / Return any comments to:

Rheolwr Rhaglen,
Y Gwasanaeth Addysg,
Cyngor Mon,
Parc Mownt,
Ffordd
Glanhwfa,
Llangefni ,
Ynys Mon LL77 7EY.



C

Primary Schools Review – South West Anglesey

1. Do you agree with the reasons for change?

As Governors we recognise the need for change in the area, and therefore agree with the reasons for the change in the broad context. However, we do not believe that the reasons for change apply to Ysgol Parc Y Bont.

It is therefore our clear and unanimous view that Ysgol Parc y Bont should remain as it is, for the following reasons.

- *There is no problem of vacant places at Ysgol Parc y Bont – one of the main reasons for the proposed changes.*
- *The school provides value for money – expenditure per capita is lower than any of the other schools in the scheme – and much lower than 4 schools.*
- *The school was built in 2000 providing appropriate and modern accommodation and resources for education of the highest standard. No significant expenditure is required on the building contrary to some of the other schools.*
- *The main priority of the school – its standards – are consistently high. See the 2008 and 2014 inspection reports. Staff over the years have established and promoted a close knit and supportive learning community.*
- *As a community resource, it gives priority outside and beyond school hours to tackling the link between deprivation and low attainment.*
- *Geographically, the school has nothing in common with the other schools forming part of the review. The parents would naturally turn towards Llanfairpwll or Gwynedd in the event of a change of location, rather than any new school in the area. The school is in the catchment area of Ysgol David Hughes, and the natural flow / parents' work is towards Llanfair and the bridges rather than towards Brynsiencyn or Llangaffo etc.*
- *Ysgol Parc y Bont is a Church School and this creates an unique ethos which it is important to protect. It must be remembered that following the closure of Llanddaniel-fab parish church many years ago, Llanfairpwll parish has officially merged with the parish of Llanddaniel-fab. In no circumstances should this be ignored or undone. The contribution and role of several Rectors has been prominent and a crucial factor in promoting the Christian ethos. They have contributed to the life of the school and have enriched the education, experiences and opportunities offered to the children.*

2. Which option do you support?

As stated above, the Governors believe strongly for the above reasons that Ysgol Parc y Bont should be excluded from the process entirely and left unchanged.

Nevertheless, we would be willing to consider and discuss Option 2, i.e. to merge Parc y Bont and Llangaffo, subject to a clear and firm stipulation that the school be located on the site of Ysgol Parc y Bont.

As already noted, Parc y Bont is a Church School and merging with Llangaffo, which is also a Church School, would retain the special ethos which is so important to parents.

Merging the two schools on the present Llanddaniel site would take full advantage of our modern building and its grounds, and would provide value for money. It would also protect and nurture the high education standards achieved by Ysgol Parc y Bont.

Yours sincerely

Chair of Ysgol Parc y Bont, and on behalf of the Governing Body

16/12/14

**Non Statutory Consultation - Bro Rhosyr and Bro Aberffraw areas - response
of Cyngor Cymuned Llanddaniel Fab**

This community council recognises that change is needed in the area but, for the reasons outlined below, we do not agree that the reasons apply to Ysgol Parc y Bont. We genuinely believe that Ysgol Parc y Bont should be excluded from the process and left unchanged.

The continued existence of Ysgol Parc y Bont is essential for the pupils to develop into rounded citizens, proud of their community and its way of life. In reality, the impact would be even more far reaching and detrimental – the whole community would lose its heart, focus and vigour. The present school “is in effective partnership with parents, the community, the Church in Wales, other schools and agencies, and this enhances the provision for pupils and makes a considerable contribution to raising standards” (Estyn2008 inspection report). There is a strong partnership with the community, e.g. the Youth Club, the Women’s Institute, the elderly, the Ti a Fi playgroup and collaboration with the community council. The school also has a breakfast club and an after school fun club. The school’s modern assets serve both education and the community well, in furtherance of one of the priorities of Welsh Government. An excellent resource such as this should not be forsaken to solve problems in other areas.

We draw your attention to the following points:

- *There is no problem of vacant places at Ysgol Parc y Bont – one of the main reasons for the proposed changes.*
- *The school provides value for money – expenditure per capita is lower than any of the other schools in the scheme – and much lower than 4 schools.*
- *The school was built in 2000 providing appropriate and modern accommodation and resources for education of the highest standard. No significant expenditure is required on the building contrary to some of the other schools.*
- *The main priority of the school – its standards – are consistently high. See the 2008 and 2014 inspection reports. Staff over the years have established and promoted a close knit and supportive learning community.*
- *As a community resource, it gives priority outside and beyond school hours to tackling the link between deprivation and low attainment.*
- *Geographically, the school has nothing in common with the other schools forming part of the review. The parents would naturally turn towards Llanfairpwll or Gwynedd in the event of a change of location, rather than any new school in the area. The school is in the catchment area of Ysgol David Hughes, and the natural flow / parents’ work is towards Llanfair and the bridges rather than towards Brynsiencyn or Llangaffo etc.*
- *Ysgol Parc y Bont is a Church School and this creates an unique ethos which it is important to protect. It must be remembered that following the closure of Llanddaniel-fab parish church many years ago, Llanfairpwll parish has officially merged with the parish of Llanddaniel-fab. In no circumstances should this be ignored or undone. The contribution and role of several Rectors has been prominent and a crucial factor in promoting the Christian ethos. They have contributed to the life of the school and have enriched the education, experiences and opportunities offered to the children.*

In respect of the other options, we would be willing to consider / discuss Option 2, i.e. to merge Parc y Bont and Llangaffo, subject to a clear and firm stipulation that the school be located on the site of Ysgol Parc y Bont.

As already noted, Parc y Bont is a Church School and merging with Llangaffo, which is also a Church School, would retain the special ethos which is so important to parents.

Merging the two schools on the present Llanddaniel site, and utilising this modern building would provide value for money. It would also protect and nurture the high education standards of Ysgol Parc y Bont.

Yours sincerely, and on behalf of Cyngor Cymuned Llanddaniel Fab

Chair

21/12/14

Clerk

Adran Addysg Esgobaeth Bangor

Canolfan yr Esgobaeth
Clôs y Gadeirlan
Bangor
Gwynedd
LL57 1RL



Diocese of Bangor Education Department

Diocesan Centre
Cathedral Close
Bangor
Gwynedd
LL57 1RL

Appendix 13

21 Rhagfyr 2014

School Reorganisation and Modernisation Officer
Lifelong Learning Department, Isle of Anglesey Council
Park Mount
Ffordd Glanhwfa
Llangefni
Ynys Môn
LL77 7EY

Dear ,

Non Statutory Consultation – Bro Rhosyr and Bro Aberffraw

On behalf of the Diocese, can I thank you and of your colleagues in the Lifelong Learning team for the documentation and consultation meetings relating to the non---statutory consultation in the B Rhosyr and Bro Aberffraw area. Your department has done much more than could be expected to ensure that all stakeholders have an opportunity to respond and comment on this consultation process.

In response to this non statutory consultation, the Diocese of Bangor's Board of Statutory Education would like to make the following comments:

- 1 The Diocese understands need for the Isle of Anglesey Council, as the Local Authority (LA) to reduce surplus places, provide fit---for---purpose 21st century school buildings, whilst working within financial constraints but yet still ensuring that learners have the opportunity to fulfil their full potential.
- 2 The Diocese understands that its church school provision may not remain exactly as it is at present in this area (Ysgol Parc y Bont and Ysgol Llangaffo are both voluntary controlled Church in Wales primary schools).
- 3 The Diocese would want to ensure that if the number of its schools were to be reduced in any reorganisation, the number of its school places should not suffer, and remain at the same level as it is at present.
- 4 Consideration might also be given to the provision of a voluntary aided school, which would be financially advantageous to the LA.
- 5 Option 2 would be an appropriate option, though the Diocese would be concerned that if one of the existing school sites were to be used for a new school, not all parents of pupils in the other school would transfer their children to 'other' site, because of local geography, road infrastructure and the apparent tendency of parents to travel north to towards he A55, rather than east or west 'across country'.

Cyfarwyddwr Addysg a Swyddog Cyfathrebu -- Director of Education and Communications' Officer

Gartref --- Home

Swyddfa --- Office

Ffôn Lôn --- Mobile

UCAC Response to the Non Statutory Consultation Document on School Reorganisation in South West Anglesey

December 2014

Introduction

Undeb Cenedlaethol Athrawon Cymru (UCAC) is glad to have this opportunity to respond to the Non Statutory Consultation on School Reorganisation in South West Anglesey (the document). We would be more than happy to expand on these comments and discuss them at any time.

UCAC appreciates the Authority's desire "*to ensure modern schools that are suitable for the twenty first century*". We fully realise that the Isle of Anglesey County Council faces a challenge in trying to plan for ensuring the best provision in a largely rural area such as this. We also recognise that school reorganisation is a complex matter and that there are different opinions and strong feelings among pupils, parents, school staff and the communities themselves.

It is therefore good to know that a programme of consultation with stakeholders is taking place, and will continue to do so throughout the process so that local communities are involved in any reorganisation plans, and "*to collect comments and ideas*" about suitable modernisation plans for the area.

The Options

UCAC is glad to see a range of options being presented and hopes that the Council will give full regard to any other options suggested as part of this consultation. While recognising that the *status quo* is not a realistic choice, UCAC is not in a position to support any individual option at the expense of others. We therefore make the following general comments in response to the document and based on the experience of our members in other areas where reorganisation has taken place, or is currently happening.

Reasons for Change

2. Reducing the number of surplus places

UCAC fully appreciates that local authorities are under pressure to reduce the number of surplus places in their schools. Clearly, this plan tries to do that. The experience of our members in several counties is that the stated capacity of buildings does not always fairly reflect the actual amount of space available because of the way capacity is calculated.

There is a tendency to build new schools which soon become too small. We also need to be aware that statistics show the population will increase over the coming decade. This will naturally affect primary schools in the first instance. The document highlights the fact that many children across the six schools are being educated outside their natural catchment area. This suggests that it will be impossible to predict with certainty the choices parents will make in this area.

3. Financial Matters

The Union is fully aware of the huge financial pressures currently faced by schools and education authorities. We regularly bring these matters to the attention of politicians. In respect of the anticipated savings, we often find that additional costs – both capital and revenue – have not always been identified in planning school reorganisations. The actual savings are ultimately less than anticipated.

4. Raising Standards

UCAC fully supports all aspirations to maintain and raise standards. The Union is concerned, however, that there is now a culture in Wales of measuring standards solely in terms of raw results without giving any consideration to the effort of individual pupils or the hard work put in by staff. We believe that the document does not recognise sufficiently the progress made already over the past three years in the schools under consideration. For example, there are eight judgments in the upper quartile in the table on page 17 compared with three in the lower quartile, but the document focuses on the lower quartile. Similarly, almost 80% of the Estyn judgements on page 20 are good, but the narrative refers to “many good grades”.

Such negative treatment by the Education Authority does nothing to improve staff morale in the schools under review, nor the profession as a whole. The document also fails to acknowledge any collaboration between the schools which already happens in the area.

5. Up to Date Buildings and Resources

The Union welcomes the desire for buildings and resources in twenty first century schools to be “*fit for purpose*”. We agree that providing the best learning environment is essential for pupils’ education. We would add that this improves staff morale as well. Except for Ysgol Llangaffo, the present school buildings are fairly recent in comparison with some in other areas which have gone through the same review process. We realise that lack of expenditure on maintenance has caused buildings to deteriorate throughout Wales to the point where they are not as suitable as they could be. It is essential that any remodelling or new buildings provide accommodation which will remain fit for purpose well into the present century - facilities that are well planned, well built and well maintained.

We urge the Authority to ensure that detailed background work takes place without delay into the suitability and availability of land if consideration is to be given to new buildings. It is essential for these matters to be resolved before presenting formal proposals.

In a period of unprecedented cut backs in the public sector, we have to ask will the necessary funding be available to ensure that the plans are delivered?

UCAC believes education should be provided in as many communities as possible, for the benefit of the wider community and to reduce the time spent by pupils travelling to school. The price of losing a school’s presence is beyond measurement and specific plans will be required for communities likely to lose their local school. We are not convinced that a single large school is the best answer for the whole area under consideration.

6. Breaking the link between deprivation and low educational attainment

The Union supports the national initiative to break this link. Resources are needed - in particular experienced teachers - to respond to the challenge and requirements. The modernisation programme of itself will not meet this challenge. Indeed, we would argue that the teacher: pupil relationship in a small school is often a great asset in *ensuring “that children reach their potential whatever their background.*

Informal Consultation with Newborough School Council 23/02/15

Facilitators – [REDACTED]

Number of pupils who participated – 7 members of the School Council - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Background

The pupils were thanked for agreeing to meet us. It was explained that a consultation had been held with the adults in the community, but this was the opportunity for the children from the area to voice their opinions on the Council's plans for school modernisation. This was a chance for the children to have their say on the options being proposed for this area. We will then feed back this information to the Councillors as part of the Informal Consultation.

It was explained that the reasons for modernising were:

- Anglesey has too many vacant places in the schools
- It was costing too much to continue with the current number of schools
- Make sure all pupils had a good education
- Make sure that every school was modern and had good equipment

Newborough school has room for 104 children, but only 51 attend, according to the report. The pupils thought that there were around 60 at the school now. Everyone on the School Council could walk to school, if the weather was ok. In general, they did not know many pupils from the other schools in the area.

They could name all 6 schools that are part of this Modernisation Plan. They are Newborough, Brynsiencyn, Bodorgan, Dwyran, Llanddaniel (Parc y Bont) and Llangaffo.

What did the pupils like in their current school?

Lego; Good Teachers; they learnt well with their friends; the children produced good work, the layout of the classes, Teachers that make the lessons fun; Good Playground, Gardening with the pupils growing all sorts of vegetables; everybody know each other.

The different options were explained in the new plan:

Option 1

Build a new school for the children from all 6 villages for around 330

Option 2

Build 2 new schools with the children from Newborough joining Bodorgan, Brynsiencyn, and Dwyran (around 170 children) in one school.

(The other school for the children from Llangaffo and Parc y Bont – 135 children)

Option 3

2 new schools with the children from Newborough joining children from Bodorgan and Dwyran (around 120 children) in one school

The other school with children from Llangaffo, Parc y Bont and Brynsiencyn joining (around 210 children)

Option 4

2 new schools, with the children from Newborough joining Bodorgan, Dwyran and Llangaffo (around 180 children) in one school.

The other school with children from Brynsiencyn and Parc y Bont joining (around 150 children)

Option 5

Join some of the current schools, but no new buildings

e.g. children from Bodorgan to come to Newborough school

Children from Llangaffo to join Newborough school

Close Newborough and the children to go to various other schools

This would not give new schools or save as much money.

It was discussed that with some options it may mean that they wouldn't go to the same Secondary School as their classmates. However, this was currently likely to happen as pupils from Newborough intended to go to David Hughes, Friars and Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni.

Comments on the options

- Concern about small children having to travel by bus to a school in a central area – one pupil told us that she had a little sister in the Infants. She would not want to see her having to go to school by bus.
- They were worried that the teachers would not have the time to give the children the same level of attention
- They did not want more than 2 school years in one class
- There would be more children to make friends with
- Would there be more bullying in a big school, and would the teachers have enough time to deal with this
- What if a child was sick. Would there be a room for them to wait for mum or dad to come and fetch them. What would happen if mam didn't have a car?
- They would want their present teachers to move with them
- Sad face if he had to travel from one end to the other of a big area. New school needs to be central
- 3 of the children said they suffered from travel sickness if they had to go any distance in a bus, and this worried them.

Completing the Questionnaires

Did they agree with the reasons for change?

6 didn't agree, and one agreed (but was uncertain)

If you had to choose, which option would you prefer?

- 2 agreed with Option 2
- 4 agreed with Option 5 – of these 2 would want to see children from Dwyran joining Newborough, 1 would want to see children from Dwyran and Bodorgan coming to Newborough, and 1 wanted to see children from Dwyran or Bodorgan joining them.
- 1 undecided

4 also noted in any other matter that they wanted their teachers to remain with them, if they had to move.

Conclusion

On the whole, the children did not want to see schools being joined together, even if it meant a new school, but if they had to join, then they saw joining with Dwyran, Bodorgan and possibly Brynsiencyn as the best option for them.

Thank you to the pupils for taking part and making it a pleasure to be with them

The report will be circulated to the Headteacher, to distribute to the pupils, and the content will be passed to the Councillors as part of the informal consultation.


Ynys Môn Youth Service

Informal Consultation with Dwyran School Council 24/02/15

Facilitators – [REDACTED]

Number of pupils who participated – 3 members of the School Council – [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Background

The pupils were thanked for agreeing to meet us. It was explained that a consultation had been held with the adults in the community, but this was the opportunity for the children to voice their opinions on the Council's plans for this area. We will then feed back this information to the Councillors as part of the Informal Consultation.

It was explained that the reasons for modernising were:

- Anglesey has too many vacant places in the schools
- It was costing too much to keep all the schools as they are at present
- Make sure all pupils had a good education
- Some schools were very old and needed a lot of spending on them

Newborough school has room for 104 children, but only 51 attend, according to the report, and there are many empty places in Dwyran school as well. Everyone on the school council lived in the village and could walk to school.

They could name 5 of the schools that are part of this Modernisation Plan - Newborough, Brynsiencyn, Bodorgan, Dwyran, and Llangaffo, but not aware of Llanddaniel (Parc y Bont). They knew children from all the schools they had named.

What did the pupils like in their current school?

Good Teachers and other support staff; it is a welcoming school and the children feel comfortable in it; everyone know each other; they like the after-school club and the breakfast club; had participated in Campau'r Ddraig; the Green Club had started making a greenhouse out of plastic bottles; having a playing field is important to them; they liked being able to walk to school.

The different options were explained in the new plan:

Option 1

Build a new school for the children from all 6 villages for around 330

Option 2

Build 2 new schools with the children from Dwyran Joining Newborough, Bodorgan and Brynsiencyn, (around 170 children) in one school.

(The other school for the children from Llangaffo and Parc y Bont – 135 children)

Option 3

2 new schools with the children from Dwyran joining children from Bodorgan and Newborough (around 120 children) in one school

The other school with children from Llangaffo, Parc y Bont and Brynsiencyn joining (around 210 children)

Option 4

2 new schools, with the children from Dwyran joining Newborough, Bodorgan and Llangaffo (around 180 children) in one school.

The other school with children from Brynsiencyn and Parc y Bont joining (around 150 children)

Option 5

Join some of the current schools, but no new buildings

e.g. children from Dwyran moving to Newborough school

Close Newborough and the children to go to various other schools

This would not give new schools or save as much money.

It was discussed that with some options it may mean that they wouldn't go to the same Secondary School as their classmates. However, this was currently likely to happen as pupils from Newborough intended to go to David Hughes, Friars and Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni.

Comments on the options

- The three members of the Council were in agreement that they preferred Option 1 – that is have a new school for pupils of all 6 schools.
- A chance to make new friends, and they already knew children from other schools
- They wanted the school to be central to the area, as they didn't like travelling
- They liked being able to walk to school as they did now
- They wanted to still have somewhere to meet for evening activities like the Urdd and Youth Club etc
- They were uncertain if they would move on to Ysgol Llangefni or David Hughes
- They wanted more playing area, a garden and a football pitch in the new school
- They would like to design the logo for a new school and see the plans

Completing the Questionnaires

Did they agree with the reasons for change?

3 agreed with the reasons for change

If you had to choose, which option would you prefer?

- 3 agreed with Option 1

In the any other comments all 3 noted that they would like to make new friends. Also that they wanted somewhere to meet in the evenings, or in evening clubs.

Conclusion

The children were unanimous in wanting Option 1.

The report will be circulated to the Headteacher, to distribute to the pupils, and the content will be passed to the Councillors as part of the informal consultation.


Ynys Môn Youth Service

Informal Consultation Llangaffo School Pupils

24/02/15

Facilitators – [REDACTED]**Number of pupils** – 26**Introduction**

We were welcome to the class by the teacher. The pupils were thanked for agreeing to meet us. It was explained that a consultation had been held with the adults in the community, but this was the opportunity for the children from the area to voice their opinions on the Council's plans for school modernisation. We will then feed back this information to the Councillors as part of the Informal Consultation.

The pupils had already discussed the reasons why change was needed as part of a discussion group in the school, so most understood that this was part of a re-structure of schools across Wales, and not something that was happening only on Anglesey. They also understood that there was a danger that the school may close some time during the next few years.

We were given to understand early on in the discussion that this “was the best school in the world”! (and we didn't see anything during our visit that brought this into question!)

It was explained that the reasons for modernisation were

- It was costing too much to keep all the schools as they are at present
- Ynys Môn had too many empty places in their schools, and Welsh Government were not happy with this
- To ensure all pupils had a good standard of education
- Some schools were very old and needed a lot of money spent on them

It was also made clear that we understood that Ysgol Llangaffo is full. (Although pupils travel from quite an extensive area, it was obvious that there was a very close community within the school).

The class was split into three groups – group A (Ardderchog - Excellent), Group B (Brilliant), and Group C (Clyfar - Clever).

They could name the schools that were part of the Modernisation Plan, i.e. Newborough, Brynsiencyn, Bodorgan, Dwyran, Llangaffo, and Parc y Bont (Llanddaniel).

What did the pupils like about their current school? :

Feels like a family; I know everybody; Friends; Work well as a group; No need to travel very far; No bullying, Respectful Teachers; Good work being done; Everybody has fun; Feel safe here; Able to walk to school; Can bike to school; Nice things; Kind and excellent teachers; I know the school; We are rewarded (the Treasure Box scheme); Technology is good – white board, wi-fi, computers, I-pads, kindles; Friends close to home; I like lessons like maths, writing stories and the teacher helps me; Good games on the yard - Chicken or hero, hopscotch, football (although the field is too wet in winter); lovely setting with the view of the mountains, and beautiful when there is snow; nature; nice to be close to school; the best school in the world, the best friends in the world, and the best staff in the world are in Ysgol Llangaffo; [REDACTED] is good at helping me; everybody is nice in the school.

The options within the Modernisation Plan were explained:

Option 1

Build a new school for the pupils from all 6 schools in the area - 330 pupils

Option 2

Build 2 new schools – with one of the schools for pupils from Llangaffo and Parc y Bont (– 135 pupils)

Option 3

Build 2 new schools – one for pupils from Llangaffo, Parc y Bont and Brynsiencyn (- 210 pupils)

Option 4

Build 2 new schools – one for pupils from Dwyran, Bodorgan, Newborough and Llangaffo (around 180 pupils)

Option 5

Close some of the current schools and move pupils to other schools and no new buildings

e.g. move pupils from Llangaffo to Ysgol Niwbwrch

Close some schools and move pupils across other schools

Comments on the options from the Questionnaires and Flip Charts

- None of the children wanted to see Ysgol Llangaffo close, and all the options were a second choice.
- Option 1 – 4 chose Option 1 (unite 6 schools) – a chance to make new friends, have a class with everyone the same age. One wanted to join the other schools, only if the new school was in Llangaffo.
- Option 2 – 9 opted for Option 2 (join with Ysgol Parc y Bont), but only if they could take their teachers with them, and didn't have far to travel. 1 felt there was less room in the village (Llanddaniel ?). One wanted to unite both schools in Llangaffo, extending the present building.
- Option 3 – 2 wanted Option 3 (join Parc y Bont and Brynsiencyn)
- Option 4 – 1 opted for Option 4
- 5 pupils would want to move to Ysgol Niwbwrch in its current situation (Option 5) as it was close enough for them to walk to school.
- Option 5 – were still adamant that they did not want any of the other options, but that Ysgol Llangaffo should remain open.

Did they agree with the reasons for change?

About half and half in agreement/disagreed with the reasons for change

Other comments from the Questionnaires

In the comments 16 have noted that they want to take their teachers with them, [REDACTED]

Informal Consultation with Ysgol Parc y Bont pupils 26/02/15

Facilitators – [REDACTED] Youth Service

Number of pupils– 7 members of the School Council

Introduction

We were welcome to the school by the Headteacher. The pupils were thanked for agreeing to meet us. It was explained that the adults in the community had had their say, and now it was an opportunity for the children to have their say on the Council's plans for school modernisation. A report would then be presented to the Councillors on this informal consultation.

It was explained that the reasons why modernisation was needed was:

- It was costing too much to keep all the schools as they are at present
- Ynys Môn had too many empty places in their schools, and Welsh Government were not happy with this
- To ensure all pupils had a good standard of education
- Some schools were very old and needed a lot of money spent on them

We also stated that there were aware that Ysgol Parc y Bont is full, and that it is a new school.

The pupils had already discussed the issue, and we were presented with a letter, that had been signed by all the pupils, stating that “the Council had been very silly, and has asked the opinion of everyone except the most important people in the whole school – the children!” They state their objection, and note that “all the children will be devastated”. It was stated that the intention today was to ensure that the children had a say in the discussions.

All the pupils were fully aware of the schools that are part of the consultation in the Modernisation Plan, i.e. Newborough, Brynsiencyn, Bodorgan, Dwyran, Llangaffo, and Parc y Bont.

What do the pupils like about their present school:

It's a happy school, they have friends here; a small school and you know everybody; like the work; I Like playing challenge and having fun and playing games; It's nice to speak Welsh; one pupil had moved here from another school because of bullying; the clubs that meet in the school are a hub for the community; they would be worried about bullying in a big school; if the school closed the community wouldn't be so close; there is a football club, cookery club, craft club, youth club, fun club, breakfast club, a gardening club, a Christmas Fair, and a choir here; we like the school; we feel like a family; there are no bullies here; we're comfortable here – we know the routine; good teachers; the school is the only thing left in the village – no village hall or shop here; we like the two cooks.

The options within the Modernisation Plan were explained:

Option 1

Build a new school for the pupils from all 6 schools in the area - 330 pupils

Option 2

Build 2 new schools – with one of the schools for pupils from Parc y Bont and Llangaffo (– 135 pupils)

Option 3

Build 2 new schools – one for pupils from Llangaffo, Parc y Bont and Brynsiencyn (- 210 pupils)

Option 4

Build 2 new schools – one for the pupils of Parc y Bont and Brynsiencyn (150)

Option 5

Join some of the present schools and no new buildings

Verbal comments and comments on the Questionnaires

- None of the pupils want to see Ysgol Parc y Bont close, and all the other options were second choices
- They were in agreement, if change was needed, then they would like to suggest another option, which was to keep Ysgol Parc y Bont, and extend it to bring the pupils from Llangaffo to join them, as that is also a Church School.
- If they had to have a new building, then it needed to be somewhere central, but they did not want to see more than 150 pupils in the school, and they would prefer it to be for 120 pupils, as was suggested in Option 2.

Did they understand the reasons for change?

They understood the reasons but did not agree with them.

Other comments on the Questionnaires

What they would like to see if they had to move to a new school

2 – would want the teachers to move with them

2 – noted that they liked their teacher

2 – wanted to remain in this school

Good School Council

Eco School

3 – wanted to stay in a church school

Concerns

Bullying x 4

Wouldn't know everyone

Many children with the same names

All the children were likely to go to Ysgol David Hughes when they moved up to Secondary. If they were united with Llangaffo, then it would mean some pupils would go to Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni.


Conclusion

The children were united in a strong feeling that they did not want to see the present school close, and did not want to move from Parc y Bont. They want to see the school remain in the present building,

but wanted the councillors to consider a new suggestion, to extend the current school, and bring Llangaffo children to join them, as this is also a church school.

Thank you to the pupils for taking part, and making it a pleasure, and to the staff for their welcome.

A report will be forwarded to the Headteacher, to share with the pupils, and will also be forwarded to the Councillors as part of the informal consultation.


Ynys Môn Youth Service

Informal Consultation with Ysgol Bodorgan pupils 27/02/15

Facilitators – [REDACTED] Youth Service

Number of pupils– all pupils in year 4,5, + 6

Introduction

We were welcomed to the school by the Headteacher. The pupils were thanked for agreeing to meet us. It was explained that the adults in the community had had their say, and now it was an opportunity for the children to have their say on the Council's plans for school modernisation. A report would then be presented to the Councillors on this informal consultation.

It was explained that the reasons why modernisation was needed was:

- It was costing too much to keep all the schools as they are at present
- Ynys Môn had too many empty places in their schools, and Welsh Government were not happy with this
- To ensure all pupils had a good standard of education
- Some schools were very old and needed a lot of money spent on them

All the pupils were not sure which schools were part of the consultation in the Modernisation Plan, so it was confirmed that the following schools were being consulted - Newborough, Brynsiencyn, Bodorgan, Dwyran, Llangaffo, and Parc y Bont (Llanddaniel).

What do the pupils like about their present school:

We don't get lost here; lot of room to play; everyone are friends; kind teachers and they look after us well; the focus is on individuals – and we have plenty of time to finish our work; there is a lot to do in playtime – hopscotch, netball, a large playing field with lot of equipment, and ball games; plenty of books to read; I learn a lot more here than I used to in my old school; I mix with a lot of friends; there is no bullying in this school as there used to be in my old school; there are evening activities held in the school – bingo, line dancing; there are clubs in the school – breakfast club, computer club, gardening club; I would like to start a nature and trees club; this school is different to all other schools; it's fun; I learn a lot here; I have more attention from the teachers; good teachers; I can turn to the teachers if I have a problem; we are healthy here; there is a large yard and playing fields; I've been here for a year and I have learnt to speak Welsh, where I didn't learn the language at all when I was in a Welsh language stream in my last school

The options within the Modernisation Plan were explained:

Option 1

Build a new school for the pupils from all 6 schools in the area - 330 pupils

Option 2

Build 2 new schools – with one of the schools for pupils from Bodorgan, Newborough and Dwyran (120 pupils)

Option 3

Build 2 new schools – one for pupils from Bodorgan, Dwyran, Newborough and Llangaffo (180 pupils)

Option 4

Build 2 new schools – one for the pupils of Bodorgan, Dwyran, Newborough and Brynsiencyn (170 pupils)

Option 5

Join some of the present schools and no new buildings

- Or offer another option not in the above

Verbal comments and comments on the Questionnaires

- None of the pupils want to see Ysgol Bodorgan close, and most noted that they did not want to see any change. All other options were a second choice (and some pupils would not consider any of the options as a second choice)
- One was of the opinion that the Council should be closing all large schools because of the bullying that went on in them, and maintain the small schools.
- Everyone is like a family in a small school and look after each other.
- The only advantage that may be considered in a large school, would be having more teachers, and better equipment e.g. laptops instead of computers.
- They wanted the teachers to move with them
- Some pupils would move to Ysgol Pencarnisiog, rather than the options that were being offered in the modernisation plan.
- A new school would cost an enormous amount of money, and would probably cost a lot more than keeping the small schools.
- Several pupils did not want any option that united them with Newborough school.

Did they understand the reasons for change?

They understood the reasons but did not agree with them.

Other comments on the Questionnaires

Concerns

Bullying was noted a concern in most questionnaires

Having different teachers

Travelling to school, as everyone currently live close by

They wanted the teachers to move with them

Concerned about getting to know other children in a large school as they were shy

One noted that he/she would have a 'nervous breakdown' if there were too many children

Children being pushed around

Mosts expected to move on to Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni, but some also intended to go to Ysgol Uwchradd Bodedern.

Conclusion

The children were united in a strong feeling that all the options were a second choice, as they did not want to see Ysgol Bodorgan close. 4 selected Option 2 – with one noting that a larger school would give more opportunity to learn science and having a café; 1 opted for Option 1, but 9 were not willing to put their name to any of the Options, as they wanted Ysgol Bodorgan to remain as it was.

Some stated that they had already moved from other schools – 3 from parental choice, and several had been moved from Aberffraw when that school closed, therefore they were unwilling to move again.

At the end Mr Thomas reassured the children that they did not need to be anxious if they had to move, as huge steps had been made to tackle the problem of bullying in schools. Also, in some areas where a new school had been built, children then chose to move to the new school, rather than stay in an old building, because the facilities were so much better, so they didn't have to fear change if they were forced to move.

Thank you to the pupils for taking part, and making it a pleasure, and to the staff for their welcome.

A report will be forwarded to the Headteacher, to share with the pupils, and will also be forwarded to the Councillors as part of the informal consultation.



Ynys Môn Youth Service

Informal Consultation with Ysgol Brynsiencyn pupils 27/02/15

Facilitators [REDACTED] **Youth Service Officers**

33 pupils from Years 3,4,5 + 6

Introduction

We were welcomed to the class by the Headteacher. The pupils were thanked for agreeing to meet us. A detailed consultation was done with years 3 and 4, as it was felt that the proposed changes would mainly affect them, and a less detailed consultation done with pupils from years 5 and 6. It was explained that the adults from the community had had their say, and it was now an opportunity for the children to voice their opinions on the Council's plans to modernise schools in the area. The information would then be passed on to the Councillors as part of the informal consultation.

It was explained that the reasons why modernisation was needed was:

- It was costing too much to keep all the schools as they are at present
- Ynys Môn had too many empty places in their schools, and Welsh Government were not happy with this
- To ensure all pupils had a good standard of education
- Some schools were very old and needed a lot of money spent on them

The pupils were unclear about which schools were part of the Modernisation Plan, so it was confirmed that the following schools were being consulted - Newborough, Brynsiencyn, Bodorgan, Dwyran, Llangaffo, and Parc y Bont (Llanddaniel).

What do the pupils like about their present school?

Playing with friends x 4, and everyone are like a family; Learn Welsh, maths and nature; Good Teachers; Football; Gold Time on Friday – play with computers – and we have chips + pizza for dinner; the Garden; work displayed on the walls help us with our work; Clubs – Urdd, Football, Folk Dancing, Disco + Games; A large playing field – with room for football, rugby, bike classes, and tree planting; the work; have fun; technology and computers here; lots of work on display; school uniform; learn a lot and lots of good work done here; games at playtime when it rains; gymnastics; singing lessons; I like [REDACTED] the dinner lady; Trips – Penrhyn Castle and Wylfa; Films.

The options within the Modernisation Plan were explained:

Option 1

Build a new school for the pupils from all 6 schools in the area - 330 pupils

Option 2

Build 2 new schools – with one of the schools for pupils from Brynsiencyn, Dwyran and Newborough (170 pupils)

Option 3

Build 2 new schools – one for pupils from Brynsiencyn, Llangaffo and Parc y Bont (210 pupils)

Option 4

Build 2 new schools – one for the pupils of Brynsiencyn and Parc y Bont (150)

Option 5

Join some of the present schools and no new buildings

Verbal comments and comments on the Questionnaires

- None of the children wanted Ysgol Brynsiencyn to close. All the options were a second choice. 9 did want to see the school close, and did not want to consider any of the other options
- 4 were willing to consider Option 1 – join all the schools to have a new school, as long as it was in Brynsiencyn
- 3 wanted Option 1 – Superschool – offering an imaginative array of resources including science, a bakery, swimming, café, football, cricket, tennis and rugby, and a fashion school
- 11 wanted Option 2, but to have the new school in Brynsiencyn
- 1 wanted Option 2 (but with all the resources listed with the list for the ‘superschool’)
- 2 wanted option 3 (but with all the resources listed in the s’superschool’)
- 4 wanted Option 4 (but only if it was in Brynsiencyn)
- 1 wanted Option 5 – i.e. move the children from Llangaffo to the present school at Brynsiencyn

Did they understand the reasons for change?

They understood them, but were not in total agreement with them

Other comments from the Questionnaires

In the comments they noted what they wanted in a new school (if they were forced to move)

Many saw it as a chance to make new friends

More room and a bigger yard to play football

If we move then we would want more ipads, more things to play with and a swimming pool

Transport would have to be provided

Many imaginative resources listed as requirements for a ‘Superschool’

Concerns

Travelling – and having to wait for a bus in the rain

Did not want to see Ysgol Brynsiencyn demolished

Lot of pupils will mean a high level of noise – a big concern for one pupil

It will be dark when we set off and when we come home

Didn’t want to see the infants and the children in Ysgol Feithrin having to travel by bus

Wouldn’t know everyone - ‘rivals’

Difficult for parents who don’t have cars

Noisy

Bullying x 8

Wouldn’t know where the toilets are

No room to play

Losing good teachers

Infants would be far away from home

Would affect the Welsh language
Too many children
Swearing
I wouldn't see my big sister in the yard, and no big yard

Most pupils saw themselves moving on to Ysgol David Hughes when they moved to Secondary.

Conclusion

The pupils were united in saying that they would prefer to stay in their current school.

Many saw merit in having a new school, but there was a difference of opinion with whom they would like to share a school, but all wanted a new school to be built in Brynsiencyn, because there is a large site here, and it is on the way to work for parents from other villages.

9 did not want to consider moving or any of the options


4 were willing to consider Option 1 – that is bring the pupils from all the schools together, and there were very imaginative ideas, of what they wanted to see in this new school. The highest number (12) favoured Option 2 (uniting with Dwyran and Newborough) to have better resources, but they wanted to see the school in Brynsiencyn.

An imaginative list of what they would require in a new school – good playing fields for rugby, football, and cricket, science resources a priority for quite a few pupils, a fashion school and a Swimming Pool!!

There were no strong feelings in this school about not wanting to join with any specific village, as long as the other schools were moving to join them.

Thank you to the pupils who took part and made the experience a pleasure, and thank you to the staff for their welcome. (A special thanks to the pupil who had only recently moved from Stockport, and was discussing with us in Welsh as if he had always lived on the island).

The report will be presented to the Headteacher, to share with the pupils, and the information passed on to the Council Members as part of their informal consultation.


Ynys Môn Youth Service