

1. Who owns the Ysgol Y Parc building?

The building is owned by the Council, but through a lease (dated 31 December 1978) part of the school site is being leased by Llanycil Community Council to provide a community hall and this resource is shared with the school.

It is stated in the lease that the property be placed on trust for the provision of a village hall for use by Llanycil community residents. A committee was established for managing the charity, and committee members are recognised as trustees of the charity.

2. Ysgol Y Parc is a 'community school' (ysgol gymuned) – what does this mean?

Legally, like the majority of schools in the Gwynedd, Ysgol Y Parc has community school status in accordance with the 1998 School Standards and Framework Act, and this is evident in the school's instrument of governance.

3. In addition, Ysgol Y Parc is referred to as 'community based school' ('ysgol gymunedol') - what does this mean?

There is an arrangement in Y Parc (as indeed with 7 other schools in Gwynedd) where a community resource is associated with the school. Legislatively, there is no different statutory obligations than there is for the majority of other schools in the county (i.e. the obligations under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998), except for the obligations deriving from the terms of the lease involved with building.

4. What's the implications of the arrangement where there is a link between the school and the community ?

The arrangement would not be a barrier to close Ysgol Y Parc, however in the context of the arrangement associated with the community use of the school hall there would be further consideration to some elements during the statutory consultation period, here are some elements;

- The Headteacher receives an allowance in the role of supporting community use of the facilities.

- The hall Trustees pay a annual contribution towards the costs charge for use of the facilities, and are also able to create income by the use of the resource.
- As the Caretaker (or a staff member who has a similar role at the school) opens and closes the facilities etc – the Council provides support to pay for ‘the caretaker’s over-time’ at this moment. The budget for this in 2009/10 was £3719.

If the school closes, obligations would have to be specifically adapted from the current arrangement and the lease.

5. What is the contents of the lease between the Council and the Trustees of the hall at Ysgol y Parc?

- The lease was drawn up between Gwynedd Council and Llanycil Community Council leasing part of the Y Parc school playground to the Community Council on condition that they build y Parc Social Centre and comply with the rental requirements and other covenants of the lease.
- The lease period is for 99 years at a rental of £1 a year, with payment due annually on 1st January.
- It is also noted that Gwynedd Council is a Trustee of Y Parc Social Centre.
- As regards the Council’s responsibilities, there is a requirement that a section or sections of the school building are available for community use as can be reasonably requested by the committee, except for any section that is used to meet educational requirements during school hours.

6. What are the implications of the lease if Ysgol y Parc were to close?

The existence of the lease does not mean that the Council can’t implement its statutory powers to close the school.

If the school were to close, the arrangements would have to be adapted as part of the after-use procedures of the building. The lease will continue and is relevant to maintaining the site

7. What choice will pupils of Ysgol y Parc have if the school is closed?

The proposal notes that children residing within the current catchment-area of Ysgol y Parc will have 3 options if the school were to close:

- all the children within the Y Parc catchment-area would be guaranteed a place at Ysgol O.M. Edwards, Llanuwchllyn. This would serve as the Y Parc catchment-area school. Free transport is provided to Ysgol O.M. Edwards in accordance with the Authority's School Transport policy.
- A place will be offered to children in Y Parc catchment-area at another school/s if those schools are closer to the pupil's home than the catchment-area school and transport will be provided in accordance with the Transport Policy.
- Parents are statutorily entitled to apply for a place for their children as a child from outside the catchment-area in any school according to their wishes.

8. It is proposed that a lifelong learning campus is developed in the town of Bala, what are the plans for lifelong learning campuses in other counties?

Currently, there is no lifelong school in Wales that is based on exactly the same model as that which is recommended for the Y Berwyn catchment-area. However, there are existing sites in other counties that support primary, secondary schools, nurseries, and other provisions. Heads of schools in Y Berwyn visited the Preseli site in Pembrokeshire. The site provides a nursery, a primary area school, secondary school, lifelong learning centre, theatre and a leisure centre. A purpose built lifelong site has been built in Rhondda Cynon Taf that provides a broad range of educational and community-based facilities.

Ceredigion is developing a lifelong model that is more compatible to the type of development envisaged in the Y Berwyn catchment-area, namely to develop a rural lifelong provision around the principal town in the catchment-area. The county is currently consulting on two lifelong schemes. In the first, lifelong school development would occur in the Llandysul catchment-area for almost 600 secondary pupils and approximately 330 primary pupils. The plan would involve the closure of 5 primary schools. Under the second plan, it is recommended that a lifelong school be developed at Tregaron for approximately 320 secondary school pupils, and around the same number of primary pupils. If the scheme were to be fully realised, as many as 7 primary schools would close.