

Meeting:	Y Berwyn Catchment-area Review Panel	Date:	2 December 2009
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Present:	Liz Saville Roberts (LSR); Dewi R Jones (DRJ); Sharon Jones (ShJ); Alyson Evans (AE); W. Ann Jones (WAJ); Edwina Owen (EO); Bethan Emyr Jones (BEJ); Rhian Llwyd Dafydd (RhLID); Llyr Edwards (LIE); Dylan Davies (DD); Rhiannon Dafydd (RhD); Dorothy Ann Jones (DAJ); Shan Mererid Edwards (ShME); Brian Llwyd (BLI); Aeron Prysor Jones (APJ); Nia Roberts (NR); Jano Owen (JO); Elwyn Edwards (EE); Dylan Edwards (DE); Dilys Ellis-Jones (DEJ); Gareth Llywelyn (DLI); Alan Evans (AE); Ann E Jones (AEJ); Sian Gwenllian (SG); J Blake (John Blake); Dewi Davies (DD); Seimon Williams (SW); Tony Bate (TB); Sion Llewelyn (SLI); Gwion Llwyd (GLI); Llinos Clwyd Owen (LICO); Nia Wyn Morris (NWM); Rosalind Williams (RW).
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Apologies:	Carole Burgess (CB); Teleri Llwyd Roberts (TLIR); Siwan Haf Davies (SHD);
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Summary for Action				
<i>(Note points to act upon from the meeting; and note any points that need to be communicated to another forum; by whom, by when)</i>				
Item No	Item/ Topic	Action	Responsibility	By
6.	Models	Fuller assessment of the possible models	TB	04-02-10



Complete Record				
Item No	Item/ Topic	Action	Responsibility	By
1.	Welcome and Apologies	Dewi Jones welcomed everybody to the meeting. Rosalind Williams from the diocese was welcomed in the absence of Carole Burgess.		
2.	Matters arising from the previous meeting	It was noted that DRJ had met Carole Burgess from the Diocese and that JB had facilitated a meeting with the head teachers of Bro Tegid and Beuno Sant schools to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of collaboration between both schools and Ysgol Y Berwyn. It was noted that the meeting had been of benefit and that there were many positives that could surmount obstacles if there was enough determination to do so. Both schools felt that the children's well-being should be paramount. Following the meeting with DRJ, Carole Burgess would report to the Bishop and DRJ noted that he was also willing to meet him as well. The Welsh Language Society's paper has been disseminated to the schools' head teachers. A paper on models has been prepared and will be discussed in point 6. The minutes were confirmed as being a true record and the contents of Newsletter 1 was agreed upon.		
3.	Statistical Analysis	It was noted that the schools had been contacted to check and confirm the changes. <u>It was agreed</u> that the analysis was a true reflection of the current situation.		
4.	Visit to Other Counties	Following the last meeting where there was a desire to visit schools in other counties, a visit to Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion was arranged. Jano Owen presented a feedback on behalf of everybody who visited: Seimon Williams was thanked for organising the visit and the head teachers appreciation of having the opportunity to discuss and see schools in different		

		<p>situations, was appreciated.</p> <p>The first school visited was Ysgol Arberth where the visitors had a chat with the Head teacher and discover what building a new school involves.</p> <p>Ysgol Y Frenni, Crymych was then visited. Here, three schools in the area closed 7 years ago, and have come together on one site that is shared with Ysgol Y Preseli (secondary) there are also several other resources on the site such as a leisure centre, cinema, nursery, community centre, etc. Evening courses are also held on the site that are extensively used with approximately 500 attending the evening courses. The site is open between 9-9.</p> <p>The group then went on to Ceredigion to visit Ysgol Sion Cwilt at Synod Inn. This is a new school that is due to open in January 2010 and which has been built as a replacement for three other local schools. 5 schools in the area were offered the opportunity to be part of this, 3 opted for that and the other 2 did not wish to join. It is now evident that pupils tend to move naturally and the concern is that if figures drop below 20, there is a danger that these two schools will also have to close. About 6 miles away, there is a new Area school ready for construction, also in the Tregaron area it is intended to open a Lifelong School, primary schools in the area feel that this is a way of getting the secondary school out of a difficult situation.</p> <p>It was noted that the meeting had been of enormous benefit and that every scheme had its advantages and disadvantages. Following the visit, it was noted that the schools would like to know more about what co-operation, an Area School and a Lifelong School entails.</p> <p>DRJ thanked Jano for the presentation and noted that Improvement Working Group members had also visited Ysgol y Preseli last year.</p> <p>DRJ noted a comment on those models which the head teachers would like to know more about:</p> <p>Collaboration: The Assembly Government guidelines stipulate that collaboration is possible on any pattern where there is a desire to do so. There is flexibility for areas/schools/communities to do so as is appropriate for the area. All kinds of collaboration should be</p>		
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		<p>considered.</p> <p>Lifelong School: a broad provision of facilities and resources can be utilised.</p> <p>The letter by Dewi Davies regarding exploring a model in the town of Bala was mentioned. The discussion already held between both primary schools in the town was welcomed.</p>		
5.	Financial Matters	<p>HO thanked members for the invitation and apologised that the financial paper was disseminated that day but as the head teachers were aware, the projections in order to produce the document had only recently been received.</p> <p>Projections 2010-2011 – cut £550,000 2011-2012 – cut £300,000 2012-2013 – cut £500,000</p> <p>Therefore, cuts of over £1.3m will be required across 103 schools in the county.</p> <p>The picture for Gwynedd does not apply in the Y Berwyn catchment-area - it is envisaged that in 3 years time, there will be 38 more children in the Y Berwyn catchment-area which will lead to a financial increase of £58,000.</p> <p>Laws stipulate that 70% of the allocation must be based on pupil numbers.</p>		
6.	Possible Models	<p>TB presented the models paper, explaining that the paper contained much information and various models and that many of them were unrealistic. The paper contains 5 basic models namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No change 2. Collaboration 3. School/s closure 4. Area School 5. Lifelong School <p>The paper seeks to forecast what could happen at a catchment-area level by considering what could happen to other schools in the catchment-area if a single model was to be considered for one or two schools. e.g. if there was a wish for collaboration between Bro Tryweryn and Ffridd y Llyn, several other</p>		

		<p>options could be considered for the remaining schools.</p> <p>The Panel split up into groups to discuss the models, considering what is realistic and desirable.</p> <p><u>Group 1</u></p> <p>Bro Tegid wished to discuss the possibility of collaborating with Beuno Sant.</p> <p>Would like to explore collaboration options in the town. Possibility of collaboration, Lifelong School. Possibility of holding discussions with Y Berwyn and also the rural schools should not be ignored. The nursery separates the primary years in the town.</p> <p><u>Group 2</u></p> <p>Collaboration already occurs, so as to ensure success, it is imperative that teachers have a good working relationship. The possibility of collaboration between the rural schools and it would be of benefit if provision in the town could be used by rural schools as well. Wish to see a 'central' provision in the town with the remainder of the schools in the catchment-area being able to use the facilities.</p> <p><u>Group 3</u></p> <p>O M Edwards and Y Parc already collaborate. Would like to see this continuing with resources in the town being used more. Technology and specialisation are centrally available in the town.</p> <p><u>Group 4</u></p> <p>Collaboration between Ffridd y Llyn and Bro Tryweryn, use each other's resources and Y Berwyn.</p> <p>It was stated that having a better idea of what collaboration entails would be of benefit. DRJ noted that any means of collaboration was possible, a school does not have to be closed and re-opened as in the federal plan. It is imperative that collaboration fit in with area's needs.</p> <p>Develop a collaboration model in the town of Bala or a Lifelong School for the entire area.</p> <p>The Bala catchment-area is the smallest of the Gwynedd catchment-areas and there is a feeling that they have to do everything together.</p> <p>The group were not in favour of model 5 , there is no</p>		
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		<p>desire to see the closure of rural schools. Centralising everything does not improve quality of rural life. The standard of education in the area is not poor.</p> <p>Interest was shown in provision in the town of Bala, primary and secondary, with the provision being made available for the rural schools. There was a desire for enhanced collaboration. There is a difference of opinion regarding a Lifelong School.</p> <p><u>Financial Models</u></p> <p>The financial models were looked at, explaining what would happen to a school's finances, if closure was implemented. The possible savings through adopting models 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 16 was explained. Have failed to cost scheme 10, if required, costs could be discussed during the next meeting. There is also a need to learn more about Lifelong School model as several factors require consideration e.g. managerial, sharing a kitchen etc. An idea has begun to be formulated in Ceredigion but has not yet been fully developed.</p> <p>Need to model and cost the preferred models by the next meeting, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Schools within the catchment-area to collaborate.- Bro Tegid and Beuno Sant schools either merge to create a new Area School or merge with Ysgol Y Berwyn to create a Lifelong School with Bro Tryweryn, Ffridd y Llyn, O M Edwards and Parc schools to collaborate.- Bro Tegid and Beuno Sant schools either merge to create a new Area School or merge with Ysgol Y Berwyn to create a Lifelong School as well as closure of Ysgol Y Parc and the pupils to attend Ysgol O M Edwards. Bro Tryweryn to collaborate with Ffridd y Llyn and/or the new school in the town of Bala.- Ysgol Bro Tryweryn to merge with schools in the town of Bala to create an Area School or Lifelong School. O M Edwards, Y Parc and Ffridd y Llyn schools to collaborate or with the new school in the town of Bala.- Ysgol Bro Tryweryn to merge with schools in the town of Bala to form an Area School or Lifelong		
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		<p>School. Ysgol Y Parc to close and the pupils to attend Ysgol O M Edwards. O M Edwards and Fridd y Llyn schools to collaborate with the new school in Bala town.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primary schools in the catchment-area to merge and form a new Area School. - Every primary school, as well as the secondary, to merge to form a new Lifelong School. <p>LSR noted that some people are concerned to see models which they have not supported appear in the list to be cost. She explained that it is important to ensure understanding of the full implications of each realistic model before the next meeting. Again, she explained the role of the Catchment Review Panel was to discuss a range of options and state opinions on them: in the end, county councilors will decide on the exact model or models for approval for statutory consultation.</p>		
7.	Any other business	<p>Because of the modeling work that was required before the next meeting, it was requested that the date of the next meeting (21 January 2010) be deferred to 4th February 2010 so as to allow adequate time to do the work.</p> <p>It was decided to wait until after 04/02/10 to hold the meetings with staff, governors and parents.</p>		
8.	Date of next meeting	4 th February 2010		