

Meeting: Y Berwyn Catchment-area Review Panel **Date:** 4 February 2010

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); 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 Llewelyn (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 Lynch (GL); Llinos Clwyd Owen (LICO); Nia Wyn Morris (NWM); Teleri Llwyd Roberts (TLIR); Carole Burgess (CB); Hefin Owen (HO); Gareth Williams (GW) Cefyn Williams (CW); William Edwards (WE) Rhian Llwyd Dafydd (RhLID) Gwilym Hughes (GH); Dylan Bryn (DB)

Apologies: Siwan Haf Davies (SHD); Rosalind Williams (RW).

Summary of action taken

(Note points for action from the meeting, and note any points that need to be communicated to another forum; by whom, by when)

Item No	Item/Subject	Action	By whom	By
1.	Welcome and Apologies	Welcome chair of governors of Llangwm, Cynnwyd, Llandrillo, Carrog and Glyn Dyfrdwy	SW	23-03-10
5.	Models	Amend the errors in the Models paper by the next meeting.	TB	23-03-10

Full Record

Item No	Item/ Subject	Action	By whom	By
1.	Welcome and Apologies	<p>A welcome was extended to everybody to the meeting and Cllrs Wil Edwards and Cefyn Williams were introduced.</p> <p>Gwilym Hughes was also introduced, who will present a report on Lifelong School as was Dylan Bryn who has been commissioned to prepare a Language and Community Impact Assessment in the catchment-area.</p> <p>The Council was asked to invite chair of governors of Llangwm, Cynnwyd, Llandrillo, Carrog and Glyn Dyfrdwy. LSR asked whether this was necessary as these schools would be feeders for the secondary school.. A report can be sent to these and invite them to the next meeting. It was agreed that officers would contact officers in Conwy and Denbigh counties to discuss the above.</p>	SW	23-03-10
2.	Matters arising from the previous meeting	<p><u>Models</u></p> <p>Some were concerned that more models had been included than had been favoured in the PAD. LSR explained that the entire catchment-area needed to be looked at objectively, as several options represented obvious proposals; i.e. proposals as well as the three models. Councillors at a whole county level would expect that all reasonable proposals be considered, and that it would therefore be preferable if they were included for discussion at the Catchment-area Review Panel so that they could be fully aired.</p> <p>It was asked whether the minutes should be placed on the internet prior to confirmation by everybody.</p> <p>It was asked whether PAD members have any influence over LSR's proposals to the Council. LSR explained the democratic process. The importance of PAD members firmly voicing their opinions at these meetings was emphasised.</p> <p>The newsletter was sent to the schools so that the</p>		

		<p>headteachers could comment on it.</p> <p><i>It was agreed</i> to come back to the PAD prior to proceeding to publishing the minutes.</p> <p>Discussions with the Diocese are ongoing.</p> <p><u>Visit to other counties</u></p> <p>Officers were requested to amend the minutes to note that Ceredigion had noted that there were concerns about the buildings condition and suitability was a factor that had been a driver behind schools re-organisation and that there are no concerns about the condition and suitability of school buildings in the Berwyn catchment-area.</p> <p><u>Financial matters</u></p> <p>DRJ explained that an up-date on the situation had been given since PAD2 – the Council has decided to cut the delegated budget to primary schools by £150,000 during the first year and that this would then be reviewed.</p> <p><u>Possible Models</u></p> <p>Every group expressed a desire for collaboration, and develop it.</p> <p>It was noted that it had been pledged that models and costing would be discussed at this meeting, but that costs were not mentioned in the models paper. HO explained that the costs were presented to the PD at the second meeting. Collaboration does not lead to a saving.</p> <p>It was agreed: to up-date the minute and send it to the members.</p> <p><u>Newsletter</u></p> <p>Need to amend the date 8th February (start date of meetings with individual schools) as well as more fully explain what models stemmed from PAD discussions and which are additional ones.</p> <p><i>The above was agreed to.</i></p>		
3.	Assessment of linguistic and community impact.	<p>Dylan Bryn introduced himself and explained that he had been invited by Gwynedd Council as he had been commissioned to do work on linguistic and community impact.</p> <p>The first part of the work would consist of up-dating</p>		

		<p>the language assessment work done 2 years ago. A community-based assessment would also be held through disseminating a questionnaire to relevant community establishments as well as through Gwynedd Council web-site. Written copies would be provided for the schools so as to disseminate them with the parents. A meeting would then be held to discuss the possible impact of any schools re-organisation in the community. He will present a report on community-based questionnaire findings and seek the schools' views on the actions required to strengthen the situation regarding the language and the community. A report will then be sent for LSR's attention and consideration.</p> <p>It was noted that reaching the democratic group involved a tight time-table. A discussion was held on amending the time-table so as to provide adequate time for establishments such as Merched Y Wawr and community councils to respond. It was asked how much concern there would be were the democratic group not be involved. LSR was concerned about that as ESTYN had judged that the process was being undertaken too slowly.</p> <p><i>It was agreed:</i> to amend the deadline for returning the questionnaire to 1st March and hold the meeting with Dylan Bryn on 16 March 2010 at Ysgol Y Berwyn. This would involve re-scheduling the PAD to 23rd and 30th March.</p>		
4	Summary of quality of education in schools within the Y Berwyn catchment-area	<p>The paper was presented and it was explained that this had been done at the PAD's request during the first meeting.</p> <p>It was explained that the Council's wish was that grade 2 or above be achieved and that no grades below 2 are awarded in the Y Berwyn catchment-area, and that this reflects well on the schools.</p> <p>There was concern about the document's confidentiality, considering that only a small number of pupils are mentioned at some schools. It was noted that the paper had been withdrawn from the Council web-site.</p>		
5.	Models	<p>TB presented the document.</p> <p>He explained how the document had been</p>		

	<p>arranged, explaining that the first two pages summarised the 7 models. He noted that the sections in black represented statutory school closure – in some circumstances, –this implied complete site closure, whilst in some, it implied re-using the sites for new schools.</p> <p>The advantages and disadvantages of the models are summarised in the second part of the paper. This information has formed part of the statistical analysis pack that has fed the matrix that prioritized the catchment-area review arrangements. Attention was drawn to the fact that some of the information contained errors and that there was a need to ensure that correct information was provided. It was agreed to do so and disseminate an amended paper following the meeting.</p> <p><i>It was agreed:</i> to rectify the errors by the next meeting.</p> <p><u>Lifelong Learning community</u></p> <p>Gwilym Hughes gave a presentation following his recent visit to two lifelong learning schools. One was in England, namely Hadley, Telford and the other in South Wales, namely Gartholwg, Pontypridd.</p> <p>There was a major difference in management at both schools. Ysgol Hadley is managed by one Headteacher and a single governing body whilst Gartholwg is managed as separate units with a different governing body for both sites. It was felt that the structure at Gartholwg had led to the loss of certain opportunities.</p> <p>There are advantages in developing a lifelong school and this was apparent at these schools. Several different aspects can be included on a site such as a community centre, library, sports facilities, children and families services, conference facilities, etc. Sharing staff resources and specialization is another advantage.</p> <p>Developing a new exciting idea of a lifelong learning community could be a suitable scheme for attracting funding under the Assembly 21stC Schools programme.</p> <p>It was noted that there was a real opportunity to</p>	TB	23-03-10
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		develop an innovative lifelong scheme in the Bala catchment-area.		
6.	General Discussion	<p><u>Members divided into groups to discuss the particular models. Broad written comments were presented at the end of the meeting. Here is a summary of the notes and verbal comments.</u></p> <p><u>Group 1</u></p> <p>Require a better definition of collaboration..</p> <p>There were objections to Models 6 and 7 as it was judged that they would kill communities.</p> <p><u>Group 2</u></p> <p>Model 2 – supported, potential is seen in both primary schools using resources. Better collaboration with the nursery school can also be ensured.</p> <p>There were objections to Models 6 and 7 and model 2 was favoured.</p> <p><u>Group 3</u></p> <p>Model 1 – not discussed as there is no purpose to standing still.</p> <p>Model 2 – this is the most realistic model, but the schools outside the town should not be ignored and it should be borne in mind that the town's resources cannot be used without incurring additional travel costs. Concern expressed about over-confidence in creating a huge beast and then being unable to control it.</p> <p><u>Group 4</u></p> <p>Model 1 – no change</p> <p>Model 2 – both schools in town have already discussed primary education in the town. A new school situated by the lake and leisure centre would be ideal. Willing to consider a lifelong school. Need to bear in mind the existing resources in the town e.g. Neuadd Buddug, library, leisure centre, and canolfan Glanllyn on the outskirts of the town.. A brand new school would be appreciated if there were a plan to build a new school in the town of Bala.</p> <p><u>Lifelong School</u></p>		

		<p>It was asked if it was decided not to merge the secondary school into the y Bala scheme, would it be possible to state what future Y Berwyn would have.</p> <p>DRJ said that GH had come to work on and scrutinize the lifelong school field but that he would also be looking at secondary schools organization. Council members have asked the Education Department to look at the county's secondary schools organization. Ysgol Y Berwyn is the only secondary school in the Meirionnydd area that has a 6th form but it should be borne in mind that the 6th form is only one element of the provision.</p> <p>Guidance on the collaboration model was sought. It was mentioned that there were several possible options but that details stemmed from agreeing on the principle of collaborating with those schools who would be involved in the arrangements.</p> <p>Very useful discussions have already been held with the Diocese and a further discussion will be held by the next meeting.</p>		
6.	Any Other Business	None		
7.	Date of Next meeting	<p>18:30 on 23 March 2010 – Ysgol Y Berwyn</p> <p>18:30 on 30 March 2010 – Ysgol y Berwyn</p>		